

WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY REVIEW 2012

jkn associates

JANUARY 2012

9, Queens Walk, Ealing, London W5 1TP
e-mail jeffneslen@btopenworld.com

Tel/Fax: + 44(0) 208 997 0546
Mobile 07989 50329

CONTENTS

- 1. Executive Summary**
- 2. Introduction**
- 3. Strategic Context**
- 4. Changes to supply side since 2006**
- 5. Changes to demand side by sport since 2006**
 - 5.1 Football**
 - 5.2 Cricket**
 - 5.3 Rugby Union**
 - 5.4 Tennis**
 - 5.5 Athletics**
 - 5.6 Bowls**
 - 5.7 Basketball**
 - 5.8 Multi Use Games Areas**
 - 5.9 Hockey**
- 6. Analysis of Artificial Grass Pitches**
- 7. Proposed Local Standards**
- 8. Recommendations and Action Plan**

Appendices

- 1. Database of playing pitches**
- 2. Football Teams in Woking**
- 3. FA Local Area Data**
- 4. Outcomes from 2006 Action Plan**
- 5. Market segmentation data**
- 6. Full Assessment for Artificial Grass Pitches in Woking**

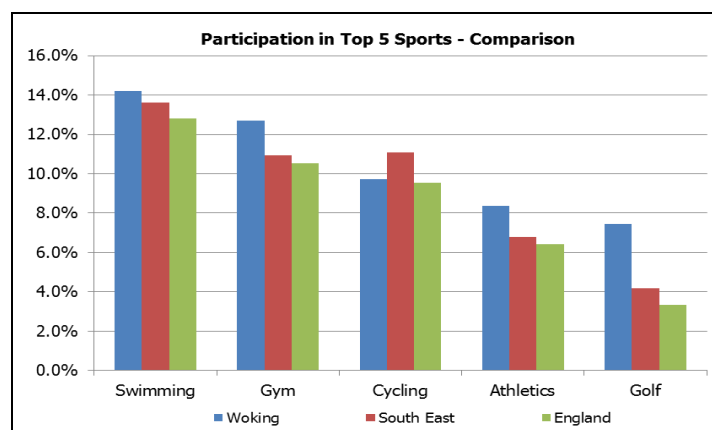
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2011 Woking Borough Council appointed JKN Associates to undertake a review of the Playing Pitch Study they produced in 2006. Within the timescale and available resources the methodology adopted for this piece of work centred on desk research, consultation with key stakeholders and site visits.

The review focussed on the changes that have occurred to the supply of facilities in the last six years and the changes in the demand for pitch sports over the same period. Unlike many local authorities that have produced Playing Pitch Strategies, Woking Borough Council have used the previous 2006 document and action plan as a working tool to guide capital investment. The findings from this new study can be used in a similar manner to aid investment decisions to 2016/21.

Population characteristics of Woking and implications for the current review.

- New population estimates predict a significant increase in the total population of the borough up to 2011 as opposed to a decline in the previous figure, and a significant increase in the current (2012) population of 3.6% by 2017, 7.5% by 2022 and 11% by 2027. However despite these sizeable increases in total population over the whole period to 2027, the 'active' population will increase much more slowly (by 1.2-6.4% as the whole population ages. Provision of outdoor sports facilities needs to reflect an increasing but ageing population, which affects the type of facilities provided.
- Woking's participation in sport as measured in the on-going Active People surveys suggests that it is slightly above the national and regional average overall and for both males and females, and has increased since 2005/6.
- Using the Sport England market segmentation data generally the five most dominant segments of the population in Woking are relatively active and certainly the types of groups where sports facilities and opportunities are particularly important. They represent nearly half of the total adult population of the borough with the types of sports and physical activities that are popular seen as fairly representative with little difference between national and regional figures.



Market segmentation can also be used to analyse existing and potential participation in individual sport, and explore a particular sport and answer questions such as ‘which segments are more likely to play my sport’ or ‘which segments play team sports’ or ‘in this area, where are the people located who are more likely to play tennis?’. The full details of this assessment are set out in an appendix, but the major conclusions for the main pitch and outdoor sports included in this study are as follows:

- **Football** – 5-10% of the population are likely to play football in Woking, and more than this in the centre of the borough. Total participation is likely to be over 5500, and these are mainly Ben and Tim (3500 in all). 1-2% (a further 1000 people) would like to play football, again mainly the existing segments but also Jamie, Kevin, Philip and Chloe
- **Cricket** – 1-2% of the population of half of the borough are likely to play cricket and <1% in the remainder, comprising 800 participants in total, mainly Ben, Tim and Philip. A further 400 would like to take up cricket, mainly the same groups as well as Jamie.
- **Rugby Union** – 1-2% of the population in most areas are likely to play rugby, 2-5% in others, over 1300 in total, mostly Tim and Ben. 300 additional adults (<1%) would like to play rugby again Tim and Ben, and also Philip.
- **Hockey** – <1% of the population are likely to play hockey in Woking, and total participation is likely to be over 300, mainly Ben, Chloe and Tim. <1% (a further 150 people) would like to play hockey, mainly Chloe, Tim, Alison and Ben.
- **Bowls** - <1% to 1-2% over the whole borough are likely to play bowls in Woking, comprising over 600 players, mainly Ralph and Phyllis, Elsie and Arnold, Frank and Roger and Joy, older sections of the population. A further <1% (150 people) would like to play bowls, again mainly the existing segments but also Philip.
- **Tennis** – 2-5% of the population are likely to play tennis in Woking. Total participation is likely to be over 1200, and these are mainly Ben, Tim, Chloe, Philip and Elaine (comprising about 1200 of the total). A further 2-5% (2000 people) would like to play tennis, again mainly the existing segments but also Alison and Helena.

Changes to supply side since 2006

- There are broadly similar numbers of pitches and other outdoor sports facilities in Woking in 2012 compared with 2006. However as a result of Woking Borough Council investment in increased pitch provision some new facilities have been built and some school facilities appear to be more widely available for the community to use.
- Playing pitches managed by the council form less than 33% of playing pitches in the borough lower than the national average.
- The quality and condition of facilities in Woking remain similar to 2006, but subsequent improvements and enhancements have been made to pitches, courts and ancillary facilities by the local authority and individual providers
- The Council has an on-going investment programme for new and improved facilities, which has borne significant dividends already, and this may be amended and augmented as a result of the current review.

- To summarise - There are an estimated 138 pitches in Woking. Of these 63 are in SCU, 33 in wider CU, making 96 in total, with a further 32 pitches on school sites (mainly in use solely by the school – it is evident from the review that some schools may allow outside teams, clubs and other organisations to use their pitches from time to time, but as this is usually an ad hoc arrangement, these pitches are not considered to contribute towards the total in CU)

	Sen F	Jun F	Mini S	C	R	AGPs	Total
SCU	24	11	11	13	2	2	63
Other CU	7	4	15	3	3	1	33
Total CU	31	15	26	16	5	3	96
Schools with no CU	1	7	17	10	6	1	42
Total	32	22	43	26	11	4	138

- The main changes that have occurred since 2006 are:
 - An increase overall in pitch numbers from 130-138
 - An increase in pitches in SCU from 59-63
 - Similar numbers of pitches in CU
 - A small increase in the numbers of school pitches
 - Loss of pitches at St John’s Lye
 - An additional pitch at Sheerwater
 - Additional pitches at Kings Head Lane and New Monument School.
- Facilities which have been built or improved since the 2006 study and therefore changed the overall quality of the pitch and outdoor sports stock include:
 - New 3G surface at Winston Churchill School AGP
 - New sand dressed surface at one of the Goldsworth Park/Woking HC pitches
 - New changing rooms with pitches at Kings Head Lane, Byfleet
 - Floodlights and refurbished courts at Wishe LTC
 - Improved pitch drainage at Waterers Park
 - New recreational MUGAs at Waterers Park, Vyne Fields, Byfleet Rec, West Byfleet Rec, Westfield PS
 - Floodlights and spectators’ stand at Brookwood Country Park
 - New pavilion and changing as part of wider redevelopment scheme at Westfield FC
 - DDA improvement at the Wheatsheaf
 - Refurbished tennis courts at Woking Park
- In view of the small change in pitch supply, it is safe to conclude that despite the continued investment from WBC to improve pitch provision, the relative distribution of pitches in Woking is still low compared with the national average. The tenure and ownership of pitches remains similar to 2006.

Changes in demand by Sport since 2006

Summary for Football

The study identified a total of 184 teams playing in Woking a figure that is at a variance with the FA Local Area Data. There continues to be downward trend in participation. However in Woking Youth and mini soccer continue to be above the national and regional average. There appear to be fewer teams overall playing football in Woking, but it is likely that there is a latent demand for additional pitches as some teams are forced to play outside the borough.

On the supply side there are a broadly similar number of pitches in SCU as in 2006.

It is estimated that in 2012, there is a current shortfall of 2 pitches overall but this is mainly for junior football, and there is a potential surplus of senior pitches. The current shortfall can be met on existing school pitches, but there needs to be further negotiation with schools over the community use of school pitches by local clubs.

In the future there is an estimated need for an additional 7 pitches overall compared with the current supply, mainly for junior football. Again school pitches could be utilised

Arrangements for the introduction of 9v 9 competitions across the borough will require changes in pitch markings and the provision of appropriate size goals.

Woking Borough Council has embarked on a capital investment programme around playing pitch provision over the last six years with further investment planned as a result of this review.

Summary for Cricket

- There are more teams currently playing cricket than in 2006 and a similar number of pitches. The particular growth is in junior cricket, and this is distributed throughout the week mainly on existing club pitches. There is some evidence of suppressed demand because clubs are unable to accommodate additional (junior) teams on their existing facilities, though at some venues there is undoubted spare capacity (e.g. Westfield).

- Up to 2022, while demand may well increase as a result of population change and higher participation rates, existing and improved pitches, as well as school pitches being brought into wider community use will be sufficient to meet anticipated demand.

- The following measures should be taken to ensure demand is met:
 - St John's Lye and Goldsworth Park pitches are improved and reinstated
 - Encourage use of the pitch at Westfield CC

- Improvements are made to some LA pitches particularly Wheatsheaf and Waterers Park
- CU agreements are put in place to increase the use of school pitches at Bishop David Brown, Hoebridge, and St Benedict's Schools and some junior schools where synthetic turf wickets are available.
- Provision of a new cricket square at Sheerwater Recreation Ground.
- Explore the opportunity to reconfigure the playing fields at New Monument School.

There is also an unidentified (but probably significant) casual network of cricket in the borough, which would benefit from the recommended actions set out above.

Summary for Rugby Union

- There remain sufficient pitches in Woking to meet the needs of the local club and there is little likelihood of any increased demand for pitches at present or in the future for additional pitches arising from population change or development initiatives from Woking RC.
- Some improvements in quality are desirable to the ancillary facilities at Byfleet Rec, with the longer term possibility of a new clubhouse and changing.
- Chobham RC takes half of its juniors from within Woking borough, and has a short term need for pitches to accommodate increased demand from girls. This could be met at available school pitches in Woking or even at Byfleet Rec where there is no Sunday use. However it is desirable from the club's point of view that all junior and mini rugby takes place at the same or close venues, as many of the girls already have siblings active in the club sessions on Sunday.
- The longer term future location of Chobham RC may well need to be met within Woking if an appropriate site is available.

Summary for Tennis

Existing tennis facilities continue to meet a high demand for tennis, particularly on club sites. It is reasonable to reiterate the previous recommendation that a further 5 courts are required to meet future demand up to 2017/2022. To meet these requirements the following initiatives should be pursued:

- Consider the provision of up to 5 new courts at strategic locations through a mixture of public and private provision.
- Develop community tennis sites on improved parks and schools, at Waterers Park, Sheets Heath Rec, Sussex Road, West Byfleet Rec and some secondary schools
- Increase adult and junior competitive opportunities through the new hierarchy of facilities in conjunction with the LTA
- Retain and where necessary improve all existing courts

Link any new MUGA provision with tennis development where appropriate

Summary for Athletics

- There is little/no strategic need for an additional track in Woking
- There is insufficient room to extend the existing track to 8 lanes
- Improvements to the pavilion and storage areas can be made.
- The retention of the existing six lane athletics track in its current location, but with changes to the boundary with BDB school to enable relocation of the long jump and pole vault areas.
- Whilst it would be an ambition of the Athletics club to have an indoor centre at the adjacent Bishop David Brown School, this is unlikely to happen in the current economic climate.

Summary for Bowls

- While the demand for bowls may well increase as the result of demographic changes and sports development initiatives to 2022, it is unlikely that any additional bowls greens will be required at least in the short term, as existing clubs are likely to be able to absorb additional membership.
- Quality improvements and continued maintenance should be put in place to ensure that facilities remain fit for purpose.
- The provision of at least 1 all-weather surface and floodlighting would ensure that bowls was available to local people throughout the year and accommodate any additional demand arising from participation initiatives (there are no indoor bowls centres within at least 20 minutes' drive from the middle of the borough, the closest being in Guildford, Egham and Camberley).
- All existing greens should be retained to meet any additional local need and development programmes actively promoted particularly for young people.

Summary for Basketball

There remains no available evidence of usage of the facilities that exist and no information on the levels of demand now and in the future. The quality of many of the existing posts is considered poor. No proposals are made for additional basketball facilities, unless they are provided as part of a wider play, sport or recreation initiative at existing or new locations, such as in conjunction with new MUGAs set out above.

Summary for MUGAs

- There is no evidence available on the usage of MUGAs throughout the borough, and little intelligence on future demand. However such facilities remain important catering for a range of recreational, sporting, training and play needs for local residents and fulfil an important function.
- There is an increasing network of MUGAs across the borough, and 4/5 MUGAs have been added to the local stock. It would be appropriate to continue the programme of

additional MUGAs as set out in the previous action plan, which would mean the construction of 5 additional facilities in Pyrford, Horsell, St John's, St Peters Rec, and possibly Kings Head Lane (subject to the availability of land), to ensure an equitable distribution of games areas throughout the borough up to 2022.

- Subject to planning and other considerations, the provision of floodlighting at those MUGAs currently without lights should be considered to ensure optimum use and availability.

Summary for Hockey

- Activity rates for hockey in Woking are high, and the one remaining club considers it is capable of meeting current and expected future demand.
- The loss of 2 other clubs as the result of the loss of the school pitch could be said to represent a latent demand for additional facilities, but without detailed data on where their players live, this cannot be confirmed. Because there are relatively few hockey clubs in any area (compared say with football), the catchments for players tend to be wider and players are prepared to travel for matches. For the purposes of this study, the two teams based outside Woking are considered to meet a demand outside the borough
- It is considered that the 2 existing pitches in Woking are capable of meeting demand for hockey now and in the future.
- The previous recommendation that one of the Goldsworth Park pitches be replaced with a water based surface has been overtaken by financial and environmental circumstances.
- The potential provision of additional 3G pitches in Woking (see the chapter on AGPs) could have an impact on the 2 existing hockey pitches if midweek use for football training is displaced to new pitches.
- Attention should be paid to the quality of both existing hockey pitches to ensure they remain fit for purpose throughout the term of this study.

Summary for Artificial Grass Pitches

Woking has a total of 3 full size Artificial Grass Pitches with floodlights and one additional pitch at Woking High School without light and therefore of limited use for the community. Two of the main pitches are based on a LA site and one on a school site. All are ostensibly managed on a pay and play basis, although the pitches at Woking HC/Goldsworth Park are used mainly by the club on a block basis, with lettings during weekday evenings to outside clubs. Two pitches are sand based, and one is a new 3G surface. One of the pitches at Goldsworth Park has been resurfaced recently.

The relative supply of AGPs in the borough overall is below the national and regional averages, and this is replicated if individual types of pitch are considered, except for 3G pitches, where relative provision is slightly higher than average. Generally Woking is 48th best provided with AGPs in the region (of 67 LA's), and this varies between 22nd and 52nd for different types of surface and facility.

It is reasonable to conclude that overall there is a relatively good supply of AGPs (above the regional and national averages), the various planning models suggest that demand is significantly met for both hockey and football. However the FA is keen to see 1 additional 3G pitch built in Woking to meet local demand, and this is broadly in accordance with a guideline of 1 pitch per 25,000 people. This could be located at Bishop David Brown School. Any additional proposals to provide 3G pitches at Woking Park in conjunction with Freedom Leisure would need to be fully assessed in terms of the demand and usage of current pitches. For this reason a small sided soccer centre mainly for training purposes should be considered.

2. INTRODUCTION

JKN Associates was commissioned in November 2011 by Woking Borough Council to update and review the Playing Pitch Study produced in 2006. Within the budgetary and time constraints it is not possible to undertake a full review entirely in accordance with the Sport England methodology. However significant use will be made of new sources of information, including websites of leagues and clubs, and additional tools provided by Sport England and others, that weren't available at the time of the original study, to bring the study up to date, review the progress on the action plan developed in 2006 and project recommendations forward to 2016/2021.

It will involve the following:

- An analysis of the current level of pitch provision within the district, including those not available for community use.
- A review of the quantity and quality of local authority pitches across the district including the identification of pitch problems
- An identification of how WBC facilities for pitch sports have changed/improved since the publication of the 2006 Playing Pitch Strategy.
- The identification of demand for pitches in the borough given the demographic changes over the past five years.
- An examination of Artificial Grass Pitch provision in Woking.
- A review of the Action Plan developed in 2006 with recommendations for future provision up to 2017/2022.
- A review of local standards.

Playing pitch studies are specifically designed to cover sports that are played outside on grass or artificial surfaces. For the purposes of this study we have included the following sports:

Football
Cricket
Rugby Union
Tennis
Athletics
Bowls
Basketball
Hockey

Through a series of site visits and consultation with a range of different stakeholders including NGB's, voluntary sector clubs, the local authority and educational establishments the study aims to produce a factual report based on an audit of current provision available for

community use. Each section has reviewed and updated the 2006 study in order to provide an up to date picture of the supply and demand characteristics of the key sports involved.

3. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The 2006 report highlighted a number of factors, strategies and policies which provided the context for the study, as follows:

- National (mainly Sport England) policy for planning and sport, including its policy for protecting playing fields, the former NPFA guidelines for outdoor recreation provision, and the methodology for assessing playing field need as set out in 'Towards a Level Playing Field'.
- Government planning policy for the protection of open space and playing fields
- Government sports policy
- Regional policy for sport as set out in the South East Plan for Sport 2004
- Local planning policies including the Surrey County Council Structure Plan and Woking Borough Council Local Plan
- Other relevant studies including the Woking Community Strategy and Cultural Strategy
- Policies of neighbouring local authorities with regard to playing pitch protection
- Background data on population, deprivation and other socio-economic factors affecting sport

2012 Background

The current review has not had sufficient resources available to fully update the strategic context for the study, but at all levels (national to local) the background justification for providing, retaining, protecting, maintaining and enhancing (outdoor) sports facilities remains similar and in many cases strengthened. There is an on-going commitment to ensure that sports facility provision is predicated on the basis of evidence of need as an essential precursor to developing and increasing participation in sport.

