

Woking Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy

STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

FINAL

See also separate excel document:

Final Action Plan - Woking PPS and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy

April 2017



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SECTION 1 CONTEXT

Vision and aims for the Woking Playing Pitch Strategy

- 1.1 The Vision is for Woking to develop an appropriate range of grass and artificial playing pitches for the sports of football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls, which are:
- able to meet current and projected future need
 - capable of enabling greater participation and better standards of play and
 - able to be maintained to a high standard and be sustainable in the long term.
- 1.2 Woking Borough Council (WBC) commissioned belap and Lande in January 2016 to prepare a Playing Pitch Strategy for the Borough. This Strategy, based on a robust assessment of need contained within separate documents, sets out a strategic approach to playing pitch provision in Woking which will:
- provide a baseline for current and future supply and demand assessments for each of the sports being considered.
 - underpin a range of council policies and strategies, including the development plan; leisure strategies; and community infrastructure plans.
 - provide a robust and up to date evidence base for use in planning, investment and sports development decisions
 - support funding bids to increase and improve playing pitch provision

Overview of Strategic Planning Policy

- 1.3 What is evident from the strategic context for the Woking Playing Pitch Strategy is the importance of participation in sport and active lifestyles in delivering improvements to the physical and mental health and well being and quality of life for people in Woking.
- 1.4 At a national level, there are several key policies that impact upon the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs and refers local authorities to Sport England's guidance on how to assess the need for sport and recreation facilities. Sport England's newly published Strategy 'Towards An Active Nation 2016-2021' supports the five outcomes of physical well-being, mental well-being, individual development, social and community development and economic development. All the National Governing Bodies involved have published their own strategies to guide the provision of facilities for their specific sports.
- 1.5 Woking Borough Council's Core Strategy (adopted in October 2012) sets out the Council's strategic policies for the borough until 2027. Core Strategy Policy CS17: Open space, green infrastructure, sport and recreation clearly sets out the requirements for open space and recreation from new developments in order to provide people with opportunities to participate and enjoy sports and recreation and to facilitate effective access to the countryside and the amenity that it offers.

- 1.6 All proposals for new residential development will be required to contribute towards the provision of open space and green infrastructure, including outdoor sports facilities and developers are expected to contribute to provision through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or on larger sites through on-site provision and/or a S106 contribution as appropriate. The Council is preparing a Site Allocations DPD which will identify future development sites to meet the identified needs of the Borough.

Demography and Population Trends

- 1.7 The Borough of Woking is located in north-west Surrey, about 40km (25 miles) from London and is 6,400 hectares in area. Woking, the main town, is located in the centre of the Borough and is currently undergoing renewal. The vast majority of the population lives in the main built-up part of the Borough which is dotted with smaller centres: West Byfleet in the east and Knaphill in the west are the largest centres, with other key centres being Byfleet, Sheerwater, Horsell, Goldsworth Park and St Johns. A few small villages, of which the largest are Brookwood and Mayford, lie just outside the main built-up area.
- 1.8 Outside this main urban area, the remaining 60% of the Borough is Green Belt. Relatively little of the Green Belt land is in agricultural use, the main users being open spaces, golf course, commercial nurseries, horse grazing and playing fields.
- 1.9 Woking's total population is projected to increase by 6,119 (6.1%) to 2027 and the overall 'active participation' age group (5-69 years) to increase by 3.4%. Within this, age groups projected to see an increase are: the 10-19 years age group (youth/junior pitch sports); the 46-54 years age group and the 55-69 years age group (adult and vets pitch sports – depending on the sport). Age groups predicted to see a decline are: the 5-9 years age group (mini pitch sports); the 20-34 years age group and the 35-45 years age groups (adult and vets pitch sports).
- 1.10 The Woking Core Strategy 2012 makes provision for the delivery of 4964 dwellings within the borough between 2010-2027. Population growth associated with this new housing has been calculated from 2016 (based on an average of 292 dwellings p.a.) and an average household size for Woking of 2.49 persons per dwelling. Between 2016 and 2027, 2662 dwellings will be delivered in the urban area and 550 dwellings within the green belt. This means that the additional population associated with the urban area from 2016 – 2027 is 6,628, with 1,370 people associated with the green belt area (a total additional population of 7998). In calculating future numbers of teams, it has been assumed that the demographic profile of new residents will reflect the existing profile.

Sports Participation in Woking

- 1.11 The most prevalent measure of sports participation in England and Wales is the Active People survey, undertaken by Sport England. The core figure is the percentage of adults aged 16 years and over who play sport or take part in exercise for at least 30 minutes at moderate intensity at least once a week. Since 2006, once a week sports participation in Woking has fallen marginally from 40.9% to 40.0% in 2016. In both 2006 and 2016, overall participation rates in Woking were consistently above both the South East regional (38.7%) and national (36.1%) figures.

When figures for Woking are compared with Surrey overall, adult male sports participation fares favorably, with the latest county-wide rate being given as 46.9% (Woking is 48.4%). However, adult male sports participation rates in Woking are higher than female sports participation rates (48% compared to 32%); moreover, adult female sports participation does not appear to be smoothly following trends. Whereas the rate in Woking reduced from 37.1% to 32% over a year, the corresponding figures for the county were 35.4% up to 37.7% in 2016. So whilst the participation rate for adult men reflects the national gap with adult women (40.7% against 31.7%), it will be prudent to note future rates to establish reasons for any possible reduction in adult female activity and possibly develop targeted policies and proposals.

- 1.12 Sport England has designed a market segmentation tool to help understand the life stages and attitudes of different population groups and the sporting interventions most likely to engage them. From the data it is possible to present a picture of the dominant social groups in a given local authority area; estimate the proportion of the population within each market segment group that *do* participate in specific sports and how this compares to county, regional and national figures; and estimate how many people *would like* to participate (or participate more) in specific sports such as football, cricket, rugby and hockey.
- 1.13 The dominant market segmentation groups in Woking are: 'Tim' (*Sporty male professionals, settling down with partner*); 'Philip' (*Mid-life professional, sporty males with older children*); 'Chloe' (*Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim*); 'Ben' (*Competitive Male Urbanites, recent graduates, with a 'work-hard, play-hard' attitude*); 'Ralph & Phyllis' (*Retired couples enjoying active and comfortable life styles*) and 'Alison' (*Stay at home mums with a comfortable, but busy, lifestyle*). Together, they represent over 56% of Woking's population compared to less than 36% of England's population. These market segmentation groups are those with the highest overall sports participation rates, which is obviously reflected in Woking's higher than average sports participation rates.

The Playing Pitch Methodology and Strategy Process

- 1.14 The Strategy has been prepared in full compliance with Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy' (2013) – a five stage process comprising: Preparing and tailoring the approach (Stage A); Gathering information and views on the supply of & demand for provision (Stage B); Assessing the supply and demand information and views (Stage C); Developing the Strategy (Stage D); Delivering the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (Stage E).
- 1.15 As far as the supply of provision is concerned, pitches were assessed using the templates provided by Sport England (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>). Whilst the judged criteria varies slightly from sport to sport, the overall score is made up by rating the playing surface (grass cover, size, slope, evenness of pitch etc.), the maintenance programme (frequency of grass cutting, seeding, aeration, weed killing etc.) and the quality of built facilities (quality and adequacy of changing rooms). Scoring places each pitch within a 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' category, which in turn influences the capacity of the site to accommodate matches/training. Users' comments and assessments have also been taken into account. Generally, Woking pitches scored highly due to their contractor (Serco) meeting or exceeding all the maintenance guidelines.

- 1.16 This strategy document represents Step 8 in Stage D of the process: 'Write and Adopt the Strategy'. It is accompanied by:
- Appendix 1E; Master Database
 - Stage C: Full Needs Assessment Report
 - Stage C: Key Issues and Findings Summary Paper

- 1.17 The development of this Strategy has been overseen by a Steering Group comprising:

WBC Sports Development Officer	Matt Glazier
WBC Planning Policy Officer	Wai-Po Poon
Sport England	Owen Neal
RFU	Rick Bruin
England Hockey	Natalie Beckett
LTA	Christopher Donkin
Active Surrey (CSP)	Eli Karlicka-Cook/Lawrie Baker
Surrey Cricket Board	Simon Hards
Surrey Cricket Board	Kim Price
The FA	Dylan Evans
Surrey FA	Caroline McRoyall
Surrey FA	Emma Barnes
Surrey FA	Mike Gilham
Serco (WBC Grounds Maintenance)	Andrew Pidgen
Serco	Cameron Dare
Freedom Leisure	Louise Harmour

England Athletics and Bowls England were also invited to sit on the Steering Group.

