

# Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment Update 2022

## Part 3 - Playing Pitch Strategy 2022 to 2040 FULL DRAFT - February 2022



*Basingstoke  
and Deane*



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## 1. Introduction – Brief, Scope, Vision and Aims

### 1.1 Why the strategy has been developed

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (the Council) commissioned Continuum Sport & Leisure (Continuum) and Land Use Consultants (LUC) to update its Leisure and Recreational Needs Assessment (LRNA) from 2015 and to review the provision of Community Facilities and Green Spaces within the borough. Continuum and LUC are Active Environment framework providers for Sport England recognised nationally for Strategic Planning and Needs Assessments.

The full LRNA 2022 has three constituent parts, given the cross-service implications of the study, with an overarching action and implementation plan. This Playing Pitch Strategy is Part 3 and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Built Facilities Strategy (Part 1) and Community Buildings Strategy (Part 2). The Green Space review is to be developed and delivered separately from this main LRNA Update.

Within the Council, responsibility for playing pitches falls within the remit of the Sports Infrastructure Team who have supported the production of this key strategy.

The key drivers for updating the 2015 PPS are as set out in the introduction to Part One of the LRNA report:

#### Forward Planning

The Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the borough looking at the period up to 2040. The new Local Plan will set out the number and type of new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed to support the

Borough's communities. The Local Plan will include planning policies, which by law the Council is required to use as a starting point to determine planning applications in its area.

Further new housing development will take place in the borough over the next Local Plan period with current forecasts based on Basingstoke and Deane's population statistics for approximately 28,525 more people living in Basingstoke and Deane by 2040.

The primary driver is that the existing LRNA is nearing seven years old and with the majority of actions within the previous action plan having been delivered, it is now necessary to look at the changing needs and future growth of the borough to ensure that the appropriate amount of provision is planned for in the future. Sport England recommends that an updated assessment should be undertaken every three to five years. Therefore, the need for a new strategy for sports facilities including playing pitches - based on robust, up to date assessment of need, is clear. The strategy will inform relevant planning policies in the new Local Plan that will protect, provide, and enhance the provision of sports facilities across the borough to meet the current and future needs of its resident communities.

#### National Policy Adherence

A strategic approach to sport and physical activity services and provision, which identifies and delivers local priorities, can make a lasting difference. A clear, strategic and sustainable approach to guide the Council when developing capital projects not only can play an important role in making sure investments into services and facilities are effective but also is essential to present to leading partners such as Sport England.

There is also a need to adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework

(NPPF). Para 98 of the NPPF states: *“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate”.*

Sport England’s guidance includes reference to an overarching view to be taken (ahead of the Protect, Enhance and Provide as detailed within the action planning of the LRNA) with local Needs and Assessments needing to:

1. *Recognise and give significant weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity.*
2. *Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessments of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them.*
3. *Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.*

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Strategies for sports and playing pitch facilities in the borough are needed to support the county-wide and national strategic priorities to promote positive health behaviours, to improve public health and wellbeing and to reduce health inequalities. Physical inactivity is a key lifestyle risk factor with regard to health and wellbeing.

Effective place making by borough and district councils, which includes planning facilities for sport and physical activity, can encourage and support residents to make healthy lifestyle choices. Good quality, accessible sports facilities and playing pitches provide opportunities for people to take part

in sports and informal recreation for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

### **Schools**

Access to school sports facilities in the evenings and/or at weekends is critical to the successful operation of many of the community sports clubs based in Basingstoke, whether for match play or for coaching and training. With a growing population over the Local Plan period, the role of school sports facilities in providing for community sport is likely to grow in importance.

Accordingly, exploring opportunities to both secure existing community use of school sports facilities and to widen community use - including ensuring planning policies for new schools include provision for community use of built sports facilities and playing pitches (via enforceable Community Use Agreements) are important drivers for the strategies.

### **Developer Contributions & External Grants**

Lastly, there is a need to update the priority projects for new and enhanced sports facilities in the borough and its sub-areas to inform updates of the Borough Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the future investment priorities for the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and site specific S106 Developer Contributions.

Priority projects will also inform applications for external grant support to sports agencies such as Sport England, the Football Foundation and the national governing bodies of sport.



number of playing pitch facility enhancements and new projects identified in 2015 have been implemented to accommodate these changing needs.

Notable examples include new Football Turf Pitches (AGPs) for both school and community use at The Vyne School in Basingstoke and Testbourne School in Whitchurch, a community AGP at Winklebury and a second sand-based Artificial Turf Pitch with hockey as the primary use at the Down Grange Sports Complex. A number of enhancements have also been made to natural turf playing pitches, for example a new drainage system at the Fieldgate Centre in Kingsclere and improvements to the pitches in Winklebury Park and the pavilion in Stratton Park.

Further housing and population growth is planned to 2040 and beyond reflecting both the appeal of the area as a place to live and the economic demands resulting from the proximity of Basingstoke to London and its excellent connectivity to other parts of the south region. It is noted that without further investment in the sports and recreation infrastructure including playing pitches over the next Local Plan period, opportunities for both existing and new residents to take part in sport and to lead active lifestyles will be reduced as pressure grows on the current facility stock.

A number of projects are currently in development where new grass pitches are proposed through the planning process for new housing developments. In the short term, Whitchurch Town Council in the west of the borough will be taking ownership of three new sports pitches (The Barry Jackman Sports Pitches) provided by a housing developer as part of a Section 106 Planning Agreement.

Larger scale development proposals where new playing fields are identified within the current Local Plan and framework of development brief Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) include:

- *Basingstoke Golf Club* (Kempshott Hill) & *Hounsme Fields* (opposite) - together 1,750 homes approx (currently under review due to drainage capacity issues). A primary school and playing fields, 2 adult football pitches, community centre with integrated or separate changing rooms.
- *Manydown* (near Winklebury) - 3,400 homes approx. Land for a country park, two primary schools and playing fields, land for a secondary school and playing fields, public open spaces and a 'Sports Hub' with both indoor and outdoor facilities (either standalone or dual use with protected community access) changing and parking.
- *Land East of Basingstoke* (Redlands, Lodge Farm etc) - up to 1,500 homes. A full-size artificial grass pitch, primary school and playing fields.

The priority investments set out in this strategy (and the overall LRNA 2022) will feed directly into the Council's Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) as part of the overall adoption of the strategy and its policies within the emerging Local Plan. The priorities set out in this strategy will further influence planning policy to maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents through sport and leisure facility provision.

### 1.3 The Vision and Objective

The vision for the Playing Pitch Strategy is to promote participation in sport in the outdoor environment. It will provide one of the means to ensure that more people are active and to improve the quality of life in Basingstoke and Deane. The strategy will look ahead to 2040, in line with the Local Plan, but will have a 3–5-year horizon for action planning.

## 1.4 The Approach to Developing the Strategy

The strategy aims to be robust, based on local needs (currently and to 2040) and deliverable. This objective is assured by adhering to the 'ten steps' advocated in the current Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013) as per Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1 Ten Stage Approach



Stage A - Step 1: Prepare and tailor the approach

Stage B - Step 2: Gather supply information and views  
- Step 3: Gather demand information and views

Stage C - Step 4: Understand the situation at individual sites  
- Step 5: Develop the current and future pictures of provision  
- Step 6: Identify the key findings and issues

Stage D - Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan  
- Step 8: Write and adopt the strategy

Stage E - Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy  
- Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up to date.

## 1.5 Tailoring the Approach - What makes the study area different?

The Borough of Basingstoke and Deane covers an area of over 63,000 hectares (245 square miles) of North Hampshire, with Basingstoke town and the adjoining parish of Chineham comprising the main settlement in the borough and the focus for key services and employment.

The number of residents in the borough has steadily increased since Basingstoke's expansion in the 1960s and the latest population stands at around 178,700 (based on Small Area Population Forecasts (SAPF) provided by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council), up from 167,800 in 2011 (the last published census), an increase of approximately 11,000 in 10 years.

Evidence indicates that the borough has an ageing population - particularly in its rural areas - and that average household size has been declining. This means that, whilst more people are staying active for longer, there are fewer people year on year in the age groups with the highest levels of sports participation, particularly in formal formats of playing pitch team sports.

The ethnic composition of the resident population is predominantly White British. Non-White British ethnicities made up just 11.8% of the borough's population at the last published census compared to 14.1% for the region as a whole.

Levels of socio-economic deprivation within the borough are relatively low. The 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) shows that over 41% of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the borough sit within the 20% least deprived of all LSOAs nationally. No LSOAs in Basingstoke and Deane rank in the 20% most deprived nationally.

Around 64% of the population live within Basingstoke town and Chineham, with the remainder living in settlements distributed throughout the surrounding rural hinterland including several small towns and large villages.

The larger rural settlements are Oakley, Overton and Whitchurch to the west of Basingstoke, Kingsclere, Tadley and Bramley to the north and Old Basing to the east. The south of the borough comprises of small village settlements with the M3 forming a major physical barrier between these settlements and Basingstoke town.

The 36% of the borough's residents that live in the rural communities around Basingstoke and Chineham rely heavily on cars to access community

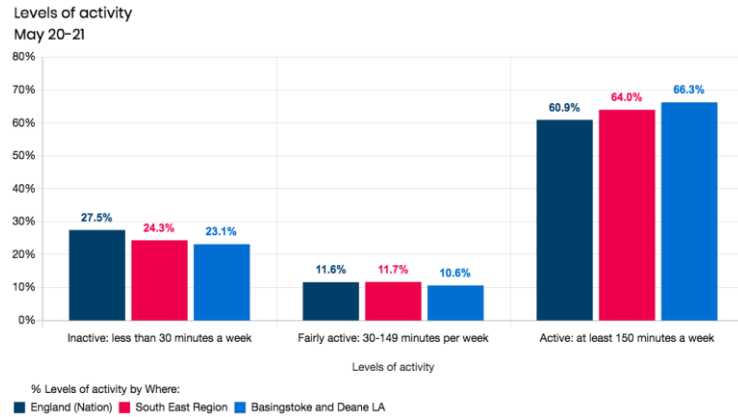
sports facility types other than village recreation grounds (many of which provide at least one natural turf playing pitch) and community halls.

Car ownership levels in Basingstoke and Deane are high relative to the national and regional averages. However, in 2011 (the last published census), just over 15% of households in the borough were without a car or van. For those living in the rural areas without access to private transport, there is negligible public transport available to access sports facilities in the towns during the peak hours for leisure and recreation i.e. evenings and weekends.

## 1.6 Tailoring the Approach - How does the population participate?

Figure 1.2, taken from Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey results, show that fewer adult residents of the borough (aged 16+) are physically 'inactive' (23.1%) compared to the national average (27.5%) and the regional average (24.3%). Conversely, a higher percentage (66.3%) is classed as 'active' than regionally (64%) and nationally (60.9%).

Figure 1.2 Levels of Activity



Regular participation - defined in the survey as participation at least twice in the last 28 days - is also higher among adults in Basingstoke in Deane than across the South East and nationally as shown in Figure 1.3.

Figure 1.3 Participation in the last 28 days

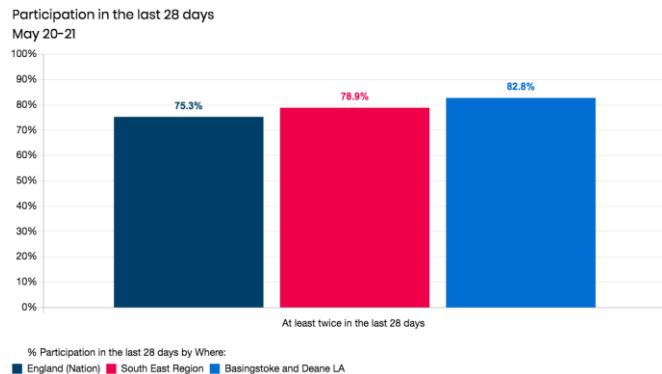
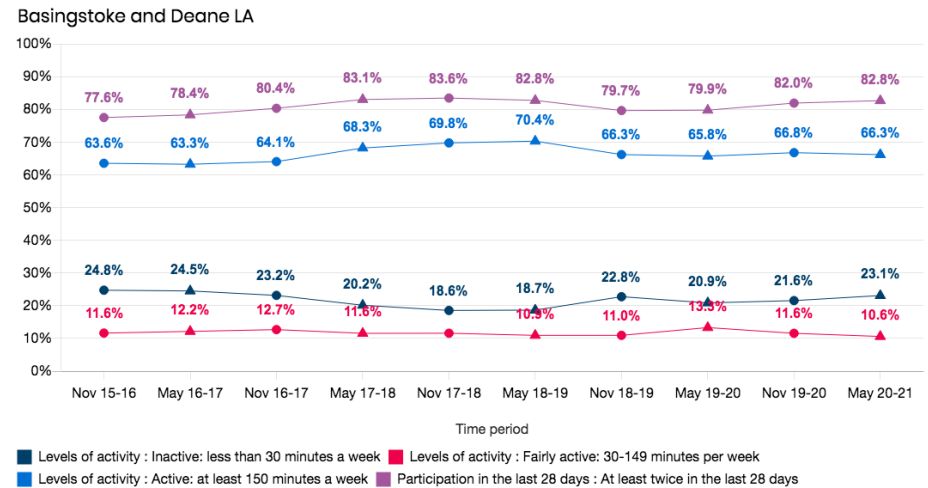


Figure 1.4 shows the borough trend for these measures over the 10 runs of the Active Lives Survey to date.

Since the last PPS was completed in 2015/16, the proportion of adults in the borough classed as 'active' (at least 150 minutes a week) has increased by 2.7% (from 63.6% to 66.3%). Over the same period, the figure for 'inactive' (less than 30 minutes a week) has reduced by 1.7% (from 24.8% to 23.1%). Regular adult participation (at least twice in the last 28 days) has increased since the last PPS from 77.6% to 82.8%, an increase of 5.2%.

Figure 1.4 Participation Trends



Whilst activity levels are relatively high, more than a fifth of adults in the borough (23.1%) were found to be 'inactive' in the 2021 ALS. This evidences the importance of provision of accessible and affordable facilities for sport

and active recreation in Basingstoke and Deane regardless of the borough's relative affluence and high activity levels.

The Active Lives Children & Young People Survey in 2021 (based on data collected in the academic year 2019/20) found that in Basingstoke and Deane 44.9% of children (aged 5-16) met the recommended level of physical activity (i.e. Active for an average of 60mins or more daily either in or out of school). This matches the national figure but falls slightly below the regional average of 47.5% (see Figure 1.5).

In terms of the 'Less Active' measure (i.e. Active for an average of less than 30mins a day), the borough figure is 30.7% - i.e. approaching a third of children in the borough is insufficiently active for their health. The picture is slightly worse nationally (31.3%). The regional average is 3% lower than in the borough at 27.7%.

**Figure 1.5 Levels of children's physical activity**

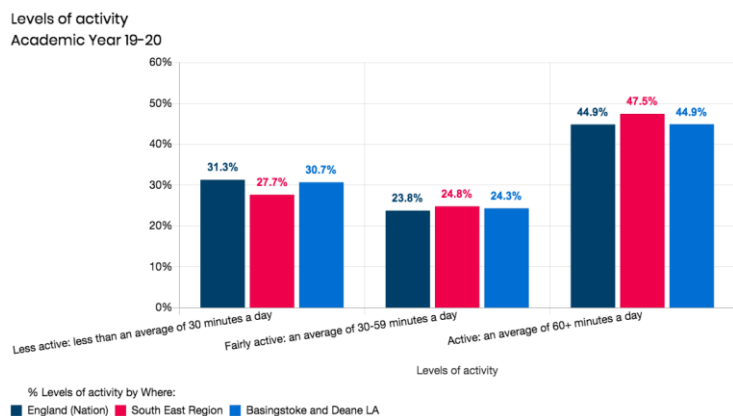
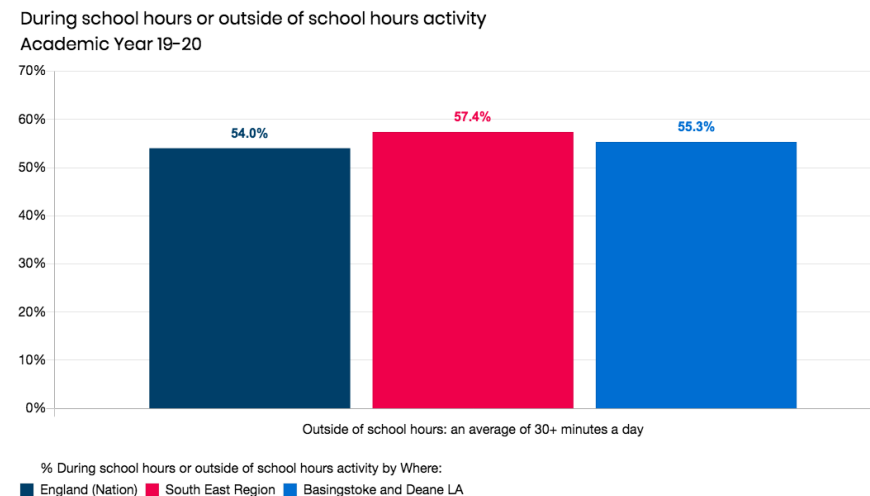


Figure 1.6 considers the extent of activity by children outside of school hours.

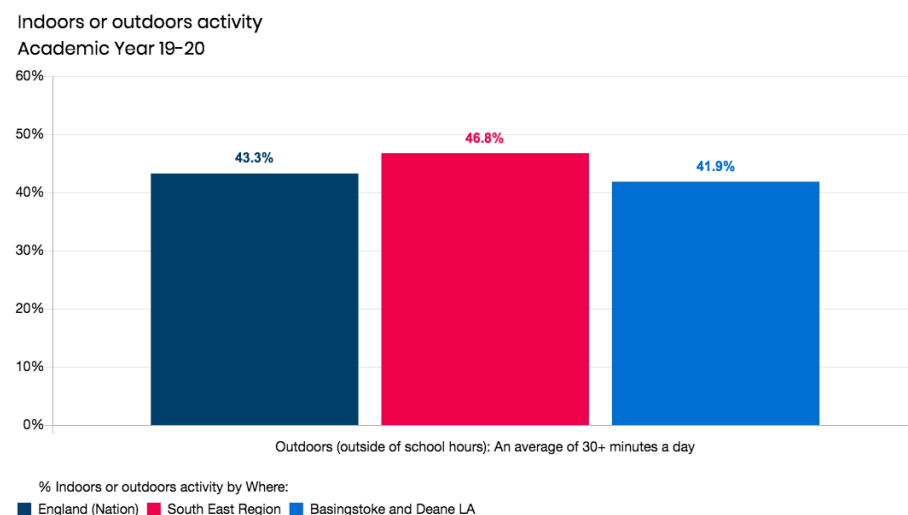
Well over half of children in the borough (55.3%) are physically active outside of school hours for an average of more than 30 minutes daily compared with 57.4% across the region and 54% nationally.

**Figure 1.6 Children's physical activity during school hours or outside school hours**



The final chart (figure 1.7) shows that 41.9% of children in the borough take part outdoors outside of school hours. This outdoor measure is lower than both the regional average of 46.8% and the national average (43.3%).

Figure 1.7 Children's physical activity outdoor out of school hours



With regard to specific playing pitch sports, the Active Lives Survey does not provide data at local authority level. However, nationally, the ALS shows there is a general decline in self reported regular participation (i.e. taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in the leading playing pitch sports in England by adults (aged 16+). Further Active Lives Survey data covering the period of movement restrictions imposed in response to the coronavirus pandemic indicate that this is likely to be the main cause of the decrease in regular adult participation in 2020/21.

- **Football** - down by 1.9% from 4.1% between May 2019 - May 2020 to 2.2% between May 2020 and May 2021. In the previous three years,

adult football participation fell from 5.1% in 2016/17 to 4.6% in 2018/19.

- **Cricket** - down from 0.7% between May 2019 - May 2020 to 0.4% between May 2020 to May 2021. In the three previous years, adult cricket participation was consistent at 0.7%.
- **Rugby Union** - halved from 0.4% to 0.2% between May 2018 - May 2019 and May 2020 - May 2021. In the three previous years, adult participation was 0.5%.
- **Hockey** - decreased from 0.3% between May 2019 - May 2020 to 0.2% between May 2020 to May 2021. In the three previous years, adult participation vacillated between 0.2% and 0.3%.

Within the borough, consultation with the fixture secretary for the adult football leagues confirms that the downward trend in affiliated Saturday league football reported in the 2015 PPS has continued. In the current season (2021/22), the Saturday league comprises just 16 teams (two leagues of 8 teams).

However, Sunday league football has seen a small recovery in team numbers over the last two to three years following a long period of decline. Nine additional teams are playing in the Sunday league in the current season than was the case two seasons ago.

Growth in youth football and mini-soccer has continued apace since 2015 with particular emphasis on demand growth for girls' football within the larger youth football clubs in the borough. 16 clubs in the borough now have youth sections with 10 or more teams.

Organised non-affiliated football has also grown in the borough since the last PPS encouraged by the Football Association's increased strategic focus on growing the recreational game. Regular indoor and outdoor walking football sessions for older adults have developed. From this season, a new *Play On Flexi-League* for recreational 11 a side football has run on the AGP provided at Winklebury as a priority project in the 2015 PPS.

The number of cricket clubs and teams in the borough is largely unchanged since the last PPS and progress in developing opportunities for women and girls' cricket has been slow with just the senior club in Basingstoke currently fielding female cricket teams.

Demand for men's and boys youth rugby is also largely unchanged since the last PPS. The main change has taken place at the senior Basingstoke club which has a women's team and three age grade girls teams developed since the last PPS, supported by enhancements to the changing facilities at Down Grange which was identified as a priority project in 2015.

As far as hockey is concerned, participation has boomed since the last PPS as a consequence of the provision and opening of a second AGP at Down Grange (a priority project in the 2015 PPS). This new pitch has allowed all the club's teams to play their home fixtures in the borough. Previously, several of the club's teams were playing on a school pitch in Eastleigh. The additional pitch has also stimulated growth in demand among juniors, both girls and boys. The club reports up to 30 new junior members this season and growing competition with youth football for booking early evening peak slots on the two pitches.