The most significant changes to the strategic context that are considered to affect this current review are set out in brief as follows:

- A new strategy for sport as agreed by Sport England (Jeff – cross refer to paras below)
- A new set of national planning policies and guidelines currently being consulted on by the new Coalition government which while purporting to streamline the planning policy system, also attempts to retain control over the ,loss of sports facilities
- The shift by the new government towards the localism agenda, which includes greater involvement by the community in determining policies that affect them most, the scrapping of Regional Spatial Strategies and the onset of 'neighbourhood planning'
- The replacement of the Woking Borough Local Plan by a new Local Development Framework (Woking 2027), including a Core Strategy submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2011, following consultation, and which will be examined in

public later. The framework includes some 'saved' policies from the previous local plan.

It is considered unlikely that any of these changes, however fundamental, will adversely undermine the direction of the original report and the findings of the current review.

Since the completion of the original report a number of strategic documents have been produced by the government, Sport England and National Governing Bodies advocating the need for increased participation and sustainability post the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. The overarching principle is one of legacy which demands that there are places for people to play sport.

DCMS Playing to Win

The DCMS document 'Playing to Win - a New Era for Sport' published in 2008 stated the aim of government is to improve the quality of life for all through cultural and sporting activities, support the pursuit of excellence, and champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries

It set out a vision for sport to 2012 and beyond and suggested a shared goal to unite around - maximising English sporting success by expanding the pool of talent in all sports. In short, more coaching and more competitive sport for all young people.

It also advocated a clearer separation between the development of sport, on the one hand, and the promotion of physical activity on the other and instructed Sport England to strike a new partnership with each of the National Governing Bodies, who, in return for greater freedom and control over public funds, will be challenged to expand participation and provide more quality coaching for more people.

This will involve the delivery of three key aims:

- To engage a million more people in regular sport participation.
- To produce a seamless ladder of talent development from school to the elite level, with opportunities for more competition and more coaching at each level.
- To ensure every member of the sporting family, and every part of Government,

To achieve this a vibrant club structure supported by National Governing Bodies will be an essential ingredient and one where there is an adequate supply of playing pitches.

Sport England Strategy 2008-2011

Sport England's overarching aim is to build the foundations of sporting success through the creation of a world leading community sport system. The strategy is based on the delivery of three key outcomes – Excel, Sustain and Grow. These focus on developing and accelerating talent, keeping current participants in sport and increasing the number of people regularly participating.

In the future Sport England's role will be to focus exclusively on sport. Sport can and does play a major role in achieving wider social and economic benefits - notably on the health

front. However, the driving force behind the strategy and investment is to address the needs of sport participants across the country. This provides a clear distinction with the physical activity agenda being driven by a number of departments, including the Department of Health and Department of Transport.

Over the next five years Sport England is committed to delivering the following targets

- 1m people doing more sport by 2012-13.
- A reduction in post-16 drop-off in at least five sports by 25% by 2012-13.
- A quantifiable increase in satisfaction.
- Improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports.
- A major contribution to the delivery of the Five Hour Sport Offer.

A change of administration has also brought with it a new strategy for sport building on the core themes of the past but also emphasising a payment by results philosophy for NGB's

DCMS Creating a Sporting Habit for life 2012 -2017

A new youth sport strategy

Creating a sporting habit for life sets out the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) strategy for increasing youth participation in sport, to be delivered by Sport England.

The report announces financial investment of at least £1 billion of Lottery and Exchequer funding for youth sport over the next five years. It also outlines more stringent payment-by-results criteria for sporting organisations and a commitment to increase sport's share of the National Lottery to 20%.

The report highlights five key areas which will be the focus of activity:

- building a lasting legacy of competitive sport in schools
- improving links between schools and community sports clubs
- working with sports governing bodies: focusing on youth
- investing in facilities
- opening up provision and investing in communities.

Since London won the right to stage the Olympic Games in 2005, participation rates amongst young people have fallen, with many of the major sports – including Football, Tennis and Swimming seeing declines in the proportion of 16-25 year olds regularly taking part.

Whilst participation rates remain relatively high in school (where curriculum Physical Education (PE) is compulsory), when young people leave school the proportion who continue to play sport falls dramatically. The problem is starker for girls, with around only a third participating in sport at 18 compared to two-thirds of boys.

The key to making the most of the Games, and delivering a long-term step change in the number of people who play sport, is to create a sporting habit amongst young people that will last a lifetime.

Building a lasting legacy of competitive sport in schools

This will continue to be done through the School Games that provides a framework for competitive school sport at school, district, county and national levels. In addition, PE will remain a compulsory part of the National Curriculum.

Sport England together with the DCMS and Departments for Health and Education will invest over £150 million in the School Games up to 2015. An additional £10 million will be provided over the next four years through sponsorship by Sainsbury's.

Improving links between schools and community sports clubs

This will be achieved through the strengthening of the relationships between clubs, schools, further education colleges and universities. Sports such as Football, Cricket, Rugby Union, Rugby League and Tennis aim to establish at least 6,000 partnerships between schools and local sports clubs by 2017.

Football	2000
Cricket	1250
Rugby Union	1300
Rugby League	1000
Tennis	1000

The objective is that every secondary school and many primary schools will have links with at least one local club. In addition, every County Sport Partnership will have a dedicated officer responsible for making links between schools and community sports clubs in their local area.

At least 150 further education colleges will benefit from full-time sports professional who will be responsible for delivering new sporting opportunities for students.

Working with the sport's governing bodies: focusing on youth

NGB's will be expected, for the first time to increase participation for young people under 16 years of age. Whole Sport Plans will be focussed on the 14-25 year old age group with 60 per cent of their funding aimed at this group. Sport England will ensure that sports are completely focused on what they have to achieve, with payment by results – including the withdrawal of funding from governing bodies that fail to deliver agreed objectives.

The system will be wholly transparent. A proportion of the total investment for 2013-17 will form a 'Reward and Incentive Fund' which will be allocated to NGB's who perform exceptionally well to enable them to do more.

Investing in facilities

An additional £160m will be spent on new and upgraded sports facilities, on top of the £90m already invested via Sport England's Places, People, Play programme. This will include funding for the first time to allow schools to open up their sports facilities (three-quarters of all sports halls and a third of all swimming pools in England are located in schools) to the

public. A separate fund of £10 million lottery funding will be available to schools to enable them to open up their sports facilities for use by their local communities.

Communities and the voluntary sector

Sport England will also work with local authorities, voluntary groups and others to make the broadest possible sporting offer to young people. Between now and 2017, over £50m will be made available in funds which will be open to well-run sports clubs (whether or not they are connected to an NGB), voluntary groups and others to provide an exciting and appealing sporting experience.

National Governing Body 2013-17 Whole Sport Plan criteria

National governing bodies will continue to play a pivotal role in increasing participation, particularly among young people.

County Sports Partnerships will support NGB's, foster local links and help transition young people into clubs.

Sport England will also support and work with local authorities through their advocacy tools and investment including a new community activation fund.

Around £450 million will be available between 2013 and 2017 for NGB Whole Sport Plans (WSP). Around 60 per cent of that will benefit young people aged 14 – 25 and the remaining 40 per cent will be aimed at the rest of the adult population. This will not be applied uniformly to all NGB's but will depend on the age of their participants and the nature of their programmes.

Investment will be awarded on a competitive basis to those who put forward the strongest plans and have a good track record on delivery. Value for money will be a key consideration and NGB's will need to demonstrate how they will connect, work and have an impact on participation at the local level.

In future, WSP investment will start at age 14 to ensure a better transition from school sport and create a sporting habit for life through increasing participation overall. WSP investment must deliver one or more of the following outcomes:

- A growth in participation in the 14-25 age range
- A growth in participation across the adult population
- An excellent sporting experience for existing participants to keep them playing sport
- High quality talent development which creates a strong England talent pathway to link with UK Sport elite programmes
- A growth in participation by people who have disabilities including the most talented
- The highest participation sports – football, cycling, swimming and running – will be a high priority for investment and support.

To be eligible for WSP funding, NGB's must meet high standards of governance and

financial control, which will be in line with those required by UK Sport and DCMS. NGB's whose sport is played in schools must also deliver much more robust transition programmes creating links between school sport and club and community sport.

A tougher regime of payment-by results will be a fundamental feature of the Sport England performance management system. This will be coupled with a new incentive for NGB's. A proportion of total WSP investment for 2013-17 will form a Reward and Incentive Fund, which will be allocated during the four year cycle to NGB's who perform exceptionally well to enable them to do more.

National Governing Body Frameworks

The Playing Pitch study will also need to align with the strategic goals of the National Governing Bodies. We have illustrated the core themes of the three largest NGB's Football, Cricket and Rugby.

Football - The Football Association

The FA National Game Strategy 2007-2012 provides the strategic framework, key priorities, and expenditure proposals and targets for the National Game over the next six years. It builds upon the previous Football Development Strategy and highlights both the achievements of the FA over the past six years and identifies the challenges and opportunities the National Governing Body and its partners face. The purpose of the document as expressed by the FA is:

To lead the successful development of football within the National Game and to increase the participation, quality and enjoyment of football.

The strategy sets out five key goals:

- Growth and retention – increasing and retaining participation
- Football For All – ensuring everyone has access to football
- Raising standards – to create a safe and positive environment
- Player Development – focusing on improving the quality of the 5-11 age group
- Running the game– leading and governing the game effectively

To do this successfully The FA recognises the following four key 'enablers' are critical:

- **Workforce Development** - recruiting and supporting a highly skilled and diverse paid and volunteer workforce
- **Facilities** - improving the quality and access to facilities for high quality training, playing and educational facilities
- **Partnerships and Investment** – working together to achieve mutually beneficial partnerships and investment programmes to achieve joint outcomes
- **Promotion** - an effective marketing, PR and communications plan

The National Game Strategy pays significant attention to providing children with a quality introduction to football, particularly through mini soccer being the most appropriate introduction to the sport for children under 10 with smaller pitches and goals.

Surrey County Football Association

The SCFA strategy sets out the vision, key priorities and targets for investment into grassroots football from 2008 until 2012, and represents the Surrey County FA's contribution to the delivery of The FA National Game Strategy. It provides the vision for the football development team within the County FA, with the aim being:

‘to lead the development of grassroots football in Surrey ensuring participation and enjoyment of football by everyone’

Key challenges to be addressed over the four year period are:

- To improve the quality of football facilities throughout Surrey.
- To improve the behaviour of players and spectators.
- To increase the numbers of referees within the County.
- To address the drop out of players moving from youth to adult football.
- To improve our communication methods and raise the profile of the SCFA.
- To ensure the quality of the Charter Standard Programme and improve the benefits of the scheme.
- To engage more with community partners.
- To engage with providers of schools football to ensure a coordinated approach to delivery.

In order to achieve this, the Surrey County FA have adopted many of the strategic goals and key enablers from the National Strategy and have adopted the following headline targets:

- Sustaining 3170 and creating 110 new teams.
- Sustaining 795 and recruiting 240 new referees.
- A Level 1 coach with every registered youth team.
- 65% of all youth teams will have The FA Charter Standard Award.
- £12 million investment into new facilities.
- 75% of County Stakeholders to agree that the CFA/The FA is leading the game effectively.
- Everyone in roles with children in youth football or working with vulnerable adults to have an enhanced CRB check.
- A successful Respect programme.

The revised Woking Playing Pitch Strategy acknowledges the outcomes expected from the SCFA Strategy and will support them to address many of the key issues identified in their plan.

In Surrey the current participation figures within the County are as follows: -

CFA Targets and Data Source - CAS	Baseline season 07-08 (1st Nov 2007)	Target season 11-12 (1st Nov 2011)
Mini-soccer teams	848	868
Youth Male 11-a-side teams	1177	1210

Youth Female 11-a-side teams	67	99
Adult Male 11-a-side teams	1045	1053
Adult Female 11-a-side teams	33	41
Male Disability (Youth & Adults)	0	5
Female Disability (Youth & Adults)	0	4

With over 75% of football played on local authority sites, there is an urgent need to retain grass playing pitches and protect them for future generations. In these challenging economic times the leisure budgets of many local authorities have been cut resulting in a lack of investment into basic maintenance, resulting in a deterioration of facilities available to the community.

In Woking, unlike many local authorities that have produced Playing Pitch Strategies in the past, they have used the 2006 document and action plan as a working tool to guide future investment in this sector.

Cricket - The England and Wales Cricket Board

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has a clear vision of the game's future in England and Wales and, through the five year National Strategy for Cricket, has identified seven key core areas on which to focus development:

- **Primary Schools** -The basic introduction of, and participation/interest in, the game
- **Secondary School** -Continued participation and interest
- **Club Cricket** -Organised participation, coaching and competition within a structured club network
- **District Cricket** -Localised talent identification and development programmes
- **Representative Cricket** -Quality development programmes for selected talented players
- **First Class Cricket** -High quality development and competition in preparation for international cricket
- **England Teams** -Consistently high levels of success on the international stage.

As the level of participation in schools continues to increase so the pressure on cricket clubs to provide coaching and competitive opportunities for children intensifies. It follows that in order to accommodate an increasing number of players, teams, coaching, junior sections and matches, that facilities must be made available of a suitable quality.

Similarly to provide appropriate facilities for women and girls participation, minimum facility criteria are required to meet the needs of Club cricket. These are:

- Access to grass match and practice playing surface
- Access to artificial match and/or practice playing surface
- Access to pitch preparation and maintenance equipment
- Access to minimum standard changing and social facilities

A key component therefore of any study of playing pitches will be the quality of the playing surfaces and the need for appropriate changing accommodation. This is recognized by the ECB as a priority in their facilities strategy which reinforces ‘the need to **improve the quality of match and practice grass pitches**. Good quality grass pitches are the ideal and are essential for adult clubs and all junior/senior representative matches, coaching and competition.’

Rugby - Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2005/06 - 2012/13)

The RFU Strategic Plan seeks to promote and develop the game within the community by encouraging and supporting all those who want to participate as players, coaches, referees or administrators by focusing on the priorities that will enable the Community game to grow, generate lifelong participation and create sustainable rugby clubs.

A series of strategic themes identified the outcomes needed to “Grow the Game” and led to the RFU adopting a series of critical success factors to be used as key measures of performance to monitor progress. These Critical Success Factors are:

- The numbers of people playing the game, in particular those aged 16 years of age and above.
- The number of matches being played.
- Improving the sustainability of clubs.
- The number of effective people supporting the playing of the game.

In addition they sought to:

- Increase the number of adult participants playing the game by a minimum of 2% per annum
- Increase the number of participants playing the game within the age grades of U17 to U24 by a minimum of 2% per annum
- Increase the number of participants playing the game within the age grades of U13 to U16 by a minimum of 2% per annum
- Achieve a minimum 3% per annum increase in the number of volunteer administrators averaged over the period of the Plan
- Increase by a minimum of 1% per annum averaged over the Plan period participation, in all aspects of the game, by groups currently under represented in the game.

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2008)

In addition they have produced a National Facilities Plan for the sustainable development of rugby union facilities in England, at all levels of the game. The plan aims to help clubs, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW) and other partners to:

- Identify priorities for facility developments to meet the various needs of the sport.
- Identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the Government sports policy and the RFU’s Strategic Plan.
- Support the prioritisation of investment and funding through a detailed set of

- developmental criteria, technical requirements, management/operational structures and potential financial viability.
- Prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons.
- Identify and deliver a minimum standard for all facility provision.

The Strategy shows clubs what facilities are needed to provide these different programmes, from grass roots through to the professional game.

Population

In the 2006 study, population forecasts by Surrey County Council based on 2001 Census and constrained by estimates of future dwellings were used to help identify future facility requirements. The 2006 population of Woking was estimated at 92,732 (a significant increase over the 2001 figure of 89,840), but there was a projected decline in the total to 92,260 by 2011. The proportion of males to females was relatively even with slightly more females in line with national figures.

Most significantly, the average age of the population was estimated to increase over the 5 years – the numbers of young people from 0-14 would decline by 3.1%, those aged 15-29 by 1.9%, and those from 30-44 by 7.3%. The total population below 45 (i.e. those most likely to be involved in outdoor sports) would therefore decline by about 2400 (or 4.3%). Conversely, the population from 45-64 (which may include those still playing cricket, bowls or tennis) would increase by 4% and the oldest age groups even more dramatically.

In the current review, more recent population estimates have been produced by the Borough Council (and found on its website), based on ONS 2008-based sub national population projections, 2010 as follows:

Year	0-14	15-29	30-44	45-65	65+	Total Population	Increase over 2012	
2008	17,200	15,800	22,300	22,800	13,400	91,600		
2009	17,400	15,700	22,300	23,000	13,700	92,100		
2010	17,600	15,700	22,200	23,200	13,900	92,600		
2011	17,700	15,600	22,100	23,500	14,100	93,200		
2012	17,800	15,800	22,200	23,700	14,500	93,800		
2013	18,100	15,700	22,100	23,700	14,900	94,500		
2014	18,100	15,700	22,300	23,900	15,100	95,200		
2015	18,400	15,600	22,400	24,100	15,500	95,800		
2016	18,500	15,500	22,400	24,300	15,700	96,500		
2017	18,800	15,400	22,600	24,600	15,900	97,200	+3.6%	
2018		19,000	15,300	22,700	24,800	16,000	97,900	
2019	19,200	15,200	22,900	25,000	16,300	98,600		
2020	19,400	15,100	23,100	25,200	16,400	99,400		
2021	19,400	15,100	23,300	25,400	16,600	100,100		
2022	19,500	15,200	23,700	25,500	16,900	100,800	+7.5%	
2023		19,600	15,300	23,800	25,500	17,200	101,500	
2024	19,500	15,400	24,000	25,700	17,500	102,200		
2025	19,600	15,500	24,200	25,900	18,000	102,800		
2026	19,600	15,500	24,200	26,000	18,200	103,500		
2027	19,800	15,600	24,300	25,900	18,500	104,100	+11%	

The revised estimates suggest that the estimated 2011 total population was higher than previously anticipated (93,200 compared with 92,260). These newer estimates also predict a total increase in the current (2012) population of 3.6% by 2017, 7.5% by 2022 and 11% by 2027. They also suggest a significant increase in the total population of the borough up to 2011 as opposed to a decline in the previous figures.

Of more relevance to sport, however, are the estimated changes to the age structure, which affect participation rates in sport. From the overall figures set out above, it is possible to make some assumptions about the changing age structure in more details as follows:

	0-4	5-45	45+	Total
2012	5900	49900	38200	93800
	6.3%	53.1%	40.6%	
2017	6300	50500	40500	97200
	6.5%	52%	41.5%	
2022	6500	51900	42400	100800
	6.4%	51.5%	42.1%	
2027	6600	53100	44400	104100
	6.3%	51%	42.7%	

Figures are rounded and may not total exactly

The figures suggest that the population from 0-4 will increase over the whole period, but remain at a similar proportion of the total, the 5-45 age group will increase, but decline in proportion, and the oldest age group (45+) will increase significantly in numbers and as a proportion of the total.