- 1.18 Steering Group meetings were held at the start of the process (Stage A); to discuss the Key Findings and Issues (Stage B) and to discuss the emerging Strategy (Stage D).
- 1.19 Section 2 of this document – Summary of Key Findings and Issues – has been set out according to the Sport England Playing Pitch Methodology (for football, cricket, rugby and hockey) i.e. under Key Issues and Findings, the following questions are answered:
- *What are the main characteristics of the current supply of, and demand for, provision?*
 - *Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?*
 - *Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand*
 - *What are the main characteristics of the future demand for and supply of provision?*
 - *Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand to the end of the plan period (i.e. 2027)?*
- 1.20 This is followed by selected scenario testing (Section I) and identification of key priorities (Section J).

2 SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

A General Themes

- 2.1 As any strategy should be, this is a strategy to manage change. The context for planning for the pitch sports has changed markedly in recent years, both nationally and in the Woking area. Some of the key issues are:
- The emergence of artificial turf pitches as an approved surface for junior and adult (11v11) football matches, as well as for training. These are also attracting adult football players away from grass surfaces to play shorter, smaller sided games on smaller artificial pitches
 - The general decline in the number of 11v11 adult teams in football – seen particularly in Sunday leagues
 - A buoyant market for junior and mini football and increasing interest in girls' football, albeit from a low start
 - A slight decline in league cricket, especially that played on Sundays – although there is a robust friendly league structure in operation.
 - Growth in T20 cricket which is often played midweek and a buoyant interest in Colts cricket
 - The desire for better quality changing facilities, particularly for women and girls and people with disabilities
 - Considerable efforts have made over many years to increase participation in football, rugby and cricket by women and girls. However, in Woking, out of 190 football, cricket and rugby teams, just 11 (5.8%) are made up of girls or women. In hockey, out of 21 teams, 9 are female (43%). In total, less than 10% of pitch sport teams are recorded as female, so there is still considerable scope to attract more women and girls into these sports....(these figures do not include mini teams, under 10 years old, where teams can often comprise both boys and girls)
 - The movement towards academies within the education sector, where schools now have autonomy over their pitches (both grass and artificial) and may not wish to embrace community access
 - Future budgetary and financial constraints for local authorities, which may result in less money being available for managing and maintaining grass pitches. Need to support clubs in maintaining and managing not only pitches that they own but those that they lease or hire from Woking Borough Council
 - Growing appreciation of the problems of obesity and poor health allied to a lack of exercise. Considerable investment is now being made into health which may be a way forward in securing funding for pitch improvements.

2.2 Some of the issues which the Strategy must grapple with include:

- Innovative ways to link existing community assets/groups in to the development of new identified projects ensuring that new projects are sustainable and embedded within their local communities
- Mechanisms to deliver new investment including identification of the most economic and sustainable means of delivery
- Ways in which the development of sports pitches and associated facilities can be linked in to wider health and community development agendas, in addition to education capital programmes.
- Securing and increasing the community use of school facilities where facilities allow. These are likely to be predominantly on secondary school sites, especially in view of the new school developments coming on stream over the life of the strategy
- The enormous scope for increasing participation, particularly among women and girls.
- Making difficult decisions concerning pitches which are not being fully used and where demand is not sufficient to keep them. It is important to improve the sustainability of existing sites before new provision is considered.
- Management of pitches on public open space where litter and fouling by dogs is a problem. Looking at the role of a recreation ground – encompassing facilities for the pitch sports as well as tennis and bowls – and how these can be managed effectively and sustainably
- The importance of ensuring that there is adequate facility space for the informal sport offer (e.g. Last Man Standing in cricket) and other playing field sports such as rounders, archery, volleyball and athletics, as well as for the more formal playing pitch sports.
- Enabling sites to be sustainable by maximizing the use of clubhouses (as venues for playgroups), for example
- The development of hub sites notably for youth football

B Findings and Issues: Football

What are the main characteristics of the current supply of, and demand for, provision?

2.3 The main points are:

- 58 football pitches are recorded in Woking on 26 sites, comprising 26 adult, 5 11v11 junior pitches, 13 9v9 junior pitches and 14 mini (7v7 and 5v5). Apart from Woking FC's pitch at Kingfield Stadium and 2 x 11v11 junior and 2 x 9v9 junior on school sites, all pitches are recorded as having secure community use.

- The majority of sites are owned and operated by the local authority.
- Six sites (excluding schools) accommodate a range of pitch sizes and 3 local authority sites provide a range of pitches through overmarking (Goldsworth Park, Loop Road and King's Head Lane).
- There are 3 full size Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs): 2 sand based at Woking Hockey Club and 1 x 3G Football Turf Pitch (FTP) at Winston Churchill. There are other small 5v5 pitches at Woking Leisure Centre and Loop Road
- The study has recorded 212 teams in total: 58 adult, 79 youth and 75 mini teams
- Senior football is less vibrant than youth and mini football. There are some strong youth football clubs; 4 run more than 20 teams
- There is limited cross boundary movement apart from Woking Cougars Youth FC

Is accessible provision of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

2.4 Yes. The main points are:

- 13 out of 16 pitch sites are rated as 'good'; 10 out of 16 built facilities are rated as 'standard' using the visual quality assessment scores (please refer to 1.15 for methodology)
- Clubs generally rate their facilities lower than the ratings through the visual quality assessment. Clubs highlighted poor drainage at Brookwood, Country Park, Waterers, Park, Woking & Horsell CC football pitch and West Byfleet Primary School in particular.
- Clubs rate changing as 'poor' at West Byfleet Recreation Ground, Sheerwater and Goldsworth Park
- Maintenance generally is rated as 'good' at local authority grounds, apart from Goldsworth Park ('poor'). Woking College also rated as 'poor'.

Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet current demand?

2.5 The Needs Assessment indicates that there is enough appropriate and suitable provision to meet current demand. The main points are:

- The peak day for adult football is Saturday pm (61%). 88% of youth football and 95% of mini football is played on Sunday. At present, almost all matchplay is on grass, although there are three teams using the 3G FTP at Winston Churchill School for their matches
- Almost all clubs train, and use a variety of surfaces, both grass and artificial. There is considerable expressed demand for 3G FTP provision, for both matches and training.
- There is some spare capacity at a limited number of sites, but peak time slots are limited for both adults and juniors

- Pitches at Loop Road, Goldsworth Park and West Byfleet Primary School are being overplayed. The first two sites (local authority owned) cater for many tournaments and competitions.
- Many of the pitches in public open space have considerable casual use.
- Alpha Road and St Peter's Recreation Ground are little used by community teams

What are the main characteristics of the future demand for and supply of provision?

2.6 As regards demand:

- The main characteristics of the future demand are a buoyant youth sector, an expected growth in small sided games and growing demand for 3G FTPs for matches and training
- Demand generated by people moving into new housing in the Borough between 2016 and 2027 and latent demand suggests that an additional 13 adult, 18 youth and 13 mini teams will be created by 2027

2.7 There are a number of proposed/possible changes to supply:

- Grass Pitches being lost in near future: 2 adult and 1 junior (which is no longer marked out) at Sheerwater
- Grass Pitches coming on stream in near future: Hoe Valley School – 2 adult football pitches (replacement for Sheerwater); 2 x junior 11v11 pitches at Bishop David Brown School, as part of the Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme;
- Additional AGP provision is proposed and/or planned as follows: planning permission granted for 3G FTP at Bishop David Brown School (whole regeneration scheme still subject to Woking Borough Council approval in early 2017) and for 5v5 3G FTPs at the forthcoming Hoe Valley School (expected to be completed by September 2018). A planning application has been submitted for a 3G FTP at Woking College (project still subject to funding). St John the Baptist Secondary School is seeking planning permission and funding for a floodlit 9v9 sand based AGP.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand to the end of the Plan period (i.e. 2027)?

2.8 Match equivalent sessions generated need to be considered alongside existing spare capacity at grounds. The analysis of spare capacity suggested that there are 3.5 spare Saturday pm slots which could accommodate in theory 7 teams (home and away basis) but they are scattered across 7 grounds and would mean fitting in with other well established teams' use. Moreover, some spare slots should be retained, for rest and recovery of pitches, for fixture backlogs and other reasons when other pitches are temporarily out of use.

2.9 Spare capacity for youth teams is also limited, with spaces for 3-4 teams and around 6+ minis (given that several matches can be played consecutively on a Sunday morning).

Grass pitches

2.10 As a conservative estimate, in addition to existing stock (i.e. marked out pitches) the number of new teams which are expected to be generated between 2016 and 2027 would suggest the need for additional grass pitches to 2027 as follows:

- 3 x adult pitches
- 3 x junior 11v11 pitches
- 3 x 9v9 pitches
- 4 x mini pitches (7x7 and 5v5).

