

WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Playing Pitch Study Final Report

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WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STUDY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This playing pitch study has been produced by JKN Associates for Woking Borough Council. It aims to analyse the current playing pitch provision within the local authority boundaries and make recommendations on future pitch provision and development proposals. The key objectives of the study were:

- An analysis of the current level of pitch provision within the borough, including those not available for community use.
- A review of the quantity and quality of local authority pitches across the borough including the identification of pitch problems
- An identification of how facilities for pitch sports can be improved, e.g. changing pavilions and training pitches
- The identification of demand for pitches in the borough
- The development of policy options
- The provision of recommendations for playing pitch provision, protection and enhancement to include Synthetic Turf Pitches (STP)
- The development of local standards reflecting both qualitative and quantitative issues

In addition to pitch sports the report considers, at the request of the Council, a selection of other sports including Athletics, Basketball, Tennis and Bowls but the assessment of these sports is less objective as the playing pitch methodology can only be applied to pitch sports.

Current Position

The study has been developed using PPG17 as a guide. As there is no reliable data on the number of playing pitches across the country each local authority is required to produce a qualitative and quantitative assessment of their open space provision and recreational facilities to assess future requirements. Information gathered from studies of this nature can be used to improve neglected sites, protect sites under threat and be used as a tool to generate investment. In Woking there is a perception amongst voluntary sector clubs that there is a shortfall of available pitches within the Borough. This study will examine these hypotheses and report the actual position.

Methodology

The report follows the methodology outlined in Towards a Level Playing Field, A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies outlined by Sport England, the NPFA and the CCPR produced in 2003. The process adopted moves away from the original methodology produced in 1991 and reflects the changing trends in pitch sports participation, the promotion of sports development initiatives and the need to protect valuable open space. The eight-stage approach designed to calculate future demand is detailed in Appendix 4.

A series of site visits were undertaken in January 2006 to identify open spaces, playing pitches and undertake quality assessment in line with Sport England and other methodologies. In all over 50 different sites were visited and an assessment matrix used to assess the overall site, the quality of each pitch and the changing and ancillary facilities on each site. Further information on the usage of outdoor sports facilities and play areas has been collected by means of face to face meetings and telephone discussions with club representatives, officers of the council, schools, National Governing Body representatives and others.

The success of the Playing Pitch methodology depends largely on obtaining as accurate a tally as possible of the number of teams and pitches within Woking. To achieve this, and to complement the site visits outlined above a full audit of pitches, users and providers within the borough boundary were conducted. We designed a questionnaire (included as Appendix 7) and sent it to all known football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls clubs based within (or close to) the borough boundaries (identified in governing body and county association handbooks, league handbooks, pitch booking records, websites, local press, telephone directories, and local knowledge) The overwhelming majority of these were football clubs.

Using a variety of techniques including questionnaires, site visits and telephone interviews we obtained a very good overall response rate as outlined in Table 1. Other information was sourced from league handbooks, local knowledge and interviews with league officials. The purpose of the club surveys was to cross-check information and gather qualitative information (i.e. comments) from clubs on specific issues. Woking Borough Council (WBC) Sports Development staff undertook follow up reminders as they gathered information from local clubs for inclusion their Spots Directory.

Table 1. Consultation audit response rates				
	Questionnaires sent	Questionnaires returned	Successful Telephone interviews/ Site visits	% Data received
Sport Clubs				
Association Football	51	13	36	74%
Rugby	2	2	2	100%
Hockey	2	0	2	100%
Tennis	5	3		60%
Bowls	3	1	1	66%
Athletics	1	1		100%
Cricket	7	2	11	80%
Sports Club Total	71	22	52	

* Data regarding clubs that did not respond was obtained through Council Officers, SDOs, Governing Bodies and league secretaries. Sport England was also consulted.

Supply and Demand

There are estimated to be 130 pitches in Woking (including an estimate of pitches on junior school sites). See Appendix 3.

Of these 59 are in Secured Community Use (SCU), and a further 33 in some other form of Community Use (CU), mainly on school sites.

Whilst a large proportion of pitches are on school sites (much higher than the national average of 29%), most of these in Woking are not in community use. Therefore, the secured community use of school playing fields offers considerable potential for meeting the demand for junior and mini football, (subject to agreement on usage, costs and management.)

Ownership and management is varied, though public pitches are all run by the Borough Council, and school pitches make little contribution to community sport.

One third of pitches are owned by Woking Borough Council, which is lower than the national local authority ownership of pitches standing at an average of 43%.

Public pitches fulfil an essential role in accommodating much of the football in Woking, though the more senior clubs have their own facilities

In common with most areas, the majority of pitches cater for football.

It is estimated that there are about 2750 regular footballers in Woking, about 3% of the borough's population.

A significant proportion of pitches are owned and managed by voluntary sector clubs.

However, Woking in comparison to other local authorities has a low level of pitch provision compared with the national average, and well below the historic standard long used by the NPFA.

The quality of pitches is generally average, and some improvements are necessary, while ancillary facilities are variable, and significant refurbishment is required. The main issues are poor drainage and problems associated with access by others to local authority recreation grounds.

The total number of pitches in the study area equates to one pitch per 1319 people. The only rugby club in the borough plays unusually on a local authority pitch.

Clubs with their own facilities and control over use and management tend normally to have the best pitches

Most sites in current use have changing rooms, showers, etc, but are often in a poor condition with significant improvements required in some cases. There is evidence of vandalism of pitches and pavilions

There is a lack of floodlit STP training facilities.

Key Issues

There is highly likely to be a rise in the demand for pitch sports in Woking because of the increased profile of some sports, sports development initiatives and a general move towards a healthy lifestyle, which may be mitigated to some extent by the increasing age of the population.

It is probable that the growth in junior, women's and girls' involvement will be the major factor in any growth, and in the longer term this could have a ripple effect as it works through to higher adult participation.

Ground grading requirements introduced by the SCFA may inhibit the development of football within recognised senior clubs within the borough. There will be a need to reallocate teams to facilities that meet the required standards.

A new Third Generation Synthetic Turf Pitch (STP) primarily for football could 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.

Consideration of the conversion of one STP in Goldsworth Park to a Water based derivative to meet the performance needs of Hockey should be the subject of further investigation, and the adequate relocation of football activity displaced by such a move.

Mini soccer centres to accommodate the extensive junior programmes within Woking could be considered at the following locations:

Loop Road
Westfield/Woking Park
Vyne Field
KingsHead Lane Byfleet
Mayford Centre

A hierarchy of new floodlit Multi Use Games Areas (FMGAs) can be justified in 12 additional locations to meet the recreational, training and competitive needs of football within the Borough as outlined below.

Byfleet*Recreation Ground
West Byfleet*Recreation Ground
Pyrford Village*(site to be identified)
Horsell*Village;Queen Elizabeth Gardens
St John's Lye *(site to be identified)
Loop Road Recreation Ground*
St Peter's Recreation Ground Old Woking*
Brookwood Country Park , Knaphill
Vyne Field*, Knapill
Kings Head lane,Byfleet (subject to transfer of land to Council)
Waterers Park*Recreation Ground(conversion of existing tennis area)
Westfield Primary School*/Bonsey Lane
* Recreational

Further improvements to some existing facilities also need to be addressed. FMGAs are best located in conjunction with existing sports grounds, schools, and other recreation facilities, where economies of scale for ancillary facilities may be available.

Immediate negotiations with schools and colleges need to be initiated to ensure greater use of pitches by the community through formally secured community use agreements. This is the most economical way of meeting the projected shortfall.

In general the overall condition of pavilions within the borough is poor and requires substantial investment to raise the quality thresholds expected from participants.

Summary for Football

- At present there are 42 pitches in SCU for football, giving 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 it is estimated that 29.1 senior, 17.8 junior and 11.7 mini pitches will be required throughout the whole district (58.6 in total). There is thus an estimated future shortfall of 16.6 pitches in SCU comprising 5.1 senior, 9.8 junior and 1.7 mini. There is a potential surplus if school pitches are included, but the availability of these and other pitches for use by sports clubs and teams is not guaranteed.

- This shortfall could be met in part by the following provision

1 Senior pitches at Unwins site (subject to securing site through planning agreement)

2 Junior Pitches at Kings Head Lane (subject to transfer of ownership of site to Council)

1 Junior Pitch at St Johns Lye subject to improved drainage and new changing facilities

3 Junior Pitches at Goldsworth Park subject to identification of suitable area within Recreation Ground , subject to consultation over use and improved drainage

2 Junior Pitches at New Monument School subject to access to changing facilities

2 Mini Pitches at Knaphill subject to agreement with Knaphill Junior School over access to changing facilities

1 Junior Pitch at Sheerwater Recreation Ground subject to improved drainage

- The current and future shortfall can be alleviated by means of new pitch provision in appropriate locations as described above, 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.
- School sites potentially have an important role to play, but the first responsibility of schools is to their pupils, and few schools have changing facilities available. To fulfil curricular requirements, school pitches are normally only capable of one additional match per week outside of school time.
- Training facilities should be provided and enhanced by improvements to existing grounds, or the provision of new floodlit multi games areas

Detailed suggestions to meet these requirements are set out in the Action Plan.

Summary for Cricket

There are enough pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand for cricket, although a number of pitches are on public parks and have been unused for some years.

The majority of pitches owned and managed by the Borough are located on open recreation fields and are not protected. This leaves them open to abuse and damage.

Senior cricket is mostly accommodated on private grounds. There is little competitive cricket played on public pitches.

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..

Some additional pitches may become available at New Monument School but would not cater for senior cricket.

There is sufficient local provision at Wheatsheaf to meet increase in junior developments, although in general terms the pavilions across the borough are unsuitable for female changing accommodation.

Summary for Rugby

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

Summary for Hockey

There are considered to be sufficient STPs in the borough to accommodate estimated future demand for hockey. It may be that Woking Hockey Club 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 must be taken of the displaced football currently played at the venue that will need to be satisfied elsewhere.

Summary for Tennis

Existing tennis facilities meet 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 are 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.

Strategy and Recommendations

The research findings from the playing pitch study in Woking can be used to inform a variety of strategic documents including the Local Plan; Cultural Strategy; Green Spaces Development Plan; and Community Strategy.

Action Plan

The Action Plan identifies the priorities emerging from the study and suggests a timescale for delivery, potential partners, and an estimate of the resources necessary to deliver the required outcomes.

It is estimated that over £ 8 million investment is required to meet the proposals outlined in this document.

Local Standards

To meet the future requirements for pitches up to 2011 the following standards are proposed.

Football The future requirement for 60 pitches (comprising 30 senior, 18 junior and 12 mini), plus a contingency of 10% to cover future uncertainties, and a site multiplier to incorporate ancillary facilities such as space for changing, parking, etc (see Appendix 5) gives a required future standard of provision of 0.55 ha. per 1000 population.

Cricket The future requirement for 14 cricket pitches, plus a similar contingency and multiplier, gives a required future standard of provision of 0.33 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 STPs under built facilities

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).

INTRODUCTION

In January 2006 JKN Associates were commissioned by Woking Borough Council (WBC) to undertake a Playing Pitch Strategy for the Borough. The study sought to analyse the current level of playing pitch provision and make recommendations regarding the future pitch provision and development proposals within the borough.

The research, consultation and analysis follow the methodology prescribed by Sport England, the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and the Central Council of Physical Recreation in its 1991 document – ‘*The Playing Pitch Strategy*’, However, a more sophisticated methodology is now available in ‘*Towards a Level Playing Field, A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies*’ produced by Sport England which will enable a local assessment of need to be undertaken in Woking, with the following objectives:

- To inform the review of the local plan (preparation of the Local Development Framework.
- To provide the borough with adequate planning guidance to determine development proposals affecting playing fields
- To help the borough meet the demand for sports pitches
- To help to secure external funding for their improvement and additional provision

The strategy will be prepared using this guidance and when the document is completed it will form part of the Council's overall Green Spaces Development Plan and also inform sports development and the future investment in built facilities. 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 facilities for pitch sports can be improved, e.g. changing pavilions and training pitches
- The identification of demand for pitches in the borough
- The development of policy options
- The provision of recommendations for playing pitch provision, protection and enhancement to include Synthetic Turf Pitches
- The development of local standards reflecting both qualitative and quantitative issues

In addition to pitch sports the report considers, at the request of the Council, a selection of other sports including Athletics, Basketball, Netball, Tennis and Bowls but the assessment of these sports is less objective as the playing pitch methodology can only be applied to pitch sports.

It is important to note that this study is primarily concerned with the provision of playing pitches (i.e. the playing surface and their safety margins) and not casual playing fields or open spaces (which include grass or other areas that are not used for sport). This is an important distinction as some of the areas surrounding pitches and within recreation grounds are not used for sport but are important in terms of open space and informal recreation.

Scope

Additionally the study is concerned only with public, or community, demand for sports, play and open space facilities. While this includes the contribution that sports clubs and schools make to wider community use, it does not consider demand from other sectors such as school curriculum development, higher education and professional sport.

The study area is defined as the administrative borough of Woking, and the detailed information on demand and supply set out in the report relates only to this area. However, it is recognised that in sports terms, Woking is part of a wider functional area and the study attempts to consider any issues arising from teams and players travelling into and out of the borough, as well as the policies prevailing in the neighbouring local authorities.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Major Issues

There is widespread agreement that the protection and overall provision of playing fields throughout the UK needs to be improved. Over recent years the loss of playing fields has become an important current issue as no one knows the exact number of pitches that are lost to either development or neglect. This subject has been particularly high on the political agenda since the early 1990s and is part of a wider debate on the protection and management of urban open space in general.

Playing fields are an important recreational amenity that can be used for both informal recreation such as walking, picnics and casual play as well as for formal sporting activities. Access to informal space for healthy activity and children's play can, of course, encourage people to take up formal sport. They may also have an environmental role, in providing open views, natural habitats and amenity green spaces. All of these potential relationships are acknowledged but remain outside the scope of this study. However, the actions arising from this study will impinge on other aspects of park's use and will need to be considered by the local authority.

In Woking where some of the sports facilities are located on public open space that have a variety of other uses, the playing pitches are particularly vulnerable to dog fouling and litter as they are not fenced off. This of course refers to playing pitches owned and managed by the local authority as opposed to private sports grounds or playing pitches on school sites that are mainly enclosed.

There is usually a general presumption against the loss of open spaces, a playing field, once built upon is unlikely ever to be used again for sport or other recreational purposes. This is normally the position that local planning documents take on sports pitches. However, there are various sporting, operational and management reasons why playing fields need to be considered separately from wider open space considerations. A playing field may no longer meet the specific needs of existing users because:

- Technological innovation in the sport such as the emergence of Synthetic Turf pitches has rendered the facility obsolete. This is clearly illustrated in Hockey where almost exclusively the National Governing Body insists that competitive matches are no longer played on grass. This is to ensure higher standards of performance and skill development but new provision may conflict with site constraints where floodlighting is not allowed within local planning policies.
- The release of redundant sites should then be considered for alternative pitch use e.g. the grass hockey pitch at Woking Park could be used for mini soccer.
- With additional members, clubs may outgrow their existing facilities and cannot develop due to constraints imposed by the site on the number of pitches and teams.
- Similarly as clubs progress to higher leagues they must then adapt their grounds according to league rules and this upgrade is often inappropriate for the sites concerned.

- Extra ancillary facilities such as changing, parking or floodlighting may be required, which cannot be accommodated on an existing site.
- The growth of women and girls participation and other sports development initiatives to encourage greater use, such as school club link schemes mean that a different mix of facilities is required.

In addition, there may also be major strategic reasons why pitches are no longer required for sport. Falling school rolls and the closure of a school may reduce the curricular need for pitches. Similarly, structural changes in industry over the years and different employment practises have led to the rationalisation and closure of many company sports and social club facilities.

This forms the background to planning policy for sport and recreation.

National Policy

National policies on planning for and protecting playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities have attempted to strike a balance between the general desire to protect playing fields, and a pragmatic recognition that in some circumstances there may be a justification in sanctioning disposal of all or part of the site. This balance however has not always succeeded in protecting valuable facilities.

Sport England Policy

As a consequence of this, Sport England has had an important role to play in the protection of playing fields. Together with the National Playing Fields Association (NPFSA) and Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), the Sports Council published 'The Playing Pitch Strategy' in 1991. This highlighted a variety of reasons why playing pitches were being lost including pressure on local authority finance, increasing pressure for more land and legislative change. The document advocated a 'considered approach' to the retention of playing fields, a range of issues to be addressed and a new methodology for assessing playing field need at a local level (subsequently used in this study).

The Sport England policy to guide its approach to playing field retention and disposal is as follows:

“(Sport England) will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of, all or any part of a playing field, or land last used as a playing field or land allocated for use as a playing field in an adopted or draft deposit local plan, unless, in the judgement of (Sport England) one of the specific circumstances applies.

The specific circumstances are:

1. *A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of (Sport England) that there is an excess of playing provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport*

2. *The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use.*
3. *The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing area of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site.*
4. *The playing field or playing fields which could be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements prior to the commencement of development.*
5. *The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.*

It has also incorporated the need for positive policies for playing field protection and retention in its land use planning policy statement 'Planning Policies for Sport' (November 1999), and published two papers in a series of Planning Bulletins giving further guidance on playing pitch protection and provision, including the use of planning obligations to secure sport and recreation facilities.

National Playing Fields Association

Since 1938 the NPFA has urged a minimum standard for play and recreational open space, of 6 acres per 1000 population, traditionally known as the NPFA Six Acre Standard. This is a basic approach to planning for recreational open space used by many local authorities and based on a minimum level of provision to be sought. Application of the standard involves a simple calculation using an accepted ratio of space required per head of population. In the case of playing pitches, bowls greens, tennis courts and other similar outdoor facilities, this equates to 1.6 – 1.8 ha. per 1000 people (4 – 4.5 acres) of which pitches themselves are acknowledged to represent 1.21 ha. (3 acres).

The standard has served its purpose well over the years, and has recently been reviewed and confirmed by the NPFA as appropriate to the current day, with the NPFA urging an increased emphasis on implementation and best practice. It has been recognised widely by local authorities, planning inspectors and others involved in planning policy, but is not sensitive to local needs. Although it is a useful baseline, it is now being replaced by the need for local assessments as set out in the new PPG17, with the ultimate aim that such assessments are prepared for all areas.

Whilst the original Sport England strategy produced in 1991 has stood the test of time, and provided the background to Sport England's involvement in playing field issues, it has recently been reviewed, and republished (March 2003) with the methodology remaining largely intact.

The current document ‘Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies’ provides the combined guidance of Sport England, the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) and highlights the benefits of producing a Playing Pitch Strategy.

These are summarised as outlined in the Sport England guidance as follows:

- *it ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision and priorities. During times of changes for local authorities, a playing pitch strategy will provide a direction and set priorities for pitch sports*
- *it provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities, a local playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current examples include the Sport England Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the New Opportunities Fund now the Big Lottery Fund.*
- *it will improve a local authority’s asset management, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads*
- *it provides the basis for establishing new pitch requirements arising from new housing developments*
- *it is one of the best tools for the protection of pitches threatened by development*
- *it helps deliver government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living*
- *it helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed*
- *through the potential re-development of pitches, quality of provision can be enhanced*
- *it provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams*
- *it promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams.*

Government Planning Policy

Originally published in 1991, PPG17 – Sport and Recreation recognised the special significance of all playing fields and their legitimate use for recreational and amenity value. It urged local planning authorities to recognise their long-term community value and advised that playing fields should be protected unless one of three criteria were met.

Following growing concern at the loss of playing fields in the early 1990s, the government, by virtue of an amendment to the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order 1996 designated the Sports Council (now Sport England), as a statutory consultee on proposals for development which affect playing fields, land used as playing fields at any time in the last five years which remains undeveloped, or land which is identified for use as a playing field in a development plan. All applications that local planning authorities are minded to approve, but have attracted an objection from Sport England, will be referred to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) for consideration.

To strengthen these powers further, the Town and Country Planning (Playing Fields) (England) Direction 1998 required all local planning authorities to refer to the Secretary of State any planning application that they wish to approve contrary to an objection from Sport England.

The effect of these two additional safeguards has been a significant drop in the number of developments leading to the loss or diminution of playing fields. In the year up to March 2004 (the latest date for which information is available), Sport England was consulted on 1490 applications affecting playing fields. Of the 1437 responses made, 181 were objections. Where information is available on the planning authority's decision (to date only 116 cases), 58 (50%) were approved by the local planning authority contrary to Sport England advice. By way of comparison, 2002 figures show that the number of statutory consultations has risen from 988, and the approval rate by LPAs increased from about one third.