It is apparent that implementation of the priority projects in the 2015 PPS - notably the provision of several floodlit artificial turf pitches - has gone a

long way to sustaining and growing participation in playing pitch sports in the borough over the last six years by accommodating increased demand from population growth over this period.

This update to the 2015 PPS will seek to identify the priority facility enhancements and new provision that are likely to be necessary to continue to accommodate demand changes over the next planning period driven by both participation trends (notably more demand among women and girls and for recreational game formats) and by population growth resulting from new housing development.

### 1.7 Tailoring the Approach - Which pitch sports to include?

The Steering Group agreed that the sports to be included in the strategy are football, hockey, rugby union and cricket. Within these sports, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:

- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for cricket),
- Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g. friendly and recreational game formats outside the sports governing bodies affiliated structures), and
- Un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.

### 1.8 Management and Delivery

The development of the strategy has been managed by the Basingstoke and Deane Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group, comprising of representatives from The England & Wales Cricket Board, The Football Association, Hampshire County Football Association, England Hockey, The Rugby Football Union, Sport England, Basingstoke and Deane Health and Well

Being Team, Basingstoke and Deane Planning Department, Basingstoke and Deane Parks and Open Spaces Team, and Continuum Sport & Leisure Ltd, the consultants appointed to co-ordinate the strategy development to the point of the recommendations and action plan (i.e. Steps 1 to 7 as detailed in paragraph 1.4 above).

### 1.9 Existing Playing Pitches

The sites with natural turf playing pitches with community access and identified current use in Basingstoke & Deane are listed in Figure 1.8 and their locations shown in the map at Figure 1.9.

<b>Figure 1.8: Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites</b>			
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Pitch sport(s)</b>
1	Aldworth School	RG22 6HA	Football
2	Ashford Hill Playing Field	RG19 8BE	Football, Cricket
3	Barlow's Park, Tadley	RG26 3TA	Football
4	Basingstoke Sports & Social Club/ BCOT/ Fairfields Junior School	RG21 3DR	Football, Cricket, Rugby
5	Berrydown Sports Ground, Overton	RG25 3BT	Football, Cricket
6	Bridge Street Sports Ground, Overton	RG25 3HE	Football, Cricket
7	Brighton Hill Playing Fields	RG22 4HH	Football
8	Brighton Hill School	RG22 4HS	Football
9	Burghclere Sports Ground	RG20 9JD	Football
10	Clere School, Burghclere	RG20 9HP	Football
11	Chute Recreation Ground	RG24 9HX	Football
12	Clift Meadow	RG26 5BH	Football

<b>Figure 1.8: Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites</b>			
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Pitch sport(s)</b>
13	Cranbourne School	RG21 3NP	Football
14	Down Grange Sports Complex	RG22 5SN	Football, Rugby, Hockey
15	East Woodhay Cricket Ground	RG20 0AG	Cricket
16	Echinswell Village Hall & Recreation Centre Playing Field	RG20 4UB	Football
17	Everest Academy	RG24 9UP	Football
18	Farleigh Wallop Estate Cricket Ground	RG25 2HT	Cricket
19	Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere	RG20 5SQ	Football, Rugby, Cricket
20	Hatch Warren Playing Field	RG22 4XF	Football
21	Hatch Warren Junior School	RG22 4PQ	Football
22	Headley Recreation Ground	RG19 8AD	Football
23	Herriard Sports Ground	RG25 2PS	Football, Cricket
24	Hurst College	RG26 5NL	Football
25	Laverstoke Park Estate, Overton	RG28 7NU	Rugby
26	Longmeadow Sports Centre, Overton	RG28 7RB	Football
27	Mapledurwell Recreation Ground	RG25 2LW	Football
28	Marnell Junior School	RG24 9PT	Football
29	Michael's Field, Hannington	RG26 5TY	Football
30	Mortimer West End Recreation Ground	RG7 2HZ	Cricket
31	Newfound Sports Ground	RG23 7HH	Football, Cricket
32	Oakley Park	RG23 7EA	Cricket

**Figure 1.8: Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites**

Map Ref.	Site Name	Postcode	Pitch sport(s)
33	Old Basing Recreation Ground	RG24 7DA	Football, Cricket, Archery
34	Parsonage Meadow, Whitchurch	RG28 7AD	Cricket
35	Peter Houseman Playing Fields	RG23 7ED	Football
36	Pineapple Sports Field, Brimpton	RG7 4RN	Football
37	Post Office Playing Field, Bramley	RG26 5BP	Football
38	Queen Mary's College	RG21 3HF	Football
39	Ramsdell Recreation Ground	RG26 5SH	Cricket
40	Russell Howard Park	RG22 6PT	Football
41	St Mary Bourne Recreation Ground	SP11 6BE	Football, Cricket
42	Sherborne Road Playing Field	RG21 5RP	Football
43	Sherfield Green	RG27 0EE	Football
44	Sherfield Park Open Space	RG27 0FP	Football
45	Sherfield Prep School	RG27 0HU	Football
46	Silchester Playing Field	RG7 2NJ	Football
47	Stratton Park	RG22 5SN	Football, Cricket
48	Testbourne School, Whitchurch	RG28 7JF	Football
49	Turgis Green Recreation Ground	RG27 0AE	Cricket
50	War Memorial Park	RG21 4AG	Football
51	Water End Recreation Ground	RG24 7BA	Football
52	Whitchurch Primary School	RG28 7LS	Football
53	Wield Recreation Ground	RG25 2ET	Football
54	Winklebury Football Complex	RG23 8BF	Football
55	Winklebury Park	RG23 8BJ	Football

**Figure 1.8: Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites**

Map Ref.	Site Name	Postcode	Pitch sport(s)
56	Woolton Hill Recreation Ground	RG20 9XF	Football
57	Woolton Hill Primary School	RG20 9XE	Football
58	Vyne School	RG21 5NN	Football

**Figure 1.9 Map of Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites**

**TO ADD**

Sites with artificial grass playing pitches with community access and use (and the sports the sites provide for) are listed in Figure 1.10 and their locations shown in Figure 1.11.

**Figure 1.10: Artificial Turf Playing Pitch Sites**

Map Ref.	Site Name	Postcode	Type	Pitch sport(s)
1	Basingstoke Sports & Social Club, Mays Bounty Ground	RG21 3DR	NTP	Cricket
2	The Beechdown Health Club	RG22 4ES	3G MUGA	Football
3	Berrydown Sports Ground	RG25 3BT	NTP	Cricket
4	Bridge Street Sports Ground	RG25 3HE	NTP	Cricket
5	Down Grange Sports Complex	RG22 5SN	AGP x 2	Hockey, Football
6	The Everest Academy	RG24 9UP	AGP 3G MUGA	Football
7	The Fieldgate Centre	RG20 5SQ	NTP 3G MUGA	Cricket, Football
8	Herriard Sports Ground	RG25 2PS	NTP	Cricket
9	Oakley Park	RG23 7EA	NTP	Cricket
10	Old Basing Recreation Ground	RG24 7DA	NTP	Cricket
11	Powerleague Brighton Hill	RG22 4HS	3G cages	Football
12	Queen Mary's College	RG25 3HF	AGP 9v9 AGP	Football Football, Hockey
13	St Mary Bourne Recreation Ground	SP11 6BE	NTP	Cricket
14	Testbourne School, Whitchurch	RG28 7JF	AGP	Football

**Figure 1.10: Artificial Turf Playing Pitch Sites**

Map Ref.	Site Name	Postcode	Type	Pitch sport(s)
15	Turgis Green Recreation Ground	RG27 0AE	NTP	Cricket
16	Vyne School	RG21 5NN	AGP	Football
17	Winklebury Football Complex	RG23 8BF	AGP	Football

**Figure 1.11 Map of Artificial Turf Playing Pitch Sites**

**TO ADD**

## Section 2 – Key Findings and Issues



## 2. Key Findings and Issues

The key findings of detailed Assessment of Need studies for the four major playing pitch sports played in Basingstoke and Deane are summarised in this section. The detailed Assessment of Need reports of findings (covering Stages B & C of Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance) and supporting site-specific audit reports have been checked and challenged by representatives of the relevant sports governing bodies and are appended as follows:

- Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix C: Hockey - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of Need and Site Audit

### 2.1 Summary Findings by Sport

This section provides an overall summary by sport of supply, planned and proposed changes to supply, current and latent demand covering the following leading questions as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy methodology.

- What are the main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision?
- Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?
- Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
- What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

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

### 2.2 Cricket

#### Cricket

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

- On a per capita basis, with 21 cricket pitches in 2021, Basingstoke & Deane provided one cricket pitch per every 8,687 residents (based on 2020 population projections). This is substantially lower level of provision per capita in comparison with the four neighbour local authorities in Hampshire with a current Playing Pitch Strategy.
- The supply of cricket pitches is well distributed throughout the borough.
- At present, there is very little movement of demand for community cricket across borough boundaries. One Hart District based team plays home matches in Basingstoke & Deane and one team based in Basingstoke & Deane plays its home fixtures at a ground outside the borough.
- The tradition of village cricket remains strong in Basingstoke & Deane although some village clubs are struggling to maintain adult playing numbers (particularly for Sunday cricket which has largely gone) and pitch bookings on Saturdays and mid week evenings at Borough and Parish council pitches have been in decline for a number of seasons. Seven out of the 17 community cricket clubs based in the borough (over 40% of clubs) run just one adult team.
- In contrast, junior cricket demand is strong and growing with 8 clubs offering opportunities for junior boys to play competitive cricket. Girls league teams are currently established at the main Basingstoke & North

## Cricket

Hants Cricket Club with three other clubs in the borough actively committed to developing opportunities for girls age grade teams to play and compete.

- In the primary school age groups, the supply and demand position is healthy with the 8 clubs with junior teams also delivering All Stars and/or Dynamos sessions.

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

#### No

- The analysis shows, based on current expressed demand for community club use in the peak period (i.e. Saturday afternoons and midweek evenings), there is sufficient supply of secured cricket pitches when aggregated across the borough as a whole.
- However, the available capacity for league cricket on Saturdays does not match up with the distribution of demand. Two Old Basing CC teams are displaced out of the borough and the clubs in Overton and Stratfield Turgis also have localised capacity issues due to the size of the grounds/squares and/or shared use issues with football.
- Installation of NTPs at East Woodhay and Ramsdell is required to further develop junior cricket and to release capacity on the fine turf at these key sites.
- Security of tenure is an issue that needs to be addressed at two of the club grounds - Oakley Park in Oakley and Parsonage Meadow in Whitchurch.

## Cricket

### Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

- Overall, the pitches at the larger town and village club grounds continue to be maintained to a good standard most often by dedicated and experienced club volunteers. Basingstoke Sports & Sports Club and the two sites managed by the Overton Recreation Committee are maintained by professional ground staff. Old Basing, Oakley (both grounds) and AWE Tadley are all maintained by a contractor trained in fine sports turf.
- The two grounds with the lowest umpire scores - Sherfield Green and Parsonage Meadow in Whitchurch - would benefit from analysis by the ECB's Pitch Advisor to ascertain options and costs for improvement to address drainage and better protection from damage by rabbits and other animals.
- In most cases, the outfield of the village pitches are maintained to a basic level by the parish councils, as their budgets allow, with club volunteers maintaining the squares. Where works are needed to bring these pitches up to suitable standard to sustain affiliated league fixtures, these are identified in the Action Plan in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Several non-turf (artificial) pitches and net systems at grounds in the borough have reached the end of their safe usable lifespan and need resurfacing. (e.g. NTPs at Stratton Park, Bridge Street, Old Basing and NT nets at Old Basing, Oakley). Similarly, these needs are identified in the Action Plan in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Several clubs in the borough - e.g. Basingstoke & North Hants, Oakley, Stratfield Turgis, St Mary Bourne - require enhanced or new pavilion facilities in order to sustain their current cricketing activities, improve

### Cricket

disabled access and to better enable delivery of playing opportunities for women and girls.

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

- Assuming current forecast population growth to 2040, growth in demand is likely to require capacity for approximately 18 additional teams.
- Notwithstanding the recent success of the Basingstoke & North Hants CC in establishing opportunities for women and girls to play league cricket, there is clearly substantial unmet latent demand. If this success to be sustained and the aspirations of the clubs in Old Basing, Stratfield Turgis and St Mary Bourne to provide more girls cricket are to be achieved, substantial investment will be needed in enhanced facilities - both good quality NTPs and better-quality pavilions and changing facilities.

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

**No**

- In light of existing capacity issues experienced by clubs to the west and to the east of the town and the assessment of future demand, additional provision of cricket grounds is likely to be required both to the west and to the east of the town within the new Local Plan period.
- In the short term, the priority should be to enhance key club cricket sites through a combination of installation of non-turf pitches (NTPs) and extensions to existing squares.

### Cricket

- In the longer term, it will be necessary to secure land for new cricket pitch provision through the Local Plan process and/or development agreement opportunities both to the east and the west of Basingstoke Town.

## 2.3 Football

### Football

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

- There are 51 natural turf football sites in the borough of which 36 are secured community sites.
- There are 5 AGP sites with community access plus two small-sided 3G MUGAs, all with minimal unused capacity in the peak midweek evening slots for team training.
- Based on the analysis, there is a steady decline in Saturday adult men's football offset by growth in Sunday morning football
- Youth football and mini-soccer demand continues to be strong and growing in the borough. There are 16 large clubs with 10+ teams of which 6 have more than 20 teams.
- Overall, there is a positive supply balance (i.e. unused capacity) of natural turf pitches for football in the borough as a whole. However, this borough-wide position obscures a considerable shortfall in capacity to the north, west and east of the town especially on Sundays.

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

**No**

- The audit suggests sufficient secured natural turf pitch supply borough-wide but unused capacity is not in the right places to adequately serve demands

## Football

- of some of the largest clubs (e.g. Chineham Tigers, Tadley Calleva, Oakley Youth, Overton Utd, Whitchurch Utd Youth)
- Whilst there has been additional AGP supply since the last PPS in 2015, the quantity of AGPs remains insufficient to meet the Football Foundation's recommended training model ratio of 1 full size equivalent AGP per 38 teams. There remains a shortfall of 4 full sized equivalent AGPs on this measure.
- The main gaps in provision are in the north of the borough (Tadley/Baughurst area) and between Basingstoke and Whitchurch to the west (Oakley/Overton area) and to the east (Old Basing, Chineham, Sherfield area). There are several large clubs in each of these areas.
- There is also pressure of demand in the peak period on the existing AGPs and grass pitches in Basingstoke town. Ensuring the existing AGPs are suitable and accredited for affiliated match play should be a priority alongside seeking opportunities for provision of an additional AGP with secure community access in the peak period.

### Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

#### No

- There are inadequate maintenance regimes in operation at a number of key sites in the borough with natural turf pitches. These sites are identified in the audit along with recommendations in the report for enhanced regimes provided by Football Foundation following application of their new Pitch Power site assessment methodology.
- With regard to the AGPs, there is a strong needs case for resurfacing and FA compliance works at both the Queen Mary's College and Everest Academy pitches.

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

## Football

- The forecast population growth in the borough indicates a need to accommodate a further 11 teams by 2040 with the majority of the growth in the adult age group. This understates the future demand in that TGRs take insufficient account of the growth trend and development focus of the FA and community clubs on girls and women's football.
- Girl's football will be a major demand driver. Continued growth in opportunities for women and girls to play competitive and recreation football is a key focus of the FA's new Strategy and the Football Foundation's prioritisation of investment in new facilities. In light of this, growth of 18-20 teams by 2040 is considered a more reasonable estimate.
- To accommodate this growth is likely to exert more pressure on capacity at key sites that are already full or over played.

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

#### No

- The forecast growth in football teams driven by population growth is likely to coalesce around the existing larger community clubs - particularly for women and girls. Most of these clubs already struggle to accommodate their existing teams for match play and training and will need to secure additional capacity to grow.
- To address the future capacity shortfall projected to 2040, as well as protecting the existing supply, there will be a need for a combination of the following:
  - Enhancement and improved ongoing maintenance of the natural turf pitches on the key, secured playing field sites used by the large community clubs - 8 priority sites are identified for enhanced maintenance.
  - Enhancement to FA match play standard and improved ongoing maintenance of the AGPs with extensive existing community club

## Football

- and recreational football use in Basingstoke Town at Everest Academy and Queen Mary's College.
  - Provision of new AGPs accessible to the large community clubs and more AGPs accredited as suitable for affiliated match play - 3 priority locations are identified for new AGPs.
- The detailed supply / demand assessment for this update of the borough Playing Pitch Strategy endorses the Football Foundation Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) priorities for more capacity in the north area (potentially at Hurst School or Barlow's Park), the mid-west area serving Overton and Oakley (potentially at the Peter Houseman Playing Field, **Newfound Sports Ground** and/or as part of the proposed Manydown housing development) and **in the longer term - once the two existing non-compliant AGPs at Everest and Queen Marys have been upgraded - in Basingstoke Town (potentially at Costello School, subject to feasibility).**
- In the area to the east of the town, the development brief for large-scale new housing schemes includes reference to a new AGP. The needs assessment supports the case for **keeping under review the needs case for additional** provision in this area in the context of the high levels of current use in the peak period of the AGPs **on the north east side of the town** at the Vyne and Everest schools as well as the natural turf pitches at Old Basing Recreation Ground, Sherfield Open Space and Waterend on Sundays.
- There is potential for a new AGP to be provided close to Tadley at Burghfield Common in West Berkshire. This project should be kept under review in relation to the prioritisation of the additional AGP supply needed in the north area of **Basingstoke and Deane Borough.**

## 2.4 Hockey

### Hockey

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

- On a per capita basis, with 3 competition hockey pitches (of which 2 are secured for community use), Basingstoke & Deane has less provision per capita than its neighbour local authorities.
- However, the current picture of provision for hockey is good as, since the last PPS in 2016, the club has secured access to a second new pitch at Down Grange Sports Complex. Accordingly, the club no longer depends on access to school sites which has been particularly problematic for many clubs. Prior to the opening of the second pitch, the club relied on unsecured access to a school pitch in Eastleigh Borough.
- The distribution of settlements across the borough and the location of hockey clubs and sites in neighbouring local authorities suggest that Basingstoke & Deane is a net exporter of hockey demand.
- Despite the major programme disruptions over the last 18 months, the Basingstoke Hockey Club has seen recent growth in demand, focused largely on the younger age groups.
- The current aspirations of the club with regard to providing opportunities for new juniors are constrained to a degree by lack of preferential booking rights over football groups for additional slots on the ATPs in the peak early evening - i.e. over and above the club's core block booking which is negotiated with the Council seasonally in advance.

### Hockey

- In the winter season, several youth football teams (for example from Berg Youth FC, Down Grange FC, Sherborne St John FC, Blues & Whites FC and Beggarwood FC) have weekly bookings on the AGPs on Mondays - Thursdays, most between 5.30 or 6pm and 7 or 7.30pm.
- There is a 9v9 floodlit ATP at Queen Mary's College Sports Centre (with changing rooms and car parking) which has unused capacity in the peak. **Although off site for the hockey club and therefore not ideal, this provision offers some potential for the club to grow its junior programme (e.g. Quick Sticks) and its social programme for adults - e.g. walking hockey, back to hockey.**

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

**Yes**

**Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?**

- The planned maintenance programme for the pitches at Down Grange may not have been implemented fully in recent times. The position needs to be ascertained by the Council and a planned maintenance schedule agreed between the parties, its implementation monitored, and reports made available to the club.
- The changing facilities in the Maidenwell Pavilion are in need of refreshing. In the event that the planned project to provide a spectator stand, WCs and storage beside the athletics track proceeds (currently this project with planning consent is unfunded), the opportunity should be taken to enhance

### Hockey

- the changing provision in the pavilion to include provision of changing for officials.
- The playing surface of the original ATP at Down Grange will need to be replaced by 2025.
- Similarly, although currently compliant, the floodlights to this pitch will also need replacing by 2025 and upgraded to LED to reduce energy consumption.

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

- Application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator to Basingstoke & Deane indicates a potential for around 5 new hockey teams and requirement for further hockey pitch capacity by 2040 equivalent to just over half a pitch.
- This assumes the current hockey growth trend in the borough (5% per annum approximately) is sustained.

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

**Yes**

- The situation will need to be kept under periodic review during the Local Plan timescale to 2040. However, it is considered likely that the 2 existing pitches at Down Grange together with the 9v9 pitch at Queen Mary's College Sports Centre should provide sufficient capacity to meet future demand provided that sufficient football/rugby 3G capacity is secured to allow transfer of current football bookings in the early evening peak hours from the hockey pitches at Down Grange to 3G.

### Hockey

- Ongoing consultation will be required with the relevant NGBs (EH / FA/FF and potentially the RFU and Basingstoke RFC) to ensure this transfer happens to support the growth of hockey and the long-term sustainability of the Basingstoke Hockey Club at Down Grange Sports Complex.

## 2.5 Rugby

### Rugby

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

- With 43 rugby pitches (of all sizes), Basingstoke & Deane has more rugby pitch provision than three of the four neighbouring Hampshire local authority areas both in terms of the number of pitches and on a per capita basis. Only Test Valley has more overall provision per capita.
- However 17 of the pitches are on school sites and either unavailable or unused for community rugby out of school hours.
- It is also important to note that only 19 of the 43 pitches (45%) are full size and that just nine of the 19 full size pitches are currently available to the four community rugby clubs located within the borough. The remainder - and one of the nine club home pitches - are on education sites.
- A further key characteristic of the supply is the uneven distribution of the pitches available to the clubs. Nearly three-quarters of this supply is on a single site in the town - Down Grange Sports Complex - with a further pitch also in the urban area at Mays Bounty/Basingstoke College, the home of Chineham RFC.
- Basingstoke Rugby Club at Down Grange is by far the largest of the four community rugby clubs based in the borough with over 500 players, including women's and girl's age grade teams and a mixed recreational touch rugby group.