2.11 The study has considered grounds where there is spare room to include additional pitches and/or where there have been pitches in the past. If pitches are reconfigured or brought back into use on existing sites, it appears that the following may be able to be provided by using existing land:

Size of pitch	Total additional pitches required up to 2027	Pitches available if pitches remarked or provided on existing playing field sites		Total still required
		No.	Location	
Adult 11v11	3	1	Alpha Road	If the provision of an additional rugby pitch at Byfleet Recreation Ground rules out senior football and it is not viable to reinstate the pitch at Sussex Road, another 2 adult pitches will be required
		1	Byfleet Recreation Ground	
		1	Sussex Road Recreation Ground (although not ideal as single pitch site)	
Junior 11v11	3	1	Byfleet Recreation Ground	Could be met from existing stock
		1	Wheatsheaf Recreation Ground	
		1	Waterers Park (done for 2016/17 season)	
Junior 9v9	3	4	St Peter’s Field	Could be met from existing stock
Mini pitches	4	1	Vyne Field	Various permutations possible at Vyne Field
		2+	At St Peter’s Field or other sites where land suitable for 9v9 pitches but not required.	Could be met from existing stock
There is also potential to provide junior pitches on school sites (e.g. at Sythwood and Goldsworth Park Primary Schools, although single pitch sites are not ideal).				

- 2.12 In compiling the above table, the pitches which are already planned at Hoe Valley School and David Brown School as replacements for those lost through the Sheerwater Regeneration Stream have been taken into account.
- 2.13 It is considered that, given the spare land available at certain grass football pitch sites, it will be possible to meet the required number of new grass pitches from existing stock, by making better use of the space already available by realigning existing pitches and/or constructing new ones, providing:
- There is room to accommodate an additional football pitch at Byfleet Recreation Ground (i.e. the site is not required for a third rugby pitch)
 - It is viable to reinstate a football pitch at Sussex Road Recreation Ground
 - Youth teams can be viably accommodated at existing pitch sites even if these are separate from pitches currently used by their club
 - If new teams generated within an existing club are happy to use pitches which may be on new or different sites from where the main club/teams are based.
- 2.14 If not, an additional two grass adult football pitches will be required. Ideally these should be laid out on an area of flat land with sufficient room for run off areas and the requisite ancillary facilities and the ability to accommodate overmarked junior pitches, if these are required in the future. 'Land surrounding West Hall, Parvis Road, West Byfleet' has been allocated for affordable housing within the Woking Core Strategy and includes an public open space/green infrastructure allocation. It may be possible to site playing pitches on this land; however, it is not in an ideal location as it is very near to existing pitches at West Byfleet Recreation Ground.
- 2.15 If the transfer of youth and mini football matches from grass to artificial grass pitches takes place at the rate recommended by the FA (and adult matches are also accommodated), and the proposed 3G FGPs at Bishop David Brown and Woking College are provided by 2027, the demand for grass pitches for adult, youth and mini match play will decrease, and the estimate is that there will be sufficient stock of grass playing pitches to meet expected demand.

3G Football Turf Pitches

- 2.16 The FA's assessment identifies the need for five FTPs to meet the demand for training facilities. There is currently 1 FTP with community use in Woking (at Winston Churchill School) so the shortfall is 4 pitches. However, if we allow for the contribution that the various smaller sized 3G AGPs make towards training needs in Woking, it seems more realistic to suggest the potential shortfall is 3 FTPs.
- 2.17 The assessment for matchplay is slightly different. The period when there is the maximum demand for FTPs for matchplay is Sunday mornings when 9.2 x FTPs are required. Transferring all matches for teams currently playing competitive football on Woking managed natural grass pitches therefore may equate to a demand for 9.2 FTPs for all the different formats of the game. The target for the FA is to accommodate 50% of all youth and mini games on FTPs by 2020 which would require 4.6 FTPs. As there is currently 1 FTP in Woking, the shortfall for matches is 3.5 FTPs or, since matches (unlike training) cannot take place on a smaller size pitches, 4 full size FTPs.

- 2.18 Of course, training and match play can take place on the same pitch, albeit at different days and times. Therefore the identified demand for match play and training, and the degree to which it may be met by proposed provision, is as follows:

Type of pitch	Total additional 3G FTPs required up to 2027	Proposed 3G FTPs			Total still required
		No.	Location	Status	
3G Football Turf Pitch	4	1	Bishop David Brown School	Subject to full Woking Borough Council approval – early 2017	2 x full size
		1	Woking College	Subject to planning permission & funding	
		1	Hoe Valley School (smaller 3 x 5v5 3Gs will contribute to TRAINING ONLY)	Expected to be completed September 2018	

- 2.19 There is unmet demand for 3g FTP provision in Woking, but many factors have to be taken into account in recommending additional provision, including the effect of more 3g FTPs on the viability of the two sand based AGPs at Woking Hockey Club which are currently important facilities for football training. There are proposals for one full size FTP and a number of smaller 5v5 x 3Gs (for training only) and a proposal for an additional full size FTP which is still subject to both planning permission and funding. Although the FA's methodology suggests that a further 2 full size FTPs will be required to accommodate demand for matchplay to 2027 it is recommended that the situation is reassessed once the existing proposed 3G FTPs have been provided and a pattern of regular use for training and matchplay has been established.

C Findings and Issues: Cricket

What are the main characteristics of the current supply of, and demand for, provision?

- 2.20 Key points are:

- 51 teams generated by 12 clubs have been identified within Woking. Of these, 13 play midweek evenings, 12 play on Saturday afternoons and 26 play on Sunday afternoons.
- 4 clubs – Woking and Horsell CC, Byfleet CC, Old Woking CC and Pyrford CC - run 25 juniors between them. 7 clubs field one adult teams only
- There is a gradually growing demand for T20 and midweek cricket
- 19 pitches (grass and non-turf or artificial) for cricket have been recorded. 9 of these are owned and managed by Woking Borough Council and 5 are club owned

and there are 2 grass pitches at independent schools, a non-turf pitch at Winston Churchill School Sports Centre and 2 redundant non-turf wickets at two other secondary schools.

- 8 cricket sites are shared with other sports
- Of 14 non-turf wickets recorded, only 3 are in use – at Hoe Bridge School, Winston Churchill School Sports Centre & Pyrford CC.

Is accessible provision of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained ?

2.21 Most provision does meet this criterion although there are 4 grounds where quality could be significantly improved.

- 11 grounds were assessed – 7 were recorded as ‘good’ and 4 grounds were ‘standard’ (Brookwood, Byfleet, West Byfleet and Wheatsheaf Recreation Grounds) (please refer to 1.15 for methodology). Clubs agreed with the visual quality assessments carried out by the consultants, apart from rating the pitches as ‘poor’ at Brookwood and Byfleet Recreation Grounds.
- Changing was rated as ‘acceptable’ at Byfleet CC’s and Old Woking CC’s grounds (both have plans for upgrades) & Woking & Horsell CC’s and Pyrford CC’s grounds
- All other changing was ‘good’ apart from at Brookwood and Wheatsheaf Recreation Grounds where it was ‘poor’.
- Generally maintenance was regarded as acceptable, although there were some comments that wickets are cut too early in week on the public sites.
- Changing and other ancillary facilities such as car parking are regarded as having more issues with quality than the cricket tables/wickets themselves.

Is there enough accessible community use provision to meet current demand?

2.22 Yes. The key points are:

- 92% of senior play takes place at weekends and is split almost equally between Saturdays and Sundays
- 56% of junior play is on Sunday afternoons, the rest midweek
- The Playing Pitch methodology only gives a capacity rating for ‘good’ rated grounds. Of ‘good’ rated grounds, Byfleet CC, Woking & Horsell CC & Old Woking CC are approaching or being overplayed. There is also spare capacity at Pyrford CC, Waterers Park, West Byfleet Recreation Ground and Woking Park (in the week)
- The ‘standard’ rated grounds – Brookwood, Byfleet and Wheatsheaf Recreation Grounds and Westfield & District Sports Club have (considerable) spare capacity

2.23 In conclusion, there is enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand for cricket in Woking. Improvements in quality to some grass

pitches and non-turf wickets and changing facilities would enhance the playing experience and increase capacity of the sites. There is also scope to reorganise/rationalise playing arrangements at some sites, making some sites centres for adult and/or junior and/or T20 cricket.

What are the main characteristics of the future demand for and supply of provision?