In 2002, a revised PPG17 entitled 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' strengthened the need to protect playing fields, and reiterated the need for robust local assessments of need, which take into account quantity, quality and accessibility. Planning permission should not be granted for the development of playing fields unless the exceptions set out in Sport England's policy (see above) are met.

Playing fields should also be considered in the wider context of open space in general, of which an adequate supply should always be maintained. This principle is enshrined in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17' that was published by ODPM in 2002, and sets out examples of good practice, advises local authorities on means of delivering good quality open space and sports facilities and links to the Best Value agenda and the management and maintenance of facilities.

To complement this raft of legislation the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce published its report 'Green Spaces, Better Places' in May 2002. The report considered the benefits urban parks and green spaces bring to cities, the problems affecting them and how these can be overcome, some good practice examples and the means of achieving solutions. Fifty-two recommendations were made and the Government has considered these and responded in its document 'Living Spaces: Cleaner, Safer, Greener'. The protection of playing fields and recreational green spaces are thus now part of a wider environmental agenda.

Government Sports Policy

In April 2000 for the first time the government considered developing a policy for sport and published 'A Sporting Future for All' produced by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in conjunction with the then Department for Education and Employment (DfEE).

Playing fields feature significantly in the section on 'Lifelong Participation' in 'Sport in the Community', and the strategy seeks to strengthen playing pitch protection by additional planning powers (see above), increased lottery funding through the Green Spaces and Sustainable Community Initiative, and introduced controls over the disposal of school sites.

Subsequently the Prime Minister asked the Strategy Unit to review the Government's policy on sport and this is published in 'Game Plan: a Strategy for Delivering Government's Sport and Physical Activity Objectives' (December 2002). Among a range of issues addressed were the state of grassroots participation in sport, the success of British teams, the hosting of major events, funding for sport and the means of delivery. It recognised that many people in this country take part in sport and physical activity as a source of fun and to improve health. However, the quantity and quality of this activity, according to the government, is lower than it could be and has not changed significantly over time despite continued investment.

- In sport only 46% of the population participate more than 12 times a year compared to 70% in Sweden and 80% in Finland.
- In physical activity terms, only 32% of adults in England take 30 minutes of moderate exercise 5 times a week (as recommended by health professional) compared to 57% in Australia and 70% in Finland.
- Women are 19% less likely to take part in sport and physical activity than men.
- Participation falls dramatically after leaving school and continues to drop with age.

Whilst it is acknowledged that a range of actions are needed to achieve the necessary changes to raise participation levels for the whole population, specific interventions should focus on the most economically disadvantaged groups, especially young people, women and the elderly. Removing the barriers that prevent participation should concentrate on the following:

- Developing "sports literacy" - providing the best possible introduction to sport and physical activity, both in and outside school.
- High quality teaching and coaching

- Addressing the large drop off in participants once they leave full time education
- Improved links between schools and clubs
- Extending access to facilities paid for with public money
- Greater investment in coaches, leaders and organisers.

Implementing a package of incentives aimed at adults in the community, extending the availability of school facilities, subsidising individuals and providing consistent information. Clear recommendations are made to rectify these problems, and a target has been set of 70% of the population being physically active in ways to benefit their health. The continued preservation and protection of playing fields will go some way to supporting these government objectives.

Sport is now placed firmly at the forefront of Government thinking, and there are huge implications for all sports not least the pitch sports considered here. Restructuring has already begun, and with the successful Olympic bid for 2012, the reorganisation of Sport England and the reduction in the resources available from Lottery Sports Fund, all agencies must work together to ensure that sporting activity, and places to play it are preserved.

DfEE (now Department for Education and Skills - DfES)

Of particular importance within the playing fields debate has been the disposal of education playing fields deemed to be surplus to school requirements. Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 gave the Secretary of State powers to protect school playing fields from disposal or change of use, and Circular 3/99 interpreted this in detail.

The Circular introduced the need for widespread consultation with the community and other user groups, which reduced the number of school playing field disposals from 40 a month in 1998 to only 3 in 2002. Approval is only given where funds raised are ploughed back into sport and education, and where remaining playing fields fully meet the needs of the school and community now and in the future.

About half of approved disposals affecting school pitches have been at schools that are closing, and 70% of the remainder will lead to new or improved sports facilities. Circular 3/99 has now been superseded by new guidance from DfES entitled 'Protection of School Playing Fields and Land for City Academies', which emphasises wider community use and the need for asset management plans for schools. The aim here is clearly to protect and enhance the limited number of playing pitches available throughout the country that can be used for sport and recreation purposes.

Regional policy

South East Plan for Sport 2004

The South East Regional Plan for Sport published in 2004 by the South East Sports Board is a strategic document designed to guide the direction of sport in the South East of England, and uses the targets and long term aims advocated in Game Plan. With the overall aim to become an active and successful sporting region it relies on

others to deliver this vision and subscribe to new ways of working. Some of the eighteen priorities for action relate to playing pitch provision, and ultimately the outcomes expected from this project will help local people to start, stay and succeed in sport, namely:

- A 1% year on year increase in participation across the region. This figure represents 898 per year in Woking based on 2001 population data.
- Establish a network of Multi sport Community Clubs.
- Increase club membership
- Increase the number of people taking part in competition.
- Reduce the equity gap
- Encourage economic and environmental sustainability
- Put sport and active recreation at the heart of the planning process in the region.
- Maximise the positive impact of education in all its forms
- Use the natural resources of the region to increase participation
- Encourage all organisations involved in sport and active recreation to work in genuine partnership.

This document places sports development in the region into its wider context. It demonstrates how activities and investments relate to the National Framework for Sport, the Regional Economic Strategy, the South East Plan and the strategy of the Regional Cultural Consortium. It also advocates a number of key themes associated with this study. These include:

- Planning for housing growth – by insisting sports opportunities are part of new developments.
- Harnessing developer contributions – to make them contribute fairly to sport and active recreation needs.
- Sustainability of projects – to check that investments made now will continue to deliver in the future.
- Genuine partnership working – between sports organisations and with the managers of other agendas.
- Links to all levels of education - To join education and community into one seamless delivery system

The Local Picture

Surrey Structure Plan was adopted in October and provides a framework for planning policies set out in local plans throughout the county. Policy DN13 encourages the provision and retention of facilities for recreation and leisure in appropriate locations, and advises local authorities to audit existing provision, identify deficiencies, allocate land and protect facilities in their planning documents.

Characteristics of Woking

The Borough of Woking in Surrey covers some 6,359 hectares of which 60% is classified as Green Belt. As a substantial shopping and commercial centre Woking is a major employment hub surrounded by a number of village centres.

Woking Borough Council Local Plan was adopted in August 1999 and provides guidance on planning matters up to 2006. (Work is currently underway on the preparation of the Local Development Framework that will replace the Local Plan by March 2007). The local plan contains policies seeking to provide sports and recreation facilities, protect areas of recreational open space and require developer contributions to future provision. Of particular relevance is policy REC01 - Formal Rec Open Space which states that:

The council will seek to maintain and enhance the level of provision of formal recreational open space throughout the borough.

In appropriate cases residential development on sites of at least 15 dwellings will be expected to provide open space on site or make a contribution toward planned off site provision including associated buildings and car parking to a level commensurate with the need generated by the development.

The Council currently assesses recreational open space against the NPFA standard, and has identified a pitch shortage leading to existing pitches being overused, particularly in certain areas. To overcome this deficiency, developers are generally required to make provision for open space, pitches and ancillary facilities wherever appropriate within the borough, and not necessarily in the immediate vicinity of development, owing to the limitations of land availability. In some cases a contribution towards enhancement of existing provision is sought in order to meet the increased demand created by the new development. These enhancements are aimed at increasing the scope or capacity of provision.

Woking Community Strategy.

In 2003 Woking Community Strategy was developed with local stakeholders through a series of community workshops, roadshows and consultation with the Citizen's panel. It is currently under review for the period 2006-2009. This key document acknowledges the benefits to the town of a vibrant cultural life and recognises the beneficial impact it has on employment the economy and health.

The Community aims for Woking are:

- A strong community spirit with a clear sense of belonging and responsibility.
- A clean, healthy and safe environment.
- A transport system that is integrated and accessible recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub.
- Access to quality and affordable housing for local people and key workers.
- A community which values personal health and well being
- Integrated and accessible local facilities and services.

In seeking to deliver these aims a Local Strategic Partnership has been established which is committed to address general concerns and set priorities and targets for the future.

Woking Cultural Strategy

As a response to government that all local authorities produce a Cultural Strategy, the Woking document expands upon the Community Strategy in more detail and defines Culture as:

‘the place where Woking residents go to relax, participate in sports, the arts and entertainment, where we can enjoy contact with our historic and natural heritage and where we can socialise and play.’

The strategy goes on to identify the many ways in which cultural activity can improve the quality of life for residents within the borough by

- Encouraging social inclusion
- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Enabling life long learning
- Stimulating economic vitality

It advocates that cultural activities are valuable in their own right as a means of ensuring that good health is enjoyed throughout life and that sport, arts and cultural activity enhances the local environment. It also stresses the need for cross boundary co-operation to ensure that all local residents have access local services.

Within this framework, although it might appear that the population of Woking is generally affluent, this picture obscures certain local pockets of deprivation. Using the government Indices of Multiple Deprivation as a measure Maybury and Sheerwater has been identified as an area in need of support and is not only the most severely deprived ward in the Borough, but also in Surrey. The five priority wards, (with National Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2004 ranking in brackets out of 32,482) for Woking are:

- Maybury and Sheerwater (8,772)
- Goldsworth East (10,517)
- Kingfield and Westfield (19,006)
- Byfleet (19,414)
- Goldsworth West (21,160)

In this instance the provision of sporting opportunities in areas of deprivation can help to provide young people with meaningful activity and reduce anti social behaviour. The sporting and recreational needs of those living in these areas are an important consideration when the extent of disadvantage is highlighted.

- 25% of the Maybury and Sheerwater residents are under 15 years of age.

- 34% of the residents in the ward are from an ethnic minority background.
- Woking has the highest Muslim population in Surrey, where 60% of Woking's Muslim population live in Maybury and Sheerwater.
- Average household income in Maybury and Sheerwater in 2001 was the lowest in Surrey.
- 28% of households did not have access to a car.
- 31% of households in Maybury and Sheerwater were in some form of social housing.
- The proportion of people in Woking as a whole who consider they had a good level of health was 74%. In Maybury and Sheerwater this fell to 68%.
- 24% of the Maybury and Sheerwater population have a limiting long-term illness as compared to 13% in Woking.

Ward	Total 2001
Brookwood	2416
Byfleet	6995
Goldsworth east	7325
Goldsworth West	5297
Hermitage and Knaphill South	5193
Horsell East and Woodham	4326
Horsell West	6839
Kingfield and Westfield	5211
Knaphill	8635
Maybury and Sheerwater	8974
Mayford and Sutton Green	2369
Mount Herman east	4621
Mount Herman West	4487
Old Woking	2644
Pyrford	5076
St John's and Hook Heath	4378
West Byfleet	5054
TOTALS	89,840

Policies of neighbouring local planning authorities

As suggested above, Woking is part of a wider operational area for sport and recreation, where teams, players and catchments may bear little relationship to administrative boundaries. The prevailing policies and current situation of pitch provision in the neighbouring authorities have therefore been researched. For the most part other local plans in Surrey have adopted NPFA standards for the provision of recreation, play and open space. In most cases planning policies seek developer contributions to open space, play and outdoor sport provision, with varying requirements based on local circumstances.

In Surrey Heath (Local Plan adopted 2000), the use of the NPFA standard highlights significant deficiencies overall in open space provision, albeit there is no current

shortfall of pitches, though sites are allocated for future and latent demand. Runnymede Local Plan (2001) encourages additional open space and recreational facilities in accordance with NPFA standards, and several sites are identified and allocated. Elmbridge (2000) also bases its provision on NPFA standards, and a previous 1999 study identified playing field shortfalls in some wards. Similarly Guildford (2003) uses NPFA, and this forms the basis of facility provision in new development. The current picture in Surrey therefore is of a traditional reliance on NPFA standards, some pitch shortages when judged against this national standard, but maybe a shift towards local PPG17 assessments and refined use of developer contributions in the emerging local development frameworks.

In concluding this section on the strategic context it is increasingly important that those responsible for the planned provision of sports and recreation opportunities achieve this in a coherent and integrated way. Planning such opportunities should be founded on a solid assessment of local needs and opportunities, which this report is intended to provide.

SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR PLAYING PITCHES

Supply

There are estimated to be 130 pitches in Woking (including an estimate of pitches on junior school sites). Of these 59 are in Secured Community Use (SCU), and a further 33 in some other form of community use, mainly on school sites.

At this stage and in line with Towards a Level Playing Field it is appropriate to define what is meant by a 'community use' and to determine those pitches with 'secured community use'. This differentiation is important because it represents the difference between a long-term agreement with a provider ensuring open access, and an ad hoc arrangement that can be terminated at short notice.

In reality this means:

- pitches that are owned and managed by the local authority.
- facilities owned, used or maintained by voluntary sector clubs that are available for use by large sections of the community through membership of a club or admission fee.
- pitches at education sites that are available for public use through the adoption of formal community use arrangements
- other institutional/ private facilities that are available to the public as a result of formal dual/community agreements.

Secure Community Use Agreements at educational establishments are only considered to be secure in the following circumstances where:

- a formal written community use agreement in place
- a lease management arrangement between the Council and the school is in place requiring the pitch to be available to community teams

- the school has a written policy of dual/community use with a published scale of charges.
- school governors minutes refer to permitting the use of pitches by community teams
- there is a written commitment from the school, and the club to the use of pitches throughout the season.

There are 60.3 ha of pitches in SCU, which equates to 0.68 ha/1000 population (2001 Census). This compares with a recommended minimum level of 108.7 ha if provided in accordance with the National Playing Fields Association standard of 1.21 ha/1000. There are 80.0 ha of pitches in wider CU (0.0.89 ha/1000).

A detailed database of pitches is included in Appendix 3.

Table 3							
Availability	Senior Football	Junior Football	Mini Soccer	Cricket	Rugby Union	Hockey STP	incl
A1	15	6	9	8	2	2	
A2	9	2	1	5			
A3							
B	8	5	12	1	2	1	
C	3	6	21	5	6	1	
Total	35	19	43	19	10	4	

There is a wide distribution of pitches throughout the borough, although most pitches inevitably are located in the main built up areas.

Comparison with other areas

The total number of pitches in the study area equates to one pitch per 1319 people (senior pitches only to allow comparison with other studies) as follows:

Table 4	
Local Authority	Ratio
Kennet	1:365
Bromley	1:602
Cambridge Area	1:621
Hounslow	1:625
Daventry Town	1:658
Mid Suffolk	1:679
Lincolnshire	1:684
Castle Morpeth	1:718
East Cambs	1:745
Leicestershire	1:747
Barrow in Furness	1:827
Stevenage	1:852
St. Helens	1:970
Portsmouth	1:1087
Preston	1:1135
Thurrock	1:1150
Wansbeck	1:1164
Redcar and Cleveland	1:1269

Woking	1:1319
Southwark	1:2842
Average	1: 968

The ratio of pitches to population in Woking is therefore very low. Local ratios for specific sports pitches (full-sized) have been compared with the national picture as far as it is known – the ratio is the total population per pitch in each category in the district and nationally.

Table 5		
	Woking	England
Senior Football	1: 2562	1:1840
Cricket	1:4728	1:4243
Rugby Union	1:8984	1:8271
Hockey/STP	1:22460	1:8968

In all sports therefore, there is a lower proportion of pitches in Woking than the average. These figures should be treated with some caution as all pitches, whether available to the community or not, are included and the comparative national data is derived from an unpublished Sports Council document from 1990 and is therefore somewhat dated. The hockey figure is also dubious as only STPs are included. However the general conclusion confirms that the overall level of pitch provision in Woking is low.

Ownership

The pattern of ownership for all pitches in the borough is set out below.

Table 6		
Sector	Number of pitches	Percentage
Borough Council	42	32%
Private/club	17	14%
Education	71	54%
Total	129	

- One third of pitches are owned by the local authority, which is lower than the national average of 43%.
- A large proportion of pitches are on school sites (much higher than the national average of 29%), but most of these in Woking are not in community use.
- A significant proportion of pitches are owned and managed by voluntary sector clubs.

Within this overall picture, the following details emerge:

- Local authority owned pitches fulfil an essential role in meeting the demand for football in Woking, although the more senior clubs use their own facilities.
- Ground grading criteria introduced by the FA will need to be considered by senior clubs across the Borough.

- Senior cricket is mostly accommodated on private grounds. There is little competitive cricket played on public pitches.
- There is only one rugby club that plays within the Borough, on a local authority recreation ground. This is an unusual situation as most Rugby clubs tend to play on private grounds.
- There is a high proportion of school pitches within the Borough but very little secured community access.

Quality

The following conclusions can be drawn from an assessment of quality of pitches and ancillary facilities undertaken by means of site visits and questionnaire surveys:

- Overall pitch quality in Woking is considered to be no better than average. The main issues are 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 tend normally too have the best pitches
- Most sites in current use have changing rooms, showers, etc, some new and in good condition, though significant improvements are necessary in some cases.
- New ground grading criteria introduced by the FA will impact on successful clubs as they progress up the Football pyramid.
- There is evidence of vandalism of pitches and pavilions
- Lack of floodlit STP training facilities

Detailed quality considerations are dealt with under individual sports below

General conclusions about the local supply of pitches

- Woking has a low level of pitch provision compared with the national average, and well below the historic standard long used by the NPFA.
- In common with most areas, the majority of pitches cater for football
- Ownership and management is varied, though public pitches are all run by the Borough Council, and school pitches make little contribution to community sport.
- The quality of pitches is generally average and some improvements are necessary, while ancillary facilities are variable, and significant refurbishment is required.

Participation in pitch sports

Current national participation and past trends

National participation figures for sport are derived from the General Household Survey (GHS), the latest information on sport being available from the 2002 survey (the percentages represent the proportion of adults who have taken part in the activity in the previous 4 weeks).

Of the pitch sports, only football appears amongst the 10 most popular activities, with 5% of the adult population taking part in 2002. Cricket, rugby and hockey are much less significant, and participants have traditionally accounted for less than 1% of the population each.

Table 7					
Sports	1987	1990	1993	1996	2002
Walking	38%	41	41	45	35
Swimming	13	15	15	15	14
Keep fit/yoga	9	12	12	12	12
Snooker/pool/billiards	15	14	12	11	9
Cycling	8	9	10	11	9
Weight training	5	5	5	6	7
Soccer	5	5	4	5	5
Golf	4	5	5	5	5
Running/jogging	5	5	5	5	5
Tenpin bowling/skittles	2	4	4	3	3
Badminton	3	3	3	2	2
Tennis	2	2	2	2	2
Fishing	2	2	2	2	2
Bowls	2	2	2	2	1
Table tennis	2	2	2	2	1
Squash	3	3	2	1	1
Horse riding	1	1	1	1	1

Trends are notoriously difficult to predict and GHS figures must be treated with caution as totals are low, data relates only to adults and information in successive GHS years is sometimes presented slightly differently. It is necessary to consider other sources of information, and many of the main sports have well-developed web sites.

Football

The FA estimates that there are over 40,000 affiliated football clubs in England with 7 million adult players and 5 million juniors. Participation in senior football has declined in recent years but is anticipated to remain static in the foreseeable future. There are 1.3m affiliated players, including 1m 11- a-side players, 140,000 playing small-sided games and 125,000 children playing mini soccer. These totals comprise 500,000 men, 400,000 boys, 65,000 girls and 25,000 women. In addition there are 10,000 disabled participants. Throughout the country there are 45,000 pitches and 2,000 leagues. More than 1000 clubs have charter status, an accredited quality standard introduced by the FA to ensure clubs and schools have appropriate systems and structures in place for the national game to develop.¹⁴⁰ of these are community charter standard clubs and there are 1200 charter standard schools. 32,000 schools take part in football, there are 30,000 coaches and 27,000 referees

However, a variety of local pitch assessments all suggest that mini soccer is thriving.