With the information available, it is possible only to generalise, but the 'active' population is generally assumed to be those between 5-45 for the purposes of this study, and the 'non-active' population the remainder. This can be broken down as follows:

	Non active	Active	Increase in active over 2012
2012	44100	49900	
	46.9%	53.1%	
2017	46800	50500	+600 (+1.2%)
	48%	52%	
2022	48900	51900	+2000 (+4%)
	48.5%	51.5%	
2027	51000	53100	+3200 (+6.4%)
	49%	51%	

Thus while the total population is estimated to increase by 3.6% - 11% over the whole period to 2027, the 'active' population will increase much more slowly (by 1.2-6.4%). These figures will be used as the basis for assessing the future demand for pitches and other outdoor

facilities in the study, though it is wiser to use only the estimates for 2017 and 2022 in view of the increasing uncertainties over the longer period to 2027.

Woking's Sports Participation Profile

Since the 2006 study, Sport England has produced a great deal of supplementary information on participation in sport, which is useful background data when considering playing pitch and other studies.

Participation in sport.

The Active People Survey undertaken by Sport England is the largest ever survey of sport and active recreation to be undertaken in Europe. Active People Survey 4 was completed in October 2010, and enables comparisons to be made with similar data gathered in previous surveys. The survey provides by far the largest sample size ever established for a sport and recreation survey and allows levels of detailed analysis previously unavailable. It identifies how participation varies from place to place and between different groups in the population.

The table below shows the proportion of adults in Woking who undertake 30 minutes moderate intensity sport in various frequencies (as measured over a 28 day period), compared with the national and regional average. This is the measure of NI8 participation (these figures do not include recreational walking or infrequent recreational cycling).

Adult (16+) Participation in Sport & Active Recreation (formerly NI8) by year, duration and gender										
Indicator	Year	Woking			South East			England		
		All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
0 days / 0x30	2005/06	43.6%	37.9%	49.0%	46.2%	41.3%	50.8%	50.0%	45.1%	54.6%
	2008/10	38.8%	35.1%	42.3%	44.6%	39.4%	49.6%	47.8%	42.3%	53.1%
1-3 days	2005/06	10.8%	12.1%	9.4%	9.5%	10.3%	8.8%	8.8%	9.5%	8.1%
	2008/10	10.1%	9.7%	10.4%	9.7%	10.6%	8.9%	9.0%	9.7%	8.4%
4-7 days / 1x30	2005/06	14.2%	15.7%	12.8%	12.9%	13.7%	12.1%	12.0%	12.8%	11.3%
	2008/10	13.8%	15.3%	12.4%	13.3%	14.3%	12.5%	12.6%	13.5%	11.8%
8-11 days / 2x30	2005/06	8.6%	9.0%	8.3%	8.5%	9.3%	7.8%	8.0%	8.7%	7.3%
	2008/10	12.6%	12.2%	13.0%	9.1%	10.2%	8.1%	8.5%	9.4%	7.7%
12-19 days / 3x30	2005/06	9.2%	11.3%	7.3%	10.4%	11.8%	9.0%	9.6%	10.9%	8.4%
	2008/10	12.3%	14.6%	10.0%	11.1%	12.3%	9.9%	10.7%	12.2%	9.2%
12+ days / 3x30 - NI8	2005/06	22.8%	25.3%	20.5%	22.9%	25.4%	20.6%	21.3%	24.0%	18.7%
	2008/10	24.8%	27.6%	22.0%	23.2%	25.6%	20.9%	22.0%	25.1%	19.0%
20+ days / 5x30	2005/06	13.5%	14.0%	13.0%	12.5%	13.6%	11.5%	11.7%	13.1%	10.3%
	2008/10	12.5%	13.0%	11.8%	12.1%	13.3%	11.0%	11.3%	12.9%	9.8%

Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2005/06 (APS1), 2008/10 (APS3/4) or 2009/10 (APS4) if LA sample is boosted,

Measure: Adult participation

The comparable measure is 3 x 30 minutes per week as highlighted, and Woking's participation in the latest figures is slightly above the national and regional average overall and for both males and females, and has increased since 2005/6. More recent figures are now available for 2010/2011 from AP4/5 which suggest that overall participation in Woking is down to 20.8%, but this is considered in statistical terms to represent no significant change

Expected participation in 3x30 (or more) sessions a week						
Expected Participation	Woking		South East		England	
	2005/06	2007/09	2005/06	2007/09	2005/06	2007/09
Expected	26.1%	25.5%	23.4%	23.3%	21.9%	22.5%
Observed	22.8%	24.1%	22.9%	23.0%	21.3%	21.8%
Difference	-3.3%	-1.4%	-0.5%	-0.3%	-0.6%	-0.7%

Source: Mindshare, Year 2005/06-2007/9, Measure: 3x30 minute sport sessions a week

Compared with the levels of activity that might be expected from the socio economic characteristics of the borough, participation 3 times per week is slightly lower, though the difference has declined slightly over the two dates.

APS also shows the top 5 participant sports in each local authority, once per month regardless of duration or intensity. In Woking these sports are set out in the table below. There is little difference with the regional and national figures. However the pitch sports are not included in these top sports, and athletics also includes jogging

Top 5 sports in local authority with regional and national comparison						
Sport	Woking		South East		England	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Swimming	10.7	14.2%	918.4	13.6%	5,327.6	12.8%
Gym	9.6	12.7%	738.6	11.0%	4,384.0	10.5%
Cycling	7.3	9.7%	746.4	11.1%	3,971.1	9.6%
Athletics	6.3	8.4%	457.4	6.8%	2,676.5	6.4%
Golf	5.6	7.5%	282.2	4.2%	1,386.1	3.3%

Source: Active People Survey 4, Population data: ONS Annual Population Survey 2010

Measure: Participation rate of the top 5 sports and the number of people that participate at least once per month

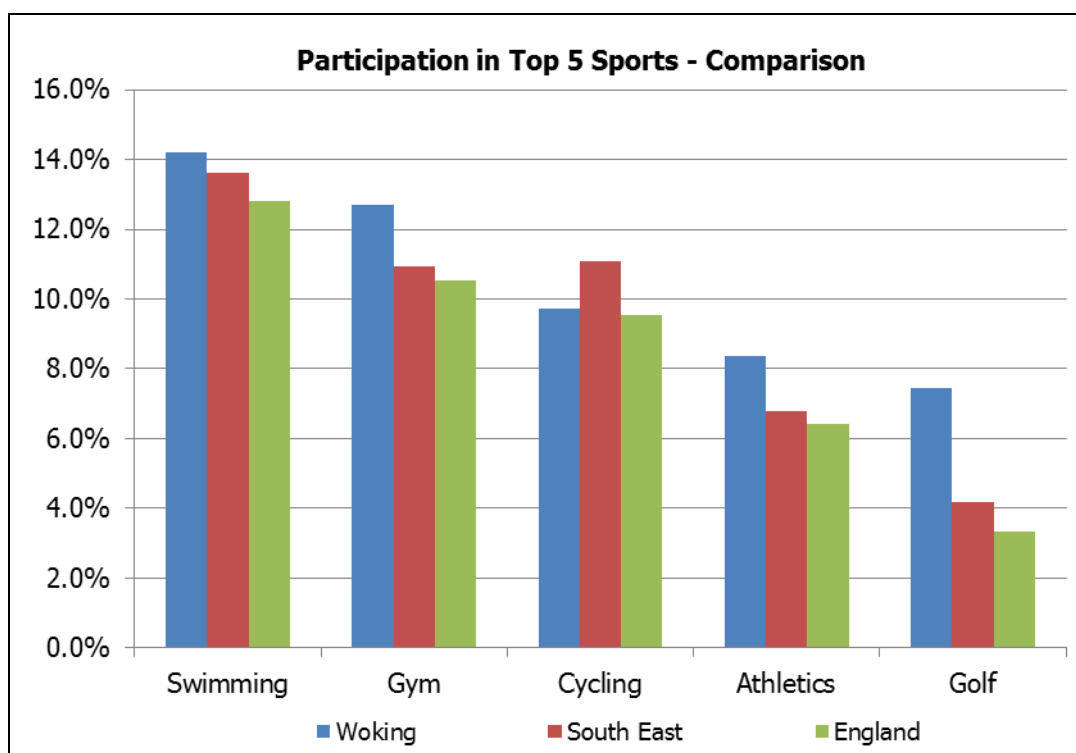


Figure 1 Participation in Top Sports

Market Segmentation

Sport England has developed nineteen sporting segments to help understand the nation's attitudes and motivations – why they play sport and why they don't. The segments provide the knowledge to influence people to take part. This work is part of a drive by Sport England to get two million people doing more sport by 2012. Each segment can be explored at differing geographic levels. It is possible to find out what people's sporting habits are in a particular street, community, local authority or region.

Code	Name	Description	Woking		South East		England	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
A01	Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	6.2	8.6%	388.5	6.0%	1,989.1	4.9%
A02	Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	2.0	2.7%	257.4	3.9%	2,162.9	5.4%
A03	Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	6.3	8.8%	397.6	6.1%	1,896.5	4.7%
A04	Leanne	Supportive Singles	1.7	2.3%	204.6	3.1%	1,711.6	4.3%
B05	Helena	Career Focused Females	4.7	6.6%	337.9	5.2%	1,829.8	4.5%
B06	Tim	Settling Down Males	10.4	14.5%	745.5	11.4%	3,554.0	8.8%
B07	Alison	Stay at Home Mums	5.1	7.1%	410.5	6.3%	1,766.4	4.4%
B08	Jackie	Middle England Mums	2.3	3.2%	298.2	4.6%	1,965.0	4.9%
B09	Kev	Pub League Team Mates	2.0	2.8%	231.5	3.5%	2,386.6	5.9%
B10	Paula	Stretched Single Mums	1.5	2.1%	178.0	2.7%	1,507.3	3.7%
C11	Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	6.5	9.1%	631.8	9.7%	3,480.0	8.6%
C12	Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	4.8	6.7%	445.7	6.8%	2,443.9	6.1%
C13	Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	4.1	5.7%	478.8	7.3%	2,723.7	6.8%

C14	Brenda	Older Working Women	1.3	1.8%	181.7	2.8%	1,976.8	4.9%
C15	Terry	Local 'Old Boys'	1.2	1.7%	157.6	2.4%	1,484.5	3.7%
C16	Norma	Later Life Ladies	0.9	1.2%	85.7	1.3%	855.0	2.1%
D17	Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	5.7	8.0%	420.8	6.5%	1,700.2	4.2%
D18	Frank	Twilight Year Gents	1.5	2.1%	227.9	3.5%	1,612.9	4.0%
D19	Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	3.4	4.8%	443.3	6.8%	3,206.3	8.0%
Total			71.5	100.0%	6,523.2	100.0%	40,252.4	100.0%

Source: Sport England and Experian Ltd, Year: 2010, Measure: Sport Market Segmentation

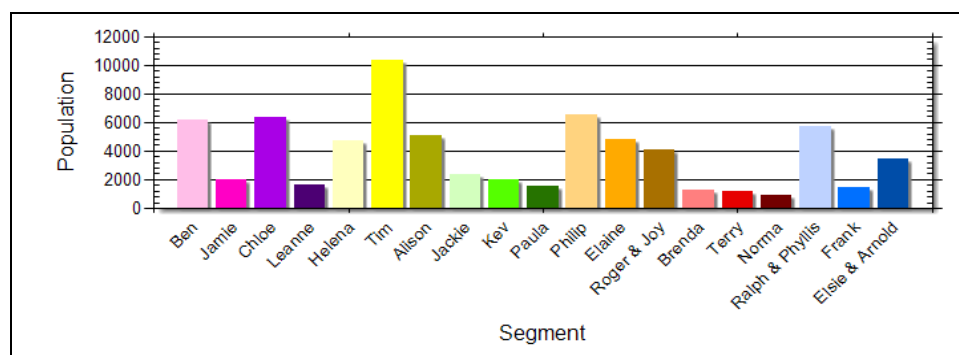


Figure 2 Market Segmentation

Overall in Woking, the predominant participation groups are as follows (these groups comprise more than 7% of the local population):

- **Tim** (segment 6) – known as ‘a settling down male’, a very active type enjoying high intensity activities. Plays technical sports such as skiing, uninhibited by financial outlay. Both team games and individual activities feature high on his agenda and personal fitness activities are also popular. High activity rates (27% of 3x30 minutes per week compared with average of 22%). 21% of the Tim segment take part in cycling compared to 9% of all adults nationally; 20% of this segment takes part in keep fit/gym, compared to 17% of all adults nationally, and 15% in football (compared with the average of 4%). Swimming and athletics or running are also popular sports for Tim. Tim is more likely than all adults to take part in football and athletics. Tim is the dominant segment throughout much of the borough and is distributed widely.
- **Philip** (segment 11) – ‘comfortable mid-life professional male’, health conscious and interested in badminton, cycling and cricket, most active in his age group. Philip’s sporting activity levels are above the national average and the main sports that Philip participates in are cycling, keep fit, swimming, football and golf. Cycling is the top sport, and 16% of this segment do this at least once a month, almost double the national average. His participation in most of his top sports is above the national average, which is indicative of the priority he places on sport. Philip is the dominant segment in small parts of the borough
- **Chloe** (segment 3) – ‘fitness class friend’, female, young and professional. 28% of this group take part in sport 3x per week (5th most active group), but one third do not participate regularly. Chloe’s main drive is to lose weight and keep fit, and favourite sports are keep fit/gym swimming and fun dance. Outdoor sports do not figure highly.

Chloe wants to do more sport but the gym is not open late enough at the weekends. Chloe predominates in two areas in the central part of the borough.

- **Ben** (segment 1) – ‘competitive male urbanite’, professional and young. Ben is the most active segment by far with 40% taking part in sport 3 x per week, double the national average. Ben is involved in all types of sport from racquet sports, going to the gym and team sports to pool, in particular rowing, rugby and football, and is a typical sports club member. Ben is competitive and will participate more with better sports facilities. Ben is distributed across the borough and is not dominant in any one location.
- **Ralph & Phyllis** (segment 17) – ‘comfortable retired couple’, mixed gender, mainly 65+ and retired. They are the most active in their age group, with 30% having done some sport within the last 4 weeks and 14% 3 x per week. They walk frequently and take part in bowls and golf, and enter competitions. Health concerns are the main reason for non-participation. This segment dominates in the more outlying parts of the borough.

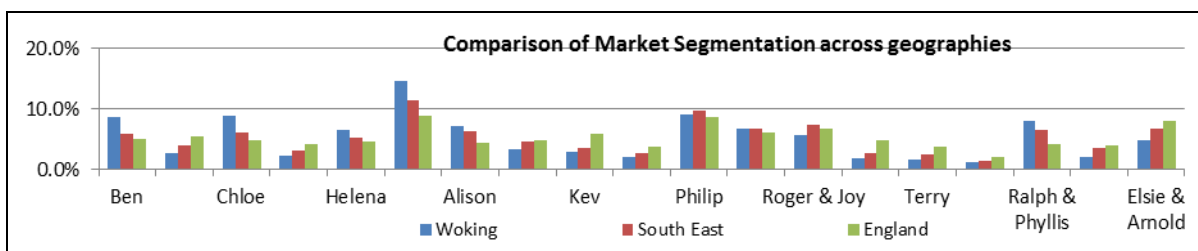
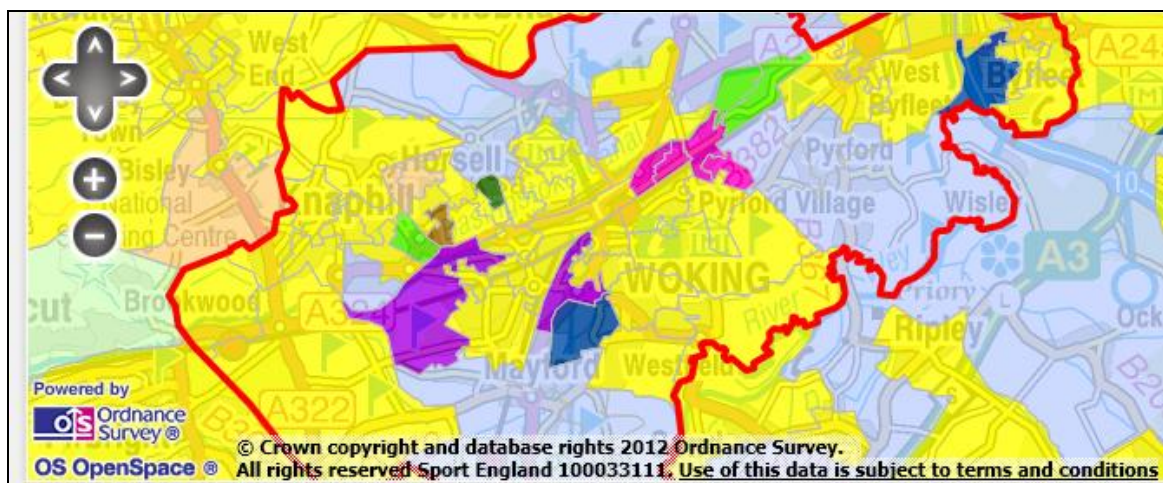


Figure 3 Market Segmentation Comparisons

Generally the five most dominant groups are relatively active and certainly the types of groups where sports facilities and opportunities are particularly important. They represent nearly half of the total adult population of the borough. The type of sports that they favour is fairly wide, and Tim, Philip and Ben are all keen on pitch sports, while Ralph and Phyllis are interested in bowls.



Map 1 Market Segmentation within Woking

Market segmentation can also be used to analyse existing and potential participation in individual sport, and explore a particular sport and answer questions such as ‘which segments are more likely to play my sport’ or ‘which segments play team sports’ or ‘in this area, where are the people located who are more likely to play tennis?’. The full details of this assessment

are set out in an appendix, but the major conclusions for the main pitch and outdoor sports included in this study are as follows:

- **Football** – 5-10% of the population are likely to play football in Woking, and more than this in the centre of the borough. Total participation is likely to be over 5500, and these are mainly Ben and Tim (3500 in all). 1-2% (a further 1000 people) would like to play football, again mainly the existing segments but also Jamie, Kevin, Philip and Chloe
- **Cricket** – 1-2% of the population of half of the borough are likely to play cricket and <1% in the remainder, comprising 800 participants in total, mainly Ben, Tim and Philip. A further 400 would like to take up cricket, mainly the same groups as well as Jamie.
- **Rugby Union** – 1-2% of the population in most areas are likely to play rugby, 2-5% in others, over 1300 in total, mostly Tim and Ben. 300 additional adults (<1%) would like to play rugby again Tim and Ben, and also Philip.
- **Hockey** – <1% of the population are likely to play hockey in Woking, and total participation is likely to be over 300, mainly Ben, Chloe and Tim. <1% (a further 150 people) would like to play hockey, mainly Chloe, Tim, Alison and Ben.
- **Bowls** - <1% to 1-2% over the whole borough are likely to play bowls in Woking, comprising over 600 players, mainly Ralph and Phyllis, Elsie and Arnold, Frank and Roger and Joy, older sections of the population. A further <1% (150 people) would like to play bowls, again mainly the existing segments but also Philip.
- **Tennis** – 2-5% of the population are likely to play tennis in Woking. Total participation is likely to be over 1200, and these are mainly Ben, Tim, Chloe, Philip and Elaine (comprising about 1200 of the total). A further 2-5% (2000 people) would like to play tennis, again mainly the existing segments but also Alison and Helena.