- 2.24 The main characteristics of the future demand for cricket are that demand is steady or growing, with the introduction of T20 cricket and an increasing number of juniors. Four clubs indicated that they would like to run more teams – 3 adult men’s teams, 1 adult women’s team (Pyrford CC), and 3 junior boys, 2 juniors girls and 1 vet’s teams.
- 2.25 Analysis of future demand, based on growth in population from 2016-2027, latent demand and the aspirations of clubs indicated that additional teams will form as follows: 6 men’s teams, 1 ladies’ team, 6 youth teams and 1 Vet’s team, across all formats of the game.
- 2.26 The only change to supply proposed at the moment is the installation of a new non-turf wicket at Pyrford Primary School, in a joint arrangement between the school and the adjacent Pyrford Cricket Club.
- 2.27 Old Woking Cricket Club is currently subject to a CPO in respect of Flood Alleviation Works. The project is subject to a funding application, and a final decision will be made in May 2017. If a new ground is required for Old Woking CC, then proper scenario testing for a range of alternative sites should be undertaken. It will be necessary to ensure arrangements are in place for a smooth transition to a new site and that disruption to the club is minimised. Ideally, Sport England would like the facilities to be operational and available for use from the start of the 2019 season.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand to the end of the plan period (i.e. 2027) ?

- 2.28 There is a basic trend of greater participation around casual cricket, T20 and junior teams. There is spare capacity in Woking at existing grounds to accommodate adult growth particularly if this occurs in T20 which is played midweek. At grounds currently rated as ‘good’, there is spare capacity of around 84 matches. A team on average would play around 9-10 matches per season at home, meaning that in theory at least 6-7 additional teams could be accommodated. No theoretical capacity is given for standard rated pitches, but there is also spare capacity here but of course improving the quality of these pitches would increase the capacity considerably.
- 2.29 The cricket facilities at schools – both state and private, grass and non-turf – are considered to be at capacity.
- 2.30 There are 4 grounds – Brookwood Recreation Ground, Wheatsheaf, Byfleet Recreation Ground and Waterers Park - where less than 16 cricket matches are played each season and where weekend play is either on a Saturday or a Sunday (i.e. spare capacity for another weekend cricket team).
- 2.31 It may be unsustainable for all of these cricket pitches to be maintained and prepared each season, given current demand for use, the configuration of the sites, the appropriateness of ancillary provision and the fact that they are shared with winter

sports, so the Strategy recommends rationalisation of the current stock by removing some cricket facilities (notably the square and non-turf wicket at Byfleet Recreation Ground and existing non-turf facilities at Alpha Road and West Byfleet Recreation Ground), improving others (St John's Lye and Wheatsheaf and Brookwood Recreation Grounds for example) and moving existing teams to different sites. The reinstatement of cricket facilities at St John's Lye and Goldsworth Park also needs to be considered within this context.

- 2.32 The main junior cricket club plays its junior teams across a number of different sites and additional junior cricket teams will need to be directed to pitches – including non-turf facilities - where there is spare capacity.
- 2.33 There are certain sites – notably West Byfleet Recreation Ground, Byfleet Recreation Ground and Alpha Road – where the removal of non-turf wickets would physically increase capacity for winter sports (but where such wickets could be reinstated in more appropriate locations if demand increases following other improvements to the ancillary facilities at the grounds).
- 2.34 The potential loss of Old Woking CC would have serious implications for cricket in Woking. The ground is currently overplayed with a wide range of teams and activities. There are no other sites which could take all this activity at present. Woking Park which is very close to Old Woking CC has potential spare capacity in the week but not on a regular basis at weekends.
- 2.35 In summary, apart from the particular future situation of Old Woking CC, there is enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand for cricket, if grounds currently out of use are included and pitch capacity is increased through quality improvements. All cricket grounds in Woking, apart from Byfleet CC, Woking and Horsell CC, Old Woking CC and – to a lesser extent - West Byfleet Recreation Ground, have some degree of spare capacity (although there are constraining factors in terms of pitch quality and sub standard changing facilities at some).
- 2.36 St John's Lye and Goldsworth Park have been used as cricket grounds in the past and could be brought back into use. Both grounds have prepared squares but investment in the infrastructure of drainage to the outfield at St John's Lye and in the provision/enhancement of changing facilities at both grounds would be required.
- 2.37 The ECB expects that non turf pitch facilities will play a key role in delivering casual and informal formats of the game as they require minimal preparation and maintenance, thus helping to keep the activity affordable. The only non-turf wicket which is not on a school site – at Pyrford Cricket Club – has some spare capacity (depending on timetabling with matches on the grass wickets). There are redundant non-turf wickets at six other (non-school) sites which could be rejuvenated in due course for youth cricket if the demand is apparent
- 2.38 Additional cricket nets at certain locations are recommended, as these can fulfil an important role for training (as long as there is a robust maintenance plan in place to ensure their upkeep and future renewal).

D Findings and Issues – Rugby

What are the main characteristics of the current supply of, and demand for, provision? and Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

2.39 The main points are:

- There are 6 rugby pitches in Woking, of which 4 are on school sites with no community use
- Two pitches are owned, maintained and managed by Woking Borough Council at Byfleet Recreation Ground, the home ground of Woking RFC.
- The visual quality assessment rated the pitches as 'good' and a D1/M2 rating was agreed (Natural adequate drainage and good maintenance). The rugby club would rate the pitches as 'poor' on drainage.
- The changing facilities at Byfleet Recreation Ground are acknowledged as being inadequate and substandard in catering for all the sports at the ground (cricket, football and rugby)
- Woking RFC runs 2 teams and uses the pitches for 9 matches per team each season plus training. (One pitch is partially lit by training lights which light a training area alongside).

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?

2.40 There is enough provision to meet current demand as the pitches' quality (D1/M2) means that they can accommodate 3 matches each per week. There is thus spare capacity across the week and because only two teams are playing on two pitches, there is also spare capacity at peak times for adult play (Saturday afternoons).

2.41 However, the amount of play at Byfleet Recreation Ground is constrained by the small number of changing rooms, which means that there are not enough if each football and rugby pitch at the ground is hosting a match on a Saturday afternoon.

What are the main characteristics of the future demand for and supply of provision?

2.42 The main characteristics are that there is some latent demand, notably for juniors and it is estimated that another 5 male, 6 youth (boys and girls) & 4 mini teams will be formed by 2027.

2.43 There are no changes proposed to the supply of rugby pitches in Woking.

2.44 Specialist artificial turf pitches for rugby (World Rugby (WR) AGPs) are being installed in some areas, but this has not emerged as an issue or a consideration within the Woking area.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand to the end of the plan period (i.e. 2027)?

- 2.45 There will be growth in the number of rugby teams but this is difficult to predict. It seems very feasible that if enhanced/improved changing facilities are provided at Byfleet Recreation Ground to enable more teams to use the football and rugby pitches, this would lead to increased numbers of rugby teams being run.
- 2.46 Further on, another pitch may be required and provision of this, in the first instance, would depend on any reorganisation of pitches and facilities at Byfleet Recreation Ground.
- 2.47 An alternative may be to consider another ground for Woking RFC where dedicated rugby pitches and a floodlit training area, with enough suitable changing provision, could be provided.

E Findings and Issues – Hockey

What are the main characteristics of the current supply of, and demand for, provision? and Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

- 2.48 There are 2 full size sand based floodlit artificial turf pitches in Woking, rated 'good' by the visual quality assessment. The older of the two pitches is awaiting upgrading next year.
- 2.49 The newer hockey pitch is sand dressed and the older one is sand filled. Sand dressed artificial turf is a higher specification surface designed specifically for fast paced hockey. With sand filled pitches (astroturf), the playing surface is only partially filled (usually about two-thirds of the pile height) so the game is played on the sports carpet, not the sand infill.
- 2.50 Although adequate at present, as the hockey club teams progress through the leagues, additional changing facilities will be required, so the club is looking ahead to providing these.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand

- 2.51 Woking Hockey Club is a thriving club running 9 men's, 6 ladies, 8 junior and 2 mini teams in a variety of leagues
- 2.52 The club manages the matchplay, training and bookings on its two pitches. At present these pitches are used for hockey matches for 31 out of 32 hours at peak time at weekends for matches and there is a full programme of training on both pitches on every night of the week. Any spare slots midweek are used for football training/5-a-side; there are 5 hours spare in total on weekday evenings.
- 2.53 The Sport England Facilities Planning Model estimates that provision is adequate but at maximum capacity. The club concurs that it can currently accommodate new members and that there is adequate provision to meet current demand.

What are the main characteristics of the future demand for and supply of provision?

- 2.54 It is expected that demand will continue to be buoyant, with a growth in teams of 3 men's, 2 boys youth and 2 girls teams to 2027.
- 2.55 There are no plans or proposals to provide more full size sand based AGPs in Woking. St John the Baptist Secondary School is proposing to provide a floodlit 9v9 size sand based pitch (which is still subject to planning permission and funding), and has discussed with the club running outreach sessions at the facility.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand to the end of the plan period (i.e. 2027) ?