While football is predominately a male sport, growth in female participation has increased dramatically. The FA claims it is the fastest growing sport in the country (though a number of other sports claim similarly - see rugby below!). Since 1988, women players have increased from 7000 in 263 teams to the current figure, while girls have gone from 800 in 80 teams in 1993 to 65,000 now. Sports development campaigns (girls football is one of the 10 Active Sports) and work by the FA are likely to reinforce this growth, with probable improvements also at the performance level.

At junior level, and out of school, football has experienced the biggest growth in 'frequent' participation from 37% in 1994 to 43% in 1999, according to Sport England's Young People and Sport Study in 1998. More children are playing due to the popularity of mini soccer, which has seen a 30% increase in participants in three years. The FA forecasts a further increase in youth players of 10% in five years, particularly with the advent of mini soccer leagues and small-sided games.

Associated with a decline in adult participation there has been a huge (3-400%) growth in informal 5-a-side football, normally mid-week on STPs and purpose built centres. By 2002 4.4m adults were playing small-sided games, with more than 1m involved in cups and leagues. This is now the most commonly played form of football with many commercial developers opening sports specific centres to cater for this demand.

Cricket

There are about 660,000 regular adult and youth cricketers in the country. The decline of cricket as a curriculum sport may suggest that participation in cricket is reducing, although the Chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) recently claimed that more people are playing than ever before. The recent Ashes victory may increase interest in cricket though such events tend to have a short-term impact. The advent of soft-ball initiatives, such as Kwik Cricket and Inter Cricket, the development of Flicx artificial pitches and the establishment of County Development Officers over the past 10 years, in the overall context of a fundamental review of cricket at all levels, are aimed at increasing junior participation.

Kwik cricket is played by 1.1m pupils from 90% of the junior schools in the country. A new ECB initiative 'Chance to Shine' has recently been launched which aims to regenerate competitive cricket in one third of state schools (5200 primary and 1500 secondary) by 2015. The scheme is based on coaching, skills awards and competitions and includes teacher training initiatives, facility improvement, equipment provision and holiday activities.

Cricket is also actively seeking the development of female participation. The ECB website claims that 'the number of primary school girls involved has recently increased from 350,000 to 435,000, and secondary schools from 139,000 to 175,000'. The number of women's clubs has increased from 4200 in 1997 to 7600 now. In 2003 it is claimed that there was a 33% increase in female teams, and 2m girls are now playing for the first time. Most women's teams are incorporated into men's clubs.

The introduction of 20/20 is also aimed at making the game more exciting to watch and stimulating younger spectators to become involved.

Rugby Union

The RFU estimates that there are over 0.25m regular adult and youth rugby players each weekend, though there is evidence of a decrease of 12% over the last 5 years in adult male participation. Since 2004 the number of active rugby clubs has fallen from 1537 to 1480. However, increased media exposure and the success of the English National team suggest that current levels of participation in rugby will at least hold up.

The Rugby World Cup win by England in 2003 gave the National Governing Body the impetus for a widespread promotional campaign. More recent figures released by the RFU in November 2005 suggest an increase of 18,000 new adult players, or an increase of 7.6% in overall numbers, over the previous year, in addition to a 16% growth in the first season after the World Cup.

Whilst the decline in the number of participants involved in the men's game is recognised there are many initiatives in place to promote the sport, particularly to young boys and girls. The number of mini teams has increased from a relatively high base by over 4% in 5 years to 5188 now. This is primarily as a result of initiatives by a network of regional RFU development officers, and the development of mini and non-contact rugby that have combined to make the sport very much more popular with younger players. Participation on rugby among primary schoolchildren has increased by 3% to 18%, whilst ironically at the same time, the number of senior schools playing rugby is reported to be down by 11%

Women and girls' participation has increased significantly, although it is still considered a minority sport. The RFU website claims women's rugby to be 'one of the fastest growing women's sports, with over 230 clubs accommodating 8,000 regular participants, a four-fold increase on 1988.

Hockey

The advent of artificial turf pitches has led to increased participation in Hockey, particularly among young players. Hockey is one of the top five most popular games in school, although participation declined from 20% in 1994 to 17% in 1999. English Hockey estimates that 500,000 adults play Hockey at least once a year and there are about 100,000 regular adult players, the slight majority being men. Clubs are decreasing in number but fielding more teams, (50% of clubs run more than 4 teams), although women's clubs run fewer than men's. The majority of clubs have increasing or steady membership and emphasis is placed on promoting Hockey to young people to secure the future of the sport. The current estimate is for 165,000 club members, 1650 clubs and 4,300 teams. There are in excess of 600 full size Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs) in England, the number having doubled since 1990. Despite this many clubs still do not have access to STPs. 80% of clubs use pitches not associated with a dedicated clubhouse, and 63% of clubs travel between five and twenty minutes to get from their pitch to the post match social venue. Water based pitches are now being extensively used at the performance level in the sport but this may inhibit different uses of the pitch by a variety of sports.

Future demand

In analysing the need and demand for any new playing pitches it is important to assess the size and composition of the local sport and leisure markets and the impact they will have on facility usage. Future demand is influenced by a number of factors, none of which is easy to predict with certainty. Population changes form the baseline, but other issues such as changing fashions, the advent and success of sports development campaigns, supply-led demand and latent/suppressed demand could all affect pitch provision up to 2011

Population change

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

Most significantly, the average age of the population will increase over the 5 years – the numbers of young people from 0-14 will 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) will therefore decline by about 2400 (or 4.3%). Conversely, the population from 45-64 (which may include those still playing cricket, bowls or tennis) will increase by 4% and the oldest age groups even more dramatically. The effect of these demographic changes is taken into account in the calculations below. The agreed future population estimates are set out in Appendix 1.

In reflecting the impact of population change on demand, it would be ideal to focus on areas where there is likely to be significant change, to ensure that future provision is in specific areas of demand. However, housing growth in Woking over the past 15 years has predominantly been on relatively small sites throughout the borough, and it is probable that future housing development will follow this trend. Under the circumstances therefore, until the LDF indicates otherwise, population change should be assumed to apply borough wide.

Latent/suppressed/displaced demand

There is some evidence from the survey that demand for pitch sports within the borough is being suppressed by the lack of facilities in Woking. A number of football and other teams have recently folded, but this is because of the normal rationalisation of teams, the natural decline of clubs and the lack of helpers, officials and volunteers, and not because of a lack of pitches. However, some clubs have been forced to locate in neighbouring boroughs, owing to the lack of local facilities and this is reflected in the analysis of the individual sports below. However this should not be viewed as

uncommon as increasingly cross boundary co-operation between providers is being encouraged by government.

Sports development campaigns

The Woking Playing Pitch Strategy will also work towards the achievement of wider strategic aims by supporting the many sports development initiatives that have emerged in recent years. The Government's Sports Strategy 'A Sporting Future for All' issued in April 2000 identified four key issues:

- More opportunities for young people
- Addressing the decline in participation as people get older
- Removing obstacles for those with potential to succeed
- Improving the organisation and management of sport.

It also suggested a five-point plan to increase participation in PE and sport by young people:

1. Rebuild sport facilities
2. Create more Specialist Sports Colleges
3. Extend opportunities beyond the school day.
4. Establish School Sports Co-ordinators to link families of schools together.
5. Ensure that the most talented 14-18 year old have access to the coaching and support they need to become the champions of the future.

To achieve this a number of new initiatives were introduced that included:

- Expenditure of £150 million on school sport.
- The allocation of 20% of lottery funds for youth sport.
- The creation of 110 specialist sports colleges
- The appointment of 600 school sports co-ordinators
- £125 million from the New Opportunities Fund for Green Spaces including playing fields

By encouraging lifelong participation and enjoyment in sport, the government recognise that all children whatever their circumstances and abilities should be able to participate and enjoy PE and sport. It therefore advocated the development of 4 key themes to achieve it. These are summarised below.

- Specialist Sports Colleges
- School Sports Co-ordinator Programme
- Step into Sport
- School/Club links.

Specialist Sports Colleges

A specialist system of secondary schools is being created in which schools develop their own special ethos and spread best practise to others with the aim of raising standards in education. Sport is one of ten specialisms with each school receiving a

£100,000 capital grant and recurrent funding of £123 per pupil based on the achievement of a 4-year development plan. In Woking Winston Churchill School is the designated Sports College in the area.

School Sports Co-ordinator Partnerships

School Sport Co-ordinator partnerships are families of schools that come together to enhance sports opportunities. Partnerships are made up of clusters of schools working together with a Specialist Sports College at the hub. A Partnership Development manager acts as the liaison between feeder Primary schools and the secondary schools in the network, but more importantly they also have a pivotal role in establishing opportunities for children to take part in sport in the wider community.

Step into Sport

As we know sport in this country relies on volunteers whether they be coaches, administrators, officials or managers. Step into sport is encouraging children, young people and adults to begin and continue an involvement in sports leadership and volunteering. The aim here will be to ensure that local clubs receive, develop and deploy a steady supply of new volunteers.

School/ Club Links

Building on enhanced PE and sport programmes in schools, young people will be guided into National Governing Body (NGB) affiliated or otherwise accredited clubs from the School Sports Co-ordinator partnerships. The project will focus on seven sports initially (tennis, cricket, rugby union, football, athletics, gymnastics and swimming.) However schools will also be encouraged to establish links in a broader range of sports and physical activity.

Building on this framework the intention is that many different agencies all work together to increase the choice and participation in sports activity. It also for the first time recognised the need to improve coaching and the pathways to enable those with talent to become World Class athletes through the formation of a network of facilities and support services known as the UK Institute of Sport and English Institute of Sport.

Government policy was later refined in Game Plan the 2001 strategy that recognised there was a need to provide an overall strategy to guide decisions on sports policy that seriously identified the health implications of a lack of participation in sport and physical activity.

The Government has set an ambitious target of 70% of the population of England being reasonably active by 2020 (e.g. 30 minutes of moderate exercise five times per week.) In seeking to achieve this, seven key themes have been identified:

- Addressing the issues of an increasing ageing population.
- Working to alleviate time pressures and the work/life balance.
- Working to solve the obesity problem and promoting well-being.
- Increasing levels of investment through linked funding
- Better use of educational resources and related opportunities

- Providing new approaches to variations in access across the social groupings
- Supporting volunteers and professional in developing activities.

At the heart of all this high level policy development Sport England has consistently advocated their own policy agenda. With the introduction of the National Lottery in 1996 it was able to influence others and provide significant funds circa £600 million per annum to ‘invest in our sporting future’

In its strategy ‘England – the Sporting Nation’, the then English Sports Council in 1997 set an overall target of a 20% increase in the number of adults taking part in regular sporting activity by 2002, together with similar targets for more specialised areas, such as young people and extra curricular sport, improved numbers receiving coaching and better international performance. The principal themes at the time were focussed on More People, More Places and More Medals.

As part of the wider Sport England More People Programme, Active Sports was introduced as a development programme coordinated by Sport England and delivered by 45 partnerships throughout the country, aimed at helping young people to achieve more from their chosen sport. Ten sports were highlighted for action, including the pitch sports of hockey, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and girls’ football. The aim was to make a contribution to several of the strategic targets highlighted above, including a 10% increase in boys joining clubs and taking part in sport regularly, a 20% for girls and a 20% increase in overall participation by adults, especially among women.

Other ‘Active’ programmes Active Schools and Active Communities also attempted to provide a series of linked programmes aimed at helping children and young people achieve more in sport and improve the delivery of sporting opportunities at a local level for the whole community.

The major question is how the targets above are to be measured and sustained and what contribution pitch sports will make towards the achievement of these targets. There is no doubt that the introduction by governing bodies of sport of ‘abridged’ versions of their sport to enable young people to develop their basic skills in a friendly environment including mini-soccer, mini-hockey, Kwik cricket and mini-rugby, are all playing a role and the indications are that early involvement in small-sided games encourages a legacy of long-term involvement in these sports.

Influence of new facilities on participation

Demand can in some instances be supply-led – that is the provision of new or improved facilities can by itself generate demand that may not have existed before. The construction of new leisure centres by local authorities in the 1970s was not generally based on detailed research of demand, but their ultimate success illustrates how demand is often articulated once new opportunities become available. STPs demonstrate the same phenomenon. The development of informal leagues and competitions at new 5-a-side football centres and on floodlit STPs throughout the

country is having a similar impact on the traditional weekend participation rates for 11-a-side football, although without commercial facilities this is not currently being experienced in Woking. In the short term the evidence suggests a decline in participation though it is possible in the longer term that overall participation could increase. In general, the improvement or provision of pitches and ancillary facilities could generate their own demand for pitch sports.

Media exposure of individual sports

National success at events such as rugby and football World Cups, World and European championships, The Ashes and the Commonwealth and Olympic Games raises the profile of sport, and can often lead at least in the short term to heightened interest and greater participation. As mentioned previously the success of England in winning the Rugby World Cup, and the appearance of new heroes like Jonny Wilkinson, could lead to significant increases in participation among juniors in particular, though this depends on a range of factors apart from pitch availability.

Similarly the Ashes victory over Australia in the summer of 2005, and the arrival of new heroes like 'Freddy' Flintoff, has caused a immediate upsurge of interest in the game of cricket. Increased exposure of the Premier League, the recent success of the England football team and the emergence of new role models like David Beckham, Michael Owen, Wayne Rooney and Theo Walcott have elevated football to a new level of popularity. However, it is quite possible that demand arising from such factors has peaked, and could well begin to fall as interest wanes naturally. The success of national hockey teams in the Olympics up to 1992 has been tempered by relative failure since, with a consequent effect on interest in hockey. It is clear that participation in pitch sports arising from these factors will continue to fluctuate as always.

Conclusion

The effect of all these changes is impossible to calculate accurately without the benefit of hindsight, but there is highly likely to be a rise in the demand for pitch sports because of the increased profile of some sports, sports development initiatives and a general move towards a healthy lifestyle, which may be mitigated to some extent by the increasing age of the population. Of major significance will be the legacy surrounding the London 2012 Olympics and the impact this will have on overall sports participation.

It is probable that the growth in junior, women's and girls' involvement will be the major factor in any growth, and in the longer term this could have a ripple effect as it works through to higher adult participation. The increasing ageing of the population could lead to heightened interest in veterans clubs, particularly in football, rugby and hockey, while cricket with an already higher age profile will be less adversely affected, though veterans' sport is as much a function of culture as of age. Similarly bowls and tennis may suffer fewer effects from the ageing population. The detailed impact on the individual sports is considered below.

The situation in Woking

The report now examines each individual sport within the Woking area to demonstrate how the national trends are interpreted.

FOOTBALL

Football in the Borough as in most local authority areas is the dominant sport, and comes under the control of Surrey County Football Association. Within this administration, the Surrey Local Football Partnership that represents the key stakeholders in football in the county has published a Surrey Local Football Facility Strategy for 2003-2006. It is aligned to the FA's National Game and Football Development Strategy and sets out a clear direction and objectives for facility development in Surrey. Key findings that arise from the strategy that are appropriate for Woking, which is included as one of five priority areas selected for additional youth football include:

- The development of mini soccer centres.
- The need for more youth football pitches.
- The need to increase the number of women girls playing football and to develop a sustainable league structure.
- To support at least one Community Club in each district supporting a range of schools
- improvement of the quality of existing facilities
- The improvement of the number and availability of floodlit training facilities
- improved access to pitches located on school sites with all charter standard clubs having a link with a local school.

Current participation figures within the County are as follows:

697 Adult Clubs and 312 Youth Clubs making a total of 1009 clubs.

1063 adult teams and 1733 youth teams making a total of 2796 teams.

As the strategic plan for football in Surrey the report highlights:

- there has been significant growth in girls' football. Evidence collected as part of this report indicates that there are 15 junior girls football teams and 3 senior women's teams in Woking.

Whilst the number of senior clubs affiliated to Surrey County FA is decreasing the number of youth leagues is increasing with more children playing football due to the increasing popularity of mini soccer.

In order to satisfy this growth there is a need for more mini and junior size pitches;

- There is a need to improve quality of pitches
- a need to improve changing facilities and provide social accommodation
- increased demand for quality changing facilities suitable for girls/women’s football, strategically located in the County
- There is a need to provide floodlit coaching and training facilities
- At present a number of pitches located across the Borough, are expensive to maintain, are over played, have no proper drainage, and have modest changing accommodation and car parking provision.
- Participation in adult football is static but junior football, mini soccer and girls and women’s football is expanding with the commensurate need for more junior and mini soccer pitches as well as improvement to the quality of all pitches and ancillary facilities for all football

Clubs and teams

The clubs and teams known to be based or playing in Woking are included in Appendix 2. In summary form, the number of teams and players is set out below.

Table 8			
	Under 10	10 – 15	16 and over
Teams	63	67	74
Players	630	1005	1110

It is estimated that there are about 2750 regular footballers in Woking, about 3% of the borough’s population.

Team Generation Rates (TGRs) are the ratio between the number of teams within a defined area, and the total population within a given age range for that area. TGRs for football in previous studies have been calculated for the 10-44 years age group, as this tends to be the ‘football team generating’ section of the population most closely coinciding with available population data. Identifying TGRs provides the means to:

- Compare participation in competitive football between Woking and other areas where similar studies have been undertaken, and therefore identify how typical is local participation
- Assist modelling future demand for pitches

By dividing the estimated number of male football teams catering for players of 10 years old and over within Woking into the estimated number of males aged 10-44 (21,550), a TGR of 1:175 is produced. This can be compared with estimated TGRs for other areas where similar studies have taken place.

Table 9	
Area	TGR
Mid Suffolk	1:114
Thurrock	1:141
East Cambs	1:141
Daventry Town	1:150
Cambridge area	1:158
Stevenage	1:169
Woking	1:175
Ellesmere Port	1:182
Kennet	1:183
Crawley, Horsham, Hastings, Bexhill, Maidstone	1:183
Wansbeck	1:210
Barrow in Furness	1:211
Portsmouth	1:236
Castle Morpeth	1:260
Tyne and Wear	1:290
Preston	1:343
Redcar and Cleveland	1:434
Average	1:220

The Woking TGR is therefore higher than the average from similar studies, and indicates the relatively high level of activity in football in the area.

Previous pitch studies using Sport England’s methodology have concentrated on the male 10-44 years age group, but the development of mini-soccer, with its requirement for small pitches and goals, necessitates a more detailed analysis of TGRs. To plan effectively for future demand it is therefore appropriate to consider three separate TGRs:

- Under 10s, to cater for mini-soccer
- 10-15s to cater for junior football on small pitches
- 16s and over to cater for youth and senior football

Estimated TGRs for these age groups in Woking are as follows.

Table 10			
	6-9	10 – 15	16 -44
Male population	2350	3350	18200
Teams	63	53	70
TGR	1:37	1:63	1:260
SE Average	1:374	1:168	1:422

The average figures are taken from Sport England’s website, and are based on the results of other similar studies done throughout the country up to mid 2003. These averages should be treated with some caution as these results have not been updated, refer to a variety of types of different local authority areas, and may reflect slightly differing methodologies. However, the Woking figures suggest the following:

- Very high generation rates for junior and mini football compared with the SE average, reflected in a developing club structure and evolving leagues
- Still high adult TGRs, but significant drop-off rates in adult participation as young people’s interest in football declines in the face of other interests and commitments, and older age and physical decline set in – this trend is common to all similar studies.
- With the need to implement the FA ground grading system clubs will need to ensure that they meet the appropriate grading requirement for their current level of play and if promoted can reach the next step by the following April in the year they achieve promotion.

Female football in Woking is less well developed. The equivalent TGRs for girls are as follows:

Table 11		
	10-15	16-44
Female population	3500	18900
Teams	15	3
TGR	1:233	1:6305
SE Average	1:2146	1:9339

Again local participation and team generation rates are higher than the national average, with the same provisos regarding Sport England figures as above

Current demand for pitches

The temporal demand for pitches in Woking occurs almost entirely at weekends, although some senior clubs will play end of season matches in midweek. Nationally there has been a trend towards Sunday as the most popular day for playing football, reflected in a 80:20 split between Sunday and Saturday. This is broadly reflected in the Woking situation.

Table 12			
	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek
Adult/youth	44%	51%	5%
Junior	2%	98%	4%
Mini	17%	83%	
Total	23%	75%	2%

Supply of pitches

The supply of football pitches is included in Appendix 3, and summarised below.

Table 13				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Total
A1	15	6	9	30
A2	9	2	1	12
SCU	24	8	10	42
B	8	5	12	25
Total in CU	32	13	22	67

There are thus 42 pitches which are available for community use as of right and a further 25 pitches with some degree of ‘de facto’ public access, mainly on school sites.