Sports development targets

Because of the nature of the population, the location of facilities and existing levels of activity, and in the absence of a formal target for future sports participation, it would be reasonable to build in a target of a 1% increase in participation per annum up to 2022, and this assumption has been included in future facility requirements. This is a challenging target.

Summary of the characteristics of Woking and implications for the current review.

- New population estimates predict a significant increase in the total population of the borough up to 2011 as opposed to a decline in the previous figure, and a significant increase in the current (2012) population of 3.6% by 2017, 7.5% by 2022 and 11% by 2027. However despite these sizeable increases in total population over the whole period to 2027, the ‘active’ population will increase much more slowly (by 1.2-6.4%) as the whole population ages. Provision of outdoor sports facilities needs to reflect an increasing but ageing population, which affects the type of facilities provided,
- Woking’s participation in sport as measured in the on-going Active People surveys suggests that is slightly above the national and regional average overall and for both

males and females, and has increased since 2005/6 (although there has been a slight decrease in the most recent figures).

- Generally the five most dominant segments of the population in Woking are relatively active and certainly the types of groups where sports facilities and opportunities are particularly important. They represent nearly half of the total adult population of the borough. The type of sports that they favour is fairly wide, and Tim, Philip and Ben are all keen on pitch sports, while Ralph and Phyllis are interested in bowls. There is also some potential to increase participation among these groups in some of the sports being considered in this review.
- Despite relatively high participation rates and strong intervention in sports development initiatives in the area, a target of a 1% increase in activity rates should be built into the assessments for each sport to reflect current local and national priorities.

4. CHANGES IN SUPPLY SIDE SINCE 2006

2006 STUDY

There were an estimated 130 playing pitches in Woking in 2006, comprising 35 senior football, 19 junior football, 43 mini football, 19 cricket, 10 rugby union and 4 STP/AGPs/hockey. This overall figure included an estimate of pitches on junior school sites. Of these 59 were in secured community use (SCU) and a further 33 in some other form of community use (CU), mainly on school sites (definitions of SCU and CU were included in the report)

- There were 60.3 ha of pitches in SCU, which equated to 0.68 ha per 1000 people (figures from the 2001 Census). This compared with a recommended pitch level of 108.7 ha if provided in accordance with the former NPFA standard of 1.21 ha per 1000. There were 80 ha of pitches in all forms of community use (0.89 ha per 1000).
- Compared with similar areas elsewhere in the country where comparable information was available, the ratio of pitches to population in Woking was very low, both overall and when subdivided into the component sports – football, cricket, rugby and hockey.
- **Ownership** – one third of pitches were owned by the local authority (lower than the national average of 43%), a large proportion of pitches were on school sites (although most were solely in school use) and a significant number were owned and managed by sports clubs.
- Overall the picture in 2006 emerged of the importance of LA pitches in meeting the needs of football, though the most senior clubs had their own facilities, senior cricket being accommodated mainly on private grounds, very little rugby overall and unusually played on LA pitches, and a lack of community access to most school pitches.
- **Quality** of pitches and ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and pavilions was assessed by means of site visits, questionnaire surveys adopting the current Sport England methodology and responses from consulted clubs. The general conclusion were:
 - Overall pitch quality in Woking was considered to be no better than average. The main issues were poor drainage, problems of dog fouling, litter and glass associated with access by other users to local authority recreation grounds, casual use by children promoting more wear and tear particularly in goal mouths, and over use of pitches used for training and matches
 - Clubs with their own facilities and control over use and management tended normally to have the best pitches
 - Most sites in current use had changing rooms, showers, etc, some new and in good condition, though significant improvements were necessary in some cases.
 - New ground grading criteria introduced by the FA would impact on successful clubs as they progressed up the Football pyramid.
 - There was evidence of vandalism of pitches and pavilions
 - Lack of floodlit STP training facilities was prevalent

2012 REVIEW

- Site inspections, discussions with LA officers, clubs and governing bodies, reference to websites and other data sources suggest that the current supply of playing pitches in Woking is as set out in the following table (the full current database of pitches and other outdoor sports facilities, which forms the basis of this review, is included as Appendix 1)

	Sen F	Jun F	Mini S	C	R	AGPs	Total
SCU	24	11	11	13	2	2	63
Other CU	7	4	15	3	3	1	33
Total CU	31	15	26	16	5	3	96
Schools with no CU	1	7	17	10	6	1	42
Total	32	22	43	26	11	4	138

- To summarise - There are an estimated 138 pitches in Woking. Of these 63 are in SCU, 33 in wider CU, making 96 in total, with a further 32 pitches on school sites (mainly in use solely by the school – it is evident from the review that some schools may allow outside teams, clubs and other organisations to use their pitches from time to time, but as this is usually an ad hoc arrangement, these pitches are not considered to contribute towards the total in CU)
- The main changes that have occurred since 2006 are:
 - An increase overall in pitch numbers from 130-138
 - An increase in pitches in SCU from 59-63
 - Similar numbers of pitches in CU
 - A small increase in the numbers of school pitches
- Some of these changes may be attributable to the definitions used, and certainly the numbers of school pitches relies on assumptions about whether pitches are (or could be) accommodated on the grass playing fields adjoin and serving in particular junior schools. Pitch identification is also a function of availability at the time of the survey. To all intents the number of pitches available for clubs and teams in Woking is very similar to 2006.
- In detail the main changes that have occurred are:
 - New junior football pitches at Kings Head Lane, Byfleet provided with the help of Football Foundation funding
 - Loss of pitches at St John's Lye
 - An additional pitch at Sheerwater
 - Increased availability of some education sites
- In view of the small change in pitch supply, it is safe to conclude that relative provision of pitches in Woking is still low compared with the national average. The tenure and ownership of pitches remains similar to 2006.
- An assessment was also undertaken of the supply of non-pitch outdoor facilities in the borough as follows:

	MUGA	Bowls	Tennis	Basketball	Total
SCU	9	7	47	13	77
Other CU	4	0	14	2	20
Total CU	13	7	61	15	97
Schools with no CU	0	0	14	1	15
Total	13	7	75	16	112

- To summarise:
 - There are 112 tennis courts, bowls greens, MUGAs and basketball courts in the borough
 - Of these 77 are in SCU, a further 20 in some other form of CU and 12115 on school sites and primarily used by the school alone
 - For comparison, in 2006, there were 87 other such facilities, 73 in SCU, 8 in other CU and 6 on school sites

- The apparent increase in other facilities is due as much to the identification of previously unknown facilities as an actual increase in provision – there are the same number of bowls greens (7), tennis in CU overall has increased from 54-61, a number of additional MUGAs have been built taking the total from 7-13 and basketball posts number 15 from 12 previously.

- In terms of planning for future need, the 2012 total is not considered a significant increase.

Quality A full assessment of the quality of pitches and other outdoor facilities using Sport England’s recommended template methodology has not been possible due to time constraints, but all main sites were visited, site, pitch and ancillary facility quality were observed and comments were received from the consultation undertaken. Overall the situation can be summarised as follows:

- Overall pitch quality remains about average
- Non pitch facilities are generally good
- Club sites are normally in best condition
- Most sites have access to changing and other ancillary accommodation, some of which are new and improved, but others require improvement
- Some vandalism remains evident.

- Information obtained from the Borough Council on the letting of its own pitches and the number of games called off in the previous season because of ground conditions suggests the following:
 - Football 1442 matches in 2010/11, 165 called off (11.4%)
 - Cricket 169 matches in summer 2011, 24 called off (14%)
 - These figures are dependent on weather as much as ground conditions, but the number of cancellations is not considered out of the ordinary

- Facilities which have been built or improved since the 2006 study and therefore changed the overall quality of the pitch and outdoor sports stock include:

- New 3G surface at Winston Churchill School AGP
 - New sand dressed surface at one of the Goldsworth Park/Woking HC pitches
 - New changing rooms with pitches at Kings Head Lane, Byfleet
 - Floodlights and refurbished courts at Wisheal LTC
 - Improved pitch drainage at Waterers Park
 - New recreational MUGAs at Waterers Park, Vyne Fields, Byfleet Rec, West Byfleet Rec, Westfield PS
 - Floodlights and spectators' stand at Brookwood Country Park
 - New pavilion and changing as part of wider redevelopment scheme at Westfield FC
 - DDA improvement at the Wheatsheaf
 - Refurbished tennis courts at Woking Park
- A number of other improvements to facilities, recommended in the previous study, are identified in the Council's Investment Programme and other schemes including the following:
 - Refurbishment of Loop Road pavilion and car park
 - New changing and pavilion at St Peters Rec
 - Improved car parking at Waterers Park
 - Refurbishment of casual tennis at Waterers Park
 - Extra changing facilities at Woking College
 - Improved changing, showers, pavilion specification and drainage at Goldsworth Park
 - Extended and refurbished changing at Byfleet Rec
 - Improved signage, resurfaced tennis courts and refurbished pavilion at Sheets Heath Rec
 - Refurbished changing, enhanced cricket pitch and improved car park at Byfleet Rec
 - Upgrading of facilities and drainage at Sheerwater
 - Need for new pavilion for cricket and junior football at St John's Lye
 - Reinstatement of pitches, drainage, resurfaced tennis court and reviewed car parking at Sussex Road Rec

Summary of 2012 review on supply

- There are broadly similar numbers of pitches and other outdoor sports facilities in Woking in 2012 compared with 2006, and any apparent changes in supply are due as much to different counting methods as new facilities provided. However some new facilities have been built and some school facilities appear to be more widely available for the community to use.
- The quality and condition of facilities in Woking remain similar to 2006, but subsequent improvements and enhancements have been made to pitches, courts and ancillary facilities by the local authority and individual providers
- The Council has an on-going investment programme for new and improved facilities, which has borne significant dividends already, and this may be amended and augmented as a result of the current review.

5. CHANGES IN DEMAND SIDE BY SPORT SINCE 2006

5.1 FOOTBALL

2006 Findings

- In 2006 there were 204 football teams identified, comprising 63 mini, 67 junior and youth and 74 adult teams
- 42 pitches in SCU for football, comprising 24 senior, 8 junior and 10 mini, plus 25 in other forms of CU and a further 42 pitches in private use (109 in total)
- There was an estimated current shortfall of 6.8 pitches, mainly junior and mini, to meet current need, though this is mitigated if school pitches are included.
- By 2011 future demand was estimated to be that 29.1 senior, 17.8 junior and 11.7 mini pitches would be required throughout the whole district (58.6 in total). There was thus an estimated future shortfall of 16.6 pitches in SCU comprising 5.1 senior, 9.8 junior and 1.7 mini. There was a potential surplus if school pitches were included, but the availability of these and other pitches for use by sports clubs and teams was not guaranteed.
- The shortfall could be met by a number of specific measures, including new pitch provision in appropriate locations, improvements to existing pitches to ensure more intensive use, flexible kick off times to allow multiple games on a Sunday for juniors and mini soccer or by bringing school pitches into secured community use.
- Training facilities should be provided and enhanced by improvements to existing grounds, or the provision of new floodlit multi games areas
- Quality – Using Sport England’s template and based on visual inspection and in consultation with club members the majority of football pitches were considered good. Where pitches were classified as average this related to a lack of changing accommodation or poor drainage. As one third of the pitches are owned by Woking Borough Council the emphasis of the 2006 study was inward investment to improve standards.
- Detailed suggestions to meet these requirements were set out in the Action Plan.

Conclusion for Football

The previous study found that there was a shortfall of pitches particularly for junior football, but if school sites with secure community use agreements were included in the calculations there would be enough pitches to satisfy demand. Improved training facilities and the development of a series of floodlit MUGA’s was recommended.

2012 Review

- Since the 2006 study the FA has developed a more comprehensive system of recording team and club information which is published annually in the form of Local Area Data (LAD) reports, produced on a template for all local authority areas in England. This has been assessed at this stage on a very general basis for Woking and the following initial conclusions can be drawn from the latest information relating to Woking: Woking has a total of 62 affiliated clubs with a total of 201 teams of which

201 play in Woking. There are also 48 small sided teams in Woking making a total of 249 teams.

- Of the 249 teams operating in Woking, 54 (21.7%) are adult teams, 95 (38.2%) are youth teams (all formats), 52 (20.9%) are Mini-Soccer teams and 48 (19.3%) are small sided.
- 71.4% or 105 of the 147 Youth and Mini-soccer teams play in a club that has achieved a Charter Standard Award as compared to a national average of 70.4%.
- The number of teams has decreased by 43 teams overall in Woking from season 09/10 to season 10/11. This comprises an equal number of adult teams, a decrease of 7 youth teams (all formats), a decrease of 18 Mini-Soccer teams, and a decrease of 18 small sided teams.

The 2010 LAD data (the latest available and included in the Appendices) suggest that since 2006, the number of teams playing on grass (i.e. 201) has remained broadly similar, although their distribution across the age groups has changed considerably. However the data also suggests that the totals have changed considerably in the last season and in consultation with local clubs and the Surrey FA it would appear that a number of clubs now play in locations outside of the borough.

There are some reservations about the accuracy of the FA data, and as a result of some cross checking, it would appear that the number of teams has declined even more than the FA suggest. In our research for this study we have calculated that there are only 184 teams actually playing within the borough, and this migration is a direct result of the growth and success of junior football and the inability to access pitches within Woking. 9 further teams have folded mainly single team clubs.

Summary of FA participation trends 2009/10 – 2010/11

	Adult Male 11v11	Adult Female 11v11	Youth male all formats	Youth Female all formats	Mini soccer mixed
Woking 2009/10	4.3%	0.2%	41.8%	3.6%	14.7%
Woking 2010/11	5.0%	0.3%	36.5%	2.9%	12%
South East 2009/10	4.8%	0.2%	26.6%	2.0%	9.1%
South East 2010/11	5.5%	0.2%	23.5%	2.3%	9.6%
National Average 2009/10	4.8%	0.2%	23.3%	2.0%	8.0%
National Average 2010/11	5.4%	0.3%	21.4%	2.3%	9.1%

According to the FA data in general terms the conversion rate for Woking is lower than regional (South East) and national averages across adult male and female categories with the exception of Youth male and female participation and mini soccer. This broadly reflects the

decline of adult 11v11 a side game across the country (4.1% decrease in participation in the South East) This is in part as a consequence of a reduction in affiliated clubs playing competitive matches and the growth of adult small sided games. Increasing levels of adult participation is a key priority for the FA along with the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities.

However, in Woking youth and mini soccer continue to be above the national and regional averages. In line with the FA review of youth football, the competitive formats for junior football include proposals that 9v9 will be mandatory for under 11/12 by the season 2013/14. Currently the rules state that 7 v 7 at under 10's and either 7 v 7 or 11 v 11 at under 11's should be considered, but for many children the jump between the two formats is too large with children playing on the same size pitch as adults. This is not seen as developmentally appropriate.

The Surrey County FA are therefore asking Leagues, Clubs and Local Authorities to be flexible with regard to marking out pitches - specific sized pitches (80 x 50 yards) are great but pitches can be marked out inside existing 11-a-side pitches, or outside Mini-soccer pitches using portable goals 16 x 7 ft.

Surrey County FA has undertaken a consultation exercise with Local Authorities on these planned changes that began in March 2010 with leagues implementing them as follows:

- South Surrey Youth league started 9v9 only at U11 / U12 in 2010/11
- Surrey Youth League implemented 9v9 only at U11 in 2011/12 and plan to include U12 as well in 2012/13.
- Surrey Primary League included 2 divisions of 9v9 at U11 season 2011/12
- The 9v9 option is available from U11-U14.

As a result of the FA Youth Review, it has been suggested 9v9 Football could become mandatory for Under-11s in the near future.

Using this format the FA believe there will be increased opportunities for the retention of players, a better staged developmental pathway and pitch and goal sizes that are appropriate for the needs of children that encourage more opportunities to pass successfully and create 1v1 situations. The format will follow the standard laws of the game except the playing time will be 30 minutes each way and squads sizes are allowed up to 18 players with repeat substitutions.

Supply of Pitches- The supply of football pitches is set out in the table below

	Sub area	Ownership/ management	Pitches
Byfleet Recreation Ground, Stream Close	East	A1	3
Kings Head Lane Sports Ground, Byfleet	East	A1	2
Pyrford Cricket Club, Coldharbour Road	East	A2	1
Sheerwater Athletics Track	East	A2	1
Sheerwater Recreation Ground	East	A1	2
West Byfleet Recreation Ground	East	A1	3
Wheatsheaf Horsell Common Rec ground	East	A1	3

Loop Road Sports Ground Westfield	South	A2	4
Mayford Centre Playing Fields	South	A2	3
St Peter's Road Recreation ground Old Woking	South	A1	4
Westfield FC	South	A2	1
Woking FC Kingfield Stadium	South	A2	1
Brookwood Country Park Knaphill	West	A1	2
Goldsworth park, Wishbone way	West	A1	6
Sheetsheath Recreation Ground Brookwood	West	A1	1
The Vyne Alexandra Gardens Knaphill	West	A1	4
Waterers Park Knaphill	West	A1	3
Woking and Horsell CC Brewery Rd Horsell	West	A2	1
TOTAL in Secure Community Use			46
Broadmere Primary School Sheerwater	East	B	3
Byfleet Primary School	East	B	2
New Monument School	East	B	2
Bishop David Brown School	East	B	4
West Byfleet Junior School	East	B	7
St John the Baptist School	South	B	2
Woking 6 th Form College	South	B	2
Westfield Primary School Bonsey lane	South	B	2
Winston Churchill School	West	B	1
TOTAL in Community use			26
TOTAL in some form of Community Use			72
Barnsbury Junior School		C	2
Beaufort County Primary School		C	2
Brookwood Primary School		C	1
Goldsworth Primary School		C	2
Hoe Bridge School		C	1
Horsell C of E Junior School		C	1
Kingfield School		C	1
Pyrford C of E Primary School		C	2
St Dunstan's Catholic primary School		C	2
St Hugh of Lincoln Primary School		C	1
St John's Primary School Knaphill		C	2
St Mary C of E Primary School		C	2
Sythwood Primary School		C	2
The Marist Catholic Primary School		C	1
The Park School		C	1
Woking High School		C	2
Total other pitches on school sites			25
Total of all pitches			97

Overall there are a similar number of pitches in SCU as in 2006 and despite the recommendation to seek further negotiation with schools over the community use of school pitches, it appears that this has not been actioned.

Quality

The quality of the playing pitches in the borough is generally considered to be good with excellent pitches at Woking FC and the new Westfield site. Since 2006 WBC has undertaken a series of ground improvements at specific locations as follows:

- New 3G surface at Winston Churchill School AGP
- New sand dressed surface at one of the Goldsworth Park/Woking HC AGP pitches
- New changing rooms and junior pitches at Kings Head Lane, Byfleet
- Improved pitch drainage at Waterers Park
- New recreational MUGAs at Waterers Park, Vyne Fields, Byfleet Rec, West Byfleet Rec, Westfield Primary School.
- Floodlights and spectators' stand at Brookwood Country Park
- New pavilion and changing as part of wider redevelopment scheme at Westfield FC
- DDA improvement at the Wheatsheaf.