- 2.56 The two hockey AGPs are virtually at capacity now. The desire to expand and develop is a feature of almost all hockey clubs, and the main constraining factor is often the lack of suitable AGPs.
- 2.57 The provision of a sand based AGP at St John the Baptist Secondary School is expected to increase demand from that school and from other schools, including the new Hoe Valley School. This, together with the predicted growth in the number of teams means that, over the life of the Strategy to 2027, it is expected that demand will develop to support the provision of another AGP for hockey in Woking.
- 2.58 Surrey is a strong hockey area and there is evidence of some exported demand to other hockey teams outside the Borough, and should this supply change, then players may look to relocate back to Woking.
- 2.59 The provision of more 3G Football Turf Pitches in Woking will cause a redistribution of demand from football clubs, as some transfer for training from the sand based pitches to 3G. Potentially this could have a serious impact on the income stream to Woking Hockey Club, affecting the club's long term viability and sustainability. This issue needs to be kept under review, and the impact on redistributing demand for football away from sand-based to 3G AGP provision monitored closely as specific sites become operational.

F Findings and Issues – Tennis

Key Findings for Demand and Supply

2.60 The main findings are:

- There 17 sites with tennis courts in Woking, consisting of 70 courts in total, 21 of which are floodlit.
- There are 10 local authority courts, 5 of which are open access courts on 4 recreation ground sites. All, with the exception of the court at Waterers Park, require considerable investment to fencing, surfaces and netting to improve them to a good standard.

- There are 5 better quality courts at Woking Park, which still require upgrading to surfaces, netting and fencing. These are largely managed on a pay and play basis by Freedom Leisure. None of the local authority courts are floodlit.
- In general, the 32 club courts – on 4 sites, either leased or owned and managed by tennis clubs and available to club members only - are of a very good standard and 20 (63%) are floodlit. They have a range of surfaces too, including acrylic and artificial grass.
- There are a number of courts on school sites of varying quality; just 5 have been recorded as being floodlit – 3 at Winston Churchill School Sports Centre and 2 at Sythwood Primary School. Those at Winston Churchill are pay and play; they are used for coaching on Saturday mornings and a small club uses them 2 nights a week.
- The commercial site at David Lloyd does not contribute to the stock of courts that can readily be used by the wider community and are therefore not considered further.
- There are 5 ‘clubs’ in Woking – two have over 600 members – Byfleet and Woking LTCs, and according to LTA analysis, the Woking Club has relatively little capacity. Horsell and Wishele LTCs have two courts each (Wishel courts are floodlit); the former records 300 members and the latter just under 100. There is a small group which meets twice weekly to use the 3 courts at Winston Churchill School. Membership is mostly buoyant with evidence of increasing numbers of juniors.
- There is a well supported league structure in the area. All the clubs, apart from Horsell LTC, are members of the Woking & District Tennis League which in summer 2016 had a total of 94 teams playing around 10 matches each. The Martians Tennis League operates a small league (the Woking League) out of Woking Park, for individual players.
- There appears to be little spare capacity on club courts, apart from weekday early afternoons. Horsell LTC has seen recent increases in membership and runs a busy programme.
- Usage of courts in Woking Park peaks in June and drops to very low numbers in November, December and January although it is difficult to assess capacity from the figures recorded. No records are kept of the use of the open access courts at Brookwood, Byfleet and West Byfleet Recreation Ground and Waterers Park.
- Anecdotal and survey research suggests that it can be difficult during the summer months to obtain court time in Woking Park when more than an hour is required i.e. for coaching sessions after school.

Assessment to end of plan period i.e. 2027

2.61 The Needs Assessment concludes:

- There is significant latent demand for tennis in Woking. There are an estimated 2,014 adults who would like to participate or participate more in tennis, which represents a potential increase in participation of over 100%.

- LTA figures also suggest a high degree of latent demand and it has identified Woking as a priority area, with the main emphasis upon increasing usage and developing the use of park courts and supporting local clubs to maximise their current facilities and expand when/if required.
- Changes to supply in the near future include:
 - floodlit tennis courts currently planned for Hoe Valley School.
 - Winston Churchill School Sports Centre would like to place a dome over the 3 courts to provide an all-year round facility.
 - Woking LTCC to convert some of their existing macadam courts to artificial clay.
- It is a key finding of the Needs Assessment that there is evidence of robust demand for tennis in Woking with a significant element of latent demand. There is increasing interest from juniors and from those wanting to improve their games through coaching and opportunities for a better standard of play.
- The study finds that there is sufficient casual use and demand to invest in improvements to non-club courts in Woking, to support the network of smaller groups and leagues and coaches who require access to good quality courts throughout the year outside the club structure (and membership fees).
- The priority is on protecting and enhancing existing provision, to ensure that the facility provision does not decrease. The LTA recommends the exploration of operating models across each of the local authority sites in Woking – particularly Woking Park - to promote a greater level of sustainability.
- There is no evidence of demand for additional outdoor courts. There is no evidence of demand for any additional indoor courts.

G Findings and Issues – Bowls

Key Findings for Demand and Supply

2.62 The main findings are:

- There are 7 bowling greens in Woking and all are 6 rink apart from one 4 rink green at Westfield Cricket & Sports Club. There were no visual issues apparent and all greens are considered to be of good quality; issues concerned improvements around removal of surrounding trees and improvements to fencing and paths.
- Car parking was rated as poor at West Byfleet Recreation Ground and limited at Horsell Bowls and Tennis Club. Changing facilities vary considerably, but are generally of good quality although considered small by some clubs (including Westfield and Woking Park).
- Current participation in Bowls in Woking represents about 1.6% of the 'Bowls age' population (i.e. 45 – 80 age band)

- Information received from clubs indicates a total club membership in Woking of over 400 of which 60% are men. A very low number (< 10) are under 18 years old. A review study in 2012 found a similar figure. Out of 6 clubs responding, 3 were optimistic about membership and said numbers were increasing, mainly due to existing members bringing in partners and friends. For the others there has been some decline and they are finding it difficult to attract new members.
- Most clubs run a full programme of matches, leagues and competitions, although Mayford Hall's programme is more limited. In the winter, some members of Horsell Bowls Club use Wey Valley and Camberley Indoor Bowling Centres; Mayford Hall Bowls Club plays 4 indoor matches in and Woking Park Bowls Club plays short mat bowls 4 days a week
- The bowling greens at Byfleet, Horsell and Woking Park Bowls Club have one rink set aside for public use most of the time. There is limited spare capacity at the greens, with the exception of Mayford Hall.

Assessment to end of plan period i.e. 2027

2.63 The Needs Assessment concludes:

- Population projections suggest that target age group for bowls is likely to increase by 12.5% over the period 2016-2027
- Sport England Market Segmentation Analysis suggests that there is not much latent demand for bowls in Woking and despite an ageing population, there appear to be relatively few new bowlers coming through from population growth. However, there may be a larger number generated through new housing, but these will still be able to be accommodated in existing clubs.
- There is no evidence based upon current participation that there is demand for additional facilities. While some greens operate a busy programme of fixtures, all clubs have capacity for additional members, and the flexibility of fixtures means that there is scope to accommodate more teams on existing greens.
- Generally accepted guidance suggests that a standard bowling green requires in the order of 60 members to make it viable. Horsell Bowls Club is the largest club with just over 80 members, but only three other clubs (West Byfleet, Knaphill and Woking Park) have more than 60 members, and two – Westfield and Mayford Hall - have numbers of members in the thirties.
- It is vital for sustainability and the economic viability of these clubs that membership increases. To this end, Active Surrey, Woking BC and Surrey Bowls Association have co-funded an initiative focused on 50+ year old players and there is evidence that numbers are increasing. If numbers do not pick up substantially, some clubs will look increasingly vulnerable (e.g. Mayford Hall)
- West Byfleet Bowls Club, Byfleet Bowls Club and Woking Park Bowls Club lie within larger recreation grounds. There may be scope for tying in initiatives here with the wider park activities and sports, offering joint sessions for example. They are valued elements of the open space network in Woking and should be protected, but numbers need to increase to keep them sustainable.

- There has been no demand substantiated for an indoor bowls facility in Woking.