Comparing current supply and demand

The current requirements of teams for pitches in Woking have been compared with existing supply in line with Sport England’s methodology as set out in ‘Towards a Level Playing Field.’ In order to reflect local circumstances over the whole borough, and the need to provide facilities where they are most needed (particularly for junior players), the analysis has been undertaken on a geographical basis using three sub areas agreed with the local authority as follows:

- **East area** – wards of Byfleet, West Byfleet, Horsell East and Woodham, Maybury and Sheerwater and Pyrford
- **West area** – Horsell West, Knaphill, Goldsworth East and West, Hermitage and Knaphill South, Brookwood, St Johns and Hook Heath
- **South area** – Mayford and Sutton Green, Kingfield and Westfield, Old Woking, Mount Hermon East and West.

The assessment for each of the sub areas is as follows:

Table 14						
EAST AREA						
Stage 1 Identifying teams						
Adult	34					
Junior	18					
Mini	25					
Total	77					
Stage 2 Home games per team per week						
0.5						
Stage 3 Total home games per week						
Adult/youth	17					
Junior	9					
Mini	12.5					
Total	38.5					
Stage 4 Temporal demand for games						
	Sat	Sun	Midweek			
Adult/youth	32%	65%	3%			
Junior		100%				
Mini	44%	56%				
Stage 5 Pitches required to meet demand on peak days						
	Sat	Sun	Midweek			
Senior	5.4	11.1	0.5			
Junior		4.5		This allows 2 games per Sunday		
Mini		4.2		This allows 3 games per Sunday		
Stage 6 Community pitches available to meet demand						
	SCU	CU	Total			
Senior	9	3	12			
junior	2	5	7			
Mini	1	12	13			
Total	12	20	32			
Stage 7 Under use or shortfall of pitches						
	Peak demand	Pitches in		Total pitches in CU	Shortfall/underuse	
		SCU	Shortfall/underuse			
Adult	11.1	9	--2.1	12	0.9	
Junior	4.5	2	-2.5	7	2.5	
Mini	4.2	1	-3.2	13	8.8	
Total	19.8	12	-7.8	32	12.2	

There is thus a shortfall of pitches in SCU across all age groups in the East area, although the availability of school pitches does currently allow matches to be played. Junior and mini pitches are currently played consecutively on the same pitch on

Sunday, (the carrying capacity of pitches is normally sufficient for 2 junior or 3 mini per week), and this is possible because of some flexibility on the part of clubs and leagues. If all junior matches were required to be played at the same time (say Sunday morning or afternoon), there would be a larger shortfall.

Table 15					
WEST AREA					
Stage 1 Identifying teams					
Adult/youth	19				
Junior	17				
Mini	10				
Total	46				
Stage 2 Home games per team per week					
	0.5				
Stage 3 Total home games per week					
Adult/youth	9.5				
Junior	8.5				
Mini	5				
Total	23				
Stage 4 Temporal demand for games					
	Sat	Sun	Midweek		
Adult/youth	47%	53%			
Junior	6%	94%			
Mini		100%			
Stage 5 Pitches required to meet demand on peak days					
	Sat	Sun	Midweek		
Senior	3.8	5			
Junior	0.5	4			This allows 2 games per Sunday
Mini		1.6			This allows 3 games per Sunday
Stage 6 Community pitches available to meet demand					
	SCU	CU	Total		
Senior	9	1	10		
junior	3		3		
Mini	5		5		
Total	17	1	18		
Stage 7 Under use or shortfall of pitches					
	Peak demand	Pitches in SCU	Shortfall/underuse	Total pitches in CU	Shortfall/underuse
Senior	5	9	4	10	5
Junior	4	3	--1	3	-1
Mini	1.6	5	3.4	5	3.4
Total	10.6	17	6.4	18	7.4

In the West area there is overall an adequacy of pitches, although there are insufficient junior pitches in SCU or wider CU. The same considerations apply to the use of junior and mini pitches as above.

Table 16					
SOUTH AREA					
Stage 1 Identifying teams					
Adult	29				
Junior	24				
Mini	28				
Total	81				
Stage 2 Home games per team per week					
	0.5				
Stage 3 Total home games per week					
Adult	14.5				
Junior	12				
Mini	14				
Total	40.5				
Stage 4 Temporal demand for games					
	Sat	Sun	Midweek		
Adult	55%	35%	10%		
Junior		100%			
Mini		100%			
Stage 5 Pitches required to meet demand on peak days					
	Sat	Sun	Midweek		
Adult	8	5.1	1.5		
Junior		6			This allows 2 games per Sunday
Mini		4.4			This allows 3 games per Sunday
Stage 6 Community pitches available to meet demand					
	SCU	CU	Total		
Adult	6	4	10		
junior	3		3		
Mini	4		4		
Total	13	4	17		
Stage 7 Under use or shortfall of pitches					
	Peak demand	Pitches in SCU	Shortfall/underuse	Total pitches in CU	Shortfall/underuse
Adult	8	7.6	-2	10	2
Junior	6	3	-3	3	-3
Mini	4.4	4	-0.4	4	-0.4
Total	18.4	13	-5.4	17	-1.4

In the South area, there is a shortfall of all types of pitches in SCU that is only slightly mitigated when all pitches are included. The same considerations apply to the use of junior and mini pitches as above.

If these results are aggregated over the whole borough, the situation is as follows

Table 17				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Total
Current peak demand	24.1	14.5	10.2	48.8
Existing pitches in SCU	24	8	10	42
Shortfall/surplus in SCU	-0.1	-6.5	-0.2	-6.8
Existing pitches in CU	32	13	22	67
Shortfall/surplus in CU	+7.9	-1.5	+11.8	+18.2

At the current time therefore it is estimated that there is a shortfall of **6.8** pitches in SCU to meet demand, comprising mainly junior and mini pitches. If all pitches with some degree of community use are included, there are sufficient pitches to meet current demand. Clearly existing levels of activity are maintained despite the apparent lack of suitable pitches in secured community use, and this can be explained as follows:

- Pitches are being used outside the borough by teams who can gain access to them
- Some pitches are being played on more frequently than the recommended or sustainable levels of use (twice per week)
- Some flexibility in kick off times is probably allowed which leads to the use of some pitches more than once per day
- Mini soccer is less damaging to the surface of pitches and a number of games can be played consecutively on the same surface

Future demand

Future demand up to 2011 is composed of a number of factors:

- Population change – the impact of the population increases and demographic changes referred to above is estimated to produce a marginally decreased demand at mini and junior level of 3%, and a larger impact on senior participation (-7%), with the possible exception that veterans football might become marginally more popular (this is treated separately below).
- Sports development initiatives – participation rates at mini and junior level are already exceptionally high, and the opportunity for major further expansion is limited. It is realistic to expect that all the major mini and junior teams in the borough would have teams across the whole age range from under 7 to under 15
- There is a continuing fallout of boys after 15, and an increase in youth teams at under 16 - 18 level may offer the best opportunity for expansion, and at the same time ease the transition into senior football. Over that time scale, if this is

followed through into senior football a small increase of say 5-10% in senior team generation could ensue, despite the obvious and continuing fall out and demographic changes. Girls and women's participation is higher than in many areas, and the scope for additional teams is more limited. However an increase in girls' teams by one third, and a consequent growth in senior women's teams by 2 is a reasonable expectation.

To some degree the future needs up to 2011 require some crystal ball gazing, and it will be appropriate to insert a contingency when calculating future pitch and space requirements to account for this uncertainty. However, it is reasonable to include the following future club and team formation based on existing gaps and shortfalls, clubs' identified development plans, the impact of governing body and league initiatives and demographic changes

- Senior men including vets additional 3 teams
- Youth additional 5 teams
- Junior boys additional 8 teams
- Mini additional 9 teams
- Girls additional 5 teams
- Women additional 2 teams
- Total additional 32 teams

Based on similar patterns of temporal demand as exists at the present, this is likely to produce an additional requirement for pitches by 2011:

- Senior 5 pitches
- Junior 3.3 pitches
- Mini 1.5 pitches
- Total 9.8 pitches

The anticipated future shortfall based on this analysis is therefore as follows

Table 18				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Total
Future peak demand	29.1	17.8	11.7	58.6
Existing pitches in SCU	24	8	10	42
Future shortfall/surplus in SCU	-5.1	-9.8	-1.7	-16.6
Existing pitches in CU	32	13.9	22	67
Future shortfall/surplus in CU	+2.9	-4.8	+10.3	+8.4

The recommended locations for new pitches are set out in the Action Plan and the projected shortfall can be met through the following

Pitch Size	Shortfall	New Site	School Site
Senior	5.1	Unwins x 1	
Junior	9.8	Sheerwater Rec x 1 Goldsworth Park x 3 St Johns Lye x 1 Kings Head Lane x 2	Broadmere School x 1 West Byfleet Junior x 3 New Monument School x 2
Mini	1.7	Knaphill x 2	

Pitch Quality

The quality of football pitches was assessed from a variety of sources. A study of pitches using Sport England's electronic template takes into account pitch slope, evenness, grass cover and other factors, although not drainage (detailed results of the survey are contained in an accompanying CD Rom, available from Woking Borough Council). Adopting the categorisation employed in the template, the following conclusions emerge:

- Excellent pitches at Westfield FC and Woking FC (this is hardly surprising given the status of these senior clubs)
- Good pitches at the majority of other locations
- Average pitches at the Vyne (this is due mainly to the lack of changing accommodation on this site)
- There are no football pitches classed as poor or very poor using this methodology

The Sport England methodology tends to over-score pitch quality because of the lack of consideration of the drainage issue, which in most cases is the most important factor influencing pitch quality.

Clubs themselves were also asked to respond by questionnaire to issues of pitch quality. Generally clubs rated the size of pitches, drainage, levelness, grass cover, goalmouth, markings and overall condition as good or adequate in most of cases, with the exception of Woking Park and Horsell. Inadequate grass cover at St Peter's Recreation Ground, Goldsworth Park and Loop Road and poor drainage at Woking College was highlighted. The majority of respondents were satisfied with the quality of the playing surface with pitches under the direct control of clubs themselves were almost without exception rated good.

Clubs were also invited to rank the pitches they had played on the previous season, although some were understandably reluctant to do so. Favourable comments were received about the pitches at Brookwood Country Park and Waterers Park. The majority of clubs considered that their home pitch was capable of up to two games per week without sustaining long-term damage, but one-quarter restricted this to one match, and about a quarter considered that three or more matches could be accommodated. Postponements due to bad weather during the previous season (2004/05) represented about 4% of the total, though junior games escaped more often.

Site inspection of all pitches confirmed the general overall adequacy of facilities in Woking. The general conclusion to be drawn is that pitches are of average quality, but that some locations require improvements, particularly to drainage and better maintenance and management.

Ancillary facilities

The quality of ancillary accommodation, including clubhouse, pavilion and changing, toilets, showers, storage, parking, disabled access and spectator provision, where it

exists at all, was also addressed by means of the Sport England template (see accompanying CD Rom), together with comments from individual clubs. The conclusions from the visual inspections suggest the following:

- Excellent facilities at Brookwood Country Park, Woking FC and Waterers Park (two of these facilities are relatively new)
- Good facilities at all other sites except those highlighted here
- Average facilities at Byfleet Rec, Goldsworth Park, St Peters Rec, West Byfleet Rec and Westfield FC
- There were no facilities classed as poor or very poor.

Of the questionnaire responses from clubs, only a few considered their changing, shower and other ancillary facilities as good or adequate. There were two locations where clubs rated all or some of their facilities as poor, in particular West Byfleet Rec and St Peters Recreation Ground. Most of these comments related to the lack or inadequacy of showers and toilets, but in some cases changing facilities were simply not available, particularly for junior clubs.

Although a number of new facilities have already received lottery and other external funding, there is clearly a need for urgent improvements to many locations.

Specific comments made by individual clubs in the questionnaire response on pitches are set out below

Club responses

Questionnaires were sent to all clubs, but some key organisations were invited to comment on existing problems associated with their facilities, and any future development activities they were planning as follows:

- Meadow Sports Junior FC are applying for FA Charter Status. The Loop Road Recreation ground has poor practice and training facilities. The pitches are overplayed which means a poor quality surface. Improved drainage and a new floodlit STP are required, along with car park resurfacing. The ground is shared with Old Wokingians who have identified the poor changing facilities in addition to the above comments.
- Woking Boys and Girls
FA Charter standard obtained at this growing junior club who have identified insufficient pitches for training and matches. They play at a variety of sites across the Borough. The changing pavilion at St Peters is perceived to be in a poor state of repair and as a consequence the showers are never used, the toilets are poor and the lighting is always faulty. In addition the club have problems of dog fouling, broken glass and physical and verbal abuse from teenagers. Many of these problems are due to the pitches not being enclosed.
- Knaphill Wanderers
One of a number of strong junior clubs in the district, their rate of growth and junior development mean that they cannot play all their matches at Waterers Park Recreation ground. As a consequence they may not be able to support 12 11-a-side teams next season. They have identified inadequate car parking,

poor refreshment facilities at Vyne Field and goalmouth wear due to casual play by kids as issues, but are very supportive of the help they have received from WBC..

- Woking Ladies are a Charter Standard club playing at Brookwood Country Park. Despite the recognised quality of the facility it lacks sufficient training facilities for the numbers of players involved and this would be improved by the provision of floodlighting.
- Christchurch FC identified poor showers at Goldsworth Park.
- Woking Park and Horsell FC were unhappy about the drainage and size of the pitch at their home venue and are seeking a new location to play their home matches.
- Mayford Athletic
A strong junior club with over 150+ members, who run a very successful major international junior tournament in May. The current lease provided by Surrey CC prevents adult football on the site and this may be a barrier to progression from junior to senior football. In last two years 2 teams have left citing poor facilities as the reason for change, whilst poor drainage and over use of the training area means teams train elsewhere leading to reduced club identity.
- Byfleet Village FC
Currently use Byfleet Recreation ground and Byfleet Primary School for their training and matches. They have identified problems of dog fouling, litter and broken glass on Byfleet Recreation ground, the overuse of changing rooms and the general poor condition of the facilities that require attention.
- St Johns Athletic identified poor parking at West Byfleet Recreation ground, as did Woking Phoenix FC. Inadequate changing, unhygienic toilets, a run down external appearance and lack of lockable secure storage space for equipment all point to improvements needed to the pavilion.
- Woking FC
Professional Club play in the Conference - Have plans for major improvements in 2007/8
- Emmanuel FC
Play at Brookwood Recreation ground Sheets Heath. Lack of clubhouse facility and no separate changing facilities for referees. Comments made on poor state of current changing room's inadequate heating and broken seats etc

Conclusions for football

- At present there are 42 pitches in SCU for football, giving 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 it is estimated that 29.1 senior, 17.8 junior and 11.7 mini pitches will be required throughout the whole district (58.6 in total). There is thus an estimated future shortfall of 16.6 pitches in SCU comprising 5.1 senior, 9.8 junior and 1.7 mini. There is a potential surplus if school pitches are included, but the availability of these and other pitches for use by sports clubs and teams is not guaranteed.
- Woking will need at least one senior pitch which meets Combined County Premiership standard and one pitch to meet Combined County League Division One standard.
- The current and future shortfall can be alleviated by means of 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. Even with drainage and other improvements, it should be normal practice to use all community pitches no more than twice per week to maintain quality (though mini pitches can accommodate more use)
- School sites potentially have an important role to play, but the first responsibility of schools is to their pupils, and few schools have changing facilities available. To fulfil curricular requirements, school pitches are normally only capable of one additional match per week outside of school time.
- Training facilities should be provided and enhanced by improvements to existing grounds, or the provision of new floodlit multi games areas
- Detailed suggestions to meet these requirements are set out in the Action Plan

CRICKET

The Surrey Cricket Board has drawn up a development strategy for cricket that complements the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) National Strategy. The priorities in the strategy are:

- all primary schools to have access to safe indoor and outdoor playing surfaces
- all secondary schools to have access to artificial match and/ or practice playing surfaces and to an indoor hall and nets

- all clubs to have access to grass match and practice facilities; access to artificial match and/ or practice facilities; access to changing and social facilities provided to a minimum standard.

The report indicates the:

- need to improve practice facilities in clubs and schools and/ or joint provision of nets
- need to improve the quality of changing facilities including facilities for women and girls
- need to improve quality of grass pitches to meet ECB technical specification.

More children, particularly boys in the age group 10 to 15 years are playing cricket due to the popularity of the ECB's development programmes and the outreach work of the Surrey CCC. However, there is more scope to develop cricket for girls and women.

Teams and Players

The clubs and teams identified in Woking are summarised below:

Table 19				
Clubs	Venue	Teams	League	Day
Brookwood CC	Sheets Heath	1 sen	Friendlies	
Byfleet CC	Parvis Rd Byfleet	4 sen	SCL/TSL	
Old Woking CC	Queen Elizabeth Way	3 sen, 2 jun	SDL	1 Sat, 2 Sun, jun MW
Pyrford CC	Pyrford	4 sen, 5 jun	CLSC	sen Sat, jun MW
West Byfleet CC	West Byfleet	1 sen	MWVL	
Westfield Saints CC	Westfield Rd	4 sen	SCL	2 Sat, 1 Sun, 1 MW
Woking & Horsell CC	Brewery Rd/Woking Park	5 sen, 8 jun	CLSC	4 Sat, 1 Sun, jun MW
Woking Tigers CC	Wheatsheaf	1 sen	SES/WRL	Sun
Woking & Maybury	Wheatsheaf	1sen,2 jun	WSYCL/WRL	
Total		23 sen, 15 jun		

A number of other casual teams have also been identified, who use public facilities on a more recreational basis. This number of teams yields an estimated 550 regular junior and senior players throughout the district, which is above the national average.

There does not appear to be any female cricket in Woking although Guildford Ladies team have on occasions used pitches in Woking

The role of TGRs in assessing future demand is explained above. Cricket teams of different age groups tend to use the same pitch, albeit often with varying boundary

lengths. The TGR for cricket is therefore calculated overall, by dividing the number of teams into the estimated male population between the ages of 10 and 44.

In Woking this is estimated as follows:

Table 20	
Population	21550
Teams	38
TGR	1:567

This can be compared with TGRs generated through similar studies elsewhere:

Table 21	
Area	TGR
Mid Devon	1:271
Castle Morpeth	1:295
Mid Suffolk	1:297
North Devon	1:298
East Cambs	1:337
Kennet	1:407
Barrow in Furness	1:429
Torbay	1:463
Woking	1:567
Redcar and Cleveland	1:629
Preston	1:714
Thurrock	1:760
Wansbeck	1:805
Daventry Town	1:875
Cambridge area	1:908
Stevenage	1:1158
Portsmouth	1:2808
Average	1:670

This represents a very small sample, from a variety of different areas, but the Woking rate is slightly above average and reflects relatively high levels of current activity and some good junior development.

The new methodology for assessing playing pitch need uses different age groups than above for estimating TGRs. Individual TGRs have been calculated as follows. They compare very favourably with the average TGR contained on Sport England's database of similar studies throughout the country, where the average TGRs are 1:1359 for senior men and 1:667 for boy (the provisos regarding TGR comparisons are the same as outlined in the football section).

Table 22		
	Men 18-55	Junior boys 11-17
Population	17500	3800
Teams	23	15
TGR	1:760	1:253

Demand for pitches.

The temporal demand for pitches throughout the week depends on the league and competition structure, and the demand from junior teams. Adult cricket mainly takes place at weekends and Wednesday evenings, while junior cricket is played on midweek evenings and Sundays. Demand over the week is estimated as follows:

Table 23	
Weekday evenings	42%
Saturday	42%
Sunday	16%

On the assumption that 0.6 home games are played per week, the overall temporal demand for pitches is estimated as follows (the number of teams x % demand for a given time x 0.6):

Table 24	
Weekday evenings	10
Saturday	10
Sunday	4

The figures have been rounded up as appropriate. Peak demand is therefore for 10 pitches on Sunday, and on various evenings throughout the week.