The council has used the 2006 Playing Pitch Study Action Plan to initiate an on-going investment programme for new and improved facilities across the borough and this review will contribute to the further investment priorities in the future.

Clubs and Teams

Given the difficulty in establishing which current teams actually play within the borough and the variance with the FA Local Area Data, we have discussed our findings with SCFA who informed us that the 2011/12 data is to be released at the end of February 2012. For this reason we have included our latest calculations which illustrate the decline in the number of teams over the past six years as follows:

	2006	2012
Adult Teams	74	51
Youth Teams	67	102
Mini Teams	63	31
Totals	204	184

There are at present nine clubs in Woking that have achieved Charter Standard status with the majority of these clubs having a youth focus with multiple teams. Woking Primary Schools FA is also registered as Charter Standard. The largest clubs with the most teams are as follows:

Byfleet Village will play at the new Kings Head Lane site from the start of the 2012/13 season. In conjunction with WBC the club received support from the Football Foundation to

construct a new changing pavilion and junior football pitches. They run 12 teams, 8 youth and 4 minis that play in the Surrey Primary Youth and Surrey Youth Leagues.

Goldsworth Park Rangers is a youth and adult football club based at the recreation ground on Goldsworth Park (Wishbone Way). Formed 27 years ago to provide football opportunities for the local community the club are Charter Standard accredited and currently have teams

Playing from under 7 through to adults.

Knaphill Wanderers FC was formed in 1995 to give local boys and girls of all ages the opportunity to train and play friendly, yet competitive football. According to the club web site, they are running 19 teams but this information is different from the SCFA data. After consultation with the club the current teams are U8,U9, 3 at U10,U11,U12, two at U14,U15,U16 x 2, U17 and U18. They also have two girls' teams at U15 and U18. Home games are played at Vyne Field, Waterers Park and Brookwood Country Park. As the club are based on the border with Surrey Heath they also use Pirbright Barracks and Lightwater country park for training outside the borough as well as Winston Churchill School and Woking Hockey Club They are affiliated to the Surrey County FA with teams playing in various local leagues, including the Surrey Primary League, the North East Hants Youth League and the Surrey County Girls League.

Mayford Athletic was founded in 1968 and operates youth football teams for all age groups from 6 years old to 17 years old. All teams are run by FA qualified coaches and play their home matches on Sunday mornings in the Surrey Primary League. The club plays mainly at the Mayford Centre.

Meadow Sports Meadow Sports FC is now an FA Charter Standard Community Club with teams ranging from under-7 to under-17 and an associated men's team The club also gives specialist training to under-5 & under-6 players (Reception and Year 1) between 10&11am on Saturdays. Home matches are held at Loop Rd playing on Sundays and training at various times between Tuesday-Friday 6-9pm. Some teams go to Winston Churchill School over the winter

West Byfleet Scorpions – based at West Byfleet Junior school are a charter standard junior club. Affiliated to SCFA in 2001 it now runs 17 teams in 4 different leagues (Epsom and Ewell Youth League, Surrey Primary League, East Berkshire Youth League and the Surrey County Girls League) providing coaching and both competitive and friendly matches for 250 plus children between the ages of 5 -17.

Woking Cougars was established in 1991 by a group of parents who wanted to provide football for youngsters local to the St.Johns area of Woking. The club consists of around two hundred members from in and around Woking with teams from the under 6 age group to under 17's. Training is held at Chobham Recreation Ground on Thursday and Friday evenings from 6.00pm which is also the venue for the senior teams' matches on Sunday mornings. Winter training from October until March is held on the AGP pitches at Winston Churchill School and Woking Hockey Club. The club currently plays at Benner Lane, West End and Bisley Rec, both outside the borough.

Woking Town Woking Town FC is a strong local club for young people aged 5 to 17.who play at Woking College and run eleven teams in a variety of age groups. They play in the Surrey Primary and Surrey Youth League.

Current supply and demand balance

There appears to have been a reduction in the number of teams playing in Woking in 2012 from 204 to 184 – the differences in the various age groups are -23 for adults, +36 juniors and -32 mini. There is some evidence highlighted above of Woking based clubs and teams being forced to play fixtures outside the borough (e.g. Woking Cougars) and these may represent a latent demand for pitches within Woking. It is likely therefore that the realistic current demand from teams in Woking is a similar amount to 2006, although their distribution across the age groups is different. On the basis of a similar temporal demand for pitches and frequency of play as previously, the current situation can be summarised as in the table below.

Table xx				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Total
Current peak demand	17	26	5	48
Existing pitches in SCU	24	11	11	46
Shortfall/surplus in SCU	+7	-15	+6	-2
Existing pitches in CU	31	15	26	72
Shortfall/surplus in CU	+14	-11	+21	+24

There is therefore a current shortfall of 2 pitches overall but this is mainly for junior football, and there is a potential surplus of senior pitches. Pitches in CU on school sites are more than adequate to meet this shortfall, though not always available on a regular basis. The need for 9 a side pitches needs to be considered within this overall picture

Future demand – up to 2022 the ‘active’ population of the borough is projected to increase by 4%. The Market Segmentation data suggest a small potential increase in participants playing football, while a 1% increase in participation in sport overall would also increase demand for football. Existing activity rates in adult football are low, and unlikely to fundamentally change, given the move towards the small sided version of the game on artificial surfaces. Junior and mini football activity rates are high with multiple junior teams at some clubs and the potential to increase this is probably limited, though some clubs do say they are constrained by the lack of facilities. Overall it is considered that a 10% increase in teams, mainly in junior, girls and mini football would be a reasonable target to 2022, which would increase the need by then to 53 pitches overall, requiring an additional 7 pitches over the current total. This shortfall could easily be made up by more secured community use of school pitches.

Summary for Football

The study identified a total of 184 teams playing in Woking a figure that is at a variance with the FA Local Area Data. There continues to be downward trend in participation. However in Woking Youth and mini soccer continue to be above the national and regional average. There

appear to be fewer teams overall playing football in Woking, but it is likely that there is a latent demand for additional pitches as some teams are forced to play outside the borough.

On the supply side there are a broadly similar number of pitches in SCU as in 2006.

It is estimated that in 2012, there is a current shortfall of 2 pitches overall but this is mainly for junior football, and there is a potential surplus of senior pitches. The current shortfall can be met on existing school pitches, but there needs to be further negotiation with schools over the community use of school pitches by local clubs.

In the future there is an estimated need for an additional 7 pitches overall compared with the current supply, mainly for junior football. Again school pitches could be utilised

Arrangements for the introduction of 9v 9 competitions across the borough will require changes in pitch markings and the provision of appropriate size goals.

Woking Borough Council has embarked on a capital investment programme around playing pitch provision over the last six years with further investment planned as a result of this review.

5.2 CRICKET

2006 Findings

- There were 8 cricket clubs in Woking in 2006 comprising 23 senior and 15 junior teams, mainly playing in the local and county leagues. A number of other casual teams were also identified, using public pitches on a more informal basis. It was estimated that there were 550 regular players, junior and senior, in the borough, above the national average.
- The demand for pitches, based on the main day of play, was for 10 on weekday evenings, 10 on Saturday and 4 on Sunday.
- 13 pitches in SCU were identified, mainly on club and LA sites, and there was a further pitch at one secondary school with some outside usage. Pitches at three main parks were understood not to have been used in the previous 3 years,
- Comparing supply and demand, it was concluded that there were sufficient pitches to meet peak demand in 2006.
- Future demand – it was estimated that population changes would result in a small decline in demand of 3-7%, but that the 3 main focus clubs in the borough had significant development programmes requiring additional facilities. The overall impact by 2011 would be the development of 6 further teams, which could be accommodated mainly on existing club sites, but that the 3 substandard park pitches should be improved to meet this extra demand.
- Quality – by visual inspection, applying Sport England's template and taking into account the comments of consultees, pitches were generally considered to be good/excellent,

although one club (outside the borough but accommodating players from Woking) considered some pitches poor. Ancillary accommodation was also considered good or excellent.

Conclusions for cricket

There were enough pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand, although a number of pitches were on public parks and had been unused for some years. The majority of pitches owned and managed by the Borough were located on open recreation fields and were not protected. This left them open to abuse and damage. Improvements to three public pitches at St John's Lye, Waterers Park and Goldsworth Park or the provision of 3 additional pitches would accommodate future demand. In the case of St John's Lye this would require the provision of new changing accommodation. The major concern for cricket clubs was to improve match play and practice facilities as well as changing room accommodation. Some additional pitches may become available at New Monument School but would not cater for senior cricket. There was sufficient local provision at Wheatsheaf to meet increase in junior developments, although in general terms the pavilions across the borough were unsuitable for female changing accommodation.

2012 review

Supply of pitches The supply of cricket pitches in 2012 is set out in the table below.

	Sub area	Ownership/ management	Pitches
Byfleet Cricket Club, adj Parvis Road, Byfleet	East	A2	1
Byfleet Recreation Ground, Stream Close	East	A1	1
Pyrford Cricket Club, Coldharbour Road	East	A2	1
West Byfleet Recreation Road, Camphill Road	East	A1	1
Wheatsheaf, Horsell Common Rec Ground), Chobham Rd	East	A1	1
Old Woking Cricket Club, Queen Elizabeth Way	South	A2	1
Westfield Cricket & Bowls Club, Westfield Road	South	A2	1
Woking Park	South	A1	1
Goldsworth Park, Wishbone Way	West	A1	1
Sheets Heath Recreation Ground, Brookwood	West	A1	1
St John's Lye Recreation Ground, St Johns	West	A1	1
Waterers Park, Knaphill	West	A1	1
Woking & Horsell CC, Brewery Road, Horsell	West	A2	1
Total in SCU			13
New Monument School, Alpha Road, Woking	East	B	1
The Bishop David Brown School, Albert Drive, Woking	East	B	1
The Winston Churchill School, Hermitage Road, Woking	West	B	1
Total in CU			3
Total in some form of CU			16

Goldsworth Primary School, Bridge Barn Lane, Woking		C	1
St John The Baptist Catholic Comp. School, Elmbridge Lane, Kingfield		C	1
Woking High School		C	1
St Andrews Prep School, Churchfields, Horsell		C	3
Hoe Bridge School, Old Woking Road		C	4
Total other pitches on school sites			10

There are a similar number of pitches in SCU as in 2012, but again there is understood to be limited or no usage of 2 parks pitches at Goldsworth Park and St John's Lye. Bookings records from the Borough Council suggest some but not large usage of parks pitches as follows in 2011:

Brookwood	34 bookings
West Byfleet Rec	37
Waterers Park	38
Wheatsheaf	60

Quality – observation suggests that pitches and ancillary facilities are broadly similar in quality and condition to 2006, where facilities were generally considered good.

Supplementary data is available from development plans available from Surrey CCB for some clubs as follows:

Byfleet CC – pitches (there are 18 wickets on the main square) are good, outfield satisfactory, synthetic wicket good, practice areas good, machinery and equipment good/adequate and changing rooms adequate in number but do not meet ECB standards

Old Woking CC – pitches (13 wickets) and outfield are good, practice facilities good, machinery good/adequate, changing room adequate but do not meet ECB standards

Pyrford CC – pitches (10 wickets) and outfield satisfactory, synthetic wicket poor, no practice area, changing adequate and meets ECB standards

West Byfleet CC – pitches (3) and outfield satisfactory, no synthetic wicket or practice area, changing adequate but does not meet ECB standard

The ECB quality assessment is more objective and cricket specific than the current Sport England methodology, and pitch and other standards by this definition are less good.

LA pitches – of the four LA cricket pitches hired by the Borough Council, 24/169 matches in summer 2011 were called off (14%). While this may not necessarily be due to ground conditions and pitch quality (e.g. it may have been caused by weather), it reflects the broadly satisfactory quality of cricket pitches in the borough at least on LA sites.

Clubs and teams - Contact with the Surrey CCB and using data collected from websites and other sources, the following teams and clubs are understood to play in the borough in 2011/12.

Brookwood CC – small village club with 1 senior teams playing Sunday friendlies at Sheets Heath Rec. 2012 nets practice at Surrey County Cricket centre in Guildford

Byfleet CC – currently has 142 playing members including 93 juniors. 2012 plans include 5 adult teams playing Saturday and Sunday in the Surrey County league, Thameside Sunday League and friendlies (1 team more than in 2011) 1 adult team playing midweek cup and friendly fixtures (same as 2011) and 5 junior teams from aged 8-15 (same as 2011) competing

in West Surrey Youth League. All home matches, senior and junior, are played at the home ground in Parvis Road. Two junior matches are played concurrently, one on the main square and one on the outfield, and all training session (Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings for juniors and Thursday for seniors) are also held at the ground. Indoor practice and training takes place outside the borough. The club is actively looking for additional facilities to enable the junior section to expand, as well as run a third senior team, ideally within close proximity to the existing ground (the adjacent site at Kings Head Lane would be ideal but there are understood to be Football Foundation restrictions).

Old Woking CC – currently has 110 members including 43 juniors. In 2011 the club fielded 3 Saturday senior, and 2 Sunday senior teams (playing in the Surrey Downs League and playing at the home pitch and at Sheets Heath Rec), and 3 junior teams (U13- U17). The club has Clubmark accreditation.

Pyrford CC – the club has 182 members including 142 juniors. In 2012 the club will field 2 senior Saturday teams playing in the Surrey League (3 in 2011) and 11 junior boys' and 1 girls' team (8 + 1 in 2011). The club has its own ground, which is occasionally let to schools for cricket, football and athletics, and also has the use of West Byfleet Rec ('satisfactory but frustrating key arrangements'), Pyrford School and Hoebridge School, plus Fulbrook School sports hall for training and nets. The amount of cricket played is considered constrained by the facilities available.

West Byfleet CC – has 1 senior team playing in the Surrey League, and located at West Byfleet Rec

Westfield Saints – the club is understood to have disbanded at the end of 2010 after 136 years in existence, but reformed in 2011 with a view to playing friendlies. It is possible that teams in 2012 will comprise juniors only. The club's ground is on Westfield Road.

Woking & Horsell CC – in 2011 the club had 4 men's teams playing league cricket on Saturday and 2 teams playing friendlies on Sunday. For 2012 it is intending to have 5 league teams and 1 friendly on Saturday and 2 friendly on Sunday. The colts section caters for young players from 6/7 to 17 and fields teams in all age groups from U9 upwards in league, cups and friendlies, with up to 17 teams in 2011. The club plays at its own main ground but also uses St Andrew's, Winston Churchill and Hoebridge Schools, Waterers Park and the Wheatsheaf. Its own ground will be redeveloped but the surface is good, St Andrew's has no changing/toilets, Winston Churchill and Hoebridge are satisfactory and Wheatsheaf has poor changing and a 'virtually unplayable' pitch.

Woking X1 CC – has 1 team in the SE Sunday Cricket League and plays at the Wheatsheaf

Woking & Maybury CC – has 1 team in the SE Sunday CL and plays at New Monument School (the club formerly had 1 senior and 2 junior teams) to check

Some other women's teams from outside the borough (Guildford and Shepperton) also hire the Westfield ground on occasions.

It is estimated from the above that in 2011/12, the following teams play cricket on a regular basis in Woking:

Up to 27 senior teams

40 junior teams.

Current supply and demand balance - On the basis of the previous temporal demand for senior pitches, an increased demand for junior pitches during the week and similar frequency of home games, it is estimated that the peak demand for cricket pitches at present is 11 senior on Saturday, 5 senior on Sunday and up to 24 pitches during the week for juniors. As the junior use is spread across weekday evenings, this peak demand can be mitigated by a half to

12 pitches. Compared with existing supply of 13 pitches in SCU (of which at least 2 are not in regular use), there appears to still be a broad adequacy of pitches in the borough if all facilities are up to standard and available for use.

Future demand – up to 2022 the ‘active’ population of the borough is projected to increase by 4%, though there is also an increase in senior men (over 45) which itself may increase the demand for adult cricket. The Market Segmentation data suggest a small potential increase in participants playing cricket, while a 1% increase in participation in sport overall would also increase demand for cricket. Existing activity rates in cricket are high already with multiple junior teams at some clubs and the potential to increase this is probably limited, though some clubs do say they are constrained by the lack of facilities. It is therefore appropriate to plan for a 10% increase in teams up to 2022, which would necessitate a future peak pitch demand of 13 pitches throughout the week and at weekends. As with current pitch demand, present pitch supply is therefore adequate, with the proviso that pitches not currently in CU are refurbished and made fit for purpose.

Summary for cricket

- There are more teams currently playing cricket than in 2006 and a similar number of pitches. The particular growth is in junior cricket, and this is distributed throughout the week mainly on existing club pitches. There is some evidence of suppressed demand because clubs are unable to accommodate additional (junior) teams on their existing facilities, though at some venues there is undoubted spare capacity (e.g. Westfield). At present it is estimated that there are broadly sufficient pitches to meet demand, though this requires pitches not currently in use to be improved or reinstated.
- Up to 2022, while demand may well increase as a result of population change and higher participation rates, existing and improved pitches, as well as school pitches being brought into wider community use will be sufficient to meet anticipated demand.
- The following measures should be taken to ensure demand is met:
 - St John’s Lye and Goldsworth Park pitches are improved and reinstated
 - More intensive use is made of the pitch at Westfield CC
 - Improvements are made to some LA pitches particularly Wheatsheaf and Waterers Park
 - CU agreements are put in place to increase the use of school pitches at Bishop David Brown, Hoebridge, and St Benedict’s Schools and some junior schools where synthetic turf wickets are available
- There is also an unidentified (but probably significant) casual network of cricket in the borough, which would benefit from the recommended actions set out above.

5.3 RUGBY UNION

2006 Findings

- There was 1 rugby club (Woking RC) in 2006 with 2 senior teams and no juniors, playing on a LA site in Byfleet. It was estimated that there were about 35 playing members at the club, and rugby participation was ostensibly very low. However a major club (Chobham RC) played just outside the borough boundary, and accommodated players from within Woking, with over 600 members, 5 senior teams and up to 22 colts' teams. On occasions this club played on a school pitch in Woking
- 2 pitches in SCU were identified, at Byfleet Rec, and there were other pitches on school sites.
- Comparing supply and demand, it was concluded that there was a potential surplus of pitches to meet peak demand in 2006.
- Future demand – it was estimated that population changes would result in a small decline in demand and that there was little likelihood of development initiatives increasing the need for junior pitches. Any development would be through Chobham in the neighbouring borough.
- Quality – by visual inspection, applying Sport England's template and taking into account the comments of consultees, pitches and ancillary facilities were considered good.
- Both Woking and Chobham clubs commented on their future plans. Woking had concerns about their existing changing rooms, and wanted to develop a clubhouse on the existing pitch site. Chobham were working to extend their pitch provision and improve changing and other facilities.