### Rugby

- Despite the large number of pitches at Down Grange, the size of the Basingstoke club places heavy demand on the available floodlit areas - the main pitch and an area in front of the clubhouse - for adult and youth team training and some floodlit matches mid week, social touch rugby on Monday evenings and women's evenings on Fridays.
- Outside the urban area, the northern villages are relatively well served with supply both within the borough (Kingsclere RFC) and larger clubs with their own grounds just over the boundary in Tadley (Tadley RFC) and Aldermaston (Aldermaston RFC).
- Rugby demand in the west of the borough (e.g. Whitchurch, Overton, Oakley) is served by the Overton Rugby Club based outside Overton at Laverstoke Park.
- The Hook & Odiham Rugby Club - currently at Rotherwick Playing Fields and moving shortly to a new ground in development in Hook - provides good accessibility to residents east of the urban area (e.g. Old Basing, Chineham, Sherfield on Loddon).

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

#### No

- Across the borough as a whole there is no shortfall in the quantity of accessible and secured rugby pitches and some unused capacity.
- However, the borough-wide position obscures a number of significant capacity issues at individual clubs - most particularly for training on midweek evenings. This shortfall is particularly acute at Down Grange due to the size of the

### Rugby

Basingstoke club. The Chineham club also has capacity issues on the single pitch site at Mays Bounty/Basingstoke College.

- All four clubs also lack adequate security of access to the available pitch supply. The Chineham and Kingsclere clubs rely on annual licence agreements, the Overton club on a short lease with private owners and the Basingstoke club on a 21-year lease with the Council to its main pitch (with 8 years to run) and on weekly hire for the other pitches it uses at Down Grange.

#### Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

##### No

- There are maintenance issues at Down Grange with regard to the most heavily used floodlit areas. Specialist assessment is needed to establish the feasibility of enhanced maintenance and/or drainage as a cost-effective option to improve the resilience and playing capacity of the floodlit pitch and training area.
- An enhanced regime of grounds maintenance is also needed for the rugby and football pitches at the Fieldgate Centre (both used by Kingsclere RFC). This is required to sustain the quality of these two pitches on completion of the new drainage currently being installed on the field.
- The main quality issue at Mays Bounty Ground in Basingstoke for the Chineham Rugby Club is the inadequate pavilion changing in the out-dated pavilion shared with cricket, squash and junior football on this site.

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

- Analysis of the impact of forecast population growth in the borough to 2040 suggests growth of between three and four new teams over the Local Plan

### Rugby

period.

- Based on the trends in the clubs' playing memberships in the younger age groups, the clubs' stated aspirations to continue to grow and the extent of latent demand for rugby in the borough, it must be likely that the number of additional teams will exceed this.

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

##### No

- Although, at present, the assessment of future community demand for rugby based on the scale of forecast population growth to 2040 does not strongly support the case for provision of additional rugby pitches in the borough, the supply/demand balance and changes will need to be kept under periodic review. **In particular, opportunities for the Chineham Rugby Club to secure a minimum of two pitches should be explored as growth of this club is already constrained by lack of capacity on the College site to which future access for the club is unsecured.**
- Future reviews will need to consider the distribution of the population growth, in particular potential large new settlements allocated in the Local Plan, the accessibility of Down Grange and out-of-borough rugby sites from these settlements and the extent to which the floodlit provision at these sites have unused capacity in the weekly peak, particularly on midweek evenings for training.
- The facility priorities for the sport of rugby in Basingstoke & Deane are:
  - **To improve security of access to the facilities used by the community rugby clubs**

### Rugby

- To resolve the training capacity issue for the Basingstoke club at Down Grange (improved grass pitch quality and/or upgrade of main pitch to 3G)
- To resolve the inadequate changing provision and pitch capacity at Mays Bounty/Basingstoke College or secure alternative provision for the Chineham club.

## 2.6 Summary

In summary, much has been achieved in the years since the current playing pitch strategy was prepared including the provision of two floodlit football turf pitches on school sites for shared education and community use, a second floodlit artificial grass pitch at the Borough Council's flagship outdoor sports hub site at Down Grange in the town and improvements to natural turf pitches and ancillary facilities on a number of key sites both in the town (for example at Stratton Park) and in several settlements in the more rural parts of the borough (for example at Kingsclere).

Although there has been disruption to the established patterns of participation in all four of the major playing pitch sports caused by Covid 19 mitigation measures, demand for places to play has recovered well. Within the borough, demand now appears to be exceeding pre-pandemic levels in all four main playing pitch sports, in the younger age groups most particularly.

The detailed assessments undertaken into supply and demand factors have shown that, whilst there is sufficient overall capacity of playing pitches across the borough as a whole, the distribution of the available capacity does not align closely to the areas of demand. As a result, there are a number of localities within the borough where demand outstrips the playing

capacity of the supply despite the new provision and enhancements since the last review in 2015.

With population growth of more than 28,000 forecast by 2040 - the end of the new Local Plan period - it is clear that, without plans to increase the capacity of the supply substantially further, the existing 'pinch points' will come under increasing pressure particularly where these sites are likely to be accessible to those areas allocated for large scale new housing developments. Further playing pitch capacity is needed to maintain and improve opportunities for existing and future residents to take part in playing pitch sports for their health and wellbeing.

The summary conclusions of the assessment of current and future playing pitch needs are:

1. Within the urban area the priority needs relate in the main to training facilities. The town's large rugby club based at Down Grange still needs more training capacity (as identified in the 2015 LRNA). Playing and training capacity (and security of access to a playing pitch) is also an issue for Chineham RFC, currently also based in the town at Basingstoke College.
2. The large community football clubs in the town - e.g. Hatch Warren, Basingstoke Town CFC, MFC Popley, Down Grange Youth FC - also struggle to secure sufficient midweek training slots on the existing supply of AGPs, two of which (at Everest Academy and QMC) are in urgent need of upgrade to FA accreditation standard.
3. Cricket facility priorities in the urban area centre around the Mays Bounty Ground and the pavilion which is out-dated and fails to adequately meet the needs for cricket and a further three sports sections based at this site.

Stratton Park is also a priority site in view of the paucity of supply of publicly accessible non-turf cricket pitches in the town.

3. Basingstoke Hockey Club is experiencing increasing demand since the pandemic (particularly among juniors). Whilst the new second pitch at Down Grange has enabled growth, it has served in the main to accommodate previously displaced demand (to a school site in Eastleigh) for match play. The current priority need for the club is to ensure the original pitch, lighting and ancillary facilities are maintained and upgraded as necessary. Securing additional early evening slots to accommodate growing junior hockey demand (ideally on the two home pitches in place of youth football training) is also a priority for the club going forward.

4. In the northern part of the borough there are no accessible AGPs available for midweek evening training for community football clubs most particularly for Tadley Calleva FC with more than 30 teams.

5. There is a need to increase playing pitch capacity on the east side of the borough. Old Basing Recreation Ground is a particular pinch point accommodating three growing clubs with overlapping playing seasons in cricket, football and archery. There is also no spare capacity at existing cricket grounds on this side of the borough for additional Saturday league teams. Other overplayed sites to the east of the urban area are Sherfield Park Open Space, Sherford Green and Mapledurwell Recreation Ground - all sites in growing demand for youth football from Chineham Tigers (30+ teams) as well as other clubs.

6. Lastly, there are also capacity issues on the west side of the borough related to football. The large community football clubs located in Whitchurch, Oakley and Overton (and an organisation running development

teams) compete for available home pitches at peak times (particularly on Sundays) and for AGP slots on midweek evening floodlit training. Potentially, there will be a need for additional cricket provision on this side in future although the priority, where feasible, is to enhance the playing capacity at existing grounds.

The next section considers a range of scenarios and options to increase the playing capacity to meet these identified needs.



## Section 3 – Scenario Testing

### 3. Scenario Testing

#### 3.1 Introduction

As part of the Strategy Development process a number of scenarios have been considered along with their potential implications on the future picture of provision for playing pitch sports in the borough. The scenarios have also been considered by the Playing Pitch Steering Group members in relation to setting the priorities for future enhancement and provision detailed in the action plan for playing pitches and the overall LRNA action plan priorities.

Scenario	Potential impact
<b>3.2 Improved quality of sites</b>	<p><b>Cricket</b></p> <p>Before considering new cricket ground provision, the priority facility needs are for enhancement of key club cricket sites through a combination of installation of non-turf pitches (NTPs), extensions to existing squares and replacement of poor-quality pavilions. This scenario is likely to have the greatest impact on future participation.</p> <p>Key sites for improvement of the natural turf are Sherfield Green, Herriard Green and Parsonage Meadow. New non-turf artificial pitches (NTPs) are recommended at East Woodhay, Ashford Hill and Ramsdell and replacement / refurbished NTPs at Bridge St, Overton, Old Basing and Stratton Park.</p> <p>To sustain participation and encourage more participation by women and girls, pavilion enhancements or replacements are needed at Mays Bounty, Oakley, Stratfield Turgis, St Mary Bourne and Parsonage Meadow.</p>

Scenario	Potential impact
	<p><b>Football</b></p> <p>As identified in the 2020 Local Football Facility Plan and confirmed by Pitch Power analysis reports, improving the quality of key natural turf pitches on those key sites in greatest demand for Sunday morning adult football, youth football and mini-soccer would have significant impact on increasing overall playing capacity. If all 24 pitches on the 8 identified key sites were improved from 'standard' to 'good' quality, a further 40+ match equivalent sessions could be programmed on these sites. However, as highlighted in the football Assessment of Need appendix in respect of the pitch enhancement project nearing completion at the Fieldgate Centre in Kingsclere, sustaining higher playing capacity will require ongoing commitment to enhanced pitch maintenance at these sites.</p> <p>With respect to artificial grass pitches for football, currently just 3 AGPs are accredited for affiliated league match use. Refurbishment and accreditation of the AGP at Queen Mary's College and upgrade, extension and accreditation of the AGP at The Everest Academy will impact positively on affiliated league match play capacity particularly on Sunday mornings when demand is highest.</p> <p><b>Hockey</b></p> <p>To maintain the current levels of playing capacity it is necessary to plan for the refurbishment of Pitch 1 at Down Grange (and to upgrade the lighting to this pitch) within the next 2-3 seasons (i.e. by 2025)</p> <p>In the longer term, should demand for junior hockey and recreational adult formats of the game continue to grow, then</p>

Scenario	Potential impact
	<p>refurbishment of the small-sided (9v9) sand filled pitch at Queen Mary's College would be an option to create additional capacity for hockey although, as off site, not ideal for the Basingstoke club. As identified later under the 'change of use' scenario, increasing hockey capacity on the Down Grange pitches through relocation of football hires to alternative 3G pitches is the club's strong preference.</p> <p><b>Rugby</b> Particular capacity pinch points are experienced for floodlit training at both Basingstoke RFC (Down Grange) and at Chineham RFC (Mays Bounty/BCOT). Increasing the capacity of the main 'cage' pitch and/or the training area at Down Grange is the leading priority moving forward either through enhanced maintenance and/or drainage (subject to assessment and feasibility) or, ideally, upgrade to a rugby compliant 3G playing surface.</p> <p>Capacity issues for the Kingsclere club at the Fieldgate Centre will be addressed once the drainage improvement works are completed. However, as noted under football above, sustaining this higher playing capacity will require ongoing commitment to an enhanced maintenance regime at this site.</p>
<b>3.3 More community use at education sites</b>	<p><b>Cricket</b> None of the community secondary schools in the borough maintain fine turf cricket pitches. Non-turf (artificial) pitches are provided on some secondary school playing fields in Basingstoke (e.g. at Brighton Hill School and Everest Academy in the town and at Hurst School in the north of the borough). However, in the main, these NTPs are poorly maintained with uneven outfields as there is little cricket played in the schools. Use of education facilities to provide</p>

Scenario	Potential impact
	<p>greater capacity for future demand growth in community cricket is not a realistic scenario in Basingstoke &amp; Deane. Instead, increased capacity will require enhancement of club sites, village green and park pitches, including the NTP in Stratton Park in the town.</p> <p><b>Football</b> Expanding the playing capacity for community football on education sites - in particular youth football and mini-soccer and adult team training - has been a notable success of the 2015 strategy. Leading examples are the partnership investment in new AGPs with Community Use Agreements at the Testbourne and Vyne schools. This new provision has supported growth of the Chineham Tigers and Whitchurch youth football clubs in particular over the last 5-6 seasons.</p> <p>Planning ahead, this scenario offers potential for substantial further capacity for community football. Leading opportunities exist (subject to feasibility) at Hurst School in the north of the borough (as identified in 2015) and at The Costello School in Basingstoke town (as identified in 2020 in the borough's Local Football Facilities Plan).</p> <p>In addition, in the longer term, should football demand growth trends continue (particularly in the girls and women's game), it will be important to maximise the opportunities afforded by the development of new schools and playing fields planned as part of major new housing developments on land East of Basingstoke, at Manydown and at Basingstoke Golf Club/Hounsme Fields.</p> <p>At several of the existing education sites with established community use, the scope of planning and/or funding agreements</p>

Scenario	Potential impact	Scenario	Potential impact
	<p>and conditions (e.g. the sports facilities included, hours of availability and any pricing terms) are unclear at present. Similarly, there is lack of clarity as to the duration of agreements and any monitoring arrangements. To safeguard existing community access, there is a need to clarify the scope and duration of existing agreements and to address gaps where current community access relies on goodwill and historical precedence.</p> <p><b>Hockey</b> As identified under the improved quality scenario, the 9v9 floodlit sand filled artificial grass pitch at Queen Mary's College (already in community use for football) offers a good deal of spare capacity currently which, although not the club's preferred solution, could be used to relieve the pressure of demand growth for junior hockey experienced by the Basingstoke Hockey Club at Down Grange.</p> <p>The potential for use of AGPs at independent schools in the borough is currently negligible. However, schools in the independent sector are increasingly open to developing local community links to maintain charitable status. The potential for future use of the Cheam School pitch should also be explored particularly for occasional overspill use or as a temporary replacement for matches or training when Pitch 1 is undergoing repairs. This pitch may also provide potential for hosting inter-school tournaments, area/county training sessions, representative matches or coach education/officials training courses.</p> <p><b>Rugby</b> There is little potential for further use of education sites in the borough for community rugby. The RFU favours grounds secured by clubs either freehold or on long leases where possible. Within</p>		<p>the borough, one club - Chineham RFC - is fully reliant on use of an education pitch (owned by the Basingstoke Technology College) and already uses the single pitch to its capacity. Since the last strategy in 2015, the club has become a full member sports section of the Basingstoke Sports &amp; Social Club with shared access to the Sports &amp; Social Club pavilion. The Sports &amp; Social Club has an informal agreement for use of the adjacent Fairfield Junior School playing field at weekends. The opportunities for use of education pitches at this venue are therefore already maximised. Under this education scenario, the priority for the Chineham club would be to formalise security of access to the BCOT and Fairfield playing fields and enhancement or replacement of the Sports &amp; Social Club Pavilion changing rooms which are not fit for purpose for rugby.</p>
		<p><b>3.4 Change of use from one sport or pitch type to another</b></p>	<p><b>Cricket</b> In the case of cricket, the needs assessment supports retention of the supply of fine turf pitches to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate forecast growth from population change and investment in developing the women and girl's game. However, now that lower league adult cricket can be played on non-turf pitches (NTPs), there is a strong needs case for providing more NTPs at cricket grounds either on existing fine turf cricket tables or, where there is sufficient land, as junior pitches separate from the cricket table. A well-maintained NTP has a playing capacity of up to 60 adult match equivalent sessions or 80 junior sessions in a season.</p> <p>Provision of NTPs at East Woodhay Cricket Ground and at Ashford Hill Recreation Ground are identified as priorities in the cricket Assessment of Need appendix to increase capacity for</p>

Scenario	Potential impact
	<p>development aligning with the respective cricket clubs' development plans.</p> <p><b>Football</b> The upgrade of the floodlit hard court Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) to a small sided AGP at the Fieldgate Centre in Kingsclere (a priority in the 2015 strategy) has been a notable success in providing on-site capacity for training for the Kingsclere FC men, women and youth sides and as well as a quality surface for organised and informal recreational small sided games at low cost.</p> <p>As identified in the 2020 Local Football Facilities Plan for the borough, there are similar opportunities afforded by the existing hard court MUGAs in Winklebury Park and at Popley Community Centre. Upgrade of the Winklebury MUGA will provide valuable training capacity for the Rooksdown and Winklebury Wizards youth sides in particular. Popley Community Centre for recreational football in an area of relative deprivation within the town.</p> <p><b>Hockey</b> With regard to hockey, to continue to meet the existing demand for the game in Basingstoke and Deane, it is critically important that the current supply of two hockey AGPs at Down Grange is protected from change of playing surface to football 3G. Similarly, to allow future capacity for growth, it will be important to ensure that existing football use of these pitches in the peak early evenings can be moved to existing or new 3G pitches in the town, and that the small-sided sand based AGP at Queen Mary's College remains as a hockey compatible playing surface for juniors and adult recreational play as a minimum.</p>

Scenario	Potential impact
	<p><b>Rugby</b> As identified in 2015 and earlier in this update, change of playing surface of the Cage pitch and/or the floodlit training area from natural turf to World Rugby compliant 3G would have a significant impact on capacity and quality of the playing and training experience for the Basingstoke Rugby Club, and, potentially, for the Chineham Rugby Club which relies for training on mobile lights on an unsecured education pitch at BCOT currently.</p>
<p><b>3.5 Lose availability of a key site or sites</b></p>	<p>Sites in private ownership with short leases present the greatest risk as far as future supply is concerned. Three privately owned playing pitch sites are identified in the borough where security of access is inadequate and presents a risk with regard to either continued use or the securing of governing body grant funding. These sites are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Oakley Park cricket ground</li> <li>○ Parsonage Meadow, Whitchurch cricket club</li> <li>○ Laverstoke Park, Overton Rugby Club</li> </ul> <p>As highlighted under the education site scenario above, in order to better safeguard existing community access, there is also a need to clarify the scope, duration and conditions of existing agreements with education providers - e.g. BCOT &amp; Fairfield (rugby and football), as well as QM College, Testbourne, Vyne, Everest and Hurst schools (football) - and strengthen the agreements where necessary.</p> <p>At the Down Grange Sports Complex key site, Basingstoke Hockey Club seeks longer security of tenure on the Maidenwell pavilion first floor areas to facilitate securing grant funding for upgrades. Loss of access to the social areas critical to revenue generation or</p>

Scenario	Potential impact
	the shared changing rooms on the ground floor would place this large community sports club at risk.
<b>3.6 New pitches in borough or catchment area</b>	<p>No new cricket, hockey or rugby pitches are currently planned in the borough. However, within the drive time catchment area for some borough residents living close the borough boundary, pitches newly provided or in development in neighbouring local authority areas will absorb some demand. On the east side of Basingstoke, the new home ground in development in Hook for Hook &amp; Odiham Rugby Club is a leading example.</p> <p>With regard to football, on the east side of the borough, new provision in the Fleet area has opened since the 2015 strategy at The Hart Leisure Centre (small-sided 3G pitches) and at Calthorpe Park School (AGP). These facilities will continue to provide some additional capacity for football from residents of Chineham and other villages on this side of the borough for those with access to cars.</p> <p>In the short term, 3 new adult football pitches will come available to Whitchurch Town Council as part of a Section 106 Planning Agreement at Mill Springs. A lease is in negotiation on 2 of these pitches with Whitchurch United which, when finalised, will remove the necessity for this club to travel out of the borough on Sundays to Andover to secure sufficient pitches.</p> <p>In the borough's catchment area to the north, there is potential for provision of a new AGP quite close to Tadley at Burghfield Common in West Berkshire. This project should be kept under review in</p>

Scenario	Potential impact
	<p>relation to the prioritisation of additional AGP supply in the north of Basingstoke borough at either Hurst School or Barlow's Park.</p> <p>Similarly, to the west in the Whitchurch catchment area, Test Valley has provision of a second AGP in Andover as a priority project in the Council's PPS. However, no site has been identified as yet.</p>
<b>3.7 Significant increase in demand in specific part of the borough</b>	<p>There are currently housing proposals on the west side of the urban area of sufficient scale to have a significant relevance to future increases in demand for playing pitches. The two largest sites shortlisted for new settlements in the Local Plan Update (LPU) are to the west of the urban area at <i>Manydown</i> where 2,100 new dwellings are currently proposed, and <i>Popham Airfield</i> on the north side of the A303 (south of Overton) where 2,200 dwellings are proposed. There are also significant new housing proposals west of the town at Basingstoke Golf Course and Hounsme currently under review due to drainage capacity issues.</p> <p>Without further provision of playing pitches, development of this scale (over 7,000 new homes over the plan period) will result in a shortfall of supply for community football if not supported by new provision in the west of the borough. Enhancement to existing pitches and increased use of existing education pitches alone will not provide sufficient additional capacity to accommodate the level of increased demand for football likely to be generated by the additional population.</p> <p>These proposals significantly strengthen the needs case for more football capacity west of the urban area. As identified in the</p>

Scenario	Potential impact	Scenario	Potential impact
	<p>detailed Football Assessment of Need report (Appendix B) and the 2020 Local Football Facilities Plan, the priority location in the west for new provision is Peter Houseman Playing Fields.</p> <p>This key site has a base of well-established community football clubs, Oakley Youth and Basingstoke School of Development but is only large enough to accommodate a small-sided AGP. Newfound Sports Ground could be considered as a larger alternative for an AGP in this area.</p> <p>As the new housing schemes in the west are built out, the existing football sites are unlikely to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the increase in demand. This is recognised in Supplementary Planning Documents relating to the housing schemes. The Development Brief for Basingstoke Golf Club proposes a primary school and playing field, 2 adult football pitches, a community centre with integrated or separate changing rooms. The Development Brief for Manydown proposes two primary schools and playing fields, land for a secondary school and playing fields, public open spaces and a 'Sports Hub' with both indoor and outdoor facilities (either stand alone or dual use with protected community access) changing and parking.</p> <p>The football Assessment of Need appendix supports the case for these proposals to accommodate the likely future increases in demand should these developments proceed.</p> <p>The Local Plan and Update proposals also identify <i>Land East of Basingstoke</i> (Redlands, Lodge Farm etc) for the development of up to 1,500 homes.</p>		<p>The football assessment of need has identified existing capacity issues at key sites on the east side of the urban area including Old Basing Recreation Ground, Sherfield Open Space and Waterend Playing Field (particularly on Sunday mornings), also high use in the evenings of the closest available AGPs at the Vyne School and the unaccredited (hockey size) 3G at The Everest School. The needs assessment therefore supports the Development Brief proposal for provision of a new full-size artificial grass pitch with secure community access in the peak hours in the east of the borough (with appropriate management) should this housing proposal proceed.</p> <p><b>3.8 Significant demand growth in a particular sport, gender or age group</b></p> <p>The governing bodies of football, cricket and rugby all have a clear strategic focus on delivering more opportunities for women and girls to play and compete. As identified in the detailed assessments of future need for each sport, it is demand growth in this gender that is likely to be the most significant over the next planning period.</p> <p>Basingstoke borough has community clubs in all four playing pitch sports of the necessary size and proven commitment to deliver in this key area. This is evidenced by the growth in women and girls' teams since 2015.</p> <p>In football, there are now 3 women's league teams and 15 girl's age group teams across 7 FA Wildcats sites for girl's football across the borough.</p> <p>Basingstoke Rugby Club has made significant progress in this area supported by enhancements to its changing rooms at Down</p>