Supply of Pitches

The following cricket pitches have been identified as accommodating community use in the borough:

Table 25		
	Ownership/management	Pitches
Byfleet Recreation Ground, Stream Close	A1	1
Goldsworth Park, Wishbone Way	A1	1
Sheets Heath Recreation Ground, Brookwood	A1	1
St Johns Lye Recreation Ground, St Johns	A1	1
Waterers Park, Knaphill	A1	1
West Byfleet Recreation Road, Camphill Road	A1	1
Wheatsheaf, Horsell Common Rec Ground), Chobham Rd	A1	1
Woking Park	A1	1
Byfleet Cricket Club, adj Parvis Road, Byfleet	A2	1
Old Woking Cricket Club, Queen Elizabeth Way	A2	1
Pyrford Cricket Club, Coldharbour Road	A2	1
Westfield Cricket & Bowls Club, Westfield Road	A2	1
Woking & Horsell CC, Brewery Road, Horsell	A2	1
Total SCU		13
The Bishop David Brown School, Albert Drive, Woking	B	1
Total CU		14

It is understood that the pitches at St Johns Lye, Goldsworth Park and Waterers Park have not been used in the past three seasons.

Cricket can accommodate more 'game days' per season than winter pitch sports, for a variety of reasons:

- Individual wickets can be rotated – most cricket squares in the district contain up to 10 or more separate strips. In total these pitches accommodate more than 200 separate wickets plus a number of artificial wickets.
- Pitches are less susceptible to wear and tear as ground conditions in summer are better
- Artificial wickets where they exist can sustain more usage
- Most local matches are played on a limited-overs basis and pitches can often absorb more than one match per day, especially if one of these is a junior match.

Comparing supply and demand

The number of pitches effectively available for use by the community is 14, including 1 pitch on a school site, and 3, which have been unused for some seasons, and there are therefore currently sufficient pitches to meet existing demand. Some clubs require use of more than one pitch, and have to use alternative facilities elsewhere, while there is spare capacity on some pitches that are only used once a week or fortnight where the club has only one team.

Future Demand

Future demand up to 2011 is composed of a number of factors:

- Population change – demographic changes alone are likely to have a neutral effect on participation in cricket. In line with football, the demand from junior age groups will decline by about 3%, and among adults up to 45 by about 7%, if these move in line with population changes. There could be an increased demand among those over 45, as cricketers can, and often do, play well into their 60s, but this would only mitigate the affects on the younger age groups
- Sports development initiatives

The Surrey County Cricket Board has identified three focus clubs in the district at Old Woking, Valley End (who play outside the borough in Surrey Heath but recruit players from Woking) and Woking and Horsell Cricket Club where most development will be concentrated. Several clubs in the Borough provide cricket for boys, and an increasing number of girls, and this development is predicted to continue.

Future development of the sport is likely to be based on additional girls and women playing, junior teams and kwik cricket in schools

The overall impact of population change, junior and female development could be the need to accommodate up to 6 new teams in the district up to 2011. These will be mostly junior (4) and girls/women's teams (2). While much of this demand can be accommodated on existing club pitches, it is desirable to consider the improvement of

3 existing parks pitches, which could then accommodate the additional demand, or new provision on three sites. Changing accommodation will need to be improved to reflect the particular needs of young people and girls/women

Quality Issues

The quality of facilities was again assessed by means of visual inspection using the Sport England template (see accompanying CD Rom), and questionnaire replies from individual clubs. The visual inspection concluded:

- Excellent pitches at Westfield CC
- Good pitches at all other sites
- No sites were considered poor or very poor

The same provisos about the Sport England methodology apply as with football, and the criteria used do not reflect the condition of some pitches on public sites, particularly those that have not been used for some years.

There was a fair response from clubs on the subject of pitch quality. Generally they considered their pitches to be good or adequate, though a 'poor' rating was given to certain aspects of pitches at Valley End. (Although outside the Borough this pitch does meet some demand generated from within the Borough of Woking so is included for the sake of completeness)

Almost no games were cancelled in the previous season due solely to pitch conditions as opposed to weather on the day. From a limited response, clubs considered that their pitches were capable of anything from 1 to 3 matches per week.

The quality of ancillary accommodation including clubhouse, pavilion and changing, toilets, parking and disabled access was also considered. Visual inspection concluded:

- Excellent facilities at Westfield CC
- Good facilities at most other sites
- Average facilities at West Byfleet Rec
- No facilities were classed as poor or very poor

Club responses

Clubs were invited to comment on existing problems associated with their facilities, and any future development activities they were planning as follows:

- Woking and Horsell CC
280 members thriving development club
Issues are poor maintenance of pitches and state of repair of pavilions, particularly in Woking Park.
Improvements in net practice area and facilities for girls cricket

- Valley End CC - 200 members but mainly play outside the borough. They have a role to play in providing opportunities for junior development and the club have planning permission to build a new ground in Surrey Heath, although they need to raise the finance for the scheme.

Conclusions for cricket

There are enough pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand, although a number of pitches are on public parks and have been unused for some years. The majority of pitches owned and managed by the Borough are located on open recreation fields and are not protected. This leaves 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. Whilst the major concern for cricket clubs is 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 is sufficient local provision at Wheatsheaf to meet increase in junior developments, although in general terms the pavilions across the borough are unsuitable for female changing accommodation.

RUGBY UNION

Teams and Players

Rugby provision is weak in Woking, with only one club currently playing in the borough, Woking RFC. The first team currently plays in Surrey League Division Four, and the club regularly fields a second team, which has proved a good testing ground for new talent. The club has no junior sides and there is little development. Woking RFC has about 35 playing members and overall participation in rugby in the borough is therefore very low.

Chobham Rugby Club has an excellent mini and junior development programme but play outside the Borough boundaries. They are the main club in the wider area and have 627 members and field 5 senior teams and up to 22 colts, junior and mini teams. On occasions Chobham RFC use pitches at Winston Churchill School.

It is not relevant to calculate TGRs from this limited basis

Supply of Pitches

Woking RFC currently has access to 2 pitches at Byfleet Rec, and there are other pitches on school sites at Winston Churchill School (1) and Woking High School (1).

Demand for Pitches

Rugby is played solely on Saturday pm, demand from the 2 teams is for an average of 1 senior pitch per week.

Chobham have the occasional use of school pitches in Woking.

Comparing supply and demand

At the present time there is a theoretical surplus of rugby pitches to meet the demand for rugby in the borough.

Future demand

Demand up to 2011 is affected by both population change and the success of development programmes, and there could be a long-term impact because of the 2003 World Cup success of England. The effect of population changes alone is likely to be neutral at best. Woking RFC is not a development club, and the prospect of additional junior and female participation at the club is considered to be remote. Any development of the sport in the borough may well be as the result of initiatives by Chobham RFC.

Quality issues

Pitch and facility quality have been assessed by visual inspection using Sport England's template. It is considered that pitch quality, including size, drainage, evenness, grass cover, markings and general condition are generally good.

Similarly the quality of the ancillary facilities in accordance with Sport England's template was also considered good.

Club responses

Clubs were invited to comment on existing problems associated with their facilities, and any future development activities they were planning as follows:

- Woking Rugby Club run only two teams, and the current facilities inhibit junior development. Some pavilion issues in terms of showers and poor quality suggesting refurbishment. Club wish to develop their own clubhouse.
- Chobham RFC are working to extend their pitch provision with the purchase of additional land from Surrey County Council, but this is outside Woking and therefore the scope of this study. They also intend to improve changing and toilet facilities for women and girls and need to raise £250,000 for the project. Woking Borough Council have already contributed £25,000 to help the club acquire the land.

Conclusions for Rugby

There are sufficient rugby pitches in Woking to meet the demand from the existing club, although some quality improvements are necessary. As much of the development activity is being met by Chobham RFC, albeit outside the

borough, there is not considered a high priority to provide high levels of investment in Rugby.

HOCKEY

Teams and players

The following clubs and teams play hockey in Woking.

Table 26			
Club	Venue	Teams	Leagues
Byfleet Ramblers HC	Winston Churchill S	3 sen	Surrey L4,5,9
Woking HC	Goldsworth Park	12 men, 6 women, 2 mixed, various jun/colts	Nat/Reg/ county leagues

In addition Thames Valley HC based in Egham are known to play some matches at Winston Churchill School.

The two local clubs are estimated to have over 400 playing members. The calculation of TGRs is not appropriate given the small number of clubs, but local participation in hockey exceeds the national average of 0.3%.

Supply of pitches

Hockey is played on STPs in the following locations.

Table 27		
	Ownership/management	Pitches
Goldsworth Park	A1	2
Winston Churchill School	B	1
Total		3

Demand for pitches

Woking HC plays League matches on a Saturday, cup games on a Sunday. Also on Sundays are mixed matches and tournaments, and colts coaching sessions. The club also hosts a range of senior and junior regional tournaments. Fixtures on Saturday are played on both pitches, and kick offs range from 10.00 to early evening. On some days 9 matches are played consecutively on the 2 pitches.

Byfleet Ramblers is a women's club with 3 senior teams and peak demand is for 2 matches on a Saturday.

Current levels of demand are met from the existing supply of pitches

Future demand

A strong junior development programme exists at Woking Hockey Club who play their matches at Goldsworth Park.

Population changes are likely to have a neutral effect on future participation

Other issues

The Sport England template is not considered appropriate to assess the quality of STPs, but a visual inspection of the three pitches suggests that facilities are in good condition, with the proviso (as with all STPs) that the carpets require replacement on a regular basis. Ancillary facilities are also considered good.

Conclusions for Hockey

There are considered to be sufficient STPs in the borough to accommodate estimated future demand for hockey. It may be that Woking Hockey Club wish to convert one of the pitches in Goldsworth Park to a water based pitch to meet the performance needs of the sport. In fact in some quarters this may be appropriate in attempting to secure training camps for 2012 Olympic training. However, this is a matter that will be determined by the Local Organising Committee and any representation to achieve this must be through them. In this scenario where a water based pitch is considered, account must be taken of the displaced football currently played at the venue that will need to be satisfied elsewhere.

OTHER OUTDOOR SPORTS

As part of the overall study, and in order for full comparisons to be made with supply and demand in other areas over the whole range of outdoor recreational space, an assessment was made of facilities for tennis, bowls and netball, including the provision of floodlit multi-games area (FMGAs).

BOWLS

Bowls has not been a priority or main focus of the study and has limited scope for sports development initiatives.

Clubs known to be based in Woking, together with venues, are set out below:

Table 28			
	Sub area	Availability	Number of greens
Byfleet BC	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

Most of these greens contain at least 6 rinks. Teams play variously in the Surrey County Competitions and other local leagues. Based on the limited information provided by clubs and in accordance with similar studies elsewhere, it is estimated that there are about 3-400 regular bowlers within the district, about three quarters of whom are men. It is likely that there are very few junior bowlers (normally less than 5% of total membership). The total represents about 0.5% of the district's population, which is significantly below the national average of 1.9%.

In most cases, club membership is drawn from the immediate surrounding area (i.e. within 5 miles) and clubs are therefore fulfilling a local need.

There are 7 bowls greens in the district, located at the clubs outlined above.

Current and future demand

It is not appropriate to assess demand by applying the methodology used elsewhere, or by the use of TGRs. Adoption of an old Sports Council standard of 10 greens per 60,000 population ('Planning for Sport' 1970) would give a requirement of 15.5 greens in Woking. The current level of provision is clearly below this. Future participation is likely to grow slightly as the ageing population structure increases activity in a sport known to cater especially for older people. In addition the governing bodies have recently taken steps to popularise the game among younger people – indeed at elite level bowls is very much a young person's domain. Most local clubs throughout the country have identified the ageing membership as a problem, and have recognised the need to attract new, young members, and it is likely that Woking clubs are no different. Most clubs have stressed the difficulty of attracting young people to bowls, particularly in the face of competition from other activities.

Population changes up to 2011 are likely to encourage more participation among older people. The 45 plus age group is projected to increase by about 10% over that period, an increase in numerical terms of about 2,000 people. This could have a significant impact on future demand, given the attractiveness of bowls to older people. However, development opportunities for younger participants are limited by a relative lack of involvement by governing bodies in local authorities. .

On the basis of the existing level of provision, and despite potential increases in demand arising from any development and population increases, it is unlikely that further provision of new bowls greens will be required in the district up to 2011. However the increased population in the older age band will exert additional pressures on existing greens and ancillary facilities. There are no synthetic greens in the borough and year round participation is not therefore possible in Woking. The upgrading of a small number of strategically located existing greens to an all weather

surface may be an opportunity to increase bowls activity throughout the winter months.

Quality

The quality of playing facilities (size of green, drainage, evenness, grass cover, overall condition) is generally considered good in almost every respect by visual inspection. In some ways this is not unexpected, as clubs themselves are mainly responsible for management and maintenance of the green and other facilities on site. Ancillary facilities such as changing, toilets, storage and disabled access were less well regarded, many without showers. Specific improvement required by clubs include the following:

- Woking Park Bowls Club
86 members play in Woking Park. Only issue addressed was inadequate disabled access and no disabled toilet. Some vandalism and poor condition of mower shed that is made of asbestos. Maintenance paid for by the club not WBC.

Summary for Bowls

No additional bowls greens are required up to 2011, as the potential demand from the increasing and ageing population is 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, may be required. All existing greens should be retained to meet additional local need, and development programmes actively promoted, particularly among younger people.

TENNIS

Teams and Players There are 7 tennis clubs in Woking, some of which are affiliated to Surrey LTA, as follows.

Table 29	
Club Name	Venue
Byfleet LTC	Pyrford Road West Byfleet
Churchill LTC	Winston Churchill School
David Lloyd LTC	David Lloyd TC
Horsell LTC	Queen Elizabeth Gardens
Wishel LTC	Fircroft Close
Woking Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club	Pine Road
Woodham Court Sports Club	Martyrs Lane

A number of local schools are also classed as members of the British Schools Tennis Association.

Membership levels at clubs are variable – Woking LTC has over 600 members, Byfleet 750, while others have just a few. It is estimated that there are about 1500-2000 playing members at these clubs, of which juniors comprise maybe one third. This is compared with the national average of 2% of the population, although the latter figures include casual participants not just club members. Participation in tennis

in Woking is therefore very high. Affiliated clubs play in the various leagues in the area ranging from National Club tournaments, Surrey competitions and Woking local leagues, while other clubs tend to play more recreationally.

Facilities specifically available for tennis have been identified as follows:

Table 30				
	Sub area	Availability	Number of courts	
Sheets Heath Recreation Ground, Brookwood	West	A1	2	
West Byfleet Recreation Road, Camphill Road	East	A1	3	
Woking Park	South	A1	5	
Horsell Bowls and Tennis Club, Queen Elizabeth Gdns	West	A2	1	
Wishel LTC	South	A2	2	
Woodham Court Sports Club, Martyrs Lane, Woodham	East	A2	2	
David Lloyd Tennis Centre	South	A2	4	Plus 8 indoor courts
Byfleet LTC, Pyrford Road	East	A2	11	4 floodlit, plus 2 indoor
Woking LT & Croquet Club, Pine Road, St Johns	South	A2	18	4 Floodlit Arylic, 3 grass, 5 macadam, 4 floodlit macadam, 2 floodlit other
Total in SCU			48	
The Winston Churchill School, Hermitage Road, Woking	West	B	6	
Total in CU			54	
Goldsworth Primary School, Bridge Barn Lane, Woking		C	2	
Hoe Bridge School, Old Woking Road		C	4	

Future demand

Population increases could 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 currently provide junior development, with the assistance of Surrey LTA. Clubs such as Woking Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club and Byfleet LTC are very developmental, with their own coaches. The LTA's priority is

to develop local centres that have access to at least 3 floodlit courts, with additional courts at larger clubs, and indoor facilities. Bearing in mind current provision, it is 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 is unlikely that any of the 'public' recreational courts currently in existence could accommodate the demand arising from these clubs.

Quality issues

Visual inspection confirms that most club facilities are in good condition, though public courts are less so.

Club responses

Clubs were invited to comment on existing problems associated with their facilities, and any future development activities they were planning as follows:

- Byfleet LTC
Large private Club 750 members 13 courts 2 of which are indoor 6 floodlit
Good parking share site with Fitness centre and pool. No major issues. Only the provision of additional floodlights. Car parking good.
- Churchill Tennis Club
play at Winston Churchill School small club 22 members
4 floodlit courts
- Wishe Tennis Club
93 members looking for a new site, potential to take over at Woking Park 2 courts at present poor parking on site. Need more courts to expand would sell their current site

Summary for tennis

Existing tennis facilities meet 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 are 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.

ATHLETICS

UK Athletics has published 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.

The report recommends:

- the provision of new outdoor synthetic tracks should be provided against a criteria of one track to 250,000 people within a 20 minute drive (or 45 minutes in rural areas)
- in less populated areas where an outdoor synthetic 400m track cannot be justified, every encouragement will be given to training facilities such as a sprint straight with bend and jumping pits etc.
- There are 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.
- the development of athletics tends to be centred on main centres of population and where there is the provision of a 400m running track with ancillary facilities
- athletes will travel considerable distances to avail themselves of specialist facilities and coaches will gravitate to these locations and develop a group of athletes
- promising athletes living in rural areas are at a singular disadvantage to those living in urban areas with access to a track facility

There is one club in the Borough based in Sheerwater. This serves the whole of Woking and was the subject of a substantial Lottery grant from Sport England to upgrade the athletic facilities. It is one of five athletics tracks in Surrey with the closest to Woking being Guildford Spectrum and Walton on Thames. The nearest Indoor Athletics facility is 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 has now been abandoned.

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

Summary for athletics

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

SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES (STPs)

Existing facilities

There are 3 STPs in the borough (see hockey), located at Goldsworth Park and Winston Churchill School. All are sand based pitches, and cater primarily for

hockey, at a competitive, training, development and recreational level, and football training. There is 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 this assessment

Needs assessment

An assessment was undertaken by Sport England using its Facilities Planning Model of the adequacy of facilities in 2002, which differentiated between the demand on weekdays for hockey training and recreational football, and at weekends for competitive hockey. The analysis was conducted on a national basis and no priority areas for additional provision were identified in Surrey.

Analysis

No new parameters have been identified for STPs since the 2002 national run, and STPs are not currently featured in the new 'Facilities Calculator' developed by Sport England to highlight future sports facility provision.. It is therefore difficult to be precise about current and future provision of facilities.

The following factors must be taken into account in assessing future need:

- Population has increased slightly since the 2002 FPM run was undertaken (by some 4%), and demand is likely to have increased accordingly.
- Sports development activities have increased the demand for STPs for training, coaching, competitions and development work.
- The Football Foundation and FA are promoting the use of a third generation type of STP, which accommodates a rubber crumb surface, which is particularly suitable for football training and competition, and has considerably increased the demand for STPs. One such surface has been developed which is also suitable for low-level hockey competition.

In the absence of a detailed statistical assessment of STP requirements (which is unlikely to be available through Sport England until later in 2006), it is appropriate at this stage, in line with other similar studies elsewhere, to adopt a local standard of one STP per 30,000 population in Woking. Compared with this standard there is a broad adequacy of STPs in the borough to meet current and anticipated future need. However all existing STPs are sand based, and the provision of a new Third Generation STP 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.

Summary for STPs

Despite the changed circumstances since the last needs assessment, it is unlikely that demand has increased to the extent that additional STPs can be justified at this 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 is likely that significant refurbishment of the existing STPs will 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 the subject of further investigation, and the adequate relocation of football activity displaced by such a move.

MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

There is limited provision for multi use hard-court and games areas (MUGAs) throughout the district. The following MUGAs have been identified:

Table 32			
	Sub area	Availability Pitches	
Omega Road	East	A1	1
Sheerwater Recreation Ground	East	A1	1
Goldsworth Park Recreation Ground	West	A1	1
Woking Park	South	A1	2
New Monument School, Alpha Road, Woking	East	B	1
Sythwood Primary School, Sythwood, Woking	West	B	1
Total			7

MUGAs, especially when floodlit, have an important role to perform both for formal sport (particularly training) and for informal play, and when planned as part of an overall strategy can fulfil an invaluable developmental function. They do however require positive management and promotion, and ongoing maintenance to deter and prevent vandalism. The role of the local sports development officer can often be crucial in ensuring their proper use. They can then be suitable for a range of sports including tennis, basketball, netball and five-a-side football.

Future demand

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 12 locations, as set out in the action plan. This will mean establishing a hierarchy of provision for both recreational use and competition purposes. In addition improvements are required to some existing facilities, including the possibility of lighting to those currently unlit, subject to planning permission.

Summary for FMGAs

New floodlit FMGAs can 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 need to be addressed.

OUTDOOR BASKETBALL INITIATIVE

A number of outdoor basketball posts have been erected as part of the English Basketball Association's Outdoor Basketball Initiative (OBBI). OBBI and other freestanding facilities are located as set out in the table below.