Conclusions for rugby - There were sufficient rugby pitches in Woking to meet the demand from the existing local club, although some quality improvements were necessary. As much of the development activity was being met by Chobham RFC, albeit outside the borough there was not considered a high priority to provide high levels of investment in Rugby.

2012 review

Supply of pitches The supply of rugby pitches in 2012 is similar to the previous study, with 2 pitches in SCU at Byfleet Rec, as well as 3 school pitches with some potential use at secondary schools and 6 other pitches on school sites with sole use by the school.

	Sub area	Ownership/ management	Pitches
Byfleet Recreation Ground, Stream Close	East	A1	2
Total in SCU			2
The Bishop David Brown School, Albert Drive, Woking	East	B	1
The Winston Churchill School, Hermitage Road, Woking	West	B	1
Woking Sixth Form College	South	B	1
Total in CU			3

Total in some form of CU			5
St John The Baptist Catholic Comp. School, Elmbridge Lane, Kingfield		C	1
Woking High School		C	1
Hoe Bridge School, Old Woking Road		C	4
Total other pitches on school sites			6

One of Woking's pitches has floodlights for training. Chobham RC is based at Fowler's Wells (2 miles outside the Woking boundary), which has 2 senior pitches, 2 marked mini pitches and other space, but the club also plays at the adjacent Wishmore Cross Special School (1 senior pitch), Lightwater Country Park (1) and Gordon's Boys School. It has had occasional use of pitches at Winston Churchill School in recent years, but currently does not require pitches there.

Quality – from observation, there has been no marked change in the quality of the Byfleet Rec pitches and changing facilities since 2006.

Clubs and teams – in 2012 the same clubs exist in the area. Woking continues to field 2 senior men's teams plus an occasional veterans' team, but there is no junior development. Chobham currently runs 4 senior teams and plays in a senior league in London Division 2 SW, plus an occasional vets' team and U21s. There is a wide range of junior (U13-18) teams plus tag and mini rugby, playing matches, festivals, coaching and training. There is a more recent interest in developing girls' rugby with U15 and U18 teams run jointly with Guildford RC and minis once a month. 48% of the junior players at Chobham come from within Woking borough (only slightly less than from Surrey Heath where the club is located) and it is therefore relevant to consider Chobham's needs in this report, even though they play outside Woking.

Supply and demand balance – demand for pitches from Woking RC has not changed since 2006, although it is evident that additional teams and in particular participation by girls at Chobham has increased demand there. Future population increases, Market Segmentation data and participation increases are likely to increase demand proportionally over the next 10 years.

Club comments – Woking RC according to its website welcomes new players, though there is some evidence that the club has 'struggled' for players in recent seasons. The club currently has 50-60 playing members. The club's aim is promotion to Surrey Division 3 from the division below, and maintaining second team and veteran players. Junior players are encouraged, but it is considered unlikely that the club has the infrastructure to mount a major junior development programme. Discussions with club officials suggest that facilities are good (pitches are described as 'tremendous' on the website) though better lighting on the training/second pitch and improvements to the changing accommodation are desirable. The club's base is remote from the playing pitches and a new clubhouse based at Byfleet Rec is desirable, though probably constrained by lack of ownership of the site.

Chobham RC is one of the largest rugby clubs in the area, with Clubmark accreditation and the RFU Seal of Approval, and was the Surrey RFU 'Club of the Year' in 2010. It can accommodate current levels of activity on its existing pitches and others currently available in the area - seniors play on Saturday and juniors and mini on Sunday and there is considerable over-usage of existing pitches and continuous games on the same surface. Training also takes place during the week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) for all groups of players, on one floodlit pitch and a training area. The recent growth in interest in girls in rugby leads to an additional requirement for pitches and changing. In the medium to longer term, the club may wish to extend its pitches or relocate, and the area of search will incorporate parts of Woking. The main requirement is for 4 senior pitches plus training area.

Summary for rugby

- There remain sufficient pitches in Woking to meet the needs of the local club and there is little likelihood of any increased demand for pitches at present or in the future for additional pitches arising from population change or development initiatives from Woking RC.
- Some improvements in quality are desirable to the ancillary facilities at Byfleet Rec, with the longer term possibility of a new clubhouse and changing.
- Chobham RC takes half of its juniors from within Woking borough, and has a short term need for pitches to accommodate increased demand from girls. This could be met at available school pitches in Woking or even at Byfleet Rec where there is no Sunday use. However it is desirable from the club's point of view that all junior and mini rugby takes place at the same or close venues, as many of the girls already have siblings active in the club sessions on Sunday.
- The longer term future location of Chobham RC may well need to be met within Woking if an appropriate site is available.

5.4 TENNIS

2006 Findings

- **Teams and Players** - there were 7 tennis clubs in Woking, some of which were affiliated to Surrey LTA. A number of local schools were also classed as members of the British Schools Tennis Association. Membership levels at clubs were variable – Woking LTC had over 600 members, Byfleet 750, while others had just a few. It was estimated that there were about 1500-2000 playing members at these clubs, of which juniors comprised maybe one third. Participation in tennis in Woking was therefore very high.
- Facilities specifically available for tennis were identified in 12 locations, comprising 48 courts in SCU, mainly on club and LA sites, a further 6 on school sites with some CU and 6 on school sites used only by the school.
- **Future demand** - Population increases might increase participation at adult level, as tennis players tend to be older than in many other sports, though the tight club structure might restrict this in a wider sense. Some clubs provided junior development, with the

assistance of Surrey LTA. Clubs such as Woking Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club and Byfleet LTC were very developmental, with their own coaches. The LTA's priority was to develop local centres that had access to at least 3 floodlit courts, with additional courts at larger clubs, and indoor facilities. Bearing in mind current provision, it was considered likely that affiliated clubs could over the period of the study require an additional 5 courts to meet these priorities, with one of these courts located at Horsell Tennis Club subject to space availability. It was unlikely that any of the 'public' recreational courts currently in existence could accommodate the demand arising from these clubs.

- Some clubs in consultation outlined their intentions for future development including WisheL LTC which was looking for a new site, and the need for additional floodlights at Byfleet LTC
- **Quality issues** - Most club facilities were in good condition, though public courts were less so.

Conclusions for tennis

Existing tennis facilities met a current need for organised tennis, coaching, development and competition at existing clubs, and for recreational tennis on other sites. To allow clubs to develop juniors, accommodate additional adult members and meet LTA priorities, a further 5 courts were required at existing clubs to 2011. All existing courts should be retained and where necessary improved and renovated, to permit recreational tennis and allow any casual play generated. The development of FMGAs as recommended below could be linked to tennis development.

2012 Review

Clubs and facilities – in 2012 the following clubs and tennis courts were identified in Woking.

	Sub area	Ownership/ management	Courts	Type
Sussex Road Recreation Ground	West	A1	1	Casual tennis
Waterers Park, Knaphill	West	A1	1	Casual tennis
West Byfleet Recreation Road, Camphill Road	East	A1	2	Casual tennis
Sheets Heath Recreation Ground, Brookwood	West	A1	2	Casual tennis
Woking Park	South	A1	5	5 tarmac, not f/l
Horsell Bowls and Tennis Club, Queen Elizabeth Gdns	West	A2	1	1 tarmac
Wishel LTC	South	A2	2	2 f/l tarmac
David Lloyd Tennis Centre	South	A2	4	4 artificial grass , not f/l, + 8 indoor

				courts
Byfleet LTC, Pyrford Road	East	A2	11	2 tarmac, 6 art grass (all f/l), 3 acrylic
Woking LT & Croquet Club, Pine Road, St Johns	South	A2	17	4 Acrylic, 4 tarmac, 2 other (all f/l), 3 grass, 4 tarmac, + 4 mini red
Total in SCU			46	
Woking Sixth Form College	South	B	2	2 tarmac
The Winston Churchill School, Hermitage Road, Woking	West	B	4	4 tarmac f/l
The Bishop David Brown School, Albert Drive, Woking	East	B	6	6 tarmac
Total in CU			12	
Total in some form of CU			58	
St Andrews Prep School, Churchfields, Horsell		C	2	
St John The Baptist Catholic Comp. School, Elmbridge Lane, Kingfield		C	2	
Woking High School		C	4	
Hoe Bridge School, Old Woking Road		C	6	
Total other pitches			14	
Total all pitches			72	
Woodham Court Sports Club, Martyrs Lane, Woodham	East	A2	2	All facilities now derelict and unused

There is a small reduction in courts in SCU, though a similar number of clubs exist as in 2006. Horsell is no longer 'registered' with the LTA. The Woodham Court facilities now appear to be derelict and unused, and the club previously based there has since amalgamated with another local club. Clubmark accreditation is held by David Lloyd and Woking LT&CC.

Quality – visual inspection confirms that most facilities are in good condition, especially on club sites. LA facilities are in poorer condition, and the Council has plans to improve the casual facilities at three parks. The West Byfleet Rec courts are no longer capable of beneficial use. Since 2006 Wisheal LTC has improved its courts rather than seek new facilities, with new floodlights and court renovation.

Governing body consultation – the LTA’s current priority is to increase opportunities for people to participate in tennis and access coaching and appropriate competition in communities across the country. The AEGON Parks Tennis Scheme with Beacon accreditation has been set up between the LTA and Tennis Foundation to offer high quality free and affordable tennis for the local community. Woking Park/Park tennis in Woking is the first Beacon site in the borough. The LTA is keen in conjunction with local authorities and others to provide investment in other courts and programmes, with the benefit of a long term lease and the opportunity to bring in coaching, and this opportunity extends to other parks in the borough such as West Byfleet, Sheets Heath Rec and Waterers Park

The LTA’s ‘Places to Play’ strategy 2011-16 has the main aim of ensuring a network of different tennis sites throughout the country, from pay and play community courts to Clubmark accredited venues within a 10-minute drive, indoor courts within 20 minutes and performance venues at different levels. The key elements of much of this programme are the provision of floodlighting at existing courts and low cost indoor structures to complement local community initiatives.

The LTA is also keen to help clubs achieve and maintain Clubmark accreditation – the David Lloyd Club and Woking LT&CC have already achieved this in the borough.

Current and future demand - there is broadly a balance at present between club and public facilities and demand. The previous study recommended the need for 5 additional courts by 2011 to meet future demand, arising from development initiatives and population changes, although these have not been provided. The Market Segmentation data suggests that while tennis participation is likely to be high in the Woking area, according to demographic and socio-economic data (as confirmed by participation figures and numbers of clubs), there is still potential for additional growth from the local population. In view of the renewed LTA priorities, it may well be possible to meet these expectations by further improvements to existing park courts, as well as at local clubs.

Summary for tennis

Existing tennis facilities continue to meet a high demand for tennis, particularly on club sites. It is reasonable to reiterate the previous recommendation that a further 5 courts are required to meet future demand up to 2017/2022. To meet these requirements the following initiatives should be pursued:

- Consider the provision of up to 5 new courts at strategic locations
- Develop community tennis sites on improved parks and schools, at Waterers Park, Sheets Heath Rec, Sussex Road, West Byfleet Rec and some secondary schools
- Increase adult and junior competitive opportunities through the new hierarchy of facilities in conjunction with the LTA.
- Retain and where necessary improve all existing courts.

- Link any new MUGA provision with tennis development where appropriate

5.5 ATHLETICS

2006 Findings

There was one club in the borough based in Sheerwater. This served the whole of Woking and was the subject of a substantial Lottery grant from Sport England to upgrade the athletic facilities. It was one of five athletics tracks in Surrey with the closest to Woking being Guildford Spectrum and Walton on Thames. The nearest Indoor Athletics facility was in Horsham. Previously a proposal to build an indoor athletics facility at Bishop David Brown School adjacent to the track in Sheerwater was considered, but had now been abandoned.

Woking Athletics Club had 350 members and competed in the UK Athletics League. According to questionnaire, they had inadequate changing rooms, showers toilets and clubhouse, despite a recent lottery grant. No development plans were identified although an indoor facility was planned at Bishop David Brown School but shelved.

The study was undertaken in the context of a National Athletics Facilities Strategy 2002-2006, commissioned by the AAA's of England and the former British Athletics Federation with the support of Sport England, which made recommendation in regard to the provision of new outdoor synthetic tracks (one track to 250,000 people within a 20 minute drive (or 45 minutes in rural areas)) and training facilities such as a sprint straight with bend and jumping pits etc in more rural areas. There were no references for Surrey in the National Strategy as being deficient in 400m synthetic tracks. However, in the Surrey Sports Strategy specialist facilities such as Athletics tracks were recommended on the basis of a minimum of one facility per district accessible by no more than a 20 minute car journey

Conclusions for athletics

The absence of a strategic need for additional facilities and a lack of express demand by the existing club suggested that additional athletics facilities in Woking could not be justified in the period covered by the study.

2012 review

Using Sport England's Active Places Power website as its basis, a brief strategic assessment has been undertaken of the demand for and supply of athletics facilities in Woking. The findings are summarised as follows:

- There remains one 6-lane track within the borough at Sheerwater, but there are 2 other synthetic 8-lane tracks within a 20-minute drive of the middle of Woking.
- Relative provision per capita of athletics tracks in Woking is higher than the national or regional average, and 19th best in the region of 67 LAs.
- Quality as suggested by age and refurbishment is considered good.
- Accessibility by local residents in Woking to athletics tracks is good, with the whole population within a 20 minute drive, though this may be to tracks outside the borough
- The desk assessment concludes that there is little justification for additional tracks now or in the future, though replacement or upgrading to 8 lanes might be considered, subject to feasibility.

Governing body background – UK Athletics produced 'Athletics Facilities Planning and Delivery 2007-2012' as a follow on from its National Facilities Strategy considered in the 2006 study. The emphasis in the latest strategy is on providing new facilities that will improve participation in athletics, through the provision of modern facilities and equipment. The strategy recommends the following:

- 1 outdoor synthetic 6-8 lane track per 250,000 people within 20 minutes' drive (45 minutes in rural areas)
- 1 indoor training centre per 500,000 people within 30 minutes' drive (45 minutes in rural area (this is not the focus of this study)
- Each area covered by the County AA, LA or metropolitan borough should have an 8-lane track with floodlights and spectating.
- In the absence of main tracks, training facilities such as a 300m oval, J track or 200m track, should be considered.

The plan identifies no priorities for this type of provision in the Woking area. The plan also advocates the need to refurbish tracks and other facilities where necessary. The national strategy therefore has no specific implication for athletics tracks in the borough

Club views – the views of Woking AC have been derived from its current website and the Chairman of the club. The club has been competing in the Southern Men's and Women's Athletics League for some time, but has decided to compete in a new (joint) Southern League in 2012. This league attracted 40 teams in 2011, but 76 have entered in 2012, with more encouraged in 2013. The reasons for the change are:

- Better club spirit from a joint team
- Improved atmosphere at fewer competitions
- Benefits for juniors
- More efficient deployment of officials

The current track itself is considered fit for purpose subject to resurfacing due within the next 2-3 years and the club feels that the main issue is one of tired, inadequate ancillary facilities which include the following:

- Changing rooms that are too small and run down with poor drainage.
- Insufficient numbers of toilets, particularly on match days when in excess of 150 people visit.
- No shower privacy
- Poor office accommodation and meeting room space.
- No indoor training area.
- Inadequate set up for photo finish.
- Limited storage capacity with the club currently using old containers that leak.
- Inadequate space for meeting rooms and social events.
- Poor gate reception facilities that are considered inadequate for a growing club.

In order to retain and attract coaches, athletes and helpers, the club believes that they need to

upgrade their facilities and feel that the current six lane configuration restricts holding larger events, and with limited personnel available, (volunteers and coaches) contributes to an inability to grow the membership of the club. Ideally the club would like-

- A two tiered stadium facility with adequate toilets, changing rooms, storage capacity, first aid room, office, social area and kitchen.
- an 8 lane track
- gated entry system for members entry and security
- indoor training area with a weights room and gymnasium
- indoor running strip.

However, apart from matches and school hire, the athletics facilities are mainly used for training purposes and because of the limited staff resource, the track at Sheerwater is only open twice a week in the evening for training and on Monday nights for junior activities. The rest of the time it remains closed throughout the day which means that the capital investment provided by Sport England is not being maximised. Currently the club is unable to attract participation from those in the immediate vicinity.

Future Demand

There are no strategic priorities for further Athletics provision within the Woking area and the current facility is sufficient to meet the needs of the borough going forward. Subject to the normal refurbishment and regular maintenance to ensure the track is fit for purpose the proposed pavilion refurbishment and sports centre developments at Bishop David Brown School will enable the club to attract more coaches, athletes and volunteers.

Summary for athletics

- There is little/no strategic need for an additional track in Woking
- There is insufficient room to extend the existing track to 8 lanes
- Improvements to the pavilion and storage areas.
- The retention of the existing six lane athletics track in its current location, but with changes to the boundary with BDB school to enable relocation of the long jump and pole vault areas.
- Whilst it would be an ambition of the Athletics club to have an indoor centre at the adjacent Bishop David Brown School, this is unlikely to happen in the current economic climate (and in any case is outside the remit of this current study).

5.6 BOWLS

2006 Findings

- There were 7 bowls greens in the borough in 2006, accommodating 7 local clubs. Most greens were 6 rinks. There were estimated to be 3-400 bowlers in the borough, mostly men, with very few juniors and limited scope at that time for significant developmental programmes.
- Current and future demand – there were no guidelines for assessing the adequacy of bowls facilities in strategic terms, though 2006 provision was substantially below an old planning standard of 1 green per 6000 people. Clubs expressed a willingness to accommodate junior members to mitigate the ageing existing membership structure, and

the projected population to 2011 envisaged an increase in the 45+ age group which could have an impact on participation. However no additional greens were recommended up to 2011 as existing facilities were considered capable of meeting demand.

- Quality – the quality of existing facilities was considered good, mainly because clubs themselves owned facilities and undertook their own maintenance. Ancillary facilities such as changing, toilets and storage were less well regarded. One club had specific concerns regarding quality, disabled access and vandalism

Conclusions for bowls - No additional bowls greens were required up to 2011, as the potential demand from the increasing and ageing population was likely to be met at existing greens and clubs. However quality improvements, including the possibility of enhancement of some greens to an all-weather surface, might be required. All existing greens should be retained to meet additional local need, and development programmes actively promoted, particularly among younger people.

2012 review

Clubs, teams and greens - Reference to websites and other sources of data confirm that the number of clubs and greens remain the same as in 2006 as follows:

	Sub area	Availability	Number of greens
Byfleet BC, Rectory Road	East	A2	1
Horsell Bowls and Tennis Club, Queen Elizabeth Gdns	West	A2	1
Knaphill BC, Sussex Road, Knaphill	West	A2	1
Mayford Hall BC, Mayford Rec, Saunders Road, Mayford	West	A2	1
West Byfleet BC, Camphill Road	East	A2	1
Westfield Cricket & Bowls Club, Westfield Road	South	A2	1
Woking Park	South	A1	1
Total			7

Additional current information relating to clubs is as follows:

Byfleet BC – plays mainly on summer afternoons. Currently field 5 adult teams in local leagues.

Horsell BC – green open to juniors and adults, beginners and experienced players. Plays friendly matches 4 times weekly in summer.