H Findings and Issues – Athletics

- 2.64 In 2015 Woking Borough Council completed an independent needs assessment to determine whether there was demand to increase the size of the athletics track from 6 to 8 lanes should the track move from its current location in Sheerwater to a new proposed facility at Hoe Valley School, Egley Road. The existing track at Sheerwater is at risk and would be lost as part of the Sheerwater Regeneration (subject to council approval). In this event, the Hoe Valley School track would become the replacement track for that facility.
- 2.65 Woking Athletics Club are the primary user of the existing facility and will be for the proposed new facility, Woking AC are an active local club who have a total membership of 350, to include all competitive and non-competitive members. 400 athletes per week ranging from 8 year old beginners to seniors and masters use the athletics facilities at Sheerwater. And the track hosts county events such as the young athletes meeting involving approx. 1000 people. Without access to facilities in Woking, athletes would have to travel 25 minutes to get to the nearest track e.g. Guildford Spectrum.
- 2.66 The needs assessment highlighted that a six lane athletics facility was inadequate because:
- It limits the usage in terms of numbers of participants and also has a limiting impact on the quality of many sessions. A maximum of just 120 athletes are able to train safely at the track at anyone time
 - There is an ever growing waiting list, currently consisting of over 170 young people, all of whom are not currently accessing athletics at the club.
 - The club is severely limited in the meetings and events it can host as many of the leagues are made up of 8 teams per match and require an 8 lane facility.

And that an 8 lane track is required because:

- It would undoubtedly enhance the profile of the club and would attract more prestigious meets and championship events with a resultant economic benefit both for the leisure contractor and the local area.
- An 8 lane track is a 33% increase in available training space and this will undoubtedly allow for safe and effective delivery of training to a considerably greater number of new athletes, In turn this will allow for the waiting list to be considerably reduced, and as explained above, allow significantly greater numbers to attend training.
- The club will be able to attract more volunteers, with an increased membership and appeal as they will be able to offer a brand new facility; resulting in an

increased number of coaches and therefore the club will be able to put on further training evenings (one more academy training night) with more participants.

- It will allow the site to attract County and Surrey Schools Championships Competitions (as well as possibly other South East competitions, details listed above) as well as potentially two more league meetings. This increases participation opportunities for the club members, and could also make the facility more financially viable.
- Future proof the site for the growth of the sport and the club.

2.67 As a result of this assessment it was determined that there was demand for an eight lane athletics track in Woking, this was supported by UK Athletics and England Athletics, this new facility at Hoe Valley School is now under construction, with an estimated completion date of September 2018. This facility will therefore cater for the growth of the sport locally up to the end of the strategy period.

I Selected Scenario testing

2.68 Having reviewed the key findings and issues relating to the analysis of supply and demand the Playing Pitch Methodology recommends considering what projects could help to resolve these issues. This may include (but not be limited to) improving existing sites, providing additional sites, relocating clubs to share sites and re-designating existing sites to cater for different sports. Scenario testing will consider what will happen if certain changes to supply or demand occur. The methodology sets out a series of example scenario questions and these have been adapted below to consider certain specific scenarios in Woking after considering in the first instance what new facilities are required.

Overall assessment to end of plan period (2027)

2.69 Requirements have been identified for the following new facilities:

Type of pitch	Number
Adult football	2
Junior 11v11	3
Junior 9v9	3
Mini 7v7	4
Cricket	0
Adult rugby	1
Full size 3G FTP	4
Full size AGP for hockey	1
Tennis	0
Bowls	0
Athletics	0

2.70 Meeting demand may not always require the provision of new pitches on new land. Other options are explored in the Action Guide and can include the following:

- Increasing the capacity of existing pitches by improvements to pitch quality and/or changing facilities
- Securing access to existing pitches which currently do not have community use. In Woking, the main opportunities exist at secondary schools where there are multiple pitches. The study has assessed playing pitches at schools wherever possible, recorded all those identified and highlighted where there are opportunities for community use. However, pitches at primary schools often occur singly and as such are not viable options for development for community clubs.
- Marking out pitches on currently unused areas of existing playing field sites
- Providing artificial grass pitches either for training and/or matchplay – such surfaces can accommodate much greater intensity of use and ease pressure on grass pitches
- Better scheduling of matches and flexibility in kick-off times.

2.71 It should also be noted that in projecting need to 2027 means that it may not be possible to identify precise locations for new grass and/or artificial grass pitches. The provision of additional pitches can remain an aspiration, to be brought forward once suitable and sustainable sites are identified. The Woking draft Site Allocation DPD sets out potential sites for new development. There are three sites where on-site provision is/may be a possibility, and two of those (UA32 – Sheerwater and GB8 – Egley Road) are already in the pipeline. There may also be space available for formal sports pitches within GB15: 'Land surrounding West Hall, Parvis Road, West Byfleet' which has been identified for allocation in the draft Site Allocation DPD. However, as reiterated elsewhere in this document, in the first instance, new pitches should be accommodated at existing sites either through increasing capacity of existing pitches or providing new pitches on spare land at existing sites. Developer contributions for new provision should be assessed on this basis.

a What if the certain sites with a poor quality rating are improved?

- 2.72 Under the Sport England methodology, playing pitches are visually assessed on a number of criteria, including the quality of the surface, the maintenance and ancillary facilities. Scoring places each pitch within a 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' category, which in turn influences the capacity of the site to accommodate matches, good quality pitches accommodating more matches than poor pitches.
- 2.73 The majority of football pitches in Woking are assessed as good and can therefore accommodate a large number of matches. Other than school pitches (all rated as standard), standard rated pitches are the adult pitch at Brookwood Country Park, and junior/mini pitches at Alpha Road and at Goldsworth Park Recreation Ground. The lower rating at Brookwood Country Park is due to drainage issues predominantly which are being addressed. Improving these pitches will not significantly alter the number of games which can be accommodated throughout the week, and certainly not at peak times, other than at Alpha Road where improvements would encourage increased activity.
- 2.74 Pitch quality is a greater issue for cricket. Four grounds – Wheatsheaf, Brookwood and Byfleet Recreation Grounds and Westfield & District Sports Club – were assessed as

being of standard quality (all the remaining grass cricket pitches scored as 'good'). The three Recreation Grounds – all local authority – are currently hosting less than 16 matches per season and the pitch quality is a factor here: if the grounds were improved they would be more attractive and able to accommodate additional teams.

- 2.75 As far as non-turf wickets are concerned, all the non-turf wickets on local authority grounds (Waterers Park, West Byfleet, Brookwood, Byfleet & Wheatsheaf Recreation Grounds, St John's Lye, Goldsworth Park and Woking Park) would need renovating if they were to be brought back into use. The only two in use at present are at Winston Churchill School and Pyrford Cricket Club. The non-turf wickets at Wheatsheaf, Goldsworth Park and at Woking Park would appear to have potential to be reinstated to meet demand for junior play and possibly at Waterers Park for net cages.
- 2.76 Improvements to changing facilities will have a greater impact on certain sites' capacity and the enjoyment of the playing experience. Poor quality/size of changing rooms is a major constraint at: Brookwood Recreation Ground (shared football/cricket), Byfleet Recreation Ground (shared rugby/football), Wheatsheaf Recreation Ground (shared football/cricket) and St Peter's Recreation ground (too small if site is to be developed). Improvements and enlargements required. Goldsworth Park clubs would benefit from a kitchen/catering area and more storage.
- 2.77 As far as rugby is concerned, the visual assessment recorded the playing surface of the two rugby pitches at Byfleet Recreation Ground as being good with no apparent issues. The club concur, although they regarded the drainage as being poor. However, the changing facilities at the ground are a constraint on the development of the club; they are run down and there are not enough separate rooms to cater for matches on both the rugby and football pitches at the same time.
- 2.78 The artificial turf pitches for Woking Hockey Club are both rated as good, although the older of the two pitches is scheduled for a new carpet next year. The changing facilities ideally need to be enlarged, to support the progression of teams and could potentially constrain their advancement through the leagues.

b What if community use can be secured at certain sites?

- 2.79 29 pitches in total (excluding 3G and sand based artificial grass pitches) have been recorded at schools in the Borough, of which 24 are football, 3 cricket (2 grass pitches and 1 non-turf) and 2 rugby. 8 pitches appear to be available to the community (5 football and 3 cricket), but the situation is fluid (pitches at St John the Baptist for example are not available at present but the school is planning to open up for community use once the site is enhanced).
- 2.80 Currently the schools making the most contribution are Woking College (where Woking Town FC play their juniors on Sunday mornings); Winston Churchill School – whose artificial cricket wicket hosts junior play (and obviously the full size and cage 3G FTPs are heavily used); St Andrew's and Hoe Bridge Schools (Independent) which both host cricket teams for training and West Byfleet Junior School, home to a thriving junior club – West Byfleet Scorpions
- 2.81 There are 12 junior and mini football pitches on school sites which are currently not available which could be investigated further (e.g. Sythwood Primary School,

Goldsworth Primary School and St Mary's Primary School) although many are single pitch sites which is not a preferred option for the development of junior football.