Table 33
Boundary Road
Byfleet Recreation Ground
Goldsworth Park
Loop Road
Omega Road
Sheerwater Recreation Ground
St Peters Recreation Ground
Sussex Road recreation Ground
Waterers Park
West Byfleet Recreation Ground
Wheatsheaf Recreation Ground
Southwood Ave, Knaphill

The aims of the OBBI programme are to provide a network of outdoor facilities for casual and organised play, which encourages 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 is no evidence that activity rates meet these targets at the facilities in Woking and further development initiatives are required. It is not proposed to make provision for additional freestanding basketball posts in the district except where these are provided as part of a wider multi games or play area.

PROPOSED LOCAL STANDARDS

General

To meet the future requirements for pitches up to 2011 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 2011 population of 92,260 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 and these are set out below

Pitches

Football The future requirement for 60 pitches (comprising 30 senior, 18 junior and 12 mini), plus a contingency of 10% to cover future uncertainties, and a site multiplier to incorporate ancillary facilities such as space for changing, parking, etc (see Appendix 5) gives a required future standard of provision of 0.55 ha. per 1000 population.

Cricket The future requirement for 14 cricket pitches, plus a similar contingency and multiplier, gives a required future standard of provision of 0.33 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 STPs under built facilities

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 59 courts, which including a 10% contingency gives a required standard of 1 court per 1420 people, or 0.7 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 19 bowls greens which including a contingency of 10% gives a required standard of provision of one green per 11500 people or 0.09 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-(FMGAs) – The future requirement for FMGAs is for 14 courts in total, which including a contingency of 10% gives a required standard of provision of one court per 5750 people or 0.17 courts per 1000 population. This corresponds to 0.02 ha. per 1000 population, to include space for ancillary facilities if required. Similar criteria for location, design, etc apply as with pitches. FMGAs are best located in conjunction with existing sports grounds, schools, and other recreation facilities, where economies of scale for ancillary facilities may be available.

Synthetic Turf Pitches (STP) On the basis of the findings of the STP analysis the future requirement for STPs in the district is for up to three facilities in total. This equates to one STP per 30,000 people or 0.033 STPs per 1000 population, or a space equivalent of 0.03 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
FMGAs	0.02 ha/1000
STPs	0.03 ha/1000
Total - all outdoor sport	1.04 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 PPG17 and recent Circulars.

STRATEGY & RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy Implications, priorities for action and key recommendations

The research findings from the playing pitch study in Woking lead to the following observations and recommendations that can be used to inform a variety of strategic documents including the Local Plan; Cultural Strategy; Green Spaces Development Plan; and Community Strategy. Seven Key areas are identified:

- **Protection of existing provision** - the identification of existing provision which should be retained – facilities which are important in avoiding deficiencies in quantity, quality and accessibility as identified in the preceding analysis
- **Enhancement of existing provision** Existing provision to be enhanced – facilities which are important in avoiding deficiencies but which are identified as not meeting current and future quality requirements
- **Planning for new provision** Areas where new provision is required – facilities needed to meet a shortfall or where existing facilities are outside the thresholds of existing populations
- **Dealing with identified surpluses** Possible relocation or rationalisation of facilities, where current provision is not meeting a need or the best interests of sport can be met by alternative location or provision
- **Other issues leading to a strategic approach**
- **Making it happen**

- **Detailed recommendations/Action Plan**

Protection of existing provision

RECOMMENDATION 1 All existing sports pitches should be retained, unless the interests of sport and recreation can best be protected through redevelopment of a small part of the site, alternative provision of an appropriate standard is made elsewhere, qualitative improvements are made to other local sports or recreational facilities, or the proposed development is for another sports or recreational facility, the benefit of which would outweigh the loss of pitches or other outdoor facilities. Where outdoor facilities are not required to meet future sports needs, their long-term use as open space should be retained

The emerging planning policies for sport and recreation should include a strong presumption in favour of the retention of all sports and recreation facilities for which the preceding study has identified a current and future need.

Where the local analysis identifies a potential over-capacity, PPG17 requires consideration to be given to the wider needs of all aspects of open space in general, which in itself requires a local assessment to be undertaken of open space. A number of policy options are available if over capacity is identified:

- Further promotion of individual sports can be undertaken where it is evident that participation rates are low
- Pitches can be kept in reserve to take account of unforeseeable circumstances, to reduce wear and tear or to permit usage while improvements are being made to other sites.
- The number of pitches on sites can be reduced to ease pressure on ancillary facilities such as changing or parking, or permit realignment or increases in pitch size
- Pitches can be converted for some other sports use
- Pitches can be converted to some other type of recreational activity, or informal outdoor use, such as urban park or nature reserve.

Except in very limited circumstances (for example on accordance with the recommended playing pitch policy set out in PPG17 and adopted by many local plans), the disposal of sites currently incorporating playing pitches should be resisted. Once lost, playing pitches and open space in general are difficult to reinstate, and the local plan should include a policy that adopts a presumption against the loss of such facilities.

Enhancement of existing provision

RECOMMENDATION 2 a key priority should be to place greater emphasis on improving the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities, and to provide dedicated training facilities at strategic locations across the Borough.

The study identifies the need to improve existing provision as well as identifying potential sites for new pitches. It recommends a number of sites where the pitches and ancillary facilities require improvement.

The priorities for enhancing provision include:

- improving pitches and playing surfaces to increase carrying capacity and reliability
- providing dedicated training facilities with floodlights to ensure maximum usage.
- demolishing, upgrading or refurbishing changing facilities, taking account of the needs of those people with a disability and women girls.
- providing fences to restrict unauthorised use.

The study has made it clear that it is not simply the overall quantity of sports facilities that is critical in meeting demand, but also their quality and accessibility. Teams and players will always prefer, costs permitting, to use good facilities in preference to poorer ones, and may be unable to develop and improve if they are constrained by poor facilities. Many facilities will therefore require enhancement and overhaul.

Facilities such as changing rooms, training areas, floodlights, social accommodation and parking all play a crucial role in developing opportunities to play sport. At the most basic level, changing and shower areas for both players and officials, are prerequisites, though many clubs and teams have become accustomed to even this basic level of provision being lacking.

There are some venues in particular need of overhaul, although Woking is fortunate that most playing fields used by the community have at least a basic level of ancillary accommodation. Investment in such facilities is expensive and providers need to be assured that such facilities will be used. However, it is surely appropriate at this time to ensure clubs and players actually enjoy the experience of playing sport and developing further opportunities, without having to 'make do and mend'. The recommendations for playing pitches include suggestions for the most urgent improvements on the basis that the minimum provision is for home and away changing areas for each pitch, showers and officials' accommodation (guidance and costs are set out in Appendix 5).

A number of facility improvements have been identified as a result of this assessment and these are set out in the detailed recommendations/action plan below. This only represents a snapshot at this point in time. In the longer term other improvements will become apparent and an ongoing programme of improvements will need to be constantly updated.

RECOMMENDATION 3 Future pitch provision should be managed flexibly to ensure that appropriate facilities are available at all times to meet the particular needs of all age groups

Demand for pitches fluctuates over time, and it is imperative that sufficient pitches are available to meet peak demand in the foreseeable future, through the availability of land. Comparative demand for adult and junior pitches, especially football and rugby, will change. Although in practice many junior (i.e. 10-15 year olds) football teams play on adult pitches with full sized goals this is clearly unacceptable for the development of individual skills and the enjoyment of young players – this applies equally to other sports. Any future pitch provision should ensure the possibility of flexibility in playing field layout so that junior and adult pitches are interchangeable according to fluctuating demand

RECOMMENDATION 4 Where possible outdoor facilities should be protected from damage and abuse by other users by means of good planning, design and management of multi-use areas

There is some evidence that the quality of outdoor facilities is affected by unhindered access to public areas, which allows other users, such as cyclists, to adversely affect playing surfaces, and results in fouling by dogs. Suitable solutions could include physical barriers to (wheeled and other) access (by for example the construction of knee-rails), ensuring adequate access around pitches for other casual activities, different management arrangements ensuring clubs have more say on the use of pitches and the ability to remove posts and other hardware when matches are not in progress, or better enforcement. The zoning of recreation grounds to exclude unhindered access to sports pitches could also be considered.

RECOMMENDATION 5 Negotiations should be undertaken on all school and education sites in current or anticipated use by community sports teams to bring all such pitches into secured community use by 2011, with the help of more formal community use agreements, and any necessary improvements made to pitches and ancillary facilities.

School sports facilities (particularly pitches) currently make a limited contribution to community provision, but they do offer junior facilities for which there is a continuing need. School managers and governing bodies often consider community usage to be problematic in terms of cost, security, wear and tear and management, and the primary need to retain pitches for their own curricular requirements. However, as is the case in Woking, there are advantages in making facilities available – raising income through letting, forging closer links with sports clubs and the community and improving sports standards among the school's own students. Many junior teams appreciate the flexibility which school facilities offer, especially where multiple teams from the same club are involved. There is a particular opportunity for additional use of school facilities under the current initiatives for Extended Schools and in conjunction with the Specialist Sports College at Winston Churchill School.

Given that schools and the community require access to sports pitches at different times, there is continuing scope for the use of school pitches to meet future demand. However, there are several provisos:

- The pitches must be physically capable of accommodating extra community use

- School management and letting policy must ensure that clubs have unhindered season-long access, subject to ground conditions, and at least some say in postponements, and that pitches are available at a rent which clubs, especially those catering for young people, can afford
- Ancillary facilities must be available, to include changing rooms and showers

It is suggested that the availability of school pitches to meet any future demand for playing pitch provision be further investigated with schools and other relevant bodies. In some areas of the borough, community use of school pitches may be the best option for meeting future demand

Planning for new provision

RECOMMENDATION 6 New pitch and ancillary facilities should be provided in the locations set out in the Action Plan and future facility needs closely monitored

In accordance with the assessment of need, a range of new facilities are identified which are needed to plug gaps in existing provision or meet future needs arising from population increases or sports development programmes. By necessity these represent a snapshot at this point in time, albeit calculated in accordance with well-researched evidence. Future new facility requirements must be constantly monitored and amended to reflect the prevailing needs at the time. The current priorities are set out in the detailed recommendations/action plan below.

Dealing with identified surpluses

RECOMMENDATION 7 Existing facilities should only be rationalised or relocated where an alternative site offers better quality and accessibility for users

In the long-term interests of sport and recreation, it may be desirable to rationalise or relocate some facilities, because their current location no longer meets the needs of users or the opportunity to develop the site is constrained by site conditions. Where this is considered, the new location must be equally accessible to potential users, in particular on foot, by bicycle or public transport.

Other issues

RECOMMENDATION 8 All organisations responsible for providing and developing pitch sports should consider a number of actions to provide, retain and enhance sporting opportunity in Woking with the Borough Council identified as the lead agency.

The report recognises the crucial role that partners have in protecting all existing areas of playing pitch and in the promotion of opportunities for sports development to enable all people to start, stay and succeed in sport. It identifies Woking Borough Council as the lead organisation in driving the recommendations of this report through to implementation, recognising the empowerment of Voluntary sector clubs. This will allow WBC to prioritise resources based on the identification of strategic clubs supported by National Governing Body development plans

Making it happen

Sources of funding

Inevitably the lack or availability of finance is a major determining factor in the development of sports clubs, facilities, pitches and recreational open space. Local authority finance had for many years suffered from restrictions, including capping, and other reasons for prioritisation. There are various other external sources of funding, though in Woking these are less freely available than in many areas, including the following:

- Lottery funding through the Sport England Community Investment Programme and various initiatives in the Big Lottery Fund
- Football Foundation
- Foundation for Sport and the Arts
- Regeneration funding
- Landfill Tax Credits
- RDA Funding – SEDA
- Section 106 Developer contributions

Lottery funding in particular is increasingly difficult to achieve as additional demands are placed on a diminishing fund. Priorities have therefore been established, in particular concentrating on the most deprived parts of the country and this militates against relatively well-off areas such as Woking. All sources of potential funding, not least the Lottery, are increasingly taking a strategic approach to grant distribution and the development of a strategy for future provision is a necessary first step in improving local success in achieving external grants.

Developer contributions

RECOMMENDATION 9 The developers of all new housing should be required to contribute to the provision of new, and improvement and enhancement of existing, playing pitches, ancillary facilities, other outdoor sports provision and play facilities, as well as built facilities, related to the development in question, in accordance with accepted levels of design and layout, a future standard of 1.04 ha per 1000 population and the standards set out in this report. This local standard should be incorporated in the emerging Local Development Framework

Developer contributions arising from new residential and other development, through planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act, are an important method of securing facility provision. It is clear from planning regulations that recreational facilities are legitimate recipients for funding through such means, subject to certain tests. It is increasingly common to secure assistance towards off-site improvements, as well as on-site provision, so long as the beneficiary is related to the development in question. In an area like Woking with a significant building programme, the potential for this avenue of funding is greater than in other places.

A draft Supplementary Planning Document guiding developer contributions should be prepared to accompany this needs assessment.

RECOMMENDATION 10 Developers should be required to make commuted sums for the ongoing maintenance of outdoor sports facilities in accordance with a predetermined formula

It is normal practice for local authorities to require payments to cover the ongoing maintenance of open space, playing fields and other outdoor sports facilities, by means of a commuted sum. Initially the developer would be required to maintain the open space for a reasonable time, say 12 months, for establishment. Thereafter a commuted sum payment would be required for a period of time, to be determined. The figure is calculated using current contract prices to maintain open space, multiplied to reflect inflation.

ACTION PLAN

The following Action Plan identifies the priorities emerging from the study and suggests a timescale for delivery, potential partners, and an estimate of the resources necessary to deliver the required outcomes.

We believe a realistic timescale for a strategy is between 5 and 7 years, although acknowledge that this Playing Pitch Study seeks to identify need and demand linked to population growth and adjustment over the next five years. A three-year review is appropriate as outlined above.

The timescales for individual actions are shown as:

Short:	1-3 years (S)
Medium:	4-7 years (M)
Long:	+ 7 years (L)

However, it is likely that some of the long-term actions may be superseded by future reviews and revised strategies will need to accommodate the progress made.

Suggested Partnerships

Within the Action Plan it is important to recognise that Woking Borough Council is not the only delivery partner in the achievement of the plan, and that subject to further consultation, it may be that some potential delivery partners may wish to accelerate the implementation of their own aspirations, either with or without the Council. This document merely provides the strategic framework for the achievement of key actions. Indeed it is important to recognise the role of others.

Resource Implications

In seeking to deliver the required outcomes of the Playing Pitch Study, whilst Woking Borough Council are a key player and will look to allocate resources to this area of work, it should also be recognised that the amount of external funding available is limited and could inhibit progress. Woking Borough Council however, does have a successful track record of bidding for external resources, either as part of national programmes or from the Football Foundation as evidenced from the Waterers Park scheme.

Other sources of funds are outlined earlier in the text, but additional funds could come from the following:

- A redirection of capital and/or revenue from existing programmes according to the priority given to the playing pitch study in the achievement of the Council's overall objectives.
- External funding from a range of different national agencies, in the case of football schemes the most prominent partner will be the Football Foundation.
- Developing beneficial partnerships with either the voluntary or private sectors.
- Investment independent of the Council that supports the delivery of the strategic objectives contained within the Playing Pitch Study.
- Developer contributions from Section 106 agreements

All of the above refer to money, but it is also important to consider staff time in the pursuit of the goals outlined in the plan. Other factors that will influence the delivery of the plan such as vandalism and the cost of rectifying problems caused by anti social behaviour, a lack of volunteers and a willingness of partners to adopt the plan or agree to the same priorities must also be addressed. The pressure on the countryside and the scarcity of open space, balanced against the need for additional housing with appropriate leisure amenities all need to be considered against a backdrop of financial pressures on local government finances and an increasing ageing stock of facilities.

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
SO1- To review on a regular basis the need and demand for grass and synthetic playing pitches and improvements to changing facilities	Ensure a strategic approach to playing pitch provision at Local Authority level.	S	WBC	
	Set up an Implementation Review Group and arrange annual meetings to monitor the outcomes of the Playing Pitch Strategy.	S	WBC, LEA Club and league reps.	Internal WBC
	Establish a series of performance indicators for monitoring purposes.	S	WBC	Grant-aid
	Support and identify priorities/programme with the Surrey County FA for grant-aid bids to the Football Foundation for facility improvements	S	Implementation Review Group	
	Review the Strategy on a three-yearly basis.		WBC Implementation Review Group	Grant-aid
SO2- To protect and retain existing sports pitches and open space to ensure that future sporting needs are met as advocated in PPG17	Disposal of pitches should not be contemplated or permitted except in very limited circumstances.	M	WBC	Internal WBC
	Ensure policies are included within Local Plan and Local Development Frameworks and embraced within WBC Green Spaces Development Plan	S	WBC	Grant-aid/Ex
	Promote greater joint working between sport and leisure professionals and land use planners within the Local Authority.	S	WBC	Internal WBC
	Produce a SPD for sport and recreation	S	WBC	

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
SO3-To implement a programme of upgrading of pitches and changing facilities to meet the requirements of the Playing Pitch Strategy at selected sites across the Borough	Suggested building and refurbishment programme across the Borough: Loop Road Recreation Ground Improved Training and practice facilities, Consider construction of FMGA Refurbish pavilion Re surface Car Park Improve localised drainage of pitches	S	WBC, Clubs, FF	600
	St Peters Recreation Ground Build new changing pavilion in new location on ground Woking Boys and Girls looking for land to purchase and build their own pitch – currently using different location across the borough Extra training facilities required. Construct	S	SCC, WBC FF WBC, FF, Clubs	450
	Dog mess, litter and broken glass a problem Ball stop fence to protect new development	S	WBC, Clubs	100
	Waterers Park Recreation Ground Improve car parking Provide better training facilities with floodlights Improve pitch drainage Convert existing casual use tennis area to fmuga	S	SCC, WBC, Clubs	90
	Woking College Improve drainage of pitches Extra changing facilities	S	WBC, Clubs	40

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
SO3- contd To implement a programme of upgrading of pitches and changing facilities to meet the requirements of the Playing Pitch Strategy at selected sites across the Borough	Goldsworth Park Improve poor showers Confirm cricket use at the site Review changing pavilion specifications Investigate provision of 3 additional junior soccer pitches	S	WBC, FF	120
	Improve drainage to existing 3 senior pitches	S	WBC, FF, Clubs	1500
	Brookwood Country Park Explore floodlight provision for playing and security Investigate provision for all weather training facility (FMGA)	M	WBC,FF,Clubs	550
	Westfield/ Woking Park Support Westfield FC Football Foundation Bid for pavilion Investigate the potential to establish a mini soccer centre on the Floodlit area at the back of the Leisure Centre, subject to alternative overflow car parking.	S	WBC,SCC,FF, Clubs	80 50
	Vyne Field Build changing facilities to address the current inadequate toilet provision Consider the provision of a potential mini soccer centre Investigate provision of recreational FMGA	S	WBC	120

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
SO3- contd To implement a programme of upgrading of pitches and changing facilities to meet the requirements of the Playing Pitch Strategy at selected sites across the Borough	West Byfleet Recreation Ground Work with West Byfleet Junior School to secure more community access Extend and refurbish changing pavilion to accommodate this extra demand Investigate improved car parking	S	WBC,FF,Clubs	60
	Wheatsheaf Improve drainage Consider refurbishment and extension of changing pavilion to ensure it is compliant with the Disability Discrimination act. Investigate car parking	M	WBC,Clubs	see Westfield. 130
	Woking Park Refurbish existing tennis courts Discontinue the use of grass Hockey pitches and consider the use of this area for mini soccer. Consider provision of 3rd generation full size Artificial Turf Pitch with Floodlights	M	WBC,FF,Clubs	400
	Brookwood Recreation Ground Sheets Heath Erect improved signage to the site Resurface existing Tennis Courts Refurbish changing pavilion to include the addition of referees changing room Improve pitch drainage	S	WBC,FF,Clubs	40
	Byfleet Recreation Ground Refurbish Changing pavilion and improve the car			

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
SO3- contd To implement a programme of upgrading of pitches and changing facilities to meet the requirements of the Playing Pitch Strategy at selected sites across the Borough	parking subject to further discussion with the Rugby club on their use of this public site. Relocate junior football to possible new facility to be established at Kings Head Lane Byfleet. Cricket square appears to be redundant - take out of use subject to lack of demand Provide FMUGA	M	WBC,FF,Clubs	750
	Sheerwater Recreation Ground Investigate the construction of further pitches Enter into discussion with Sheerwater FC regarding upgrading of current facilities to league specifications Improve drainage in order to provide additional junior pitch	M	WBC,SCC,Clubs	100
	St Johns Lye Recreation Ground Consider the siting and construction of a new changing pavilion in conjunction with the St Johns Memorial Hall proposals 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	L	WBC,FF,Clubs	1300
	Westfield Primary School Site Investigate option to build Flood lit all weather training facility on school site in conjunction with Mayford Athletic FC	S	WBC,WFC	
		L	WBC,FF	50

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
SO3- contd To implement a programme of upgrading of pitches and changing facilities to meet the requirements of the Playing Pitch Strategy at selected sites across the Borough	<p>Kings Head Lane Byfleet Potential for development of mini soccer centre with Byfleet Village FC Construction of new changing pavilion pitches and floodlit training facilities</p> <p>Woking FC Investigate joint venture opportunities with Woking FC re provision of football facilities with the district.</p>	M	WBC,SCC	40
	<p>SO4 -To implement a planned programme of investment in Floodlit Multi use Games Areas at strategic locations across the Borough.</p> <p>Unwins Sports ground – re establish as a football pitch, discuss with football club subject to section 106 agreement.</p> <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>	M	WBC	1000
Further investment in Full Size Floodlit STP	Explore the possibility of installing a hierarchy of	S	WBC,FF,Clubs	See Westfield.