Scenario	Potential impact
	<p>Grange. The club now runs a women's team and three age grade girl's teams in addition to mixed mini rugby which is offered at all four of the clubs based in the borough. The club also delivers mixed Touch Rugby sessions on Monday evenings.</p> <p>Chineham RFC also aspires to offer girl's age grade rugby. However, delivery will require the Sports &amp; Social Club (of which the rugby club is a member sports section) to be successful in raising the necessary funding to deliver plans for new changing rooms.</p> <p>Women and girls' cricket in the borough is currently restricted to the senior Basingstoke &amp; North Hants Club which has successfully developed a women's side and developed girls age grade teams from under 9s to under 16s since 2015. Although as a summer sport, women's cricket is not as dependent as rugby on appropriate changing facilities, delivery of an enhanced pavilion at May's Bounty Ground would help the club to build on these recent successes.</p> <p>Whilst three other clubs, Old Basing, St Mary Bourne and Stratfield Turgis, have current aspirations to develop more opportunities for women and girls to play competitive cricket (building on existing All Stars and Dynamos programmes), growth at these village clubs is likely to be quite small in scale.</p> <p>In hockey, equal opportunities and participation by gender is already in place at the Basingstoke Hockey Club. The area of greatest demand growth is likely to continue to be among juniors growing at around 5% annually in recent seasons despite the pandemic.</p>

### 3.9 Summary

In summary, the scenarios that present the greatest opportunities for the Borough Council and its partners to address the playing pitch facility needs identified in Section 2 are:

- *Increase in demand in specific area* - The housing growth areas present significant opportunity to secure development contributions to address identified local infrastructure needs for community playing pitches. The priority should be to secure off site contributions to enhance the playing capacity at existing 'hub' playing pitch sites with established site management that are easily accessible from the new housing areas without use of private cars.
- *Quality improvements* - improving the quality of key natural turf pitches on those key sites in greatest demand for Sunday morning adult football, youth football and mini-soccer (and sustaining the improved quality by means of enhanced ongoing maintenance regimes) would have significant impact on increasing overall playing capacity. So too would refurbishment and accreditation of the AGP at Queen Mary's College and upgrade, extension and accreditation of the AGP at The Everest Academy as this will enable affiliated league match play impacting positively on capacity particularly on Sunday mornings when demand is highest.
- *Change of Use* - Provision of more AGP capacity in the town - by upgrading the 'cage' pitch at Down Grange to FA (and rugby) compliant 3G (as proposed in the 2015 LRNA) and/or the enhancement of The Everest Academy 3G pitch and/or a new AGP at Costello School - will

have a major positive impact on hockey capacity at Down Grange by freeing up early evening slots on the AGPs from youth football.

## Section 4 - Policy Recommendations



## 4. Policy Recommendations

### 4.1 Introduction

This section of the Playing Pitch Strategy sets out a number of overarching policy recommendations that the Steering Group and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are to apply over the duration of this strategy. These will ensure that this essential planning document continues to play a leading role in the on-going provision of high-quality facilities for outdoor sport and can meet the needs and demands highlighted throughout this strategy.

### 4.2 Planning Policy

**National Policy Context** - The relevant policy protecting existing sports facilities and land in the government's *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019* is paragraph 97:

*'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:*

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

**Local Policy Context** - The policies contained within this strategy are in line with and provide support to, the *"BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE LOCAL PLAN 2011–2029 SUBMISSION – REGULATION 22 (October 2014) Policy CN8–Community, Leisure and Cultural Facilities"* which states:

Development proposals will be permitted where they:

- "a) Retain and maintain existing facilities which are valued by the community;*
- b) Improve the quality and capacity of facilities valued by the community;*
- c) Provide new facilities, in accordance with adopted council standards, where there is evidence of need that cannot be met by existing provision; and*
- d) Are delivered to prescribed timescales to meet the needs of the community that are being provided for."*

The Local Plan goes on to state:

*"Where opportunities exist, the council will support the co-location of community, leisure and culture facilities and other local services. Proposals that would result in the loss of valued facilities currently or last used for the provision of community, leisure and cultural activities will only be permitted if it is demonstrated that:*

- o *The facility is no longer needed for any of the functions that it can perform; or*
- o *It is demonstrated that it is no longer practical, desirable or viable to retain them; or*
- o *Any proposed replacement or improved facilities will be equivalent or better in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility, and there will be no overall reduction in the level of facilities in the area in which the existing development is located; or*
- o *The proposal will clearly provide sufficient community benefit to outweigh the loss of the existing facility, meeting evidence of a local need.*

*Any development proposals that would result in the loss of community, leisure and cultural facilities must be accompanied by an assessment which clearly shows the facility or land to be surplus to requirements. As a minimum the assessment must evaluate the quantity and quality of existing facilities in the locality and assess the need and value to the community. The views of the local community on any loss must be sought as part of this assessment.*

*Facilities and services which are essential for underpinning community life and ensuring that members of the local community are able to meet their day-to-day needs are addressed by policy CN7 (Essential Facilities and Services). Whereas facilities and services which enrich and ensure the vitality of communities are protected, supported and facilitated by CN8. CN8 also relates to facilities which serve the wider community i.e. which go beyond just local needs.”*

This Playing Pitch Strategy provides a robust evidence base of need across the whole of Basingstoke and Deane and meets the needs of the above policy through having undertaken an assessment of supply which evaluates the quantity and quality of existing facilities in the locality and an assessment of need and value to the community.

Under the Local Plan Policies the Council will work positively with communities, including local voluntary organisations, and support proposals to develop, retain, improve or re-use community, leisure or cultural facilities, including those set out in Neighbourhood Plans/Orders including Community Right to Build Orders, along with the appropriate supporting development which may make such provision economically viable. The Playing Pitch Strategy contributes to the evidence base for the retention and protection of playing pitches as part of the Leisure offer in Basingstoke and Deane.

The Council’s Policy EM5 – Green Infrastructure states:

*“Development proposals will only be permitted where they do not:  
a) Prejudice the delivery of the council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy (and subsequent updates);  
b) Result in the fragmentation of the green infrastructure network by severing important corridors/links; or  
c) Result in undue pressure on the network which cannot be fully mitigated.*

*The council will support proposals which seek to improve links and remedy identified deficiencies in the green infrastructure network in accordance with the council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy.”*

Playing pitches in Basingstoke and Deane are a significant element of Green Infrastructure and the Playing Pitch Strategy again provides an evidence base to enable the Council to identify such deficiencies in relation to playing pitch provision.

The Council’s policy on Green Infrastructure goes on to state:

*“The council will seek to protect and enhance the quality and extent of public open space and public rights of way. Proposals for the redevelopment of public and private open spaces will not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that:*

- o Replacement areas will be at least equivalent in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility, and there will be no overall negative impact on the provision of green infrastructure; or*
- o A robust assessment clearly demonstrates that the space is surplus to local requirements and will not be needed in the long term in accordance with the council’s local standards; or*
- o The proposal is for alternative recreational provision which meets evidence of local need in such a way as to outweigh the loss.*

*Development proposals will be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that green infrastructure can be provided and phased to support the requirements of proposed development and be in accordance with the council’s adopted green space standards. Green space and equipped play will normally be provided on-site.*

*Consideration will be given to an off-site financial contribution towards the enhancement of existing facilities, in addition to, or instead of, provision of new green space on site but only where:*

- *The quantity standard for the number of proposed dwellings does not result in a requirement for green space which meets the minimum size standard for a particular type; or*
- *It can be demonstrated that the needs of new residents can be met.”*

This policy supports the protection of playing pitches and this Playing Pitch Strategy provides the detailed evidence to determine the quantified need for such protection.

The Council defines Green Infrastructure as a network of green spaces and other environmental features which provides a multi-functional green space resource. For the purposes of the Local Plan, ‘multi-functional’ green space can be defined as green space which acts as a focus for the community, contributes to community cohesion and development, landscape conservation, biodiversity conservation, visual amenity and tranquillity, environmental sustainability, active and passive recreation, and the local economy. Examples of multifunctional green space provision include: playing fields and parks and gardens, where most of the publicly accessible pitches are provided.

All playing pitches and outdoor sports hubs in Basingstoke and Deane are now identified in this strategy, together with details of their usage by the community, which further helps the Council in justifying their protection.

### 4.3 Provision Standards

**Quantity Standards** - With regard to playing pitches (as a typology of open space), Sport England's guidance<sup>1</sup> strongly advises local planning authorities

<sup>1</sup> Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, October 2013 (Sport England)

to move away from the use of standards in assessing and determining quantitative needs. The guidance advocates gathering detailed local supply and demand data and assessment of area, sport and site-specific needs in order to determine which existing pitches need to be protected and enhanced and priority areas/sites for new playing pitch supply based on this detailed assessment.

The guidance recognises that quantitative standards have become increasingly less useful and relevant as a planning tool for playing pitches with the variation in the playing capacity of natural turf pitches (depending on their quality) and the increase in provision and use of artificial grass playing surfaces which can provide much greater playing capacity than natural turf. Policy changes by the playing pitch sport governing bodies have also increased the use of artificial surfaces for competitive matches in addition to training.

A further shortcoming of quantity standards as a planning tool is that they encourage new 'on site' provision (often one or two pitches) which are generally of less value to community sport than use of development contributions towards 'off site' enhancement of existing playing pitch sites to form more readily sustainable and effective hub sites.

Accordingly, the strategic recommendations for playing pitch provision to 2040 in Basingstoke & Deane in this section of the report do not include a per capita quantity standard. Rather, in accordance with Sport England's published guidance, recommendations are made for a minimum quality standard for playing pitches and for the protection, enhancement and provision of new playing pitches on area and site-specific basis.

**Quality Standards** - Pitch carrying capacity has a direct relationship with pitch quality. For example, raising the quality of an adult football pitch from 'Standard' to 'Good' would enable one additional game (or training session) per week to be accommodated. Investment in quality enhancements to pitches at existing playing pitch sites with secure community access is, usually, more cost effective than investment in new provision.

It is therefore recommended that the Borough Council and its partner sports agencies seek to achieve and maintain 'good' quality (as determined by the latest NGB published guidance) for all playing pitches used for national governing body affiliated league standard of play. The current guidance is set out in Figure 4.1.

**Figure 4.1 Recommended Pitch Quality Standards**

**Cricket:** Good (i.e. an aggregate rating of 80% or more against ECB Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment proforma criteria and scoring mechanism for the outfield, grass wickets, pavilion, artificial wickets and non-turf cricket practice nets as applicable to the site)<sup>2</sup>

**Football:** Good (i.e. an aggregate rating of 80% or more against FA Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment proforma criteria and scoring mechanism for the assessment criteria and aggregate rating scores for the playing surface and maintenance programme)<sup>3</sup>

**Rugby Union:** Good (M2) rating (i.e. no action needed on maintenance) and D3 rating (i.e. no action needed on pitch drainage)<sup>4</sup>.

**Hockey:** Good (80% or more against Sport England Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment proforma criteria and scoring mechanism for the AGP playing surface age, condition, markings, fencing, security, goals and posts and ancillary facilities)<sup>5</sup>.

To support community clubs and those Parish Councils with playing pitches used for affiliated games to achieve and maintain a 'good' quality standard, it is recommended that, the Borough Council continues to liaise closely with the playing pitch sport governing bodies and their pitch maintenance advisors to identify and prioritise the specific maintenance improvement works required to bring the quality of Standard rated pitches to Good quality.

#### 4.4 Protect, Enhance and Provide

The national and local policies with respect to playing pitches are reflected within the following recommendations separated out under the headings of *Protect, Enhance and Provide*. The protection of existing sites remains similar to the 2015 study in that the same principles need to be applied and maintained. Given the evidence presented this furthers the importance to ensure no loss of playing field facilities is a key policy driver for the Council.

##### Protect

1. Basingstoke and Deane has undertaken a Playing Pitch Strategy and

Union)

<sup>5</sup> Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance Appendix 6, October 2013 (England Hockey Board)

<sup>2</sup> Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance Appendix 3, October 2013 (England & Wales Cricket Board)

<sup>3</sup> Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance Appendix 2, March 2014 (Football Association)

<sup>4</sup> Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance Appendix 4, October 2013 (Rugby Football

assessed existing and future needs for pitch provision across the borough. The firm conclusion is that there is an identified need to retain all existing playing fields (and to ensure those current sites that are considered not secured as part of this supply, to become secured) and it is therefore recommended that the existing planning policies should continue to be applied so that the Council will resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a playing field or land last used as a playing field.

2. Should a playing pitch exist in the borough that is not mentioned in this Playing Pitch Strategy and appendices, its omission is not an endorsement by the Borough Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.
3. It is also recommended that the Council continue to work with strategic sports partners (Sport England and the National Governing Bodies of sport for playing pitch sports) to seek agreements to secure access for community sport at those sites in the borough where long term access is currently unsecured.
4. Where playing field sites are in the Council's ownership, the policy of securing community access through asset transfer to community clubs and/or sports associations should continue to be applied, provided that:
  - i) The facilities are assessed as 'good' quality by the relevant governing bodies of sport prior to transfer, and
  - ii) The transferee Organisation is able to demonstrate it has the capacity and resources to maintain the facilities to good quality (and this forms part of any service level agreement). It is recommended that the terms of future transfer agreements include incentives for the clubs to deliver sports development outcomes (e.g. grow numbers of teams, volunteering, and

sporting opportunities for under-represented groups) that align with the Council's aims and objectives.

5. Ensure that any changes to levels of provision as recommended in the action plan of this strategy, reductions in the number of pitches marked, changes in pitch sizes (e.g. adult to junior pitches), provision of training grids, are reversible to accommodate future need.
6. Influence the design and specification of school facilities to ensure their suitability for school and community use, securing formal community use agreements at each site.
7. It is recommended the Council maintain its existing budget for playing pitch maintenance in recognition of the contribution that outdoor sports make to meeting strategic aims and objectives for public health, education and community cohesion.

#### **Enhance and Provide**

1. It is recommended the Borough Council and those Parish Councils with playing field sites continue to seek the advice of the pitch sports governing bodies and their respective pitch advisers to secure maximum value from their respective budget allocations for maintenance of playing pitches, particularly when new pitch maintenance contract specifications are being prepared.
2. Similarly, it is recommended that the Local Authorities continue to seek the advice of these sports bodies whenever pre-planning proposals or planning applications involving new playing pitches or ancillary facilities are brought forward or new S106 Agreements for playing pitches are

drafted. This to ensure that the design, layout and management plans maximise the community value of the new facilities and that the pitch maintenance plans meet the relevant Performance Quality Standards.

3. It is recommended that pitch maintenance by Local Authority employed ground staff and community club volunteers should be supported through the provision and promotion of low-cost training courses by the Borough Council in partnership with the sports governing bodies at least once a year.
4. Where feasible, it is recommended that the providers of football pitches in public parks and recreations grounds use moveable football goal post systems (procured from a supplier on the FA's approved list) to reduce wear from informal play (particularly in goalmouths), and, where feasible, realign the pitch layouts on multi-pitch sites each season.
5. For new or replacement artificial grass pitches (AGPs), it is recommended the Borough Council ensure that they are tested, certified and maintained to the necessary standard for inclusion on the relevant NGB register i.e.
  - o Football AGPs - FA Football Turf pitch register
  - o Rugby AGPs - RFU World Rugby compliant pitch register
  - o Hockey AGPs - EH register of pitches approved for Category 3 play or above.
6. With regard to playing pitches as a type of outdoor sports facility it is recommended that, from all new housing development where there is a net increase in population, contributions be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards the delivery of 'off

site' priority projects in the Basingstoke and Deane Playing Pitch Strategy in the locality of the proposed development. Appropriate contributions should also continue to be sought for ongoing maintenance of any new pitches. The priority playing pitch sites and projects are those set out in the Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan current at the time the planning application is submitted. The initial priority projects are set out in Section 5. The projects include playing pitch sites in private ownership and on school and parish sites outside the control of the Borough Council. Accordingly, the lead party responsible for progressing the actions is identified in the plan along with the key supporting agencies.

7. It is recommended that the Basingstoke and Deane Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group should review and update the Action Plan and priority projects periodically during the strategy period.

## Section 5 - Action Plan



## 5. Action Plan

### 5.1 Introduction

Aligning with the strategic recommendations in Section 4 and following consideration by the Steering Group of a range of future scenarios and their impacts (Section 3), this final section of the Playing Pitch Strategy sets out an initial action plan for delivering the priority playing pitch facility projects for enhancements and new provision.

These projects have been prioritised as having the best potential to impact against the shared objective outcome of the organisations represented on the Basingstoke and Deane Playing Pitch Steering Group to improve health and wellbeing by ensuring all residents have access to good quality facilities for sport and physical activity.

The first table of actions (Figure 5.1) have potential to be progressed in the short term (defined as within 2 years approximately) i.e. by 2025.

Figure 5.2 includes those actions and projects to be progressed in the medium term (defined as within 2-5 years) i.e. by 2028.

Actions that relate to recommended projects that are likely to require longer to progress - for example projects dependent on acquisition of land, the outcome of wider area development planning or large-scale review of options, feasibility and viability - are set out in Figure 5.3.

In accordance with the published guidance for the preparation of playing pitch strategies, it is recommended the Borough Council convene and chair periodic meetings of the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group to review progress and update the Action Plan and the priority ranking of projects to reflect material changes in the picture of supply and demand and changing scenarios.

The updates to the Action Plan should in turn inform periodic updates of the Council's priorities for investment through capital grant and loan programmes.

Where capital budget sums are shown for new provision, these are indicative estimates derived from Sport England Facility Cost Guidance Sheet (Second Quarter 2021) or cost estimates provided by the sports governing bodies. Actual costs will need to be determined as part of project specific feasibility studies.

Where sites are not in local authority ownership, implementation of the recommended actions will be subject to the cooperation of the owner/leaseholder. In addition, the actions will be subject to the necessary planning processes and to securing of the required funding, both for the initial capital development and ongoing cost of maintenance.

This action plan from the PPS forms part of the wider LRNA Action Plan for its full delivery covering playing pitches, indoor and outdoor sport and community buildings.