- 2.82 Therefore, other than a few single pitches, there is not huge scope for raising the stock of pitches through securing greater access to schools sites. The 3G AGP at Woking High School is underused – it does not have floodlights and there is a restriction that it cannot be used on Sundays.
- 2.83 However, there is scope for future developments to be knitted into the fabric of sports participation within Woking. All 4 secondary schools, plus a new secondary school and Woking College are planning or undergoing major developments to their playing pitch provision and there are great opportunities here for delivering programmes and participation increases in partnership, including:
- New grass pitches, 3 x small 3G AGPs, tennis courts & athletic track at Hoe Valley School (new - approved)
 - Full size floodlit 3G FTP and enhanced community use of grass pitches at Bishop David Brown School (planning permission granted but subject to council approval)
 - Full size floodlit 3G AGP at Woking College (proposed)
 - 9v9 sand based AGP at St John the Baptist (proposed)
 - New artificial cricket wicket at Pyrford School (approved)
 - Providing a dome over 3 tennis courts at Winston Church School (proposed)

c *What if some pitches are re-designated from one sport (or pitch type) to another?*

- 2.84 The methodology suggests that if there are any marked differences between how well demand is met for different sports in an area then certain sites should be considered for re-designation from a well catered-for sport to a less well-catered for sport.
- 2.85 There are options for consideration here which have been explored as part of the preparation of this Strategy; it is concluded that the options for this really concern the realignment of senior pitches as junior/mini pitches if the need arises. These are proposed to improve the playing experience and make more efficient use of existing playing field land.

d *What if a site outside of the study area that currently caters for a significant amount of demand generated from within the study area is no longer available?*

- 2.86 This scenario could be widely applied to a variety of hypothetical situations! Of main relevance is the situation re: Woking Cougars, a predominantly youth football club. The club uses several home pitches due to its size and the club states that it continues to search for a site to set up a base with its own club house. Their men's ^{1st} XI and most of their youth teams play outside the borough in Surrey Heath. Currently, around 4 teams play on the 9v9 pitch at Brookwood County Park and the club is moving some teams to Brookwood Farm with 2 x 9v9 pitches for the 2016/17 season. This still leaves around 20 of its teams playing outside Woking at three venues in Surrey Heath and further discussions with the club are required to see to what extent they wish to relocate these to Woking.

e *What if there is a demand to move some current demand to a different pitch type?*

- 2.86 There is increasing demand for matchplay for football on FTPs. The period when there is the maximum demand for FTPs for matchplay is Sunday mornings when 9.2 x FTPs are required. Transferring all matches for teams currently playing competitive football on Woking managed natural grass pitches therefore may equate to a demand for 9 FTPs for all the different formats of the game. The target for the FA is to accommodate 50% of all youth and mini games on FTPs by 2020 which would require 4.5 FTPs. As there is currently 1 FTP in Woking, the shortfall for matches is 3.5 FTPs or, since matches (unlike training) cannot take place on a smaller size pitches, 4 FTPs.

As far as training is concerned, the FA's assessment identifies the need for a 5 FTPs to meet the demand for training facilities. There is currently 1 FTP with community use in Woking (at Winston Churchill School) so the shortfall is 4 pitches. However, if we allow for the contribution that the various smaller sized 3G AGPs make towards training needs in Woking, it seems more realistic to suggest the potential shortfall is 3 FTPs.

- 2.88 There is an existing planning permission to extend the small 3G AGP at Loop Road; this would involved losing some grass pitches on a very busy, well used site, catering for adults, juniors and tournaments. This could however be considered as an option.

f What if new pitches are provided on a specific new or existing site?

- 2.89 Proposals for new pitches at schools have been listed above; these proposals have been taken into account in assessing the demand for new pitch provision to 2027.

g What if further sports development initiatives or alternative forms of a sport are introduced?

- 2.90 Within football there are two issues here: 1) The growth of junior football; and 2) the growth in 5-a-side teams and leagues. Woking already copes very well with the different requirements of junior matches, using overmarking, and there is sufficient land to allow this to continue. A growth in 5-a-side teams will require additional 3G FTP surfaces, which has been taken into account when assessing demand for these facilities. There is spare capacity in the area to accommodate a general growth in 11v11 football.
- 2.91 In cricket, growth in T20 and formats such as Last Man Standing (not yet played in Woking) is unlikely to result in a need for more cricket pitches, as there is room for more cricket wickets to be provided on most grounds and the ability to reinstate existing non-turf wickets. Although growth in T20 is important it could be accommodated at existing grounds.
- 2.92 In rugby and hockey, there is currently sufficient provision to meet demand for new formats, although they will add pressure where capacity is being reached
- 2.93 Certainly any growth in female teams – girls and women – across the sports of football, cricket and rugby will require additional, dedicated changing facilities to meet their requirements and this is currently restricting such development at certain sites such as Byfleet Recreation Ground, Brookwood Recreation Ground and Wheatsheaf.

J Key Priorities

2.94 The following priorities are identified and are reflected in the Action Plans:

- Ensuring provision & availability of appropriate facilities to meet demand to 2027
- Provision of appropriate floodlit training and matchplay facilities for football (including FTPs)
- Sustainability of hockey provision in Woking
- Enhancement of cricket facilities (including rationalisation of sites and appropriate management/disposal/reinstatement of non-turf wickets)
- Accommodating growth in junior and mini football
- Enhancement of key changing facilities in line with NGB facility standards so that facilities are fit for purpose and encourage women/girls and disability access
- Enhancement of community based tennis facilities
- Ensuring sustainability of bowls clubs

3 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Principles

3.1 The Strategy is focused around the following Principles;

Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision in encouraging participation

3.2 The strategy seeks to ensure that Woking contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and in the right place. It promotes the protection of existing provision, where facilities can be shown to be sustainable, but also recognises the priority need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the impact that qualitative improvements can have on capacity. We need to keep people playing and attract new participants to the pitch sports, to ensure facilities are fully utilised. Once that is achieved, there will be areas where new pitches are required, but we need to make the best use of what we have already in the first instance.

Pitch provision will be delivered and enhanced in partnership

3.3 The strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields and to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and effectively aligned to maximise the value of assets to the community.

Investment will focus upon interventions that will have the greatest impact

3.4 The strategy should eventually prioritise investment into sites where the highest impact will be felt and where high numbers of users will benefit. Where can the greatest gains in participation be made? In particular, addressing the needs of junior players and women and girls may be areas where investment and effort should be targeted.

The strategy will seek to maximise sustainability

3.5 In this era of changing demand and constrained financial resources, it is imperative that all existing facilities are used as effectively as possible and are viable, before considering new sites. Across all playing pitch sites – new and existing and grass and artificial – it is critical for sustainability that: high quality standards, ancillary facilities and intensification of use such as floodlighting can be easily achieved; the management infrastructure is in place to develop maximise usage; outdoor and indoor facilities are co-located to encourage cross-participation; winter pitches are used in the summer and vice versa wherever possible, and new facilities are energy efficient, can be maintained effectively and have adequate sinking funds for replacement. The Strategy will seek to build relationships between sports, promote good practice and deliver sustainable solutions for the pitch sports across Woking.

Strategic Themes

- 3.6 This framework for future delivery is supported by six strategic themes. These are presented in more detail within the Action Guide by Theme section and also underpin the Site Specific Recommendations in the Action Guide
- ST1 Protecting existing playing field sites and ensuring playing field land is used effectively and sustainably
 - ST2 Ensuring that new facilities are provided to meet existing demand and projected demand from increases in population and participation
 - ST3 Providing a range of appropriate facilities for both competition and training which enable pitch sport participants to improve and progress
 - ST4 Ensuring that existing facilities are fit for purpose and of high quality in order to retain existing levels of participation, improve the playing experience and encourage growth in participation.
 - ST5 Improving access and accessibility to pitch sport sites, in order to encourage greater participation by all sectors of the community
 - ST6 Working in partnership to enable effective and greater use of existing playing field sites and the sharing of skills, expertise, resources and facilities
- ST1 Protecting existing playing field sites and ensuring playing field land is used effectively and sustainably**
- 3.7 There is a need to protect land currently allocated and/or used as playing pitches in Woking and to provide long term security on playing pitch sites to maintain the pitch supply, to ensure that investment in new facilities and improvements can be obtained and be effective and support the development of sustainable clubs.
- 3.8 Some pitch sites are currently underutilized and these have been highlighted within the Action Plan in order to address their long term sustainability and viability. Some may have the capacity to accommodate more or other pitches to meet different age requirements or different sports. Others may be able to accommodate both winter and summer sports. Many sites also fulfil an open space function and must meet the needs of both casual users (residents and visitors) and pitch sport participants.
- ST2 Ensuring that new facilities are provided to meet existing demand and projected demand from increases in population and participation**
- 3.9 Even with more effective use of existing facilities, new pitches and ancillary facilities will be required to address inadequacies in the current level of provision, meet changing participation trends and patterns and to meet demand from rising population and new development.