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
SO5 -To develop in partnership with local clubs dedicated training facilities with floodlights to ensure maximum usage.	FMGA's used for both competition and recreational purposes in the following areas: * Recreational Byfleet* West Byfleet* Pyrford * subject to identifying site Horsell* St Johns *subject to identifying site Loop Road	S	WBC, Woking Hockey Club	800
	St Peter's Recreation Ground Old Woking* Brookwood Country Park Vyne Field*	S	WBC, Clubs, SCC WFC	WBC Internal
	Kings Head lane, Byfleet Waterers Park* Westfield Primary School*(or Bonsey Lane)	S		
	Install Full size floodlit 3 rd generation STP at Westfield/ Woking Park	S		
	Investigate provision of Water based pitch in Goldsworth Park recognising need to accommodate displaced football provision	S	WBC, Clubs, WFC	
	Establish a forum to meet with local football league representatives to plan and encourage:		WBC, Clubs	
			WBC, SSP	

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
	<p>-more competitions/leagues for women and girls -more competitions/leagues on a Saturday to ease the pressure of Sunday play -increased coach education and volunteer training to deliver these objectives within an agreed timescale.</p> <p>Give partners the opportunity to add to the list of development proposals outlined in this plan.</p> <p>Establish a list of criteria against which projects may be judged to determine priority applications form support.</p> <p>Work closely with schools, Surrey Sports Partnership to regenerate and increase participation at a junior level.</p> <p>Explore the possible establishment of a mini football centres for Woking at the following locations:</p> <p>Loop Road Westfield/Woking Park Vyne Field KingsHead Lane Byfleet Mayford Centre</p>		WBC,FF,Clubs	See above

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
SO6- To undertake negotiations with schools and colleges to ensure greater use of pitches by the community through formal community use agreements	Encourage community use of the rugby pitch at Woking High School.	S	WBC, SCC, Clubs	
	Secure community use of mini and junior pitches for football at identified schools	S	WBC, Clubs, Schools	
	Secure community use of adult football pitches and additional cricket squares at identified schools			
	Discuss with Bishop David Brown School further use of their school pitches	S	WBC, Clubs School	
	Enter into discussion with New Monument Primary School on the provision of grass pitches for the local community.	S	WBC, School, Clubs	
	Discuss with Knaphill Junior school (adjacent) the use of their playing fields to provide at least 3 additional mini/junior pitches	M	WBC, School Clubs	
	Encourage greater community access to school sites through a review of lease/contractual arrangements.	S	WBC, Schools, SCC	
	Enter into discussion with Surrey County Council over the use of the Mayford Centre as a centre for football development	S	WBC, Clubs, SCC	

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
SO7– To maximise the playing potential of existing pitches by improving the quality of pitches	<p>Consider the purchase of private land for the provision of additional pitches by the Council.</p> <p>Plan a programme of re-provision within the terms of PPG 17 where single pitch locations may be deemed to be uneconomic</p>	L	WBC,Developers	
SO8 – To require developers of all new housing schemes to contribute to the provision of new, improved and enhancement of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities.	Ensure re-provision where loss of pitches may result from site development proposals.	S	WBC	
	Use defined local standards to ensure developer contributions	S	WBC	
	Recommend to developers that a commuted sum is set aside for the ongoing maintenance of outdoor sports facilities in accordance with a pre determined formulae.	S	WBC	
SO9 – To explore the establishment of a Local Standard for Playing Pitch and Open Space provision for Woking Borough Council to replace the NPFA 6 Acre Standard.	<p>To consider a Local Standard for each of the main pitch sports played in Woking e.g.</p> <p>Playing Pitches Other outdoor sports FMGAs</p>	S	WBC	

Strategic Objective	Key Actions	Timescale	Suggested Partners	Budget (£k)
	<p>Synthetic Turf Pitches.</p> <p>To be established in conjunction with the production of a Green Spaces Development Plan.</p> <p>Enter into consultation with neighbouring authorities to ensure a consistent approach is adopted to cross boundary issues.</p>	S		

Glossary

S	Short:	1-3 years (S)
M	Medium:	4-7 years (M)
L	Long:	+ 7 years (L)
WBC	Woking Borough Council	
SCC	Surrey County Council	
FF	Football Foundation	
LEA	Local Education Authority	
WFC	Woking Football club	
SSP	Surrey Sports Partnership	
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document	
STP	Synthetic Turf Pitch	
FMGA	Floodlit Multi use games Area	

APPENDIX 1 POPULATION ASSUMPTIONS

		2001	2006	2011
Building programme			1,626	1,073
Total population		89,700	92,732	92,260
Total dwellings		37,890	39,516	40,589
Total households		36,941	38,525	39,572
Average hhd. size		2.41	2.39	2.31
Priv. h/hold pop.		88,950	91,962	91,466
Non-Domestic pop.		750	770	794
Econ active pop		47,516	50,204	50,545
Age	0-- 4	5,700	5,656	5,725
	5-- 9	6,000	5,497	5,575
	10-- 14	5,700	5,843	5,161
	15-- 19	5,000	6,033	5,711
	20-- 24	4,700	5,941	5,123
	25-- 29	6,400	6,319	7,140
	30-- 34	7,500	6,608	6,967
	35-- 39	7,900	7,241	6,491
	40-- 44	6,700	7,554	6,386
	45-- 49	6,000	6,529	7,099
	50-- 54	6,200	5,745	6,302
	55-- 59	5,000	5,876	5,223
	60-- 64	3,900	4,608	5,289
	65-- 69	3,600	3,534	4,199
	70-- 74	3,200	3,179	3,126
	75-- 79	2,700	2,746	2,746
	80-- 84	1,800	2,039	2,064
	85 +	1,700	1,784	1,933
Total		89,700	92,732	92,260
Aggregate agebands.				
	0-- 14	17,400	16,996	16,461
	15-- 29	16,100	18,293	17,974
	30-- 44	22,100	21,403	19,844
	45-- retirement	19,100	20,415	21,208
	retirement +	15,000	15,625	16,773

APPENDIX 2 FOOTBALL TEAMS SENIOR

Club	League	Day	Teams	Venue	Sub are
AFC Shots	S&HBL	Sun	1	West Byfleet Rec	East
Byfleet	G&WA	Sat	1	Byfleet Rec	East
Camphill Corinthians	STSL	Sun	1	West Byfleet Rec	East
Coign Church	SACL	Sat	1	Wheatsheaf	East
Crown & Anchor Nomads	S&HBL	Sun	1	West Byfleet Rec	East
Knaphill Badgers	S&HBL	Sun	1	West Byfleet Rec	East
Knaphill Village	S&HBL	Sun	1	West Byfleet Rec	East
Lion Sports		Sun	1	West Byfleet Rec	East
Ockham (Athletic)	S&HBL/SCILW	Sat/Sun	2	Byfleet Rec	East
Pyrford	SCILW	Sat	2	Pyrford CC	East
Pyrford Ath	S&HBL	Sun	1	Pyrford CC	East
Pyrford Social	S&HBL	Sun	1	Ripley Green	East
Red Star Woking	S&HBL	Sun	1	Wheatsheaf	East
Sheerwater	CCL	Sat	2	Sheerwater Rec	East
St Johns Ath	S&HBL	Sun	1	West Byfleet Rec	East
West Byfleet Albion	G&WA	Sat	1	West Byfleet Rec	East
West Byfleet Ath	STSL	Sun	1	West Byfleet Rec	East
Westfield Rovers Vets	Surrey Vets Cup	Midweek	1	Byfleet Rec/Sheerwater	East
Wheatsheaf Heatherside	Camb & D SL	Sun	3	Wheatsheaf	East
Wheatsheaf Royals	SACL	Sat	1	Wheatsheaf	East
Woking & Weybridge	S&HBL	Sun	1	West Byfleet Rec	East
Woking Liberal	S&HBL	Sun	1	Sheerwater	East
Woking Phoenix	G&WA	Sat	2	West Byfleet Rec	East
Knaphill WMC	S&HBL	Sun	1	Woking Park	South
Mayford	S&HBL	Sun	1	Merrist Wood College	South
Old Wokingians	AFC	Sat	9	Kings Meadow/Loop Road/ Woking Sixth Form Coll	South
Westfield	CCL	Sat	2	Westfield	South
Woking FC	NC/PHCL	Sat	2	Kingfield Stadium	South
Woking Park & Horsell	SCILW/G&WA	Sat	3	Brewery Road Horsell/ Wheatsheaf	South
Archees	S&HBL	Sun	1	Wheatsheaf / Goldsworth Rec	West
Atlantis	S&HBL	Sun	1	Goldsworth Rec	West
Christchurch Woking	G&WA	Sat	1	Goldsworth Rec	West
College Old Boys	C&DSL	Sun	1	Brookwood Rec	West
Emmanuel	G&WA	Sat	2	Brookwood Rec	West
Goldsworth Park Rangers	S&HBL	Sun	2	Goldsworth Rec	West
Knaphill FC	SCILW/G&WA	Sat	3	Waterers Park/West Byfleet Rec/BCP	West
Surrey Ath	G&WA	Sat	1	Goldsworth Rec	West
Chobham	CCL	Sat	2	BCP	West

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JUNIOR

Club	League	Day	Teams	Venue
Byfleet Village	SPL/GS&DL	Sun	11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18	8 East Byfleet Rec/Byfleet PS
Coign Church Juns	BFL			1 East Wheatsheaf
Horsell Braves	WSYL	Sun	16	1 East Bishop D Brown S
Sheerwater Wanderers	GS&DFL	Sun	14	1 East Bishop D Brown S/Broadmere JS
West Byfleet Scorpions	E&EYL/SPL	Sun	11,12,13(2),14	5 East W Byfleet JS
Woking Cougars	SPL/WYSL	Sun	11,12,13,15,16	5 East Wheatsheaf/West End Rec
Mayford	SPL/GS&DL	Sun	11(2),12,15,17	5 South Mayford C
Meadow Sports	SPL/WSYL	Sun	11(3),12,13(2),16	7 South Loop Rd
Westfield	WSYL	Sun	16	1 South Woking Park
Westfield	SYL	MW	18	1 South Woking Park
Woking	SYL/FCYL	MW	18,19	2 South Leatherhead/Cobham
Woking Town	SPL/WYSL/GS&DFL	Sun	11,12(2),13(2),14,15(2),16(2),18(2)	12 South Woking Coll/St John Baptist Sch
Goldsworth Park Rangers	SPL/GS&DL	Sun	12,13,16	3 West Goldsworth Park
Knaphill Wanderers	NEHYL	Sat	14	1 West West Byfleet/Waterers/Vyne/BCP
Knaphill Wanderers	SPL/GS&DL	Sun	11(2),12(2),13,14,15(2),17	9 West West Byfleet/Waterers/Vyne/BCP

MINI

Club	League	Day	Teams	Venue
Byfleet Village	SPL	Sun	6,8(2),9,10(2)	6 Byfleet Rec/Byford PS East
West Byfleet Scorpions	E&EYL	Sat	7(3),8(3),9(2),10(3)	11 W Byfleet JS East
Woking Cougars	SPL	Sun	6,7,8(2), 9(2),10(2)	8 West End Rec East
Mayford	SPL	Sun	8(2), 9(2), 10(2)	6 Mayford C South
Meadow Sports	SPL/WYSL	Sun	7(2), 8(2), 9(3), 10(4)	11 Loop Rd South
Woking Boys & Girls	SPL	Sun	6,7(3),8(2),9(3),10(2)	11 St Peters Rec South
Goldsworth Park Rangers	SPL	Sun	8,10 (2)	3 Goldsworth Park West
Knaphill	SPL	Sun	7, 8(2), 9(2), 10(2)	7 West Byfleet/Waterers/Vyne/BCP West
Total				63

WOMEN & GIRLS

Club	League	Day	Teams	Venue
West Byfleet Scorpions	SGL	Sun	12,14	2 W Byfleet JS East
Meadow Sports Girls	SGL	Sun	12,13,14	3 Loop Road South
Woking Boys & Girls	SGL	Sun	12,14,15	3 St Peters Rec South
Knaphill Wanderers Girls	SGL	Sun	10,11,12,13	4 Vine, BCP West
Woking Cougars	SGL	Sun	11,13	2 West End Rec West
Woking Ladies	SGL	Sun	16	1 BCP/Sheerwater West
Total girls				15
Woking Ladies	LL&SE RWLSECWL	Sun	2 sen	BCP/Sheerwater West
Meadow Sports Ladies			1 sen	Loop Rd South
Total women				3 sen

APPENDIX 3 PITCHES

	Sub area	Ownership/management	Senior Football	Junior Football	Mini soccer	Cricket	Rugby	STP	FMGA	Bowls	Tennis	Basketball	Athletics	Changing
Boundary Road	East	A1										1		
Brookwood Country Park, Redding Way, Knaphill	West	A1	1	1										1
Bullbeggars Lane Recreation Ground	West	A1												
Byfleet Recreation Ground, Stream Close	East	A1	2	1	1	1	2					1		1
Goldsworth Park, Wishbone Way	West	A1	3	1	1	1		2				1		2
Kings Head Lane Sports Ground, Byfleet	East	A1												
Omega Road	East	A1							1			1		
Sheerwater Recreation Ground	East	A1	1						1			1		1
Sheets Heath Recreation Ground, Brookwood	West	A1	1			1						2		
St Johns Lye Recreation Ground, St Johns	West	A1	1			1								
St Peters Road Rec, Old Woking	South	A1		1	3							1		1
Sussex Road Recreation Ground	West	A1							1			1		
The Vyne, opposite Alexandra Gardens, Knaphill	West	A1			4									
Waterers Park, Knaphill	West	A1	2	1		1						1		1
West Byfleet Recreation Road, Camphill Road	East	A1	3			1						3	2	1
Wheatsheaf, Horsell Common Rec Ground), Chobham Rd	East	A1	1	1		1						1		1
Woking Park	South	A1				1			2	1		5		1
Byfleet BC	East	A2								1				1
Byfleet Cricket Club, adj Parvis Road, Byfleet	East	A2				1								1
Byfleet LTC, Pyrford Road	East	A2									11			1
David Lloyd Tennis Centre	South	A2									4			1
Horsell Bowls and Tennis Club, Queen Elizabeth Gdns	West	A2								1	1			1
Knaphill BC, Sussex Road, Knaphill	West	A2								1				1
Loop Road Sports Ground, Westfield	South	A2	4									1		1
Mayford Centre Playing Fields	South	A2		2	1									1
Mayford Hall BC, Mayford Rec, Saunders Road, Mayford	West	A2								1				1
Old Woking & District, Rec Club, Westfield Road	South	A2												
OddFellows Cricket Club, Queen Elizabeth Way	South	A2				1								1
Pyrford Cricket Club, Coldharbour Road	East	A2	1			1								1
Sheerwater Athletics Track	East	A2	1										1	1
Unwins Sports Ground	South	A2												
West Byfleet BC, Camphill Road	East	A2								1				1
Westfield Cricket & Bowls Club, Westfield Road	South	A2				1				1				1
Westfield FC	South	A2	1											1
Wishel LTC	South	A2									2			1
Woking & Horsell CC, Brewery Road, Horsell	West	A2	1			1								1
Woking FC	South	A2	1											1
Woking LT & Croquet Club, Pine Road, St Johns	South	A2									18			1
Woodham Court Sports Club, Martyrs Lane, Woodham	East	A2									2			1
Total in SCU			24	8	10	13	2	2	5	7	48	12	1	30

Broadmere Community Primary School, Devonshire Avenue, Sheerwater	East	B	1	2								
Byfleet Primary School, King's Head Lane, Byfleet	East	B		2								
New Monument School, Alpha Road, Woking	East	B	1				1					
St John The Baptist Catholic Comp. School, Elmbridge Lane, Kingfield	South	B	2									
Sythwood Primary School, Sythwood, Woking	West	B						1				
The Bishop David Brown School, Albert Drive, Woking	East	B	3	1	1	1						
The Winston Churchill School, Hermitage Road, Woking	West	B	1			1	1			6		
West Byfleet Junior School, Camphill Road, West Byfleet	East	B		3	7							
Woking Sixth Form College	South	B	2									

Total in CU			8	5	12	1	2	1	2	0	6	0	0	0
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Grand total in CU			32	13	22	14	4	3	7	7	54	12	1	30
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Barnsbury Infant School, Hawthorn Road, Woking		C												
Barnsbury Junior School, Almond Avenue, Woking		C		2										
Beaufort Community Primary School, Kirkland Avenue, Woking		C	1	1										
Brookwood Primary School, Connaught Road, Brookwood		C	1											
Goldsworth Primary School, Bridge Barn Lane, Woking		C	1	1							2			
Hoe Bridge School, Old Woking Road		C	1		3	4					4			
Horsell C Of E (Aided) Junior School, Meadway Drive, Woking		C		1										
Horsell Village School, Church Hill, Horsell		C												
Kingfield School, Kingfield Road, Woking		C		1	1									
Knaphill School, High Street, Knaphill		C	1											
Maybury Infant School, Walton Road, Woking		C												
New Monument School, Alpha Road, Woking		C		1										
Pyrford C of E (Aided) Primary School, Coldharbour Road, Woking		C		2										
Pyrford Centre, Engliff Lane, Pyrford		C												
St Andrews Prep School, Churchfields, Horsell		C												
St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School, Onslow Crescent, Woking		C		2										
St Hugh Of Lincoln Catholic Primary School, Five Oaks Close, Woking		C		1										
St John The Baptist Catholic Comp. School, Elmbridge Lane, Kingfield		C			1	1								
St John's Primary School, Victoria Road, Knaphill		C		2										
St Mary's C Of E (C) Primary School, Hart Road, Byfleet		C		2										
Sythwood Primary School, Sythwood, Woking		C		2										
The Hermitage School, Oakwood Road, Woking		C												
The Knaphill Lower School, Chobham Road, Knaphill		C												
The Manor School, Magdalen Crescent, West Byfleet		C												
The Marist Catholic Primary School, Old Woking Road, West Byfleet		C												
The Oaktree School, Gorsewood Road, St Johns		C												
The Park School, Onslow Crescent, Woking		C	1		1									
West Byfleet Community Infant School, Camphill Road, West Byfleet		C												
Westfield Primary School, Bonsey Lane, Woking		C		2										
Woking High School		C	2	1			1	1						

Total other pitches	3	6	21	5	6	1	0	0	6	0	0	0
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Total all pitches	35	19	43	19	10	4	7	7	60	12	1	30
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Key

A1 LA

A2 Club, private, voluntary sector

A3 Education with CUA

B Education, with some community use but no CUA

C No public use

APPENDIX 4 A SUMMARY OF THE SPORT ENGLAND METHODOLOGY

The local assessment of supply and need for pitches in the four main pitch sports has been undertaken using the methodology that Sport England has developed over a number of years, and is now set out in detail in 'Towards a Level Playing Field'. The method can be summarised as follows:

Stage 1 – Identifying teams

Stage 2 – Home Games per Team per Week

Stage 3 – Total Home Games per Week

Stage 4 – Temporal Demand for Games

Stage 5 – Pitches Used/Required on Each Day

Stage 6 – Pitches Available

Stage 7 – Discussion of any Problems or Issues, and

Stage 8 – Discussion of Options

This method can be tailored to meet local circumstances, budgets and time constraints.