## 5.1 Short Term

**Figure 5.1 Short Term Actions**

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
Mays Bounty	Cricket, Football, Rugby, Squash	Formalise existing access to BCOT & Fairfield Junior School pitches. Continue to maintain the ancillary changing and social facilities as necessary to sustain existing use.	Sports Social Club	RFU ECB FA BCOT Fairfield JS	tbd
Down Grange	Hockey, Rugby, Football, Athletics	Upgrade hockey AGP pitch 1 and lighting to LED linked to review of pitch and pavilion agreements. Refresh Maidenwell Pavilion changing areas. Assess feasibility of enhancing rugby training area quality. Progress rugby pavilion refresh / upgrade project.	BDBC  BDBC  Rugby Club	Hockey Club  RFU/ Rugby Club	tbd
Fieldgate Centre	Football, Rugby, Cricket	Enhanced maintenance regime for the playing field from spring 2022 on completion of new drainage installation.	BDBC	Com Assoc	tbd based on Surfacing Standards Ltd
Everest Academy	Football	Upgrade and extension of hockey size 3G to full size FA accredited AGP.	Bourne Academy Trust	FF	c. £280k (BAT c. £100k, plus potential for Lilly Rd development agreement contribution)
Mill Springs Whitchurch	Football	Complete lease negotiations for club use of new pitches and changing rooms.	Town Council	Club	n/a

**Figure 5.1 Short Term Actions**

Stratton Park	Cricket, Football	Complete pavilion refurbishment. Replace NTP. Enhance football pitch maintenance as FF Pitch Power (PP) recommendations	BDBC	ECB FA	Pavilion - funded NTP - £20k PP - up to £16k pa
Parsonage Meadow, Whitchurch	Cricket	Seek to secure tenure on ground and car park field.	Club	ECB	£20k
Oakley Park	Cricket	Seek to extend tenure on ground. Replace net system. Pavilion extension & showers upgrade.	Club	ECB Site Owner	c. £50k nets (£35k for single net) LIF & S106 funding secured (pavilion)
Bridge Street, Overton	Cricket, Football	Refurbish NTP.	ORC	ECB	£20k
Old Basing RG	Cricket, Football, Archery, Bowls	Refurbish NTP and NT nets - worn.	Parish Council	ECB	c. £70k
Ramsdell RG	Cricket	Install NTP.	Parish Council	Club ECB	£20k
Hurst School	Football	Feasibility study for dual use small sided AGP in place of the 7v7 pitches & changing room upgrade.  Enhance football pitch maintenance on main field as FF Pitch Power (PP) recommendations.	School	FF BDBC	c. £15k study (up to £1m pitch). (£200k LIF ringfenced)  PP up to £6k pa.
Peter Houseman RG, Oakley	Football	Feasibility study for a 7v7 small-sided AGP on this site or new AGP (size tbd) at Newfound Sports Ground.	Oakley Town Council	FF BDBC	c. £15k study (£430k pitch)

**Figure 5.1 Short Term Actions**

		Enhance football pitch maintenance as FF Pitch Power (PP) recommendations.			(OTC £20k ringfenced) PP - up to £10k pa
Queen Mary's College	Football, Hockey	Refurbish dual use AGP and secure FA accreditation.	College	FF BDBC	tbd
Pineapple Field	Football	Enhance football pitch maintenance as FF Pitch Power (PP) recommendations.	Parish Council	FF	PP - tbd
Hatch Warren PF	Football	Enhance football pitch maintenance as FF Pitch Power (PP) recommendations.	BDBC	FF	PP - up to £20k pa
Sherfield Park OS	Football	Enhance football pitch maintenance as FF Pitch Power (PP) recommendations.	BDBC	FF	PP - up to £12k pa
Brighton Hill PF	Football	Enhance football pitch maintenance as FF Pitch Power (PP) recommendations.	BDBC	FF	PP - up to £29k pa

## 5.2 Medium Term

**Figure 5.2 Medium Term Actions**

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
Mays Bounty	Cricket, Football, Rugby, Squash	Provide new changing rooms for playing pitch sports	Sports Social Club	RFU ECB	£690k (4 team + clubroom)
Down Grange	Hockey, Rugby, Football, Athletics	Progress athletics stand/ WCs project - releasing capacity in Pavilion for hockey and football players. Progress rugby 3G upgrade project on main pitch.	BDBC	EA & Club  RFU & Club	tbd  £1.3m

**Figure 5.2 Medium Term Actions**

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
Turgis Green	Cricket	Replace pavilion.	Parish Council	BDBC ECB Club	£265k
Ramsdell RG	Cricket	Replace pavilion.	Parish Council	ECB Club	£265k
Parsonage Meadow, Whitchurch	Cricket	Remove old NTP and extend square.	Club	St Cross Hospital (owner) ECB	£20k
Oakley Park	Cricket	New equipment store.	Club	ECB	tbd
Bridge Street, Overton	Cricket, Football	Extend square (either here or Berrydown Ground) to increase capacity.	ORC	ECB	tbd
St Mary Bourne RG	Cricket, Football	Replace pavilion.	Parish Council	Clubs ECB FF	£265k
Costello School	Football	Establish feasibility of new dual use AGP without impacting on school cricket pitch.	School	FF BDBC	c. £15k study (£1m pitch)
Queen Mary's College	Football, Hockey	Refurbish 9v9 sand AGP.	College	EH BDBC	tbd
Pineapple Field	Football	Provide changing/WCs - extensive use by Tadley Calleva YFC. Enhance football pitch maintenance as FF Pitch Power (PP) recommendations.	Parish Council	FF	£265k (2 teams + officials)  PP - tbd
Winklebury Park PF	Football	Upgrade hard court MUGA to 3G.	BDBC	FF	c. £150k

**Figure 5.2 Medium Term Actions**

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
Popley Fields Community Centre	Football	Upgrade hard court MUGA to 3G.		FF	c. £150k
Old Basing RG	Football Cricket Archery	Identify a suitable site and funding for provision of a new playing field and ancillary provision (and for ongoing maintenance) in the east area of the borough to accommodate at least one of these pitch sports (and their respective community club/s based at this overplayed ground) to enable relocation.	BDBC	Parish Council NGBs Clubs	tbd

### 5.3 Longer Term

**Figure 5.3 Longer Term Actions**

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
Mays Bounty CG	Cricket, Football, Rugby, Squash	New social areas	Sports Social Club	RFU ECB	tbd
Barlow's Park	Football	Feasibility for extension of site and development of an AGP (subject to progress of AGP proposals at Hurst School in Burghfield / Mortimer area (West Berks).	BPMA	BDBC Club	c £15k study Land -tbd Pitch - £1m
Turgis Green	Cricket	Replace pavilion.	Parish Council	BDBC ECB Club	£265k
Ramsdell RG	Cricket	Replace pavilion.	Parish Council	ECB Club	£265k

*Figure 5.3 Longer Term Actions*

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
Parsonage Meadow, Whitchurch	Cricket	Replace pavilion.	Club	St Cross Hospital (owner) ECB	£265k
Oakley Park	Cricket	Relay the square.	Club	ECB	£295k (for 8 wicket square)

# Section 6 - Conclusion



## 6. Conclusion

This Playing Pitch Strategy replaces the strategy published in 2015 and forms part of the evidence base to inform the update of the Local Plan for Basingstoke and Deane to 2040.

Since the last Basingstoke and Deane Playing Pitch Strategy was published, the capacity of the secured playing pitches available to residents of the borough and its catchment area has increased substantially. For example, AGPs have been provided at Testbourne and Vyne schools, the development of the Hampshire FA Football Complex in Winklebury has taken place and a second hockey pitch has been provided at Down Grange Outdoor Sports Complex. The quality and playing capacity of the natural turf pitch stock has also been enhanced at some key sites in accordance with recommendations in the 2015 PPS, notably at the Fieldgate Centre in Kingsclere in the north of the borough, at Waterend in the east and at Chineham RFC (BCOT Playing field) where drainage improvements have been made.

A number of ancillary facilities have also been enhanced to support growth in opportunities to play pitch sports (particularly for women and girls) and improving the sustainability of community clubs. Examples include the Basingstoke Rugby Club changing rooms, the Overton Rugby Club social spaces and a refurbishment of the shared cricket and football pavilion in Stratton Park.

Demand for playing pitch sports has recovered well following the movement restrictions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. The review has found that the current supply of pitches provide sufficient overall capacity within the borough to meet most demand of the resident

population in the peak period. However, due to the patterns of football play and the number and locations of large multi-team clubs in the borough, there are growing shortfalls in available pitches on Sunday mornings requiring a few teams in the west to travel out of the borough. Pressure of demand on the available supply capacity for winter training is evident (particularly in the north where the shortfall of an AGP identified in 2015 remains), and, to a lesser degree, at Down Grange for rugby.


Basingstoke remains extremely ambitious in its growth and development with the Vision 2050 driving the policies and strategic approach. This Playing Pitch Strategy, and the overall LRNA 2022 Update has identified the likely impact of the population growth currently projected on future demand for pitches for team games and training for the leading pitch sports as well as the potential impact of trends in the key sports, particularly growth in participation by women and girls.

Over the local plan update period to 2040, population growth and participation trends in the sports together evidence a needs case for further playing pitch provision together with further enhancement to existing leading sites. The Council has an excellent track record supporting sports projects since the last 2015 strategy, this new strategy is focused on retaining that momentum and an acknowledgement that this process needs to remain as an on-going focus to meet the growing demands from the needs of changing participation and growing population within Basingstoke.

Playing Pitches and outdoor sports provision play a critical role in the health and wellbeing of Basingstoke residents and just as the 2015 strategy identified, continued protection and strategic enhancement of the current stock and the identified priorities for new investment required should remain a key priority for the Council.

Basingstoke and Deane Playing Pitch Strategy 2022:  
Appendix A - Cricket - Assessment of Needs



  
**CONTINUUM**  
SPORT & LEISURE LTD

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This appendix to the Basingstoke & Deane Playing Pitch Strategy details the current picture of facility supply and demand for the playing pitch sport of **cricket** at individual sites and borough wide across the administrative area of the Borough of Basingstoke & Deane.
- 1.2 It also sets out how this current picture of provision may change over the time period of the next Local Plan (to 2040). The likely future picture of provision is assessed based on potential changes in supply (both committed and planned cricket infrastructure projects within the borough and its primary travel catchment), forecasts for growth in the resident population (including consideration of areas with allocations in the Local Plan for large scale housing growth) along with national trends in participation in cricket, and the development aspirations of the community cricket clubs based in the borough (established through consultation).
- 1.3 The policies, development programmes and investment priorities of the national governing body for the sport will also influence the future picture of facility supply and demand for the sport in Basingstoke & Deane. These are summarised in Section 2 below.
- 1.4 The final section brings together the information on supply and demand in the borough and draws conclusions as to the adequacy or otherwise of the existing supply to accommodate current demand (both from within the borough and, if relevant, displaced demand from neighbouring local authority areas). Conclusions are also drawn as to the likely facility needs for this playing pitch sport to 2040.

## 2. ECB Inspiring Generations Strategy 2020 - 2024

- 2.1 In January 2019, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced its strategy for 2020-24: '*Inspiring Generations*' - a blueprint for the future of cricket from grassroots to the top end of the professional game.
- 2.2 The strategy aims to invest over £500 million into the game to 2024 with 26 specific action areas being targeted to deliver across 6 strategic priorities:
  - **Grow and Nurture the Core** - ensure that there is a thriving county network at the heart of the domestic game
  - **Inspire through Elite Teams** - create and celebrate the heroes at the pinnacle of the elite game
  - **Make Cricket Accessible** - give more people the opportunity to engage with cricket more often
  - **Engage Children and Young People** - inspire a new generation of players and fans to develop a love for cricket
  - **Transform Women's and Girls' Cricket** - drive cricket's progress to becoming a truly gender-neutral sport.
  - **Support our Communities** - use our purpose to connect communities and improve lives more broadly across society.

- 2.3 The ECB's vision acknowledges recreational cricket as the lifeblood of the game. In total 22 of the 26 strategic activities will be delivered and funded through the ECB's county network. In Basingstoke & Deane, this is Hampshire Cricket Board (HCB) based at The Ageas Bowl in Eastleigh. The ECB has tasked the County Boards to produce county facilities strategies informed by district/borough playing pitch needs assessments. This assessment for Basingstoke & Deane will therefore inform the Hampshire county facilities strategy.
- 2.4 To support the delivery of enhanced community club facilities, HCB has a County Grants Fund and application process for capital grants of between £1,000 and £10,000. The ECB has an Investment Management System via which community clubs are able to access central capital grant funding towards larger scale facility provision and enhancements (e.g. replacement of older pavilions, installation of non-turf pitches) that will deliver against the ECB's 6 Inspiring Generations Strategic priorities. Interest free loans against capital projects are also available via the England & Wales Cricket Trust.
- 2.5 The Inspiring Generations strategic priorities and action areas most relevant to the playing pitch plans for community club and recreational cricket in Basingstoke & Deane are:

**Table 2.1: ECB Strategic Priorities**

ECB Priority	Action Areas
Grow & Nurture the Core	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A new Community Investment Fund for investment into community-based initiatives by First Class Clubs and County Cricket Boards.</li> <li>o Invest in recreational cricket club facilities enhancing the player and family experience.</li> </ul>
Make Cricket Accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Create a new digital community for cricket.</li> <li>o Launch a new participation product linked to the 100-ball professional competition launched in summer 2021.</li> </ul>
Engage Children & Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Double cricket participation in primary schools.</li> <li>o Deliver a recreational playing offer from age five upwards.</li> </ul>
Transform Women's & Girl's Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Grow the women and girls' base through participation and facilities investment.</li> <li>o Deliver a girls' cricket programme in secondary schools.</li> </ul>
Support our Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Double the number of volunteers to include new officials and community coaches.</li> <li>o Increase participation in disability cricket.</li> </ul>

### 3. Supply & Demand Information Sources

- 3.1 For all four sports included in the PPS supply and demand information has been gathered, as far as possible, by a combination of data collection and review, surveys and consultations. For cricket this comprises:
- o Sport England Active Places Power audit for playing pitches.
  - o Hampshire Cricket website.
  - o Websites of community cricket clubs with home grounds in Basingstoke and Deane.
  - o Online survey returns.

- Information provided by a number of town and parish councils by email and phone.
  - Site visits to playing fields with cricket pitches for visual, non-technical inspection and information provided by club officials, parish councillors and/or ground staff in the course of the site visits.
  - League fixture lists.
  - Pitch booking records.
  - Sport England Active Lives Survey cricket participation data.
  - Sport England Sports Market Segmentation latent cricket demand data.
- 3.2 In total, 80% of the 17 HCB registered cricket clubs based in the borough either submitted completed survey returns or provided information on supply and demand and views on any facility needs and priorities at site meetings.

## 4. Supply

- 4.1 Findings relating to cricket pitch supply in Basingstoke & Deane are detailed below.

### Fine turf cricket pitches

- 4.2 In the 2021 season, there were 21 maintained and operational fine turf cricket pitches in the borough.
- 4.3 A further cricket pitch is located just outside the borough's northern boundary with West Berkshire at the MOD-owned Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Sports Ground in Tadley. Just over the eastern boundary with Hart District in Eversley, the Eversley Sport Association has cricket pitches at Fox Lane Sports Ground. The Association has advanced plans on this site for additional senior and junior cricket pitches, additional outdoor cricket nets, drainage and irrigation infrastructure as appropriate with enhanced changing facilities to ECB specifications.
- 4.4 None of the community secondary schools in the borough maintain fine turf cricket pitches. Cheam School, an independent preparatory school situated close to the borough's northern boundary in Headley, has two fine turf pitches.
- 4.6 The community cricket sites in the borough are listed in table 4.1. The distribution of the cricket sites is shown in Section 2 in the main Playing Pitch Strategy report.

**Table 4.1: Fine Turf Cricket Playing Pitch Sites in Basingstoke & Deane**

Site Name	Postcode	Ownership
The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere	RG20 5SQ	B&DBC (Kingsclere Community Association management)
Stratton Park, Basingstoke	RG22 5HJ	B&DBC
Parsonage Meadow, Whitchurch	RG28 7AD	Private (St Cross Hospital)
Hurstbourne Priors Recreation Ground Whitchurch	RG28 7SB	Parish Council
Ashford Hill Recreation Ground, Thatcham	RG19 8BE	Parish Council
Oakley Park, Oakley & Deane	RG23 7EA	Private
Bridge Street Sports Ground, Overton	RG25 3HD	B&DBC (Overton Recreation Centre management)

Site Name	Postcode	Ownership
Berrydown Sports Ground, Overton	RG25 3AD	B&DBC (Overton Recreation Centre management)
Old Basing Recreation Ground	RG24 7DA	Parish Council
Turgis Green Recreation Ground	RG27 0AE	B&DBC (Parish Council management)
Sherfield Green, Sherfield on Loddon	RG27 0EN	Parish Council
Ramsdell Recreation Ground	RG26 5SH	Parish Council
Newfound Sports Ground, Oakley 7 Deane	RG23 7HD	Parish Council
Silchester Common Playing Field	RG7 2NY	Parish Council
St Mary Bourne Recreation Ground	SP11 6PE	Parish Council
Mortimer West End Recreation Ground	RG7 2HZ	Parish Council
East Woodhay Cricket Ground	RG20 0AG	Sports Club
Mays Bounty Cricket Ground (2), Basingstoke	RG21 3BU	Sports & Social Club
Herriard Green, Herriard	RG25 2FD	Parish Council
Farleigh House Estate, Farleigh Wallop	RG25 2HT	Private

#### Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs)

- 4.7 10 of the community playing field sites with natural turf cricket pitches also currently have a non-turf (all weather) pitch (NTP) of playable standard for junior cricket, recreational cricket and for practice sessions with a mobile net. There are a further NTPs on secondary school playing fields in Basingstoke e.g. at Brighton Hill Community School and Everest Academy although these are not in community use out of school hours.
- 4.8 Several park and community secondary school sites in the borough have derelict NTPs that are no longer maintained and are not in a safe condition for play. Examples include the NTPs in Stratton Park and War Memorial Park in Basingstoke and at Hurst School in Baughurst.

**Table 4.2: Non-Turf Cricket Pitch Sites in Basingstoke & Deane**

Site Name	Postcode	Ownership
The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere	RG20 5SQ	B&DBC (Kingsclere Community Association management)
Parsonage Meadow, Whitchurch	RG28 7AD	Private (St Cross Hospital)
Oakley Park, Oakley & Deane	RG23 7EA	Private
Bridge Street Sports Ground, Overton	RG25 3HD	B&DBC (Overton Recreation Centre management)
Berrydown Sports Ground, Overton	RG25 3AD	B&DBC (Overton Recreation Centre management)
Old Basing Recreation Ground	RG24 7DA	Parish Council
Turgis Green Recreation Ground	RG27 0AE	B&DBC (Parish Council management)
St Mary Bourne Recreation Ground	SP11 6PE	Parish Council
Mays Bounty Cricket Ground, Basingstoke	RG21 3BU	Sports & Social Club
Herriard Green, Herriard	RG25 2FD	Parish Council

### Quantity of fine turf pitches

- 4.9 The table below compares the quantity of operational fine turf cricket pitches in the borough available for community use with the provision in four neighbouring local authorities in Hampshire with current playing pitch strategies - Hart, Test Valley, East Hampshire and Winchester - both in terms of the number of pitches and the population per community cricket pitch. This shows that, on a per capita basis, Basingstoke and Deane has fewer community fine turf pitches relative to these neighbouring local authority areas.

**Table 4.3: Quantity per capita benchmarking**

Local Authority	No. Fine Turf community pitches	Population*	Resident Population per community fine turf pitch (all ages)
Basingstoke & Deane	21	182,432	1 per 8,687
Test Valley	26	131,698	1 per 5,065
Hart	20	100,377	1 per 5,019
East Hampshire	25	126,134	1 per 5,045
Winchester	31	128,184	1 per 4,135

\* Hampshire County Council Small Area Population Forecasts, 2020

### Secured community access to the supply

- 4.10 Community access for cricket is secured for the long term to all but three of the cricket grounds either by the Borough Council, Parish Councils or by community cricket clubs or sports associations either freehold or under long leases.
- 4.11 The exceptions are the grounds in private ownership i.e. Parsonage Meadow in Whitchurch, Oakley Park in Oakley and the cricket ground on the Farleigh House Estate in Farleigh Wallop.
- 4.12 There are current planning proposals for housing development on an adjacent field to the Parsonage Meadow pitch used by the club and visiting teams use for access and car parking. Development on this field risks adverse impact on Whitchurch CC causing access, parking and, potentially, ball strike issues. A further risk for the Whitchurch club is security of tenure on the Parsonage Meadow ground. The current lease, due to expire in 2035, is understood to include a six-month break clause. Whitchurch CC is a well-established community club (soon to celebrate its centenary) with adult and junior league teams. The club also delivers the ECB All Stars and Dynamo junior initiatives. Whilst there is another pitch in Whitchurch at Hurstbourne Priors Recreation Ground, this Parish Council-owned pitch is already used by Hurstbourne Priors Cricket Club (formerly competing in the HCL, now a single team club playing friendly matches only). The pitch is also available to hire from the Parish Council. The Parish Council online booking records indicate use in summer 2021 on several weekends and midweek evenings for recreational fixtures and for u15 girls matches.
- 4.13 Although not subject to any current threat, Oakley CC has a relatively short lease on Oakley Park from private owners (16 years unexpired approximately) and a large playing membership of both adults and juniors playing league and

recreational cricket. The pitch at Farleigh House Estate is not considered under any threat and is used for occasional friendly matches only.

#### Recreational cricket

- 4.14 Few pitches in the borough are available for recreational cricket outside of the traditional club model. For example, works teams and groups of friends playing short form evening games. This reflects the need to protect and maintain fine turf pitches to the standard required for community club match play. Whilst several NTPs are made available for recreation use, these are all at grounds outside Basingstoke town. The NTPs previously available for recreational games within the town at Stratton Park and War Memorial Park have fallen into disrepair and are unsafe to use.

#### Indoor cricket

- 4.15 Winter practice nets are available for hire in the sports halls at Queen Mary College and The Vyne School in Basingstoke. In addition, there is a privately owned specialist indoor cricket centre close by at Dummer to the southwest of Basingstoke with three recently refurbished indoor net lanes for hire and a large indoor cricket playing area hosting indoor winter leagues. Serious Sports, the owners of the Centre and sports equipment retailers, have outline proposals to expand the facilities to offer 3G football in addition to indoor cricket.

- 4.16 Just over the eastern borough boundary in Hart District, Eversley Indoor Cricket Centre provides for hire four retractable net lanes within an indoor cricket playing area. Further afield in Eastleigh is the six-lane indoor cricket school at Hampshire Cricket's Ageas Bowl.

#### Supply Changes

- 4.17 Proposals identified for changes to the supply of facilities for community cricket with a current planning consent are at:
- *Mays Bounty Ground, Basingstoke* - The Basingstoke Sports & Social Club has secured planning permissions to replace its outdated sports pavilion with a new, larger clubhouse for cricket, rugby, mini-soccer and squash. The project and changing room designs are approved by the ECB and the RFU. Whilst some grants are secured, implementation of the project remains subject to raising over £2million (budget cost £2.6m).
  - *Oakley Park, Oakley* - The Oakley Cricket Club has secured a £175k Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) grant from the Borough Council and the necessary planning consents for an extension to the pavilion (including upgraded changing/showers) and the erection of a new equipment store. The existing cricket pavilion does not meet the Hampshire Cricket League requirements for play in Division 1.

## 5. Demand

- 5.1 Findings relating to cricket pitch demand in Basingstoke & Deane are detailed below.

### Clubs and Teams

- 5.2 The borough is home to 17 cricket clubs with a total of 29 men's teams competing in Hampshire Cricket affiliated Saturday leagues, 5 teams competing in Berkshire Chilterns & Mid Bucks Cricket Saturday leagues, 7 midweek teams competing in the North Hampshire Cricket Association (NHCA) leagues or the SPL Guy Jewel KO Cup, and a further 9 friendly sides playing occasional fixtures (mainly on Sundays), making a total of 50 adult men's teams.
- 5.3 Seven of the 17 cricket clubs based in the borough are single team clubs.
- 5.4 Currently, only the senior club in the borough - Basingstoke & North Hants CC - fields a women's team. Basingstoke & North Hants Women play in Hampshire Cricket Women's League Division 3. In addition, B&NHCC run girls age grade cricket teams from under 9s up to under 16s. Three other clubs, Old Basing, St Mary Bourne and Stratfield Turgis, have current aspirations to develop more opportunities for women and girls to play competitive cricket building on All Stars and Dynamos.
- 5.5 Eight of the 17 borough-based clubs enter age grade colts/junior boys' teams in the North Hants Youth Cricket League (NHCL). Across the clubs, in the 2021 season, there were approximately 45 age group boys league teams ranging from under 9s up to under 16s. For youth boys, there are also two under 17s teams and one under 19s team.
- 5.6 These clubs with junior sections - Basingstoke & North Hants, East Woodhay, Whitchurch, Overton, Oakley, Stratfield Turgis, Old Basing and St Mary Bourne - also run mixed All Stars and/or Dynamos cricket for younger children. Herriard CC also runs All Stars sessions.
- 5.7 Opportunities to play Saturday cricket at Southern Premier League (SPL) standard are available Basingstoke & North Hants CC (currently SPL Division 1). B&NHCC also competes on Sundays in the T20 Cup / Plate knock out competition open to the 33 SPL clubs.
- 5.8 At the next level, Old Basing CC first team play in Hampshire Cricket League Division 1, Mortimer West End CC in the Berkshire Chilterns & Mid Bucks Premier Division. East Woodhay CC and Oakley CC play in HCL Division 2.
- 5.9 Midweek evening cricket competition in the borough is focused on Mays Bounty Cricket Ground which hosts most fixtures in the Guy Jewel Cup. This 20 over knock out main and plate competition attracts 24 teams from across North Hampshire.
- 5.10 At the 'friendly' level, the North Hampshire Midweek Cricket Association runs a 20 over midweek evening league comprising six teams, of which three (Basingstoke Hockey Club Midweek Cricket Team and midweek teams from Old Basing CC and Ashford Hill CC) are based in the borough.
- 5.11 Several clubs enter a team in the Serious Cricket Indoor League at Dummer Cricket Centre run from October to March. The men's league matches are held on weekday evenings 7-10pm and the women's Sunday evenings 5-8pm. No Basingstoke & Deane based teams currently play in the Girls indoor leagues.