Knaphill BC – accommodates juniors and adults and play league matches 5 times a week in summer, with 8 teams at present

Mayford Hall BC – welcomes beginners with coaching available

West Byfleet BC – individual tuition available to new players

Westfield BC – plays midweek and weekends, membership available to all, novices accommodated free and trial membership available. Currently have 1 adult team.

Woking Park BC – free coaching available by qualified coaches.

It is likely that the levels of activity among existing clubs is similar to that existing in 2006, though perhaps some of the intentions expressed regarding attracting new participants might be treated with some caution.

Quality – there is no evidence from observation of any significant change in the quality and condition of existing greens and other facilities.

Supply and demand balance – current participation is considered low, with an estimated total membership of 300-400 players. There appears to be a balance between the 7 existing clubs and greens. It is likely that the loss of even one green would lead to a loss of players and existing participants would be unlikely to join another club, in line with experiences elsewhere.

Future population estimates (see context chapter) suggest that the ageing of the population envisaged in the previous report will continue to 2022 and beyond. It is estimated that the 45+ age group will increase in number from 38200 to 42400 by 2022 (an increase of 4200 people or 11%). Bowls is particularly suited to this age group, although the Market Segmentation data (in the context chapter) does not in fact envisage great potential growth in the sport owing to the lack of the major segments playing bowls being present in the borough.

Aside from increase in participation emanating from demographic changes, future participation in bowls is only likely to grow if a more aggressive approach to the recruitment of new players is taken by clubs and governing bodies, particularly with young people. Governing bodies and clubs are acutely aware of the need to widen the age base of participants. Indeed at elite level, bowls is very much a younger person's domain. If clubs in the area have taken positive steps to attract younger players, it is likely that they have encountered problems of attracting them to a sport which has an image problem and faces competition from other sports and leisure activities.

Governing body views – contact was made with the Surrey Bowls Association within the last 12 months in connection with a similar study elsewhere in the county and the following summary is equally relevant to Woking:

- there are currently 147 men's clubs affiliated in the county, but since 2006 10 clubs have folded for a variety of reasons and it is known that in 2012 a further 12 clubs will be lost due mainly to cutbacks in local authority funding. The biggest factor in the loss of clubs over the last 10 years has been the closure of clubs associated with large companies (banks, utilities, etc);
- loss of a club normally results in a reduction of 40% of their players overall, particularly at local authority greens where fees have been kept artificially low. The remainder of members tend to join other existing clubs;

- the average numbers of members per club in Surrey is only about 50. The largest clubs have 180 members with considerable turnover. Smaller clubs have lower fees, which inhibits their ability to develop facilities and membership;
- green quality varies greatly in Surrey, depending on the weather, ownership and management regime;
- private clubs have better playing facilities because of longer maintenance – 4-5 hours per day on 3-4 days per week, compared with twice a week x 1.5 hours at local authority greens. If local authority greens are subject to closure, it is usually cost prohibitive for clubs to take over maintenance;
- club houses and pavilions are often in need of some upgrading, although members tend to look after these to the best of their ability. Private clubhouses are usually in better condition;
- Bowls England is the ‘new’ governing body and works as part of a bowls development alliance with other organisations to improve governance. One funding target is to attract 12,000 new bowlers over 65 within 2 years. The governing body has recently employed a development manager with a remit to widen participation, but the governing body is often seen as not relevant to clubs; and
- the main challenges to the sport in Surrey are seen by the County Governing Body as:
 - local authority cutbacks and their impact on club retention and team formation;
 - the quality of green and ancillary facilities, particularly at council grounds;
 - the cost of maintaining facilities, declining membership and lack of funding to effect improvements;
 - increasing age of bowls club members, and particularly the lack of 20-50 year olds and young people;
 - lack of voluntary help for clubs – coaches and administrators;
 - the need to promote new ‘short’ forms of the games (e.g. New age bowls, sets play) to attract new players with less spare time; and
 - the need for closer involvement with schools and local authority sports development staff.

Summary for bowls

- While the demand for bowls may well increase as the result of demographic changes and sports development initiatives to 2022, it is unlikely that any additional bowls greens will be required at least in the short term, as existing clubs are likely to be able to absorb additional membership.
- Quality improvements and continued maintenance should be put in place to ensure that facilities remain fit for purpose.
- The provision of at least 1 all-weather surface and floodlighting would ensure that bowls was available to local people throughout the year and accommodate any additional demand arising from participation initiatives (there are no indoor bowls centres within at

least 20 minutes' drive from the middle of the borough, the closest being in Guildford, Egham and Camberley).

- All existing greens should be retained to meet any additional local need and development programmes actively promoted particularly for young people.

5.7 BASKETBALL

2006 Findings

A number of outdoor basketball posts had been erected as part of the English Basketball Association's Outdoor Basketball Initiative (OBBI). OBBI and other freestanding facilities were located on 12 sites throughout the borough.

The aims of the OBBI programme were to provide a network of outdoor facilities for casual and organised play, which encouraged young people to develop a healthy lifestyle, awareness and self-promotion, and an alternative to anti-social behaviour. The original target was for 10,000 posts by 2000, ultimately enabling 50% of the population to gain access to a facility within one mile, and ensure the use of goals formed part of an overall sustainable basketball development programme. There was no evidence that activity rates met these targets at the facilities in Woking and further development initiatives were required. It was not proposed to make provision for additional freestanding basketball posts in the borough except where these were provided as part of a wider multi games or play area.

2012 Review

Supply – a number of other basketball posts were identified in the current study, totalling 15 with some form of community access.

	Sub area	Ownership/ management	Basketball
Boundary Road	East	A1	1
Byfleet Recreation Ground, Stream Close	East	A1	1
Omega Road	East	A1	1
Sheerwater	East	A1	1
West Byfleet Recreation Road, Camphill Road	East	A1	1
St Peters Road Rec, Old Woking	South	A1	1
Woking Park	South	A1	1
Goldsworth Park, Wishbone Way	West	A1	1
Sussex Road Recreation Ground	West	A1	1
The Vyne, opposite Alexandra Gardens, Knaphill	West	A1	1
Waterers Park, Knaphill	West	A1	1
Loop Road Sports Ground, Westfield	South	A2	1
Horsell Bowls and Tennis Club, Queen Elizabeth Gdns	West	A2	1
Total in SCU			13
New Monument School, Alpha Road, Woking	East	B	1

The Winston Churchill School, Hermitage Road, Woking	West	B	1
Total in CU			2
Total in some form of CU			15
Woking High School		C	1
Total other pitches			1

Summary for Basketball

There remains no available evidence of usage of the facilities that exist and no information on the levels of demand now and in the future. The quality of many of the existing posts is considered poor. No proposals are made for additional basketball facilities, unless they are provided as part of a wider play, sport or recreation initiative at existing or new locations, such as in conjunction with new MUGAs set out above.

5.8 MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

2006 Findings

- There was limited provision for multi-use hard-court and games areas (MUGAs) throughout the borough, with only 7 pitches available for wider community use, mainly on LA sites but also on 2 schools.
- Future demand - it was desirable that multi use games areas were available within a reasonable walking/travel distance to all residents of the district. These should be floodlit to ensure usage throughout the year. There was no hard a fast rule about future provision, but in the case of Woking it was reasonable to plan in the first instance for a strategic distribution of such facilities in 12 locations, as set out in the action plan. This would mean establishing a hierarchy of provision for both recreational use and competition purposes. In addition improvements were required to some existing facilities, including the possibility of lighting to those currently unlit, subject to planning permission.

Conclusions for MUGAs

New floodlit MUGAs could be justified in 12 additional locations to meet the recreational, training and competitive needs of football within the borough. Further improvements to some existing facilities also needed to be addressed.

2012 Review

Supply – the following MUGAs have been identified in Woking at present

	Sub area	Ownership/management	Courts	
Byfleet Recreation Ground, Stream Close	East	A1	1	New MUGA unlit
Omega Road	East	A1	1	
Sheerwater	East	A1	1	
West Byfleet Recreation Road, Camphill Road	East	A1	1	New ball court/recreational MUGA unlit
Goldsworth Park, Wishbone Way	West	A1	1	
The Vyne, opposite Alexandra Gardens,	West	A1	1	New recreational MUGA

Knaphill				floodlit
Waterers Park, Knaphill	West	A1	1	New recreational MUGA floodlit
Woking Park	South	A1	2	2 x 2 court FMGAs
Total SCU			9	
New Monument School, Alpha Road, Woking	East	B	1	
Woking Sixth Form College	South	B	1	Plus 1 5 a side hard court
Westfield Primary School, Bonsey Lane, Woking	South	B	1	MUGA under construction
Sythwood Primary School, Sythwood, Woking	West	B	1	
Total in CU			4	
Total in any CU			13	

In addition there are a large number of other hard court/play areas on school sites and public parks which fulfil a similar purpose, but may not be accessible to the wider community. These may double up as school netball/tennis courts or hard play areas on junior school sites. Since the previous study, new courts have been provided by the Council as part of its investment programme at Byfleet Rec, West Byfleet Rec, The Vyne Fields, Waterers Park and Westfield School (under construction). One large area formerly defined as a MUGA at Woking Park/Leisure Centre is currently no longer in this use.

Current and future demand – there is no established way of determining the demand for MUGAs. Because of their relatively low cost and flexibility of use, it is desirable that multi use games areas are available within a reasonable walking/travel distance to all residents of the district. These should be floodlit to ensure usage throughout the year.

In studies in other similar areas, a local requirement of 1 floodlit multi games area (FMGA) per 3000 population has been adopted, though this has started from a position of better initial provision, and is unrealistic in Woking. In the case of Woking it is reasonable to plan in the first instance for a strategic distribution of such facilities in a variety of locations, as previously recommended in the initial study and action plan. Since the 2006 report, games areas have been built at 4 of the 12 recommended new locations, and a further MUGA is under construction. Completion of this programme will mean establishing a hierarchy of provision for both recreational use and competition purposes.

Population changes and participation targets are less influential in assessing future need as MUGAs tend to fulfil a less formal function than other purpose built sports facilities.

Summary for MUGAs

- There is no evidence available on the usage of MUGAs throughout the borough, and little intelligence on future demand. However such facilities remain important catering for a range of recreational, sporting, training and play needs for local residents and fulfil an important function.

- There is an increasing network of MUGAs across the borough, and 4/5 MUGAs have been added to the local stock. It would be appropriate to continue the programme of additional MUGAs as set out in the previous action plan, which would mean the construction of 7 additional facilities in Pyrford, Horsell, St John's Lye, Loop Road, St Peters Rec, Brookwood Country Park, and possibly Kings Head Lane (subject to the availability of land), to ensure an equitable distribution of games areas throughout the borough up to 2022.
- Subject to planning and other considerations, the provision of floodlighting at those MUGAs currently without lights should be considered to ensure optimum use and availability.

5.9 HOCKEY

2006 Findings

- There were 3 STP/AGPs in Woking in 2006 suitable for hockey, at Goldsworth Park (2) and Winston Churchill School (1). Both had sand filled surfaces. The Goldsworth pitch was owned and managed by Woking Hockey Club, while the school pitch was available for community use on a CU basis.
- Three clubs played their fixtures in Woking in 2006. The main club, Woking HC, ran 12 men's, 6 women's, 2 mixed and a variety of colts and junior teams, the first teams playing in the National Leagues. Byfleet Ramblers with 3 senior teams played at Winston Churchill School and Thames Valley HC (based in Egham) were known to play some fixtures also at the school.
- Current and future demand – Woking HC played fixtures intensively on Saturdays and Sundays, and also incorporated colts training at the weekend, and training during the week. On some match days 9 matches were played consecutively on the 2 pitches. The other clubs mainly played at the school on Saturdays. Current levels of demand were met from the existing supply. In the future Woking was keen to develop their junior development programme, but this and population changes were considered not to have a detrimental effect on the ability of the pitches to meet demand.
- Quality – the quality of existing pitches was considered to be good, with the proviso (as with all AGPs) that the carpets/surfaces required replacement on a regular basis. Ancillary facilities were also good.

Conclusions for hockey - There were considered to be sufficient AGPs in the borough to accommodate estimated future demand for hockey. It was understood that Woking Hockey Club might wish to convert one of the pitches in Goldsworth Park to a water-based pitch to meet the performance needs of the sport. In this scenario account needed be taken of the displaced football currently played at the venue that would need to be satisfied elsewhere.

2012 review

Clubs and teams – current information suggest that only one club now plays hockey in Woking. Woking HC in the current (2011/12) season fields 6 women's teams (the first team

plays in the South League Div 1), 10 men's teams (South Div 1 also), 1 indoor team, 1 mixed, 6 boys (U10-18) and 10 girls (U10-U18), plus a mixed U8 team, totalling 34 teams. This is probably slightly more than 2006, when there were more senior teams but fewer juniors. Current membership is nearly 600, and the club is reported to be the 5th largest in the country. The club was granted a ClubFirst award in 2009.

Byfleet Ramblers currently run 3 women's teams in the Surrey League, but play at St George's College, Addlestone, following the conversion of the Winston Churchill pitch to a 3G surface. The club also trains outside the borough at Salesian School.

Thames Valley HC again formerly played at Winston Churchill School, but now play at Salesian School in Chertsey and share a clubhouse with Chertsey CC. The club runs 2 men's and 2 women's teams and some colts

Pitches – there are now only 2 AGPs available for competitive hockey in Woking at Woking HC/Goldsworth Park. The older pitch, formerly sand filled and built in 1993, has had a new surface of 'sand dressed polyethylene' provided in the last 2 years, while the second pitch (1998) is still sand filled. Other improvement have been undertaken to the facilities on site by the club, including new fencing, goals, team shelters, protection of the spectator area and upgrading of floodlights.

Quality - the pitches are considered from visual inspection to be in good condition, particularly the newly resurfaced pitch. The second pitch carpet is likely to require replacement in the coming years, and certainly within the timescale of this study.

Current demand - Woking HC plays league matches on Saturday, cup games on Sunday and juniors play fixtures, undertake coaching and take part in festivals on Sunday. Up to 8 matches are played consecutively some days. Current levels of demand are considered by the club to be met by the existing pitches, and there is a limited amount of spare capacity for hockey. Training takes place 5 evenings a week on the pitches, which are also hired out by the club for football training, schools use, coaching, events and other activities. These lettings contribute towards the financial viability of the club's pitches.

Future demand – the club's existing active junior development programme probably leaves limited scope for additional activity in the coming years, while population changes to 2022 are unlikely to increase demand significantly. The Market Segmentation data suggests that there is again little scope for increased adult activity in hockey in the borough.

Summary for hockey

- Activity rates for hockey in Woking are high, and the one remaining club considers it is capable of meeting current and expected future demand.
- The loss of 2 other clubs as the result of the loss of the school pitch could be said to represent a latent demand for additional facilities, but without detailed data on where their players live, this cannot be confirmed. Because there are relatively few hockey clubs in any area (compared say with football), the catchments for players tend to be wider and

players are prepared to travel for matches. For the purposes of this study, the two teams based outside Woking are considered to meet a demand outside the borough

- It is considered that the 2 existing pitches in Woking are capable of meeting demand for hockey now and in the future.
- The previous recommendation that one of the Goldsworth Park pitches be replaced with a water based surface has been overtaken by financial and environmental circumstances.
- The potential provision of additional 3G pitches in Woking (see the chapter on AGPs) could have an impact on the 2 existing hockey pitches if midweek use for football training is displaced to new pitches, thereby undermining the financial viability of the Woking HC pitches
- Attention should be paid to the quality of both existing hockey pitches to ensure they remain fit for purpose throughout the term of this study.

6. ANALYSIS OF ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES IN WOKING

2006 Findings

Existing facilities - there were 3 STPs (now termed AGPs – artificial grass pitches) in the borough in 2006, located at Goldsworth Park and Winston Churchill School. All were sand based pitches, and catered primarily for hockey, at a competitive, training, development and recreational level, and football training. There was a further full size pitch at Woking High School, but this is not floodlit, with little likelihood of obtaining planning permission for lights, of limited use by the community and therefore excluded from the assessment

Needs assessment - an assessment undertaken by Sport England using its Facilities Planning Model of the adequacy of facilities in 2002, identified no priority areas for additional provision in Surrey. No new parameters had been identified for AGPs since the 2002 national run, other tools were not available from Sport England to highlight future sports facility provision, and it was therefore difficult to be precise about current and future provision of facilities.

However it was considered appropriate at that stage, in line with other similar studies elsewhere, to adopt a local standard of one AGP per 30,000 population in Woking. Compared with this standard there was a broad adequacy of AGPs in the borough to meet current and anticipated future need. However all existing AGPs were sand based, and the provision of a new Third Generation AGP primarily for football might be considered to allow a greater variety of activity within the borough, subject to more detailed research on the impact of such a facility on the usage and management of the existing pitches.

Conclusion for AGPs - it was unlikely that demand had increased to the extent that additional AGPs could be justified at that stage, with the exception that a Third Generation pitch could be considered primarily for football, subject to a feasibility study. In addition, by 2011 it was likely that significant refurbishment of the existing AGPs would be necessary. Consideration of the conversion of one STP in Goldsworth Park to a Water based derivative to meet the performance needs of Hockey should be considered, and the adequate relocation of football activity displaced by such a move.

2012 Review

Supply – there remain 3 full size AGPs in wider community use in Woking, at Goldsworth Park (2) and Winston Churchill School, and one additional pitch at Woking High School which is still used primarily by the school with limited outside use, and has no floodlights. The two pitches at Goldsworth Park, which are in the ownership of Woking Hockey Club, are sand filled/dressed while the Winston Churchill pitches has recently been converted to a 3G surface more suited to football.

Demand and need assessment – since the 2006 study, Sport England has developed a number of strategic planning tools which allow a more accurate, objective and evidence based assessment of need to be undertaken. The full assessment is set out in the appendix to this chapter.

Active Places Power – the APP website and database provide the basis for an assessment of current supply, demand and accessibility, based on nationally consistent data and information

on usage derived from countrywide surveys. The following conclusions can be drawn from the APP assessment for AGPs in the borough:

- Supply – the relative supply of AGPs in Woking is slightly below the national and regional averages overall, and for sand based pitches alone, but very slightly higher for 3G pitches. There are also 8 further AGPs within a 20 minute drive of the middle of the borough.
- Quality (as determined by age and whether refurbished) appears to be good, and this is confirmed by visual observation on site. However AGPs require regular maintenance of their surface, and replacement every 10 years or so to remain fit for purpose.
- Accessibility – largely because of the urban nature of the borough, almost all residents live within a reasonable (20 minutes) drive of both a sand based and 3G pitch. Walking accessibility is poorer but best where residents live in close proximity of pitches.

Sports Facilities Calculator - The SFC is primarily intended to estimate the demand for facilities in discrete areas e.g. it is useful in determining the likely demand for pitches from the residents of new housing growth. With some provisos it can be used to give a broad estimate of the demand over a local authority area (though it takes no account of demand across LA boundaries, quality of facilities and detailed opening times), and it is on this basis that a short assessment is included here. The SFC calculates that at present, with an estimated 2012 population of 93800, there is sufficient demand in Woking at normal participation rates for nearly 3 AGPs, which remains fairly consistent up to 2022. This is a crude assessment, and a fuller analysis is required to take into account the actual availability of pitches throughout the day, hours of usage, location in terms of demand, age, condition and accessible facilities in neighbouring LA areas.