One of the outcomes arising from this exercise is the production of local standards for the provision of pitches. Such standards need to be based on notional areas for individual pitch types, together with an allowance for the desired pitch surrounds (the figures exclude space for parking, changing accommodation, landscaping, etc). The following are based primarily on Sport England guidance.

Pitch Type	Area (ha)
Adult Football	0.9
Junior Football	0.7
Mini-Soccer	0.3
Rugby	1.3
Cricket	2.0
Hockey/STP	0.75

Within these overall areas can be incorporated the dimensions of the pitch surface proper (i.e. excluding pitch surrounds):

Adult football: the NPFA recommends dimensions for adult football at regional, county or lesser levels is 96-100 metres x 60-64 metres

Junior football: there are no regulation dimensions for junior size pitches. However, NPFA recommends different minimum and maximum dimensions for various junior and youth age groups:

Under 18 90 x 46-55 metres

Under 15 82 x 46 metres

Under 13 73 x 41 metres

Rugby Union: from each dead ball line the maximum length of a Rugby Union pitch is 144 metres and the maximum width should be no more than 69 metres. Junior pitch for 13-15 year olds should be 95 x 50m maximum

Hockey: the specification of 91.44 x 54.86 metres at least for club/county levels

Tennis: the recommended size for 1 court is 36.58 x 18.29m

Bowls: the minimum size for a 6 rink green is 36.58 x 36.58m

FMGA: a typical size is 40 x 18.5m

Detailed playing pitch method adopted

The study of playing pitches and other recreational open space involved a two-staged process, comprising data collection and data analysis:

- **Data collection** An audit was conducted of all known pitches and other relevant outdoor recreational facilities within the district, and an examination of their use. The audit was based on an inspection of league handbooks, contacts with local league representatives, parks staff and development officers and a visit to all pitches/sites, using the electronic template developed by Sport England in 'Towards a Level Playing Field'.
- **Data analysis** While the audit aimed to identify all pitches, an important part of the analysis was an examination of the extent to which pitches identified are available for use by 'the community' (in this case the wider sporting public). The following categorisation of pitches, based on previous studies undertaken, was employed and is crucial to subsequent policy determination.

	Definition	Supplementary information
A1	Secured community pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management
A2		Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public#
A3		Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements*
B	Used by community, but not secured	Pitches not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, e.g. school/college pitches without formal user agreements
C	Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public

Where there is a charge, this must be reasonable and affordable for the majority of the local community.

* Pitches in secured community use are pitches that are available for use by community teams and whose future use is secured for the coming seasons by one or more of the following:

- a formal community use agreement
- a leasing/management arrangement between the school and LEA requiring the pitch(es) to be available to community teams
- a policy of community use minuted by the school or LEA, including tariff of charges, etc minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams

- written commitment from the school to the current community team(s) using the pitch(es), and
- where it is the intention of the school to maintain access for community teams to its pitch(es) at peak times (i.e. evenings, weekends and/or school holidays) for the next two or more years.

Method of assessment

The supply of and demand for pitches were assessed using the methodology set out in Sport England's 'Towards a Level Playing Field'. This methodology differs from more widely used techniques for assessing pitch and recreational space provision, such as the NPFA six-acre standard

The Sport England methodology, in contrast to the general approach adopted by the NPFA, seeks to assess the specific requirements of individual teams, which it then translates into an assessment of 'peak demand' for pitches. A study based on this method can then be used to develop locally derived standards for incorporation into local plans and other policy documents.

Qualitative factors

While the methodology is based on the number of pitches available and required, information on their quality is also imperative. Due regard has therefore been paid to the existence or not of ancillary facilities (changing rooms, parking, floodlighting, etc), the quality of pitches and their maintenance, accessibility and other factors. Such considerations can influence the use and popularity of pitches among local clubs. For example, many football leagues require clubs to have access to changing and shower facilities at their home ground. The quality of drainage and playing surface will influence how many games can be played, and whether postponements have to occur. The extent to which pitches (especially in public recreation grounds) are used for other purposes can affect the quality of the playing surface – use by bicycles for example can produce rutting of the surface which is often unfair to players, if not dangerous, and regular fouling by dogs is unpleasant and a health hazard.

How were pitches counted?

Establishing precisely how many pitches exist can prove difficult for several reasons:

- The number of pitches at a given site can fluctuate over short periods of time for reasons of management and husbandry – the findings in one season may therefore differ from those the following year
- Goals may only be erected on match days, and site inspections may thus fail to identify pitches
- The time of year may greatly influence the existence of pitches
- Winter and summer pitches often occupy much of the same space, which must be considered when developing local standards
- Junior and mini-soccer often involves portable goals and small-sided pitches are therefore often difficult to identify. Indeed, mini soccer may take place on part of a larger pitch, as is often the case with mini rugby

Because of these problems, it was important that the study did not become a rigid 'snap-shot in time' counting exercise. The overall aim was to estimate the total capacity of the available playing field stock to provide pitches in the context of overall current and future demand. The study therefore includes pitches, which are

currently unused, or have fallen into disuse over the past five years, but are in a useable state and could be used in the future.

Pitch dimensions vary for different standards of play, grades of competition and age of players, and are often in reality determined by the space available. There is a range of standards for football recommended by the Football Association, Football Foundation, Sport England, NPFA, DfES, English Schools Football Association (ESFA) and other governing bodies. The Laws of Football prescribe a minimum size for adult pitches, but there are no minimum or maximum dimensions for junior or youth football, and no FA stipulation that junior teams must play on junior pitches – in practice, many youth and junior teams play on full size adult pitches. The extent to which this practice occurs depends on how rigidly local league rules are enforced. The ESFA strongly recommends that for junior players of middle school age

“wherever possible, the playing area should have a length of no more than 82m, nor less than 70m, with its breadth no more than 56m or less than 42m”.

Primary school aged teams are covered by the FA’s new mini-soccer regulations. The FA stipulates that children must play on the following pitch sizes:

Age group	Number per team	Recommended pitch size
Over 6 and under 8	4 v 4 and 5 v 5	27.5 – 36.6m long 18.3 – 27.5m wide
Over 8 and under 10	6 v 6 and 7 v 7	45 – 55m long 27.5 – 36.6m wide

It is too early to establish how rigidly these new regulations will apply, and the impact on future pitch demand. Evidence from elsewhere, however, suggests that many mini-soccer games are in fact played on part of a larger pitch, with portable goals. As suggested above this can add to the difficulty of counting pitches accurately.

Pitch areas

The study requires the number of pitches to be converted into an overall area. It was impossible, because of time and resource limitations, to measure every pitch, and the information on the size of playing fields was often not available. Some assumptions have therefore been made about the size of pitches, their run-off areas and other space requirements, based on guidance set out ‘Towards a Level Playing Field’.

Teams

Teams were counted from current local league handbooks, information provided from the club survey, league and club officials and other sources, such as local newspapers and a wide range of relatively newly established web sites. Where it was known definitively that clubs identified in the league handbooks had folded, these were excluded. Teams were categorised as far as possible into individual age groups, based on their need for different sized pitches. For the purposes of assessing local need for football, for example, three age groups were used – under-10 (mini), 10-14 (junior) and 15-44 (youth using full sized pitches, and senior).

Team generation rates

Team Generation Rates have been used to compare activity rates with other studies elsewhere. A TGR is the result of dividing the number of teams generated in a particular area into that section of the population providing the players (normally males 15-44 years). Individual TGRs for different categories of sport (e.g. junior football, women's cricket) can also be calculated, although in some cases the number of teams is very small and rates can be skewed. Accurate comparison depends on the existence of fairly detailed population data for the study area and its constituent sub-areas, and this is not always available as required.

Other sports

The Sport England method is concerned solely with the demand for and supply of playing pitches. The study of other outdoor sports in the district is therefore based on alternative methods.

Key terms – definitions

The term 'pitch' used in this study is derived from the relevant planning legislation as a delineated area, together with any run-off, of 0.4 ha. and above, and which is used for association football, American Football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, baseball, soft-ball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo. This definition originates from before the advent of mini-soccer, which can have an area of 0.2 ha. including run-off. The study takes this into account.

The term 'playing field' is used to describe the whole of a site that includes at least one pitch.

APPENDIX 5 INDICATIVE COSTS AND DESIGN GUIDANCE

Location and Layout of Sports Pitches

The precise value of individual playing fields and pitches to individual sports teams will be dictated by the requirements of the league of which they are a member. The higher the standard of play, the greater the requirements in respect of the pitch(es) and ancillary facilities. The needs of the football clubs playing in the 'semi-professional' leagues (with requirements for floodlighting, pitch barriers, enclosures, and changing accommodation etc) will be much greater than those of the local Sunday league teams. However, the following notes and accompanying illustrations might be considered to represent sound general principles of design. The principles will include the following:

- Location
- Accessibility
- Playing surface
- Floodlighting
- Availability of changing rooms/toilets
- Social facilities
- Site suitability and security
- Parking

Location: the NPFA suggests that most active members of the public want facilities for informal training and home games in their own neighbourhood, and consider that 20 minutes travelling time by motor transport to synthetic pitches, and a 10-15 minute cycle ride to or walk to local facilities is reasonable. For specialist facilities, such as artificial turf pitches, or higher-level league grounds, the preparedness for travel may therefore be greater. On the other hand, junior teams would probably prefer home pitches and training facilities to be located within easy and safe walking distance to young players.

When considering the location of new pitches, the potential for conflict between recreation activities and other land uses in the area, particularly residential, must be taken into consideration. Proximity to housing makes a site more accessible, although nuisance can arise from noise, parking, traffic generation, etc.

Accessibility: for team sports it is probable that at least half of the players will be coming from out of the immediate area, and will therefore rely on some form of transport. The provision of convenient space for parking, preferably off-road and within the site, and a location near to public transport will make the site more accessible, and therefore more attractive to users.

Playing surface: pitches that are not drained and otherwise maintained cannot be used as frequently as those that are. Open pitches are vulnerable to dog fouling and other abuse. Guidance on the increase to playing capacity brought about through drainage improvements is available from Sport England and NPFA.

Floodlighting: this can increase levels of usage of facilities, including for training. Floodlighting is essential for higher-level clubs, and highly desirable for STPs. Sport England offers the following guidance on floodlighting levels for football:

Class	LUX
Class 1: national and international football	500
Class 2: medium level football	200
Class 3: low level football and training	75

Additional specific guidance is provided in relevant Sport England factsheets.

Availability of changing rooms and toilets: the provision of changing facilities is desirable for all local sports teams, and essential for some. The detailed specifications for changing accommodation depend on the nature of the sports played at a given site. Changing accommodation for senior teams will need to provide space for teams and reserves. For football teams, this will normally mean 15 spaces. For rugby teams, it may be 20 spaces. A two-pitch complex would call for two home and two away team changing rooms. There will also be a requirement for separate match officials' rooms (1 per game). The requirement for special facilities for junior and or female teams really depends on the specific circumstances. Specific guidance on these matters plus considerations such as disabled facilities, toilets, security, etc are provided in the Sport England fact sheets.

Social facilities: local sports teams value social facilities highly, particularly when hosting matches to visiting players. Such facilities make sites more attractive to players and spectators alike. Social facilities, especially where they include bar facilities and function rooms, can also be an important revenue generator for clubs. However, the development of such facilities may become sensitive issues as they will generate additional noise, traffic for local residents. Such facilities (as well as other ancillary accommodation) can also be a sensitive issue in the countryside and the green belt.

Site suitability and security: for multi-sport community pitches, the key features of any layout are as follows:

- A site big enough to accommodate multiples of at least two football/rugby pitches, with a cricket table in between. The cricket outfield is shared with the other pitch sports on a seasonal basis
- Planting around the site edge to provide shelter
- The use of residue grass for training and/or mini-soccer, together with floodlighting to enable midweek training during the winter. Floodlighting of one or both of the main pitches is sometimes difficult to install on 'shared space' layouts.
- Changing block located close to both pitches for quick access at half-time
- Vehicular access and parking availability
- A secure equipment shed (for goals, flags, mower, etc) is provided

Costs The following costings are for the development of community sports and play facilities and are based on the costs of providing good quality sports facility for the 1st quarter of 2005. The exception is for play facilities that are based on 2003 figures. These costs for sports facilities are based on schemes recently funded through the Lottery. The costs are indicative only.

Facility Type	Facility Details	Costs
Changing Rooms	4 team changing pavilion	£522,000
Outdoor Tennis Court	2 court, tarmacadam/fenced/floodlit	£97,000
Synthetic Turf Pitches	Sand based 100 x 64m	£544,000
	Rubber crumb 100 x 64m	£660,000
	Water based 100 x64m	£792,000
Grass pitch	100 x64m	£53,000
Multi-use games areas	40 x 18m	£67,000
Athletics Track	6 lane	£990,000

Source: Sport England website (June 2005) and NPFA Cost Guide (current edition – 2003)

The costings for sports facilities include:

- External works (car parks, roads, paths, services connections etc) are included at an average rate of 15% addition to the cost of the works.
- Fees are included at 15% for;
 - Sports Halls
 - Pools
 - Changing rooms
 - Indoor tennis centres
 - Indoor bowls centres
 - Outdoor tennis courts
- Fees are included at 5% for:
 - Synthetic Turf Pitches
 - Multi-use games areas
 - Athletic Tracks

The costings exclude

- Site abnormalities such as poor ground, difficult access, long service connections
- VAT
- Land costs
- Regional cost variations in materials and labour

APPENDIX 6 ABBREVIATIONS USED

BC	Bowls club
CC	Cricket club
CU	Community use
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
FC	Football club
FMGA	Floodlit multi-games area
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
HC	Hockey club
HS	High school
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LTC	Lawn tennis club
MUGA	Multi use games area
NC	Netball club
NOF	New Opportunities Fund
NPFA	National Playing Fields Association
OBBI	Outdoor Basketball Initiative
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG17	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17
PS	Primary school
RFU	Rugby Football Union
SCU	Secured community use
STP	Synthetic turf pitch
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
TGR	Team Generation Rate
WBC	Woking Borough Council

APPENDIX 7 CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE SPORTS CLUBS SURVEY

Dear Colleague

The provision and protection of quality sports facilities is of major concern in many areas, not least in Woking. JKN Associates is undertaking a local study of sports facilities in the district for Woking Borough Council, and we are sending this questionnaire to clubs and organisations known to use local pitches, courts and playing fields. We would be grateful if you, or another appropriate club representative, could complete the questionnaire (or as much as possible) and return it to the address at the bottom of the last page (or preferably e-mail) **by 3rd February 2006**. We appreciate that you **may** have been involved in other recent similar surveys. However, the information you provide here will be invaluable in highlighting your particular views and helping the Borough Council to develop its plans and policies to best meet local needs. Please feel free to contact me on the number below, if you need help in connection with the questionnaire. Thank you for your assistance.

Jeff Neslen, JKN Associates (0208 997 0546) mob 07989503293

Section 1: about your club

1. What is the name of your club?

2. Where does your club play its home fixtures?

3. Which is the **main** outdoor sport for which your club caters? eg football, cricket, hockey, rugby union, bowls, tennis, other

4. In which leagues/competitions does your club play?

5. Are there any other sports for which your club caters?

Section 2: club membership

Please answer the following questions for your main sport only.

6. How many **playing** members does your club have?

7. If possible, please break the above membership into the following categories:-

	Males	Females	Juniors	Youths	Seniors	Veterans
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Numbers						
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8. Please detail any membership policies you have for 'special needs' groups such as disabled, 'low-paid' etc.

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9. How many regular teams does your club field in the following categories?

	Males	Females	Juniors	Youths	Seniors	Veterans
No of teams						
Age range						

10. Please detail weekly playing fees for the following categories:-

Males	Females	Juniors	Youths	Seniors	Veterans

11. If possible, please could you provide an estimate of overall membership for recent years:-

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004

12. How far away from your home ground do most of your members live?

More than 10 miles	Between 5 & 10 miles	Less than 5 miles

Section 3: club facilities

13. How many pitches/courts do you have for your main sport? n.b. please indicate whether any of your pitches 'share' the same space (if appropriate).

Full size	Junior	Mini

14. Are any of the pitches/courts floodlit? **Yes/no**

If so, how many? []

15. How would you rate your home pitch(es)/court(s) for the following?

	Good/adequate/inadequate/poor
Size of pitch/court	
Drainage of pitch/court	
Evenness of playing surface	
Grass cover on pitch/court	
Goal mouths (if appropriate)	
Markings	
Overall condition	

16. How many matches were postponed last season because of poor pitch/court conditions? []

17. Please indicate how many games per week you think your club pitches/courts can stand before suffering long-term damage:-

More than three	Up to three	Up to two	One or less

18. Do you have the following facilities at your home ground and how do you rate them?

	Yes/no	Good/adequate/inadequate/poor
Changing rooms		
Showers		
Parking		
Toilets		
Clubhouse		
Spectator facilities		
Secure area to store kit		
Goalposts (if appropriate)		
Practice/training area other than pitch		
Disabled access		

19. What are the 3-best/worst pitches/courts you played on last season (home/away)?

Best	1
	2
	3
Worst	1
	2
	3

Section 4: club activity

Please answer the following questions for your main sport only.

20. Please provide an estimate of the total number of regular home games played each season for the following categories of team:-

Males	Females	Juniors	Youths	Seniors	Veterans

21. Please indicate the main match days for the following categories of team (please also indicate whether am or pm):-

Males	Females	Juniors	Youths	Seniors	Veterans

22. Where do you train?

Home pitch/court []

Other (please specify) []

If appropriate please differentiate between early/late season/winter/summer

Section 5: ownership of facilities.

23. Does your club own, lease or hire its home facilities? (Please tick)

Own	Lease	Hire

24. Do you know of any other club that uses the site? **Yes/no**
If so who?

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25. If you hire your pitches/courts how much do you generally pay per game?

Adult	Junior	Mini

26. If you hire pitches/courts does it include changing facilities? **Yes/no**

27. If you do not own your home facilities please can you indicate the name of the owner and a contact address?

Name:
Address:
Phone number:

Section 6: plans and problems

28. Please detail any problems with your home facilities, not covered above

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29. Does your club have any development plans or proposals for improving your facilities? **Yes/no**
If 'yes' please indicate what these plans are.

Minor improvements
Major improvements

30. Does your club have any plans to increase membership or undertake special initiatives (such as with young people, disabled or other groups as appropriate)?

Yes/no

If 'yes' please indicate what these plans are.

31. Have you received any financial assistance from the council, governing body or other organisation? **Yes/no**

If 'yes' please could you provide some details?

32. Is there anything else you would like to mention which has not already been covered?

Your details

Name:

Position in club:

Address:

Phone number:

May I contact you again to discuss any of your comments? **Yes/no**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return by **Friday 3rd February 2006** in the envelope provided to:

Jeff Neslen, JKN Associates, 9 Queens Walk, Ealing, London W5 1TP

Or preferably by e-mail to jeffneslen@btopenworld.com

May I take the opportunity to wish your club every success in the future.

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Changing Accommodation

Site ID

Changing Accom Name

Assessment undertaken by:

Date of Assessment:

Site Name:

Capacity of changing rooms; (Number of teams that can change at any one time in the facility)

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments
About the Changing Accommodation							
Overall Quality	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No changing	Perceived quality of changing accommodation Does it look well maintained, clean, safe etc	
Evidence of vandalism	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots			Damage to pavilion, graffiti, broken glass etc	
Showers	Yes - Good	Yes - OK	Yes -poor	No		Are there showers facilities, what is their quality (if known)	
Toilets	Yes - Good	Yes - OK	Yes -poor	No		Are there toilets - what is their condition (if known)	
Parking	Good	OK	Poor			Is there enough for circa 20 cars, bays marked out etc	
Links to public transport	Good	OK	Poor/non			Is the site close to public transport links, proximity to bus stop, train station, hubs.	
Security	Good	OK	Poor			Does the accommodation look secure - secure doors/windows, evidence of break-ins (may get info from User Surveys)	
Segregated changing	Yes	No				Are there separate changing rooms for each team - can accommodation be used by both male and female teams at same time	

Scoring: out of 41

Key:

over 90%	Excellent
60%-89%	Good
40%-59%	Average
30%-39%	Poor
Less than 30%	Very Poor