Matches are of 1hr duration between teams of 6 players bowling 12 overs. The league comprises 4 men's divisions each team played twice. Borough clubs competing in the 2019/20 winter season were:

- Division One (Tues): East Woodhay CC, Oakley CC Hammers
- Division Two (Weds): Old Basing CC, B&NHCC, Sherfield CC Foxes
- Women (Sun): B&NHCC women

#### Performance Pathway

5.12 Hampshire Cricket organise performance cricket through four junior districts or Regional Performance Centres (RPCs) in the North, Winchester, South East & New Forest. Trial sessions, matches and festivals are programmed for boys and girls u11, u13 and u16 age groups. These activities take place mainly on Sunday afternoons in May and in the summer holidays at a number of school and club groups with good facilities and car access (e.g. Yateley School in NE Hants). For girls, the four RPCs use the same venues and age group sides are branded as Central Cobras, Northern Taipans, Southern Sidewinder, Western Rattlers.

5.13 In terms of progression for talented young cricketers from Basingstoke borough's clubs, North Hampshire Cricket Development Association select boys from all age groups from clubs competing in the NHYCL to train at the North Hampshire RPC, and to represent North Hampshire in matches against other Hampshire Districts. For girls, there are North Hampshire representative teams for under 11s, under 13s and under 16s which, in most years, include several girls from the Basingstoke & North Hants Club. The most talented boys and girls are selected to train and play with their Hampshire County age group team.

#### Imported and exported demand

5.14 Imported demand from outside the area in the 2021 season has been identified as eight or nine matches per annum played by Hook & Newnham Basics CC's third team on the park pitch at Stratton Park. This demand is imported from Hook in Hart District.

5.15 This imported demand is more than offset by Old Basing CC's third and fourth teams both of which travel out of the county to play their home Saturday league fixtures at Bramley Cricket Club's ground in Surrey near Guildford. This exported demand amounts to approximately sixteen matches per season.

#### Winter Practice Nets

5.16 None of the clubs based in the borough have reported any difficulties in securing access to affordable winter practice nets for pre-season training.

#### Cricket Participation Trends

5.17 *Adults:* The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey<sup>1</sup> (May 2021) showed that self reported regular participation (i.e. taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in cricket in England by all adults (i.e. male and female aged 16+) decreased significantly from 0.7% between May 2019 - May 2020 to 0.4% between May 2020 to May 2021. In the three previous years, adult cricket participation was consistent at 0.7%. Further Active Lives Survey data covering the period of lockdowns and other movement restrictions imposed in

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<sup>1</sup> Active Lives Adult Survey May 2020/21, Sport England, (October 2021)

response to the coronavirus pandemic indicate that this is likely to be the main cause of the decrease in participation in 2020/21.

- 5.18 If cricket participation in the borough were at the pre-pandemic national average (i.e. 0.7%), this would indicate around 1,120 adults (aged 16+) living in the borough play cricket out of a 16+ adult population in 2019 of approximately 160,000.
- 5.19 With currently 51 adult teams (50 male, 1 female) plus at least three 16+ colts T20 sides, on the basis of an average of 15 players per team, the current club playing membership aggregated across the borough is close to 815 adult players. This suggests adult participation in cricket in Basingstoke & Deane is below the national average.
- 5.20 *Children & Young People: The Active Lives Children & Young People Survey*<sup>2</sup> published its third report of findings in January 2021 based on data collected from year 3-11 pupils and parents of years 1-2 pupils in the three terms of the 2019/20 academic year.
- 5.21 Focusing in on the older group (i.e. school years 7-11) and team sports activities, the national findings show that 4.5% of those children and young people surveyed in England had participated in cricket outdoors at least once in the last week in the summer term either in or out of school. Statistically significant data at local authority level for individual sports is not available.

#### Sports Market Segmentation (SMS)

- 5.22 As the two graphs below illustrate, there is higher cricket demand from the SMS Groups 'Tim' and 'Philip' in the borough (the blue column) compared to the averages across the Active Sports Partnership area (Hampshire and IoW), the SE region and England as a whole (the green dot). This higher-than-average demand among these types of residents apply both to those already participating in the game and those stated they would like to play more cricket in future.
- 5.23 Among the female SMS Groups the graphs illustrate that women's cricket participation remains low in all geographies. Within the borough, 'Chloe' is the female Group most likely to participate in cricket currently. This type is also the highest scoring in the survey in terms of wanting to play more cricket.
- 5.24 The main characteristics of the main Groups already playing the game or interested in playing more cricket (i.e. latent demand) are:
- **Tim** - settling down males, sporty professionals, buying a house
  - **Philip** - comfortable, midlife males, professional, sporty with older children
  - **Chloe** - fitness class friends, young image conscious females keeping fit.

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<sup>2</sup> Active Lives Children and Young People Survey Academic Year 2019/20, Sport England (January 2021)

Figure 5.1: Market Segmentation – currently participating in Cricket

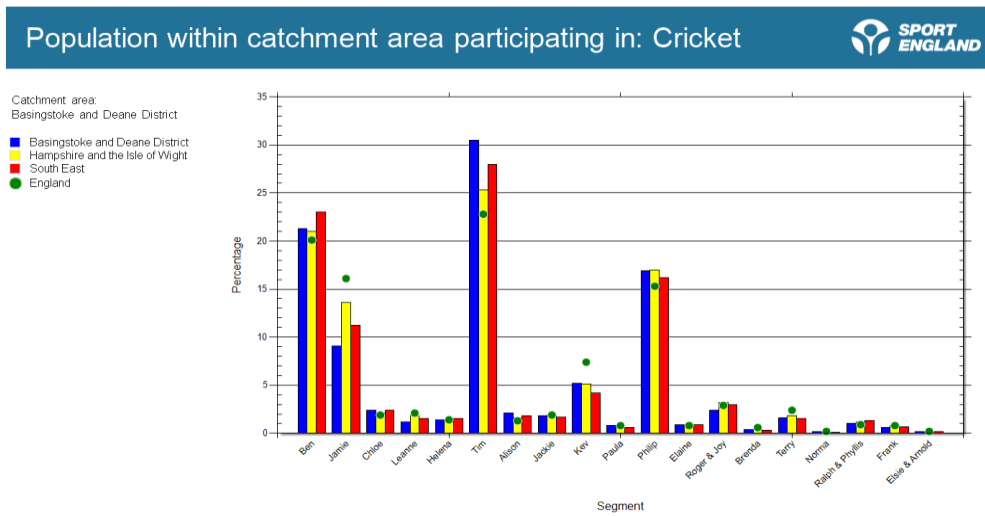
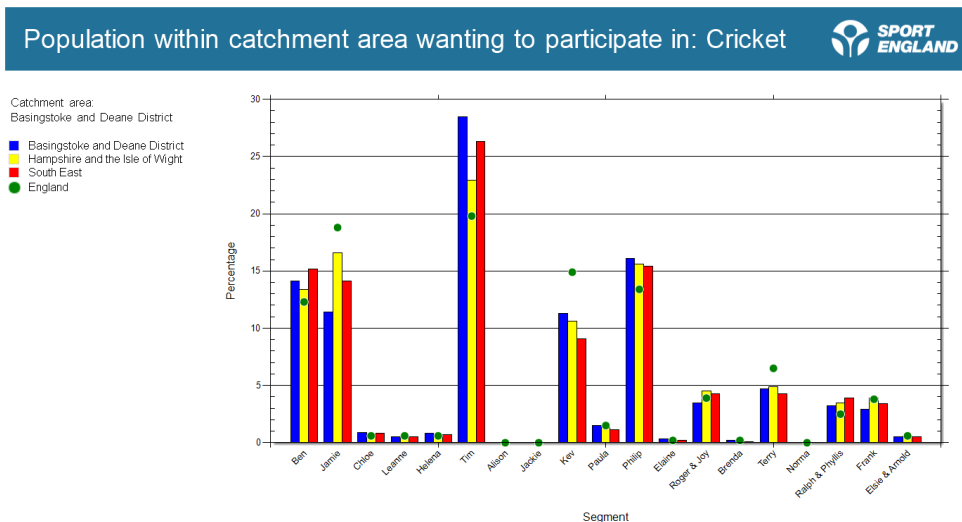


Figure 5.2: Market Segmentation – would like to participate in Cricket



Source: Sport England Sports Market Segmentation Planning Tool

Casual Demand

5.25 Clubs and facility providers can continue to target latent demand for the game within these groups by organising and promoting the right programmes with the support of the ECB through the Hampshire Cricket Board, for example social midweek evening limited over games for unaffiliated teams (i.e. the 'Sussex Slam' midweek league model), and more social softball games played on outfields including 'This Girl Can' drop-in sessions for girls and women.

Schools Cricket

5.26 A significant contributory factor to the lower than national average take up of cricket in the borough is likely to be the decline of cricket in the PE curriculum and inter school fixtures in the state secondary schools in Basingstoke & Deane. Also the relatively low number of independent secondary schools in the borough compared to neighbouring local authority areas.

5.27 A number of schools in the borough engage with Hampshire Cricket in the Community and Chance to Shine (the schools' cricket charity) to deliver curriculum taster sessions. The ECB's strategy includes a target to introduce a girl's cricket programme in secondary schools. It is noted that successful delivery of this target will require significant investment in upgrading NTPs on the borough's secondary school playing fields.

Other Cricket Activities

5.28 Several of the larger cricket clubs in the borough with junior sections programme Kwik Cricket festivals and tournaments for younger children (both hard and soft ball versions) each season. Much of this activity takes place on the outfield of the borough's cricket pitches. This has the advantage of not taking up playing capacity on the fine turf squares.

**Table 5.3: Club Demand**

Clubs	Teams	League (Senior Team 2021)	Home Ground	Other Grounds Used
Basingstoke & North Hants CC	5 Saturday men 1 women Midweek and Sunday Colts (u19, u17) Boys teams (14: all ages) Girls' teams (6: all ages) Indoor team	Southern Premier Div 1	Mays Bounty, Basingstoke	Stratton Park
East Woodhay CC	2 Saturday men Midweek and Sunday (occasional) Boys' teams (4: u9, u11, u13, u15) Indoor league team	Hampshire Div 2	East Woodhay Cricket Ground	n/a
Old Basing CC	4 Saturday men Midweek Colts (u17) Boys' teams (8: all ages) Indoor league team	Hampshire Div 1	Old Basing Recreation Ground	Bramley Cricket Ground (near Guildford)
Oakley CC	3 Saturday men Boys' teams (5: all ages) Indoor league team	Hampshire Div 2	Oakley Park	Newfound Sports Ground, Oakley
Sherfield & Loddon CC	1 Saturday men Midweek Indoor league team	Hampshire 5 NE	Sherfield Green	n/a
Overton CC	3 Saturday men Boys' teams (3: u9, u11, u13)	Hampshire 3 N	Bridge Street Sports Ground, Overton	Berrydown Sports Ground, Overton
Kingsclere CC	1 Saturday men Midweek/Sunday (occasional) Colts (u17)	Hampshire 4 N	Fieldgate Centre	<i>Temporary relocation for drainage works in 2022 possibly to Aldermaston</i>
Mortimer West End CC	2 Saturday men	Berks Chiltern & Mid Bucks Premier	Mortimer West End Recreation	n/a

Clubs	Teams	League (Senior Team 2021)	Home Ground	Other Grounds Used
			Ground	
Ashford Hill CC	2 Saturday men Midweek	Hampshire 4 N	Ashford Hill Recreation Ground, Thatcham	n/a
St Mary Bourne CC	1 Saturday men Boys' teams (2: u9, u11)	Hampshire 5 NE	St Mary Bourne Recreation Ground	n/a
St Mary's CC	1 Saturday men	Hampshire 5 NE	Newfound Sports Ground, Oakley	n/a
Whitchurch CC	1 Saturday men Midweek Boys' teams (2: u9, u11)	Hampshire 4 N	Parsonage Meadow, Whitchurch	n/a
Stratfield Turgis & Hartley Wespall CC	2 Saturday men Midweek and Sunday (occasional) Boys' teams (4: u9, u11, u13, u15)	Berks Chiltern & Mid Bucks Premier	Turgis Green Recreation Ground	n/a
Ramsdell CC	2 Saturday men Sunday (occasional)	Hampshire 3	Ramsdell Recreation Ground	n/a
Silchester CC	1 Saturday men Sunday (occasional)	Berks Chiltern & Mid Bucks 2 W	Silchester Common	n/a
Herriard CC	2 Saturday men Midweek and Sunday (occasional)	Hampshire 5 NE	Herriard Green	n/a
Farleigh Wallop CC	Occasional friendly team men	n/a	Farleigh House Estate	n/a

#### Club Participation Aspirations

- 5.29 Several of the village cricket clubs reported in the survey that they struggle to maintain or have lost second or Sunday men's sides (e.g. Ramsdell, Kingsclere, Whitchurch) in recent seasons largely due to family or work pressures on time at weekends also, since 2020, as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. The Kingsclere club has also lost its junior section.
- 5.30 Within this general picture of contraction of the traditional game, there is growth in participation in the shorter formats of the game and among the younger age groups, both boys and girls. This growth has been stimulated to a large degree by ECB All Stars and Dynamos initiatives over recent seasons at several of the borough's cricket clubs as well as a focus on junior coaching and player development at the largest clubs - B&NH, Old Basing, Overton and Oakley.
- 5.31 Five clubs in the borough have stated development aspirations for juniors: Ashford Hill CC and Ramsdell CC to establish junior sections, Kingsclere CC to re-establish a junior offer, St Mary Bourne CC and Stratfield Turgis CC to establish and enter girls' teams in the NHYCL for the first time.

5.32 As far as ancillary facilities are concerned, replacement or enhanced pavilions are needed - at B&NHCC (Mays Bounty) and at Oakley CC as priorities - to adequately accommodate girls and women's cricket and disability cricket which is not currently offered in the borough.

5.33 From consultation with Hampshire Cricket, with club representatives on site visits, and review of submitted survey responses and club development plans, the priority facility improvement aspirations of cricket clubs based in Basingstoke & Deane are:

**Table 5.4: Club Facility Priorities**

Cricket Club	Priority Facility Development Aspirations	Rationale provided
Kingsclere CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of ground drainage improvement works at the Fieldgate Centre (on site in 2021) and future maintenance of the outfield to a higher specification</li> <li>Replacement of the NTP within the next five years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safer, higher quality playing experience helping to retain and grow youth participation.</li> </ul>
B&NH CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replacement of outdated multi-sport pavilion at Mays Bounty Sports Ground</li> <li>Replacement of NTP in Stratton Park</li> <li>Completion of pavilion refurbishment at Stratton Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current main pavilion is in very poor condition and well beyond its original design life.</li> <li>At Stratton Park, NTP is unsafe.</li> <li>Helping to retain and grow participation by all, particularly women and girls and disabled.</li> </ul>
Oakley CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade and extend pavilion and provide new store for maintenance equipment</li> <li>Replace NT net system</li> <li>Relay the square</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current pavilion changing/showers are not compliant with HCL D1 requirements preventing a promotion.</li> <li>NT Nets are unsafe.</li> <li>Improving the square to improve quality and increase playing capacity.</li> </ul>
Whitchurch CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of former NTP to enable extension of fine turf square</li> <li>Replacement of outdated pavilion (subject to security of tenure)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase playing capacity</li> <li>Helping to retain and grow participation by all, particularly women and girls and disabled.</li> </ul>
Overton CC (Bridge St ground)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of former NTP to enable extension of fine turf square</li> <li>Replace NT net system (outside the pitch boundary)</li> <li>Convert former equipment store to a dedicated social space for cricket club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase playing capacity</li> <li>NT Nets are unsafe and poorly located.</li> <li>Helping to retain and grow participation by all, particularly women and girls and disabled.</li> </ul>

Cricket Club	Priority Facility Development Aspirations	Rationale provided
Old Basing CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Replace NTP surface (programmed for autumn 2021 subject to confirmation of budget)</li> <li>○ Replace NT net surface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Worn and in need of resurfacing</li> </ul>
Stratfield Turgis CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Replace pavilion in new location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The pavilion is in poor condition and needs replacing in a safer location as a high priority. The club is preparing proposals for a timber modular building at a shell construction cost of £250k approx. for fit out by the club.</li> </ul>
Ramsdell CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Install an NTP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To facilitate the establishment of a junior club section.</li> </ul>
St Mary Bourne CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Install a single lane NT net system</li> <li>○ Replace pavilion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Helping to retain and grow participation by all, particularly women and girls and disabled (junior section expanding rapidly)</li> </ul>
East Woodhay CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short Term - Minor upgrades/redecs to pavilion facilities</li> <li>○ Car parking improvements (currently on grass)</li> <li>○ Install an NTP</li> <li>○ Long Term - Replace pavilion in new location (adjacent to nets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To increase playing capacity</li> <li>○ Helping to retain and grow participation by all, particularly women and girls and disabled</li> </ul>
Herriard CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Undertake an assessment of the site drainage and options for improvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Poorly draining site</li> </ul>

## 6. The Situation At Individual Sites

- 6.1 The pitches were quality-assessed in late July in the 2021 season. Representatives of the ECB and HCB reviewed the assessments and ratings.
- 6.2 Carrying capacity for cricket is a measure of the number of *match equivalent sessions* (MES) of play (matches or training) each season that the pitch can accommodate in a season based on the number of grass wickets/strips that can be prepared on the cricket table at the site.
- 6.3 In consultation with the ECB it was agreed that a pitch rated as poor is unsuitable for use for match play. A standard quality pitch has a capacity for up to three match equivalent sessions (MES) per season per prepared wicket. The ECB guidance is that a good quality pitch has a capacity of five MES per season per prepared wicket.

- 6.4 In view of the level of resource required to maintain a fine turf pitch (both the square and the outfield) to a good standard, it was agreed in consultation with the ECB that local authority-maintained pitches (where there is no additional maintenance by club volunteers with specific experience and training in cricket pitch maintenance) should be rated no higher than standard quality (i.e. a maximum capacity of three adult MES a season per wicket).
- 6.5 In the case of wickets used exclusively for junior play which causes less pitch wear, the capacities agreed with the ECB are: Standard - 5 MES per season per wicket; Good - 7 MES per season per wicket.
- 6.6 At venues with non-turf artificial strips and/or artificial practice net systems, most training takes place using these more resilient, all-weather facilities. This allows the fine turf wickets to be used exclusively for match play. As a benchmark, the ECB consider non-turf pitches have a playing capacity of 60 adult MES or 80 junior MES per season. Hampshire Cricket League rules now permit lower league adult fixtures to be played on non-turf pitches (NTPs). This strengthens the needs case for installation of more NTPs on cricket club grounds in the borough (e.g. at Ramsdell Recreation Ground) as well as ensuring NTPs are maintained at public recreation grounds with cricket pitches used by the larger cricket clubs lower league team fixtures (e.g. Stratton Park in Basingstoke).
- 6.7 The audit table appended summarises the situation at each cricket pitch site with regard to:

*Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e. its carrying capacity for community use).

*The amount of play estimated to take place at each site in the season* (i.e. the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training in the peak community hours.

*The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:

- RED - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
- AMBER - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
- GREEN - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity).

## 7. Current Supply and Demand Balance

- 7.1 Table 7.1 below compares the playing capacity of the cricket pitches in the borough with aggregated demand from existing community cricket clubs on fine turf pitches.
- 7.2 The first comparison shows that there is a positive supply balance (i.e. unused capacity) for cricket in the borough if all 21 pitches in the borough currently used for community cricket are included. The total capacity of these pitches i.e. the total number of match equivalent sessions per season that could be accommodated in the

borough based on the number of fine turf wickets and their quality is compared against total estimated use of the fine turf for home matches and training.

- 7.3 The second comparison shows that if the three pitches in private ownership (Parsonage Meadow, Oakley Park and Farleigh Wallop Estate) are excluded, the aggregated supply / demand balance across the 18 'secured' pitches in the borough (i.e. in borough, parish or club ownership) is lower but remains positive (i.e. there is unused capacity in the borough).
- 7.4 The final comparison in the table is the most relevant with regard to club league cricket. On this key measure, there is minimal unused 'secured' pitch capacity on Saturday afternoons for league cricket. This is evidenced by the need for the Old Basing CC 3rd and 4th teams to travel east to Bramley out of the borough to access a home pitch for Saturday league matches.