Facilities Planning Model - Sport England's FPM runs undertaken as part of the National Facilities Audit were first produced in April/May 2008, and have been updated annually since. The assessment for AGPs includes all full size pitches, and in Woking's case this includes 2 sand based and 1 3G pitches (as set out above). The analysis is based on national participation rates for hockey and football, although Active People suggests that local participation is just above the national average. The great benefit of this tool is that it assesses demand and supply across LA boundaries and takes into account catchments and capacities of existing centres. It is based on the database of facilities contained in APP current at the time (April 2011). The model assumes that hockey takes place on sand pitches mainly at the weekends and football on sand midweek, and 3G weekends and midweek.

Access to the FPM annual runs is only available by direct access to Sport England, and the results of this invaluable tool are therefore not available for the purposes of this study at the present time. However broad discussion with Sport England officers confirms the following:

- There is a broad balance between supply and demand for pitches overall and specifically for pitches for hockey and football separately
- The relative share of pitches (compared with the national average) is high, and includes access to pitches in neighbouring LAs

- Most pitches are either full or well used
- There is overall a small import of users to pitches in Woking from outside
- Additional AGPs for hockey or football are difficult to justify at the present

Football Association – the Surrey FA has calculated the need for 3G pitches for training purposes based on accommodating 60 teams per pitch, which equates to the need for 3.4 pitches at the present time. When estimating deficiencies, the FA takes into account existing 3G pitches (there are assumed to be 1.5 in the borough including a smaller 60 x 40m area – and other sand based pitches accommodating football (2). There is therefore an overall adequacy based on these criteria.

If an erstwhile FA guideline of 1 pitch per 25,000 is taken into account, there is a current need for up to 4 AGPs in the borough at present.

Future demand – changes in the estimated ‘active’ population of the borough, and the numbers of local residents who might be potential additional participants in accordance with the Market Segmentation data, are unlikely to increase the need for additional AGPs alone, though an increase in participation of 1% per annum, and changes in patterns of play for football (e.g. increased competitive play permitted on artificial surfaces) could increase the demand. At this stage it is appropriate to consider the need for additional pitches, preferably 3G, to meet these population and participation increases.

OVERALL SUMMARY FOR AGPs

Woking has a total of 3 full size Artificial Grass Pitches with floodlights and one additional pitch at Woking High School without light and therefore of limited use for the community. Two of the main pitches are based on a LA site and one on a school site. All are ostensibly managed on a pay and play basis, although the pitches at Woking HC/Goldsworth Park are used mainly by the club on a block basis, with lettings during weekday evenings to outside clubs. Two pitches are sand based, and one is a new 3G surface. One of the pitches at Goldsworth Park has been resurfaced recently.

The relative supply of AGPs in the borough overall is below the national and regional averages, and this is replicated if individual types of pitch are considered, except for 3G pitches, where relative provision is slightly higher than average. Generally Woking is 48th best provided with AGPs in the region (of 67 LA's), and this varies between 22nd and 52nd for different types of surface and facility.

The SFC estimates that at present (with the latest population estimate of about 93, 800 in the borough in 2012) there is sufficient demand in Woking at normal participation rates for nearly 3 pitches in community use. By 2022 this increases only slightly and still to less than 3 pitches.

This compares with current provision of 3 pitches. Overall there is an adequate supply of AGPs in the borough to accommodate this theoretical demand now and in the future.

The FPM suggests that the provision of additional AGPs for both hockey and football cannot be justified in strategic terms at present.

Historically the demand for AGPs was based on a general standard from Sport England, which for many years was calculated as one pitch per 50-60,000 people, and provision in the early development of AGPs was broadly in accordance with this. The development of 3G pitches and the requirement for all competitive hockey to take place on AGPs has increased demand. Previous advice from the Football Association (FA) required a standard of 1 pitch per 25,000 for 3G pitches, which is the surface most suitable for football. The existing provision of 1 full size 3G pitch is below the old FA 'standard' (3-4 pitches now and up to 2022).

Although 2 of the pitches were built before 2000, the quality of pitches has been corroborated by site inspections, and all facilities appear to be in good condition. However AGPs require regular maintenance of their surface, and it is normally recommended that these are replaced at least every 10 years.

Accessibility to any type of pitch is relatively good throughout the borough, particularly in the main built up areas, by all modes of transport.

Future demand will depend on population changes, increases in development opportunities, overall increase in local participation in sport as the result of strategic targets and any changes to the patterns of play permitted by leagues and governing bodies

It is reasonable to conclude therefore that overall there is a relatively good supply of AGPs (above the regional and national averages), the various planning models suggest that demand is significantly met for both hockey and football, and additional pitches cannot be justified at present. However the FA is keen to see 1 additional 3G pitch built in Woking to meet local demand, and this is broadly in accordance with a guideline of 1 pitch per 25,000 people. This could be located at Bishop David Brown School. Any additional 3G pitches provided in the future in Woking would be likely to lead to displacement of usage from existing pitches, particularly those at Goldsworth Park and used for football training midweek.

Consideration of the conversion of one STP in Goldsworth Park to a water based derivative to meet the performance needs of hockey, and the adequate relocation of football activity displaced by such a move is no longer viable, for economic and environmental reasons, and should be deleted from the proposals.

7. PROPOSED LOCAL STANDARDS

General

To meet the future requirements for pitches up to 2022 the following standards are proposed. These are based on the analysis set out in preceding sections of this report, and the total space or facility requirement is divided by the estimated 2022 population of 100,800 to enable future provision to be quantified per 1000 population, as is the generally accepted procedure. In addition to quantitative standards, minimum quality and accessibility criteria also need to be met, as set out in the 2006 report.

Pitches

Football The future requirement for 53 pitches (comprising 19 senior, 28 junior and 6 mini), plus a contingency of 10% to cover future uncertainties, and a site multiplier (15%) to incorporate ancillary facilities such as space for changing, parking, etc gives a required future standard of provision of 0.48 ha. per 1000 population.

Cricket The future requirement for 16 cricket pitches, plus a similar contingency and multiplier, gives a required future standard of provision of 0.4 ha. per 1000 people.

Rugby The future requirement for 2 pitches, plus a similar contingency and multiplier, gives a required future standard of provision of 0.03 ha. per 1000 people.

Hockey This standard is included in the assessment below for AGPs.

Overall playing pitches The overall standard for grass playing pitches is therefore 0.91 ha. per 1000 people. This area includes the pitch space and run off margins, and added space required for ancillary facilities such as pavilion, parking, landscaping, etc. The development of multiple pitch sites (if appropriate) could lead to some economies of scale in the ancillary provision, and therefore a slightly lower standard (to be determined at the time).

Other outdoor sports facilities

Tennis The future requirement for tennis is for 63 courts, which including a 10% contingency gives a required standard of 1 court per 1470 people, or 0.68 courts per 1000 population. This corresponds to 0.06 ha. per 1000 population, including a site multiplier to take into account any ancillary facilities required.

Bowls The future requirement for bowls is for 7 bowls greens which including a contingency of 10% gives a required standard of provision of one green per 13,000 people or 0.08 greens per 1000 population. This corresponds to 0.02 ha. per 1000 population, including a site multiplier to take into account any ancillary facilities required. There are sufficient greens already to meet the requirement, and the aim is to maintain and improve good quality facilities, which relate to the proposed catchment and are within walking distance of the proposed development, particularly for older people.

Floodlit Multi Use Games Areas(MUGAs) – The future requirement for MUGAs is for 20 courts in total, which including a contingency of 10% gives a required standard of provision of one court per 4500 people or 0.22 courts per 1000 population. This corresponds to 0.03ha. per 1000 population, to include space for ancillary facilities if required. Similar criteria for location, design, etc apply as with pitches. MUGAs are best located in conjunction with

existing sports grounds, schools, and other recreation facilities, where economies of scale for ancillary facilities may be available.

Artificial Grass Pitches On the basis of the findings of the AGP analysis the future requirement for AGPs in the borough is for up to 4 facilities in total. This equates to one STP per 25,000 people or 0.04 STPs per 1000 population, or a space equivalent of 0.04 ha per 1000 population.

Summary

The proposed standards for Woking are summarised in the following table

Table 34	
Playing pitches	0.91 ha/1000
Other outdoor sport	0.08 ha/1000
MUGAs	0.03 ha/1000
AGPs	0.04 ha/1000
Total - all outdoor sport	1.06 ha/1000

Woking Borough Council should seek to ensure that these standards are met by developers of all new housing. Where on-site provision is not feasible, because of the scale and size of the development, off site provision or contributions to the improvement or enhancement of existing facilities should be sought. The local planning authority should consider incorporating these requirements in a Supplementary Planning Document for sport and recreation, which could also include contributions to built sports facilities, in accordance with the guidance given in recent planning and other guidance notes.

8 . RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

The findings from this latest study lead to a series of recommendations based on four key principles:

- PROTECTION
- IMPROVEMENT
- INCREASED PROVISION
- ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

PROTECTION OF EXISTING PROVISION

Recommendation 1

All existing sports pitches should be retained with a continuing emphasis on the need to protect public open space and playing pitches through policies contained in future Local Development Plan Frameworks.

Recommendation 2

Recommend to developers that a commuted sum is set aside for the on-going maintenance of outdoor sports facilities in accordance with a pre-determined formula. Through the LDF developers of all new housing provision should be required to contribute to on and off site playing pitch provision in accordance with the adopted standards outlined above.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF EXISTING PLAYING PITCH SITES

Recommendation 3

Implement a programme of improvements of pitches and changing facilities to meet the requirements of the Playing Pitch Study at selected sites across the Borough

Recommendation 4

The council should undertake a detailed condition survey of all changing pavilions and associated facilities and make improvements where necessary as outlined in the Action Plan.

INCREASED PROVISION

Recommendation 5

Increase the number of playing pitches and sites available to meet the identified deficiencies. New pitch and ancillary facilities should be provided in the locations identified in the Action Plan

Recommendation 6

A future standard of 1.06 pitches per 1000 population should be adopted as a future planning guideline and used as the basis for developer contributions. I would put this under Increased Provision below

Recommendation 7

Continue to implement a planned programme of investment in Floodlit Multi use Games Areas and Artificial Grass Pitches at strategic locations across the Borough.

Recommendation 8

Where appropriate the council should work in partnership with neighbouring local authorities to address identified deficiencies in playing pitch provision.

WIDEN ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Recommendation 9

Schools with facilities currently not available for community use should be encouraged to enter into secure community use agreements to enable voluntary sector clubs to use the site.

Recommendation 10

Investigate the asset transfer and site management responsibility to clubs who have sole use of the facility.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN contd

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
<p>PROTECTION SO1- To protect and retain existing sports pitches and open space to ensure that future sporting needs are met</p>	<p>All existing sports pitches should be retained through policies contained in future Local Development Plan Frameworks.</p>	WBC	Internal WBC
	<p>A future standard of 1.06 pitches per 1000 population should be adopted as a future planning guideline and used as the basis for developer contributions.</p>	WBC, LEA Club and league reps.	WBC
	<p>Establish a review procedure to monitor the outcomes of the Playing Pitch Study review</p>	WBC Pitch Review Group	Internal WBC
	<p>Disposal of pitches should not be contemplated or permitted except in very limited circumstances.</p>	WBC	Internal WBC
	<p>Support and identify priorities/programme with the Surrey County FA for grant-aid bids to the Football Foundation and others for facility improvements</p>	WBC	Internal WBC
<p>IMPROVEMENT SO2-To implement a programme of upgrading of pitches and changing facilities to meet the requirements of the Playing Pitch Study at selected sites across the Borough</p>	<p>Suggested building and refurbishment programme across the Borough: Loop Road Recreation Ground Pavilion refurbishment Re surface Car Park</p>	<p>WBC, Meadow sports, SCFA and FF</p> <p>WBC</p>	450

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
<p><i>SO2- contd To implement a programme of upgrading of pitches and changing facilities to meet the requirements of the Playing Pitch Study at selected sites across the Borough</i></p>	<p>St Peters Recreation Ground <i>Build new changing</i></p>	<p><i>WBC Knaphill FC</i></p>	<p>500</p>
	<p>Waterers Park Recreation Ground <i>Improve car parking</i></p>	<p><i>WBC, FF, Clubs</i></p>	<p>100</p>
	<p><i>Improve cricket pitch provision</i></p>	<p><i>WBC</i></p>	<p>200</p>
	<p>Woking College <i>Provide additional changing facilities</i></p>		
	<p>Goldsworth Park <i>Improve changing pavilion and showers</i></p>		
	<p><i>Upgrade cricket pitch at the site</i></p>		
	<p><i>Improve drainage to existing 3 senior pitches</i></p>		
<p>Westfield/ Woking Park <i>Investigate the potential to establish a commercial five a side centre on the Floodlit area at the back of the Leisure Centre, subject to alternative overflow car parking.</i></p>	<p><i>WBC, Freedom Leisure/GLL</i></p>		
<p>Vyne Field <i>Build changing facilities to address the current inadequate toilet provision</i></p>	<p><i>WBC, FF, Clubs</i></p>	<p>550</p>	
<p>West Byfleet Recreation Ground <i>Work with West Byfleet Junior School to secure more community access</i></p>	<p><i>WBC, FF, Clubs</i></p>	<p>750</p>	

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
<p><i>SO2- contd To implement a programme of upgrading of pitches and changing facilities to meet the requirements of the Playing Pitch Study at selected sites across the Borough</i></p>	<p><i>Extend and refurbish changing pavilion to accommodate this extra demand</i> <i>Investigate improved car parking</i> <i>Improve cricket pitches</i></p>		50
	<p>Wheatsheaf <i>Improve cricket pitch and drainage</i></p>	WBC	50
	<p>Brookwood Recreation Ground Sheets Heath <i>Erect improved signage to the site</i> <i>Resurface existing Tennis Courts</i> <i>Refurbish changing pavilion to include the addition of referees changing room</i> <i>Improve pitch drainage</i></p>	WBC	400
	<p>Byfleet Recreation Ground <i>Refurbish Changing pavilion and improve the car parking subject to further discussion with the Rugby club on their use of this public site.</i> <i>Improve cricket square.</i></p>	WBC, Woking Rugby Club/Chobham Rugby Club	600
	<p>Sheerwater Recreation Ground <i>Install new cricket pitch</i> <i>Refurbish changing pavilion to accommodate cricket, football and athletics</i> <i>Remodel athletics track</i> <i>Provide new indoor and outdoor sports complex at Bishop David Brown School to include floodlit 3G AGP</i></p>	WBC, BDB, Woking Athletics Club, SheerwaterFC	8.5mill

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
<p>INCREASE PROVISION SO3 -To implement a planned programme of investment in Floodlit Multi use Games Areas at strategic locations across the Borough.</p>	<p>St Johns Lye Recreation Ground Investigate the need for a new changing pavilion for football and cricket. Improved drainage to establish all year round football use. Enter into an agreement with a junior club e.g. Woking Cougars for use of the facilities Investigate MUGA provision</p>	WBC,FF,Clubs	750
	<p>Westfield Primary School Site Investigate option to build Flood lit all weather training facility on school site in conjunction with Mayford Athletic FC</p>	WBC?SCC	100
	<p>Sussex Road Recreation Ground Investigate the possibility of re instating pitches on this site and adjacent land owned by Surrey County Council. Additional drainage will be required. Resurface casual use tennis area and review car parking requirements.</p>	WBC/SCC	200
	<p>Continue investment in a hierarchy of FMGA's used for both competition and recreational purposes in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational <p>Pyrford * subject to identifying site Horsell* St Johns *subject to identifying site</p>	WBC,FF	120 per site

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
<p><i>Further investment in Full Size Floodlit STP</i></p> <p>ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY SO4 -To widen access and opportunity at playing pitch sites across the borough.</p> <p>SO5- To broker negotiations with schools and colleges to ensure greater community use of pitches</p>	<p><i>St Peter's Recreation Ground Old Woking* Vyne Field*</i></p> <p><i>Investigate the provision of a full size floodlit 3G AGP at Bishop David Brown School</i></p> <p><i>Work with Freedom Leisure /GLL to explore the possibility of constructing a commercial 5 a side centre behind Woking Leisure Centre</i></p> <p><i>Establish a forum to meet with local football league representatives to plan and encourage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>-more competitions/leagues for women and girls</i> <i>-more competitions/leagues on a Saturday to ease the pressure of Sunday play</i> <i>-increased coach education and volunteer training implementation of 9v9 junior football</i> <p><i>Establish a list of criteria against which projects may be judged to determine priority applications for support.</i></p> <p><i>Investigate the asset transfer and site management responsibility to clubs who have sole use of the facility.</i></p> <p><i>Encourage community use of the rugby pitch at Woking High School.</i></p>	<p><i>WBC/SCC</i></p> <p><i>WBC/Woking Sports Council/SCFA</i></p> <p><i>WBC, SCC, Clubs</i></p> <p><i>WBC, Clubs, Schools</i></p>	<p><i>600</i></p>

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
<p><i>by adopting secure community use agreements</i></p> <p><i>SO8 – To require developers of all new housing schemes to contribute to the provision of new, improved</i></p>	<p><i>Secure community use of mini and junior pitches for football at identified schools</i></p> <p><i>Secure community use of adult football pitches and additional cricket squares at St benedict's and Hoebridge.</i></p> <p><i>Work with Bishop David Brown School and St John the Baptist School on further use of their school pitches</i></p> <p><i>Discuss with Knaphill Junior school (adjacent) the use of their playing fields to provide at least 3 additional mini/junior pitches</i></p> <p><i>Encourage greater community access to school sites through a review of lease/contractual arrangements.</i></p> <p><i>Enter into discussion with Surrey County Council over the use of the Mayford Centre as a centre for football development</i></p> <p><i>Consider the purchase of private land for the provision of additional pitches by the Council.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure re-provision where loss of pitches may result from site development proposals.</i></p>	<p><i>WBC, Clubs School</i></p> <p><i>WBC, School, Clubs</i></p> <p><i>WBC, School Clubs</i></p> <p><i>WBC, Schools, SCC</i></p> <p><i>WBC, Clubs, SCC</i></p> <p><i>WBC, Developers</i></p>	

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
<p><i>and enhancement of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities.</i></p>	<p><i>Use defined local standards to ensure developer contributions</i></p> <p><i>Recommend to developers that a commuted sum is set aside for the on-going maintenance of outdoor sports facilities in accordance with a pre-determined formula.</i></p> <p><i>To consider a Local Standard for each of the main pitch sports played in Woking e.g.</i></p> <p><i>Playing Pitches</i> <i>Other outdoor sports</i> <i>FMGAs</i> <i>Synthetic Turf Pitches.</i></p>	<p><i>WBC</i></p> <p><i>WBC</i></p> <p><i>WBC</i></p>	