ST3 Providing a range of appropriate facilities for both competition and training which enable pitch sport participants to improve and progress

- 3.10 In order to improve and progress within, pitch sports participants require appropriate competitive, training and coaching facilities. These should reach high quality standards, be fully available for community use and be as sustainable and viable as possible. This includes addressing the need for artificial grass pitches to meet increasing and changing demand for both training and competition in football, hockey and rugby and other pitch sports.

ST4 Ensuring that existing facilities are fit for purpose and of high quality in order to retain existing levels of participation, improve the playing experience and encourage growth in participation.

- 3.11 In order to maintain and increase participation rates, a high standard of facilities is required. Priority should be given to improving and enhancing existing facilities to meet these standards wherever possible. This applies to both the pitch surface itself - in order to maintain and improve capacity of the pitches – and to ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and car parking. Facilities should be developed in line with appropriate national governing body and Sport England standards relating to ancillary facilities, natural and artificial grass pitches etc

ST5 Improving access and accessibility to pitch sport sites, in order to encourage greater participation by all sectors of the community

- 3.12 The rising cost of taking part in sport, particularly for youth teams, is becoming a serious barrier to, and brake on, growing participation. As well as physical access to sites, the concept of accessibility embraces affordability. Sites should be accessible to youth, adults, veterans, women, people with disabilities and those with health issues, as far as possible.
- 3.13 A high proportion of playing pitches are on school sites and form an integral and essential part of the stock. In order to maintain the pitch stock in Woking and to provide opportunities for increased participation, it is essential that all pitches on school sites should be protected and desirable that opportunities for their community use fully explored and secured wherever possible.

ST6 Working in partnership to enable effective and greater use of existing playing field sites and the sharing of skills, expertise, resources and facilities

- 3.14 Many organizations within Woking have similar objectives to encourage more people to participate in the pitch sports and can work together more closely to avoid duplication of effort and cost. The Council should continue to work closely with neighbouring authorities to address cross-boundary issues. Support for the voluntary sector in relation to the management and maintenance of facilities and membership activity is important to ensure a thriving club sector and good quality facilities.
- 3.15 Community Use Agreements covering the community use of education facilities – particularly at secondary schools and new provision in Woking - should be encouraged and where relevant secured as a condition during the planning application stage (see Sport England guidance).

- 3.16 Improvements in facilities and new provision should be dedicated to increasing the opportunities for participation in the pitch sports, not least to improve the health, fitness and well-being of residents in and visitors to Woking.

4 FUNDING SOURCES AND MONITORING

Funding Sources

- 4.1 The expectation is that some of the potential initiatives identified in this strategy and action plan will be funded wholly or partly by ‘developer contributions’ in the form of Section 106 agreements and/or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Projects involving education sites might also be funded through separate national capital funds. Other potential funding sources are identified briefly below.
- 4.2 Sport England and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) capital funds. These can make a major contribution to key local capital projects. Resulting from changing national Government and Sport England priorities, the objectives of these funding schemes are changing. The identification of projects through the playing pitch strategy process (in collaboration with Sport England and the NGBs) should help increase prospects for the funding of some key projects.
- 4.3 Active Surrey, Sport England and various NGB county and regional offices can advise on specific funding opportunities available specifically for pitch sports locally.
- 4.4 The National Lottery has a website allowing potential applicants to search for sources of external funding based on the nature of the project.
<http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/funding-finder>
- 4.5 There may also be an opportunity to exploit other funding sources depending on a given project’s nature and size. The most important of these are listed below. Some of these will be more sport-related than others, but they are all listed to reflect the links between sport and improvements in health and general life quality.
- **Aviva Community Fund Competition** – open for wide variety of projects
<http://www.aviva.co.uk/static/library/pdfs/communityfund/submission-guide-2016.pdf>
 - **Community Foundation for Surrey** – update on latest priorities for funding, particularly: Comic Relief Local Communities Fund and Surrey Community Arts
<http://cfsurrey.org.uk/apply-for-funding/>
 - **Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales: Invest Programme** – this funding is intended for longer-term core or direct delivery funding for charities supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage at a critical point in their lives
<http://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/our-programmes/invest/>
 - **People’s Postcode Trust** – Small Grants Programme – includes supporting groups helping to prevent poverty; healthy living initiatives; and upholding human rights for some of society’s most vulnerable groups
<http://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/applying-for-a-grant>
 - **Sport England Small Grants** - £300 to £10,000 focussed on increasing participation, and especially within younger age groups or those with disabilities.
<http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/small-grants/>

- **Community Foundation for Surrey** - has one fund that is specifically for sport. There is an expression of interest form to complete and a full application is invited if there is suitable fund open to applications.
<http://www.surreycommunityfoundation.org.uk/are-you-interested-applying-grant>
- **Woking Borough Council Sports Small Grants Scheme** – up to £500 available per club or individual for local talented athletes, new teams forming, new equipment. Requires 50% match funding.
https://my.woking.gov.uk/build/fillform.php?self=1&form_id=bmbpd3ppo9e&noLoginPrompt=1&1
- **SC Johnson Trust** - fund projects within a 20 mile radius of their HQ in Frimley. It has a number of key themes which their funds support, including: Health & Wellness - Programs that encourage public health and wellness education and equitable access to healthcare, community sports and recreation programs. All requests must meet a clear social need within the local community. Will fund around £1,500 per project. Contact: Noreen Shafi Mian NShafi@scj.com
- **Surrey Community Buildings Grants Programme** - There are very detailed criteria on community use. Will fund between £5,000 - £30,000 improvements.
<http://www.surreyca.org.uk/services/community-buildings-grant-scheme/>
- **London Marathon Charitable Trust** - The Small Capital Grants Programme for grants of £5,000 to £19,999 has a simple one-stage online application process. The Major Capital Grants Programme for grants of £20,000 to £150,000 has a two-stage online application process with successful applicants invited to submit a detailed Stage 2 application if their Stage 1 proposals meet the programme criteria. Focus on those who are currently inactive. www.lmct.org.uk

Monitoring

- 4.6 The principles and findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy can be applied to support a variety of different outcomes, including;
- Sports development planning
 - Informing planning policy and planning applications
 - Supporting funding bids
 - Facilitating decision making relating to facility and asset management
 - Informing capital programmes and related investment
 - Informing the role of playing pitch provision and participation in pitch sports on public health and contributing towards the achievement of wider aims and objectives.
- 4.7 The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust to fulfill the above roles.
- 4.8 Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).

- 4.9 The ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be led by Woking Borough Council and it is anticipated that it will constitute;
- establishment of a working group that meets annually to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising; and
 - support for the creation of sport specific forums to discuss issues arising and to lead the delivery of the strategy in conjunction with key partners;
 - a full annual steering group meeting, or individual annual meetings with National Governing Bodies of Sport to inform and discuss the annual progress summary and agree next steps.
- 4.10 The Working Group will therefore be committed to keeping the strategy alive through:
- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action
 - Recording changes to the pitch stock in the area and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information
 - Assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport
 - Assessing the impact of demographic changes and new population estimates / housing growth
 - Ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for major facilities in the area
 - Analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities
 - Reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development.
- 4.11 The Working Group should initially (within three months) meet to agree which of the actions should be taken forward in the short term (1-2 years); medium term (3-5 years) and longer term (5-10 years), and also agree who the main partners should be in taking the relevant actions forward. It is recommended that the Group should meet annually thereafter to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising.

5 NOTE ON ACTION PLAN (separate document)

A separate excel table – Final Draft Action Plan Section 5 Woking PPS and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy - sets out recommendations as follows:

5A Action Plans by Site

5B Action Plans by Theme

Actions are given priorities and relevant potential delivery partners are highlighted. Progress towards delivering against the action plans and the potential for additional actions will be considered at annual meetings of the Playing Pitch Strategy Working Group as detailed above.

Indicative time frames and/or priorities are given as follows (although it is recognised that many actions will run concurrently and/or take advantage of opportunities arising):

- 1 Ongoing and very important; to be addressed in short term (within 2 years)
- 2 Important: to be addressed in medium term (3-5 years)
- 3 During the remainder of the life of the Strategy (6 – 10 years)

Partners to deliver action are listed as follows:

WBC	Woking Borough Council	EH	England Hockey
NGBs	National Governing Bodies	RFU	Rugby Football Union
FA	Football Assn	AS	Active Surrey
FF	Football Foundation	WAVS	Woking Assn Voluntary Services
ECB	England Cricket Board	Serco	Grounds Maintenance Contractor
SB	Surrey Bowls		