**Table 7.1: Current Supply/Demand Balance**

Available pitches	Total Capacity (MES)	Estimated Use (MES)	Supply/Demand Balance (RAG) MES/season +/-
21	609	464	+ 145 MES
Secured pitches	Secured capacity (MES)	Estimated Use (MES)	Supply/Demand Balance (RAG) MES/season +/-
18	585	464	+ 121 MES
Secured pitches	Secured capacity Saturday teams	Current demand Saturday teams	Supply/Demand Balance Saturday teams
18	36 teams (playing at home on alternate Saturdays)	34 teams	

- 7.5 However, the picture across the borough as a whole in table 7.1 takes no account of the distribution of the pitches in relation to the demand. The aggregated analysis also obscures localised capacity issues at specific grounds. Several grounds in the borough have small squares and others have quality failings that impact on the number of games that can be played.
- 7.6 Table 7.2 shows the secured cricket pitch sites that are currently played either above their quality capacity or cannot accommodate all the home club's current demand for Saturday league matches either on the site itself or with use of another accessible ground in the local area within the borough. These sites are RAG rated red. The first three are to the west of Basingstoke and the final two are to the east of the town.

Table 7.2: Overplayed Sites

Sites 'Overplayed'	Issues & Potential Opportunities
<b>WEST</b>	
<b>Berrydown Sports Ground, Overton</b>	Small square and football share - a new non-turf pitch to the east of the square would be needed to unlock additional capacity with a gap between the fine turf and non-turf. Expansion to the west would not be possible due to ball strike / boundary distances.
<b>Bridge Street, Overton</b>	Small square and football share - NTP at this site needs to be replaced as a priority. Relocation of the NTP at the far end of the square may enable an additional fine turf wicket at the pavilion end.
<b>Parsonage Meadow, Whitchurch</b>	Small square - club (unfunded) proposal to remove derelict NTP at end of square and replace with fine turf. Subject to resolving security of tenure.
<b>EAST</b>	
<b>Turgis Green Recreation Ground</b>	Small square - Restricted size of the ground prohibits expansion.
<b>Old Basing Recreation Ground</b>	Cricket demand exceeds ground capacity and share with large and growing archery & football clubs. Cricket teams displaced to Bramley. No potential for increasing capacity on site.

7.7 In addition the pitches at the following grounds in the borough are being played close to their capacity. These sites are amber RAG rated in the audit appended:

*East Woodhay Cricket Ground* - capacity of the fine turf at this club site with high levels of junior use would be improved by the provision of an NTP.

*Oakley Park, Oakley* - the club has identified a need to relay the square in the short to medium term to improve the quality of player experience and increase the capacity to accommodate growth aspirations.

*Ashford Hill Recreation Ground* - the provision of an NTP would facilitate the introduction of a youth side in line with the club's development plans.

*Sherfield Green* - the club has identified a need to continue to improve the quality of this volunteer-maintained pitch with support from the ECB Pitch Advisory service to maintain and increase playing capacity.

7.8 The analysis shows, based on current expressed demand for community club use in the peak period (i.e. Saturday afternoons and midweek evenings), there is sufficient supply of secured cricket pitches across the borough as a whole. However, the available capacity for league cricket on Saturdays does not match up with the distribution of demand. Two Old Basing CC teams are displaced to Bramley out of the borough.

7.9 It is clear from comparison of the number of adult team players in Basingstoke & Deane with the national adult participation rate for cricket (Active Lives Survey

- 2020/21) that current adult participation levels are lower in Basingstoke & Deane relative to the national average.
- 7.10 In line with the national trend, demand for traditional league cricket has fallen away a little over recent seasons at several of the village clubs in the borough. The clubs in Ramsdell, Kingsclere and Whitchurch all report loss of at least one team. In these villages there is a need to continue efforts to stimulate demand for informal play - e.g. more friendly evening social teams and leagues along with roll out of the All-Stars Cricket initiative linking effectively with the village schools.
- 7.11 There is also spare capacity at the Council-owned pitch in the town at Stratton Park despite use on Saturdays by two lower league club sides (B&NHCC 5ths and Hook & Newnham Basics 3rds - displaced from Hart District) for their home fixtures. Development activity is needed at this open access site based around a renewed NTP to encourage more participation through non-traditional forms of the game.
- 7.12 Opportunities are afforded in the borough for men's competitive cricket of all standards up to the Southern Premier League. There is also a good level of opportunities for junior play by both boys and girls although, for competitive cricket, B&NHCC is the only club in the borough that currently has dedicated girls cricket teams.
- 7.13 While girls' participation is growing rapidly, particularly in the younger age group - supported by delivery of the ECB's All Stars introduction to cricket coaching programme at primary age - opportunities for female youth and women's cricket in Basingstoke are currently very limited outside the senior Basingstoke & North Hampshire Club. Demand to play cricket among older girls and women is likely to be restricted by the relatively poor quality of ancillary changing and social facilities at many of the borough's cricket clubs.
- 7.14 Opportunities for disability cricket are lacking currently. Again, development is constrained in part by poor physical access to ancillary facilities at many of the community club grounds.
- 7.15 Overall, the pitches at the larger town and village club grounds continue to be maintained to a good standard most often by dedicated and experienced club volunteers. Basingstoke Sports & Sports Club and the two sites managed by the Overton Recreation Committee are maintained by professional ground staff. Old Basing, Oakley (both grounds) and AWE Tadley are all maintained by the same contractor trained in fine sports turf.
- 7.16 The standard of the squares and/or outfield at some of the small village clubs is an issue although, in most cases, they provide an appropriate quality of surface for the level of play. The quality potential of cricket pitches at these sites is necessarily constrained by the needs for the sites to also accommodate informal recreational use and, in some cases, football pitches.
- 7.17 The two grounds with the lowest away team captains' scores - Sherfield Green and Parsonage Meadow in Whitchurch - would benefit from analysis by the ECB's Pitch

Advisor to ascertain options and costs for improvement to address drainage and better protection from damage by rabbits and other animals.

## 8. The Future Picture of Provision

- 8.1 The analysis below considers the extent of forecast population growth in Basingstoke & Deane to 2040 - i.e. the timescale of the new Local Plan - and the potential impact on the level of demand for cricket pitches.
- 8.2 Future population growth figures have been calculated for the period of this strategy against the primary age groups for cricket participation. The population growth estimates have been produced using Hampshire County Council Small Area Population Forecasts, 2020.

**Table 8.1: Population Projections and Cricket team Generation Rates**

Age Group	No. Cricket Teams 2021	Pop in Age Group 2020	Pop in Age Group 2040	Current Team Generation Rate	Pop Change in Age Group	Potential Change in Cricket Team No's
Senior Men (18-55yrs)	50	43,098	49,744	862	+6,646	<b>+8</b>
Senior Women (18-55yrs)	1	44,034	50,387	44,034	+6,353	0 See para 8.5
Junior Boys (7-17yrs)	45	12,624	13,283	281	+659	<b>+2</b>
Junior Girls (7-17yrs)	6	11,996	12,590	1,999	+594	0 See para 8.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>					<b>+10</b>

- 8.3 The overall borough population growth forecast over the Local Plan period from 2020 to 2040 is substantial i.e. +33,700 (from 178,700 to 212,300).
- 8.4 Assuming current cricket 'team generation rates' (i.e. the number of residents in the prime age groups for participation in cricket per existing cricket team), and the forecast population growth to 2040 in these age groups, demand for approximately 2 additional junior boys' teams and 8 adult men's teams will be generated by 2040 requiring additional playing capacity.
- 8.5 The position for women and girls is not adequately reflected in this team generation analysis in view of the low base i.e. the current low number of dedicated women and girls cricket teams in the borough. Women and girls cricket development is a priority for the ECB and HCB as well as for several of the clubs in the borough. The potential change to 2040 is therefore likely to be significantly understated for women and girls' cricket where new teams are highly likely to form over the period to 2040 as development initiatives capitalise on high latent demand.
- 8.6 Given the current low base and the strategic focus on growing women and girls cricket in school and clubs, the HCB consider it reasonable to plan for a growth scenario where at least one new women or girl's team is established in each of the 8 clubs based in the borough with an established junior programme and/or women's

development group - i.e. demand for 8 additional junior girls teams or women's teams will be generated by 2040 requiring additional playing capacity.

- 8.7 To allow for the impact of forecast borough population growth and development of women and girls cricket, it can therefore be estimated that playing capacity for 18 new teams will be needed by 2040.
- 8.8 National trends show a reduction in interest in taking part in sports that demand a commitment to regular attendance, in favour of a more casual involvement. This national picture is reflected locally in the borough where several clubs have experienced a fall in adult players and the demise of Sunday sides. However, at the same time, at the larger clubs, while traditional adult participation has been in slow decline, this is being countered by growth in participation by juniors. This growth is being stimulated in part by the increasing focus on providing opportunities for girls to play cricket but also by the introduction of the ECB All Stars and Dynamos 'introduction to cricket' programmes for primary age children.
- 8.9 Alongside this local area growth in the traditional forms of cricket at junior level, there is modest growth in demand for less formal pay and play game formats for adults that do not require long term commitment to a club. Shorter cricket game formats such as T20 and Last Man Stands (LMS) are becoming more popular nationally, the latter mainly in urban areas with large ethnic minority communities from cultures with a strong cricket tradition.
- 8.10 The ECB's focus on engaging more young children - the 5-8 age group - is also likely to impact over the strategy period. Several clubs in the borough are delivering the ECB All Stars Cricket initiative providing equipment and coaching resources. To retain a high proportion of these new entrants to the sport it will be important to ensure that the cricket sites where these programmes take place have good quality non turf pitches and/or practice nets and suitable ancillary facilities (for changing, social activities and car parking).
- 8.11 As identified above, while the majority of the cricket clubs in Basingstoke & Deane are focusing on sustaining their existing adult teams in the context of growing pressures of time and family commitments particularly on Sundays, several of the larger cricket clubs as well as some of the village clubs have development aspirations to further grow their junior sections and to provide more opportunities for women and girls to play the game.
- 8.12 The impact of these factors on the overall picture of pitch provision for cricket in the borough will need to be kept under periodic review.
- 8.13 In light of existing capacity issues experienced by clubs to the west and to the east of the town (set out in table 7.2) and the assessment of future demand based on the forecast population growth to 2040 (table 8.1 above), additional provision of cricket grounds is likely to be required both to the west and to the east of the town within the new Local Plan period.
- 8.14 In planning for new provision it is important to consider the likely distribution of the forecast population growth, in particular potential large new settlements allocated in

the Local Plan, the accessibility of existing community cricket grounds from these settlements and the extent to which these grounds have unused capacity.

- 8.15 The two largest sites shortlisted for new settlements in the Local Plan Update (LPU) are to the west of the urban area at:
- *Manydown* where 2,100 new dwellings are currently proposed, and
  - *Popham Airfield* on the north side of the A303 (south of Overton) where 2,200 dwellings are proposed.
- 8.16 There are also large-scale new housing proposals west of the town at Basingstoke Golf Course and Hounsome. Under these west of Basingstoke settlement scenarios there is likely to be a concentration of future cricket demand from forecast population growth on the village clubs on the west side of the urban area - e.g. Oakley, Overton, Whitchurch. As stated in section 7 and detailed in the appended audit, the cricket pitches in these settlements are currently either close to capacity or overplayed with limited opportunities for on site expansion.
- 8.17 On the east side of the urban area (to the east of Chineham), a total of 1,500 new homes are proposed across the two largest shortlisted sites (*Land East of Basingstoke* and *Lodge Farm*).
- 8.18 Population growth under these scenarios will concentrate future demand on the Old Basing, Sherfield on Loddon and Stratfield Sturgis village cricket clubs on the east side. All three clubs play at grounds that are already at or close to capacity with little or no on-site expansion opportunities.
- 8.19 The potential for future imported demand across neighbouring local authority boundaries also needs to be considered. Consultations with these authorities suggest the following of relevance to the future picture of cricket demand in Basingstoke & Deane:

*Test Valley:* Further housing growth will take place on the east side of Andover over the Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan period to 2040. Whitchurch and Overton are within the drive-time catchment area for community pitch sports from east Andover (A303/A34). However, TVBC has provided new sports pitches to serve these housing growth areas and The Test Valley PPS does not identify current or future export of cricket demand to Basingstoke & Deane.

*Hart:* The towns of Hook and Odiham are only a short drive time from Old Basing and East Basingstoke (A30). A small amount of cricket demand is currently exported with Hook & Newnham Basics 3rds play in Stratton Park. However, whilst a large new settlement is proposed in East Basingstoke at Chineham (para 8.16 above), no major new housing settlements are proposed in the Hook area in the Hart Local Plan and the Hart PPS does not identify current or future export of cricket demand to Basingstoke & Deane.

*Winchester:* Whitchurch is 15-20 minutes' drive-time (A34) from Kings Worthy and the rural north parts of Winchester district. However, the no current imported demand and no major new settlement proposals in this part of the district. The PPS

for Winchester identifies adequate playing capacity at cricket grounds in the City & District.

*East Hampshire:* Alton is a 15–20-minute drive-time from Basingstoke (A339). There are allocations for substantial new housing in the district in the District's Local Plan (e.g. on the former Corrs Brewery site in Alton town). There is a small potential for future export of some demand to Basingstoke & Deane villages south of the M3 - e.g. Herriard, Dummer - identified in the East Hampshire PPS.

*West Berkshire:* Kingsclere in the north west of Basingstoke & Deane is within the drive-time catchment area of Newbury (A339) and the northern villages of Tadley, Baughurst, Silchester and Mortimer West End are close to (and in some cases bridge) the borough boundary. AWE Tadley CC's Aldermaston ground is in West Berkshire whilst the club affiliates to Hampshire Cricket and is likely to draw some players from Basingstoke & Deane. Similarly, some players at the clubs in Kingsclere, Silchester and Mortimer West End are likely to live in West Berkshire. New large-scale settlements of 2,000 or more units are proposed in Thatcham (east of Newbury close to the A4) and at Sandford Park (south of Newbury Rugby Club close to the A339). The latter proposal is subject to the decision of a Public Inquiry held in May 2021. The current proposals include a new school with a full-size natural turf football pitch but no cricket NTP. The site is within a short drive-time of Kingsclere. The West Berkshire PPS (2019) concludes there is sufficient capacity at existing cricket grounds in the borough to accommodate forecast future demand. Notwithstanding this finding, it is reasonable to assume that in the event the development proceeds without an NTP, some cricket demand could be exported to Kingsclere and/or AWE Tadley at Aldermaston.

- 8.20 In the short term, the priority should be to enhance key club cricket sites through a combination of installation of non-turf pitches (NTPs), extensions to existing squares and replacement of poor-quality pavilions.
- 8.21 Prioritisation of projects should take into consideration the extent to which the investment supports community cricket development objectives (e.g. more opportunities for under-represented groups in the sport particularly women and girls and the disabled) and the extent to which there is likely to be a need for additional playing capacity at the investment site in the context of planning decisions taken on the various new settlement scenarios (both within the borough and in the neighbouring local authority areas) and the timing of these decisions.
- 8.22 For example, should the west of Basingstoke new settlement scenarios proceed before those to the East of Basingstoke, securing and increasing the capacity of the cricket grounds closest to this area - e.g. at Bridge Street and Berrydown sports grounds in Overton where capacity is low - should be afforded priority over the enhancement needs at those club grounds to the east of the town.
- 8.23 Similarly, should the new settlement scenarios in the Chineham area to the east proceed first then enhancement projects identified at the community cricket clubs in this area should be afforded greater priority.

- 8.24 In the longer term, it will be necessary to secure land for new cricket pitch provision through the Local Plan process and/or development agreement opportunities both to the east and the west of Basingstoke Town.

## 9. Summary of key findings and issues

### Cricket

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

- On a per capita basis, with 21 cricket pitches in 2021, Basingstoke and Deane provided one cricket pitch per every 8,687 residents (based on 2020 population projections). This is substantially lower level of provision per capita in comparison with the four neighbour local authorities in Hampshire with a current Playing Pitch Strategy.
- The supply of cricket pitches is well distributed throughout the borough.
- At present, there is little movement of demand for community cricket across borough boundaries. One Hart District based team plays home matches in Basingstoke & Deane and two teams based in Basingstoke & Deane play their home fixtures at a ground outside the borough.
- The tradition of village cricket remains strong in Basingstoke & Deane although some village clubs are struggling to maintain adult playing numbers (particularly for Sunday cricket which has largely gone) and pitch bookings on Saturdays and mid week evenings at Borough and Parish council pitches have been in decline for a number of seasons. Seven out of the 17 community cricket clubs based in the borough (over 40% of clubs) run just one adult team.
- In contrast, junior cricket demand is strong and growing with 8 clubs offering opportunities for junior boys to play competitive cricket. Girls league teams are currently established at the main Basingstoke & North Hants Cricket Club with three other clubs in the borough actively committed to developing opportunities for girls age grade teams to play and compete.
- In the primary school age groups, the supply and demand position is healthy with the 8 clubs with junior teams also delivering All Stars and/or Dynamos sessions.

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

##### No

- The analysis shows, based on current expressed demand for community club use in the peak period (i.e. Saturday afternoons and midweek evenings), there is sufficient supply of secured cricket pitches when aggregated across the borough as a whole.
- However, the available capacity for league cricket on Saturdays does not match up with the distribution of demand. Two Old Basing CC teams are displaced out of the borough and the clubs in Overton and Stratfield Turgis also have localised capacity issues due to the size of the grounds/squares and/or shared use issues with football.

## Cricket

- Installation of NTPs at East Woodhay and Ramsdell is required to further develop junior cricket and to release capacity on the fine turf at these key sites.
- Security of tenure is an issue that needs to be addressed at two of the club grounds - Oakley Park in Oakley and Parsonage Meadow in Whitchurch.

### Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

- Overall, the pitches at the larger town and village club grounds continue to be maintained to a good standard most often by dedicated and experienced club volunteers. Basingstoke Sports & Sports Club and the two sites managed by the Overton Recreation Committee are maintained by professional ground staff. Old Basing, Oakley (both grounds) and AWE Tadley are all maintained by a contractor trained in fine sports turf.
- The two grounds with the lowest away team captains' scores - Sherfield Green and Parsonage Meadow in Whitchurch - would benefit from analysis by the ECB's Pitch Advisor to ascertain options and costs for improvement to address drainage and better protection from damage by rabbits and other animals.
- In most cases, the outfielders of the village pitches are maintained to a basic level by the parish councils, as their budgets allow, with club volunteers maintaining the squares. Where works are needed to bring these pitches up to suitable standard to sustain affiliated league fixtures, these are identified in the Action Plan in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Several non-turf (artificial) pitches and net systems at grounds in the borough have reached the end of their safe usable lifespan and need resurfacing (e.g. NTPs at Stratton Park, Bridge Street, Old Basing and NT nets at Old Basing, Oakley). Similarly, these needs are identified in the Action Plan in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Several clubs in the borough - e.g. Basingstoke & North Hants, Oakley, Stratfield Turgis, St Mary Bourne - require enhanced or new pavilion facilities in order to sustain their current cricketing activities, improve disabled access and to better enable delivery of playing opportunities for women and girls.

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

- Assuming current cricket 'team generation rates' and the forecast population growth to 2040 in these age groups, growth in demand is likely to require capacity for approximately 18 additional teams.
- Notwithstanding the recent success of the Basingstoke & North Hants CC in establishing opportunities for women and girls to play league cricket, there is clearly substantial unmet latent demand. If this success to be sustained and the aspirations of the clubs in Old Basing, Stratfield Turgis and St Mary Bourne to provide more girls cricket are to be achieved, substantial investment will be needed in enhanced facilities

## Cricket

- both good quality NTPs and better-quality pavilions and changing facilities.

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

No

- In light of existing capacity issues experienced by clubs to the west and to the east of the town and the assessment of future demand, additional provision of cricket grounds is likely to be required both to the west and to the east of the town within the new Local Plan period.
- In the short term, the priority should be to enhance key club cricket sites through a combination of installation of non-turf pitches (NTPs) and extensions to existing squares.
- In the longer term, it will be necessary to secure land for new cricket pitch provision through the Local Plan process and/or development agreement opportunities both to the east and the west of Basingstoke Town.



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This appendix to the Basingstoke & Deane Playing Pitch Strategy details the current picture of facility supply and demand for the playing pitch sport of **football** across the administrative area of the Borough of Basingstoke & Deane.
- 1.2 It also sets out how this current picture of provision is likely to change over the time period of the next Local Plan (to 2040). The likely future picture of provision is assessed based on potential changes in supply (both committed and planned football infrastructure projects within the borough and its primary travel catchment), forecast changes in the resident population (including consideration of areas with allocations in the Local Plan for large scale housing growth) along with national trends in participation in football, and the development aspirations of the community football clubs based in the borough.
- 1.3 The policies, development programmes and investment priorities of the national governing body for the sport will also influence the future picture of facility supply and demand for the sport in the borough. These are summarised in Section 2 below.
- 1.4 The final section brings together the information on supply and demand in the borough and draws conclusions as to the adequacy or otherwise of the existing supply to accommodate current demand (both from within the borough and, if relevant, displaced demand from neighbouring local authority areas). Conclusions are also drawn as to the likely facility needs for this playing pitch sport to 2040.

## 2. Football Association Strategy 2020-24

- 2.1 The Football Association (FA) adopted its current four-year strategy in 2020. The stated vision of the FA's *Time for Change Strategy* 2020-24 is to 'Unite the Game, Inspire the Nation'. The strategy sets out six 'Game Changer' objectives with a mission to maximise the impact of football and eight further objectives to better 'Serve the Game' so as to deliver football opportunities for all.
- 2.2 Within the overall strategy, the two objectives that have particular relevance to the planning and provision of pitches and ancillary support facilities at the local authority level are the *Game Changer* objectives to:

### DELIVER 5,000 QUALITY PITCHES

*Without a good quality pitch to play on there can be no game. The poor quality and availability of our pitches remains the number one frustration in grassroots football and an embarrassment for our country. Significantly improving the quality and durability of our grass pitches and building more artificial pitches is a necessity. To achieve this ambition by 2024, we will work with the Premier League and Government, and through our delivery partner the Football Foundation, to build and improve 5000 pitches across England, including using new digital methods to support ground staff up and down the country.*

### ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY GIRL

*In the last few years we have seen tremendous growth in women's and girls' football, but there is so much more to do. Ensuring every girl has the same chance as every boy to play football both at school, and in a local club, is an absolute must. To achieve this ambition by 2024, we*

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*will work in partnership with schools and teachers to provide tailored programmes and training; we will ensure all girls (5-16 years of age) have easy access to an inclusive club with an appropriate competitive pathway including our innovative Wildcats programme<sup>1</sup>.*

- 2.2 In 2018, in partnership with the Football Foundation and Sport England, the Football Association developed a ten-year investment plan in facilities for grass roots football - *The National Football Facilities Strategy 2018-2028*. The facilities strategy aims to ensure that by 2028:
- Every FA-affiliated club has access to a 3G artificial pitch for training and potentially matches.
  - Accelerated improvements are made to the key grass pitch sites across England to reduce fixture cancellations. Approximately 1 in 6 grass roots matches are called off nationally due to poor pitch quality.
- 2.3 To support delivery of the National Game Strategy aims, Hampshire FA - in partnership with the Football Foundation and the Hampshire local authorities - is focused on:
- Supporting the development of *Football Hubs*<sup>2</sup> in strategic locations
  - Supporting an agreed portfolio of priority projects for new and improved facilities in each Hampshire local authority area that will have a significant impact on participation and provide capacity for growth, activated through new *Local Football Facility Plans* (LFFPs), a ten-year vision for football facilities. A LFFP for Basingstoke & Deane Borough was published in November 2020 informed by consultation with the Borough Council and the large community football clubs based in the borough. The investment priorities in the Basingstoke LFFP are for enhanced provision of both full size and small-sided 3G pitches and improvement of grass pitches on a number of key sites. The LFFP priority projects are detailed in a later section of this report.
- 2.4 The Playing Pitch Strategy methodology is more detailed than that used to inform the LFFP investment priorities. Accordingly, whilst in most instances there is a good deal of commonality between the PPS and LFFP in terms of the conclusions reached, this is not always the case. In terms of use as an evidence base to inform development planning process, the PPS should take precedence over a LFFP.

### 3. Supply and Demand Information Sources

- 3.1 For all four sports included in the PPS, the following pitch supply information has been gathered, as far as possible, by a combination of data collection and review, surveys and consultations. For football this comprises:
- Sport England Active Places Power audit for playing pitches
  - Hampshire FA website and 2019/20 club & team affiliation data
  - Basingstoke & Deane Local Football Facility Plan (Football Foundation, November 2020)
  - Websites of community football clubs with home grounds in the borough

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<sup>1</sup> Wildcats is a digital search tool to promote local opportunities for girls aged 5-11 to access either team-based or non-competitive kick about football either in girls only or mixed sessions delivered by FA qualified coaches at community football clubs.

<sup>2</sup> Football Hubs serve major towns and cities with multiple pitches and modern pavilion facilities based around a minimum of 2 full size artificial grass football pitches (AGPs).

- Online survey returns
  - Phone interviews with local adult and youth league officials
  - Site visits to a sample of key sites identified by HFA including site meetings and pitch assessments (including carrying out FA Pitch Power assessments and reports)
  - Football information provided by schools with community use of pitches
  - Information provided by a number of town and parish councils with pitches
  - Information provided by B&DBC sports operations staff
  - League fixture lists
  - B&DBC pitch booking records
  - Sport England Active Lives Survey football participation data
  - Sport England Sports Market Segmentation latent demand data for Basingstoke & Deane.
- 3.2 The fixture secretary of both the Basingstoke & District Saturday and Sunday leagues engaged in the consultation by phone. So too did the Chair of the Peter Houseman Youth League.
- 3.3 80% of the large, multi-team community football clubs based in the borough engaged in the consultation either by means of online survey or at site meetings representing in excess of affiliated 120 teams.

## 4. Supply

- 4.1 Findings relating to football pitch supply in Basingstoke & Deane are summarised below.

### Natural Turf Pitches

- 4.2 Including at schools, there are 51 playing field sites in the borough with marked football pitches and access availability for community football clubs and teams. 36 of these are secured community sites, 10 are community secondary schools or college playing fields, 4 are junior school playing fields and 1 an independent preparatory school. A further secondary school (Bishop Challoner Catholic School in Basingstoke) and a large number of junior schools have football pitches on their playing fields but do not make these available for community hire.
- 4.3 The community football sites in the borough are listed in table 4.1. The distribution of the sites is shown in Section 2 in the main Playing Pitch Strategy report.

**Figure 4.1: Grass Football Playing Pitch Sites in Basingstoke & Deane**

Site Name	Postcode	Ownership
<b>Community Sites</b>		
Ashford Hill Playing Field, Ashford Hill	RG19 8BE	Local Authority
Barlow's Park, Tadley	RG26 3TA	Local Authority / Community Association
Old Basing & Lychpit Recreation Ground, Old Basing	RG24 7DA	Local Authority
Basingstoke Sports & Social Club / Fairfield Primary School	RG21 3DR	Community Association

Site Name	Postcode	Ownership
Berrydown Sports Ground	RG25 3BT	Local Authority / Community Association
Bridge Street Sportsground, Overton	RG25 3HE	Local Authority / Community Association
Brighton Hill Playing Fields	RG22 4HH	Local Authority
Burghclere Sports Ground, Burghclere	RG20 9JD	Sports Club
Chute Recreation Ground, Sherborne St John	RG24 9HX	Local Authority
Clift Meadow, Tadley	RG26 5BH	Local Authority
Down Grange Sports Complex	RG22 5SN	Local Authority
Echinswell Village Hall & Recreation Centre Playing Field, Echinswell	RG20 4UB	Local Authority
Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere	RG20 5SQ	Local Authority / Community Association
Hatch Warren Playing Fields	RG22 4XF	Local Authority
Headley Recreation Ground, Headley	RG19 8AD	Local Authority
Herriard Sportsground, Herriard	RG25 2PS	Local Authority / Sports Club
Longmeadow Sports Centre, Whitchurch	RG28 7RB	Community Association
Mapledurwell Recreation Ground	RG25 2LW	Local Authority
Michael's Field, Hannington, Tadley	RG26 5TY	Local Authority
Newfound Sportsground	RG23 7HH	Local Authority
Peter Houseman Playing Field	RG23 7ED	Local Authority
Pineapple Sports Field, Brimpton Common	RG7 4RN	Local Authority
Post Office Field, Bramley	RG26 5BP	Sports Club
Russell Howard Park	RG22 6PT	Local Authority
St Mary Bourne Recreation Ground	SP11 6BE	Local Authority
Sherbourne Road Playing Field	RG21 5RP	Local Authority
Sherfield Green, Sherfield on Loddon	RG27 0EE	Local Authority
Sherfield Park Open Space, Sherfield	RG27 0FP	Local Authority / Community Association
Silchester Playing Field, Silchester Common	RG7 2NJ	Local Authority
Stratton Park	RG22 5SN	Local Authority
War Memorial Park	RG21 4AG	Local Authority
Waterend Recreation Ground, Old Basing	RG24 7BA	Sports Club
Wield Recreation Ground, Preston Candover	RG25 2ET	Sports Club
Winklebury Football Complex	RG23 8BF	Hampshire FA
Winklebury Park Playing Field	RG23 8BJ	Local Authority
Woolton Hill Recreation Ground, Woolton Hill	RG20 9XF	Local Authority
<b>Secondary Schools &amp; College Sites</b>		
Aldworth School	RG22 6HA	Education
Brighton Hill School	RG22 4HS	Education
Costello School	RG21 4AL	Education
Clere School, Burghclere	RG20 9HP	Education
Cranbourne School	RG21 3NP	Education

Site Name	Postcode	Ownership
Everest Academy	RG24 9UP	Education
Hurst College, Baughurst	RG26 5NL	Education
Queen Mary's College	RG21 3HF	Education
Testbourne School, Whitchurch	RG28 7JF	Education
Vyne School	RG21 5NN	Education
<b>Junior School Sites</b>		
Sherfield Preparatory School, Sherfield on Loddon	RG27 0HU	Private Education
Hatch Warren Junior School	RG22 4PQ	Education
Marnell Junior School	RG24 9PT	Education
Whitchurch Primary School	RG28 7LS	Education
Woolton Hill Primary School	RG20 9XE	Education

4.4 Between them, these playing fields provide a total of 131 grass football pitches:

- 40 adult (36 on secured community sites)
- 28 youth 11v11 (12 on secured community sites)
- 22 youth 9v9 (15 on secured community sites)
- 26 junior 7v7 (20 on secured community sites)
- 15 junior 5v5 (14 on secured community sites)

4.5 Several of the adult and youth pitches are over-marked so they can also be used for smaller-sided youth or mini soccer games.

#### Closed Football Sites

4.6 In addition there are playing fields that were last used for football but no longer have maintained pitches, most notably The Camrose in Basingstoke town. Closed in 2019, The Camrose was the long-term home of Basingstoke Town FC, the senior club in the borough. This closed site has a natural turf stadium pitch and two small-sided 3G training pitches to one end. The majority of the land is in private ownership. The site is the subject of a planning application for development yet to be determined. A public inquiry is scheduled to start in March 2022. The club, now called Basingstoke Town Community FC, hires the HFA 3G pitch at Winklebury for its home matches whilst continuing to campaign and fundraise to secure a permanent home with return to The Camrose the club's preference.

4.7 Tadley Green in the north of the borough was used by Tadley Calleva for youth football. Since the opening of a new football ground at Barlow's Park (a recommendation of the previous PPS) this village green no longer has formal pitches and the green is retained as a community open space.

#### Quantity of natural turf pitches - benchmarking

4.8 The table below compares the quantity of operational natural turf football pitches in the borough with the provision in four neighbouring local authorities in Hampshire with current playing pitch strategies - Hart, Test Valley, East Hampshire and Winchester - both in terms of the number of pitches and the population per football pitch. This shows that, on a per capita basis, Basingstoke and Deane has more football pitches relative to East Hampshire, a similar level to both Test Valley and Hart and considerably lower level than Winchester City & District.

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Table 4.2: Quantity by Local Authority Populations

Local Authority	No. Natural Turf Pitches	Population*	Resident Population per football pitch (all ages)
Basingstoke & Deane	131	182,432	1,393
Test Valley	107	131,698	1,231
Hart	82	100,377	1,224
East Hampshire	83	126,134	1,520
Winchester	150	128,184	855

\* Hampshire County Council Small Area Population Forecasts, 2020

Secured community access to the supply

- 4.9 Most of the football sites in the borough used by community football club teams (over 70%) provide secured access i.e. sites owned or leased by the Borough Council, Parish Councils or by community football clubs or sports associations or charitable trusts.
- 4.10 The unsecured sites used for community football are located on those education sites that operate lettings out of hours where, at present, this community access is not formally secured either by means of planning condition or condition of grant. Three of the education providers in the borough operate leisure centres with community memberships as well as letting out their playing fields (i.e. Queen Mary's College and Everest Academy in Basingstoke and Hurst School in Basingstoke / Tadley). These sites therefore afford a high degree of security of access.
- 4.11 Two other key school sites for community football have long-standing arrangements with a local clubs or sports association for use of their playing fields. Fairfield Junior School in Basingstoke has an access arrangement to their playing field at weekends with Basingstoke Sports & Social Club to the benefit of several youth football clubs. In the west of the borough, Testbourne School has a letting agreement with Whitchurch United FC whereby the club is a key holder to the playing field.

Supply for informal games

- 4.12 Most of the local authority owned supply is available to be used for free, informal games of football (as distinct from affiliated club team competitive football). Open access for kick about play and informal football games is provided at all the local authority owned playing fields and recreation grounds in the villages as well as at Borough Council owned playing field sites in the urban area of Basingstoke. There are also open access hard court cage MUGAs on the edge of several playing field sites - e.g. Winklebury Park Playing Fields - and at youth and community centres - e.g. Popley Fields Community Centre - that provide opportunities for informal kick abouts.
- 4.13 For reasons of site security, health and safety and the need to maintain pitch quality, free open access for recreational play is not permitted to the operational stadium pitches in the borough at Winklebury and Barlow's Park, to 3G MUGAs (e.g. The Fieldgate Centre in Kingsclere and the Beechdown Club in Basingstoke), or to pitches on education playing fields.

#### 3G Football Turf Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

- 4.14 The borough currently has four full-size floodlit artificial grass pitches designed and equipped primarily for football (i.e. AGPs), three in the urban area at Winklebury, Queen Mary's College and The Vyne School and one close to the western borough boundary with Test Valley at Testbourne School in Whitchurch.
- 4.15 Three of these AGPs are on the FA Approved register as suitable for affiliated league match play:
- HFA Winklebury, Basingstoke
  - Vyne School, Basingstoke
  - Testbourne School, Whitchurch
- 4.16 Of these AGPs, only the HFA Winklebury pitch has community access during the day as well as in the evenings and at weekends. The others are used exclusively for education during the day in term-time.
- 4.17 The 3G pitch at The Everest Academy is a short pile (40mm) 3G pitch designed to hockey dimensions and used for small-sided football and non-affiliated 11v11 games as it is undersized.

#### Distribution of AGPs

- 4.18 In relation to the distribution of these AGPs in relation to the locations of the largest community football clubs in the borough, there is a clear gap in provision of full size AGPs for team training in the north of the borough around Tadley and Baughurst accessible to Tadley Calleva (with over 30 teams) and other clubs in this catchment area (e.g. Kingsclere, Loddon Sports, Bramley).
- 4.19 Similarly, to the west of the urban area, the large community football clubs in Oakley and Overton are poorly served currently for evening training needing to travel east into Basingstoke or further west to the Testbourne School where there is already high demand for the 3G at this school from other large clubs (e.g. Whitchurch United).
- 4.20 In addition to these main 5 AGPs with community use, there are two further full size 3G pitches on independent preparatory school sites to the east of the urban area at Danes Hill Preparatory School in Stratfield Turgis and at Sherfield School in Sherfield-on-Loddon. There is some unsecured community use of the latter pitch by Basing Royals Youth FC under 8, under 10s (3 sides) and under 11s for Sunday matches and midweek training. Whilst the pitches and indoor sports facilities at Sherfield School are made available for hire, the potential for much further community access is constrained by the fact the school has boarding pupils on site during the evenings and at weekends.

#### Small Sided 3G Pitches

- 4.21 As well as the full size AGPs and the hockey size 3G at The Everest Academy, there are four sites in the borough with small-sided floodlit 3G pitches with community access:

Table 4.3: Small Sided 3G Pitches

Site	Small Sided AGPs / MUGAs	Community Use / Access
<b>Community Sites</b>		
The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere, RG20 5SQ	Small former open access hard court MUGA upgraded to 3G with secured access and token operated floodlights since last PPS	Kingsclere FC youth teams and women's team use extensively for training
Powerleague, Brighton Hill, RG22 4HS	Nine small-sided cage pitches last refurbished in 2014	Commercial centre for small-sided leagues and hire for recreational play
Beechdown Club, RG22 4ES	Small 3G MUGA last refurbished in 2011	Registered sports club members
<b>Education Sites</b>		
Everest Academy, RG24 9UP	MUGA 3G. Surface 5 years old approximately.	Lettings evening and weekends - Chineham Tigers, Popley Youth, Basingstoke Youth

Other AGPs

- 4.22 Recreational football and team training can also take place on AGPs with sand based, sand filled or water-based playing surfaces - i.e. AGPs designed for hockey as the primary sport.
- 4.23 Within the town, the two hockey AGPs at Down Grange Sports Complex are hired for football for between 5 and 6 hours a week in the peak period. A sand filled 9v9 pitch at Queen Mary's College in the town is also hired for small-sided football games on two midweek evenings for between 4 and 6 hours a week.
- 4.24 Other sand-based pitches with floodlighting in the borough are on private school sites (Cheam School and Thorngrove) and are not accessible for community football.

Supply Changes

- 4.25 No committed projects (i.e. with planning consent and funding in place) for new AGPs or small-sided 3G pitches have been identified either within Basingstoke & Deane or within a 20-minute drive-time of the borough boundary.
- 4.26 On the east side of the borough, Fleet in Hart District is within this drive-time catchment for some Basingstoke & Deane residents. New provision in this area opened since the previous Basingstoke & Deane Playing Pitch Strategy are at The Hart Leisure Centre (small-sided 3G pitches) and at Calthorpe Park School (AGP).
- 4.27 Priorities for additional AGP supply in neighbour local authority areas of relevance to residents of Basingstoke & Deane are as follows:
  - o Test Valley Borough Council has a priority in its current Playing Pitch Strategy to provide a second AGP in Andover. This project is also an investment priority in the Test Valley Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) of the Football Foundation. If a further 3G is provided in Andover, some teams from the Whitchurch area may travel to access this provision in view of the lack of unused capacity in the peak period of the 3G at Testbourne School. Several Whitchurch United youth teams already use the grass pitches in Andover at Picket Twenty.

- West Berkshire proposals in the West Berkshire PPS and LFFP of relevance to the AGP provision gap in the north of Basingstoke & Deane include two new 3G pitch project proposals as yet unfunded and with no specific sites identified. These are in the Burghfield /Mortimer area (possibly a small-sided pitch at Willink School by means of conversion on an existing sand AGP). This area is close to Tadley. The second 3G 'gap' identified is the Thatcham area either at a school or the Thatcham football club ground. A 3G stadium pitch is also proposed for Newbury FC at Newbury Rugby club ground. However, this project is of no direct relevance to football in Basingstoke & Deane.
- 4.28 A number of projects are in development within Basingstoke & Deane where new grass pitches are proposed through the planning process for new housing developments. In the short term, Whitchurch Town Council in the west of the borough will be taking ownership of three new sports pitches (The Barry Jackman Sports Pitches) provided by a housing developer as part of a Section 106 Planning Agreement for a 100 unit approx. development at Mill Springs (along with a dowry sum for future pitch maintenance). The Town Council is working with Whitchurch United Football Club on a lease for use of two of the pitches will be provided to FA standard. The third pitch and new changing rooms will be available to rent by other clubs and groups. Once secured, these new pitches should allow the club to accommodate all its teams locally where currently some youth sides play their home matches out of the borough at Picket Twenty in Andover.
- 4.29 Large scale new housing development proposals with new football pitches and/or new schools with playing fields proposed are identified within the current Local Plan and framework of Development Brief Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The following proposals for phased large scale new housing developments have particular relevance to future supply of football pitches:
- *Basingstoke Golf Club (Kempshott Hill) & Hounsome Fields* (opposite) - together 1,750 homes approx. (restricted to 277 in first phase due to drainage capacity issues). A primary school and playing fields, 2 adult football pitches, community centre with integrated or separate changing rooms are included in the proposals.
  - *Manydown* (near Winklebury) - 3,400 homes approx. Land for a country park, two primary schools and playing fields, land for a secondary school and playing fields, public open spaces and a 'Sports Hub' with both indoor and outdoor facilities (either standalone or dual use with protected community access) changing and parking and included in the proposals.
  - *Land East of Basingstoke* (Redlands, Lodge Farm etc) - up to 1,500 homes. A full-size artificial grass pitch, primary school and playing fields are included in the proposals.

## 5. Demand

- 5.1 Findings relating to football pitch demand in Basingstoke and Deane are detailed below.

### Clubs and Teams

- 5.2 There are currently 70 football clubs with their main ground located in Basingstoke & Deane Borough, a number of which are separately constituted youth/colts sections or women's teams of men's league clubs.
- 5.3 16 of the clubs have youth sections with 10 or more age group teams. Of these clubs, two - Chineham Tigers (based at Sherfield Open Space) and Tadley Calleva Youth (based primarily at Barlow's Park, Pineapple Field and Silchester Playing Field and training on the 3G at Vyne School) - have 30+ teams.
- 5.4 A further four clubs - Whitchurch United Youth, Basingstoke Town Colts Youth, Oakley Youth and Hatch Warren Phoenix Youth - field 20+ league sides. All six of these large youth football clubs operate across split sites as no one site provides sufficient playing capacity in the peak period for league fixtures (mainly on Sundays) to accommodate all their teams' fixtures despite staggered kick off times.
- 5.5 Midweek training is not possible for some of these teams due to lack of unused capacity in the midweek peak period on the existing floodlit 3G pitches in the borough or the absence of a facility within the locality of the club. Some teams hire local school playing fields bringing in portable training lights.
- 5.6 Most of the adult football clubs playing their home fixtures in the borough are single men's team clubs (without linked youth sections or women's teams) and with no aspiration to grow.
- 5.7 18 single team affiliated men's clubs competed in the Basingstoke & District Saturday Football league in 2019/20. A further 30 played Sunday morning football in the Basingstoke & District Sunday Football League.
- 5.8 From site visits and consultation with the leagues and pitch providers, it is apparent that the number of men's Saturday league teams has declined steadily over the past six years. In 2019/20 for example, the league secretary reported two teams folding due to lack of players (including Bramley United's Saturday side). The league secretary cites pressure of time (including an increased prevalence of Saturday working) as the main cause. In the current 2021/22 season, the Saturday league comprises 16 teams (two leagues of 8 teams).
- 5.9 In contrast, the league fixture secretary reports a steady growth in demand for Sunday morning men's league football stimulated by promotional work on social media and FA initiatives that make it easier to set up and run teams such as *Whole Game* and *Full Time*. The league provides administrative support in the initial weeks after a new team is formed and takes a flexible approach to application of league rules and system of fines. As a result of this support, drop-outs are kept to a minimum.
- 5.10 Nine additional teams are playing in the Sunday league in the current season than was the case two seasons ago. This includes two imported teams from the Aldershot area in Hart District to the east of Basingstoke due to closure of the Aldershot Sunday Football League to new teams.

- 5.11 This change in the pattern of demand for grass roots community football mirrors the national trend and places increasing pressure of demand for pitches on Sunday mornings when the majority of youth football league games also take place. The largest youth league in the borough - The Peter Houseman Youth League - schedules most of its fixtures on Sundays.
- 5.12 In men's Saturday football the highest level currently played in the borough is The Isthmian Football League (Senior South-Central Division) at Step 4 in the FA National League System (NLS). Basingstoke Town Community FC currently competes in this league from the upgraded HFA 3G stadium ground at Winklebury and is challenging for promotion. As detailed earlier in the report (para 4.6), the club's historical home ground - The Camrose - was sold to a development company in 2016 and the club evicted in 2019. A planning application for development of this site has yet to be determined.
- 5.13 Two other clubs in the borough currently compete in the NLS Steps 1-6. These are Tadley Calleva FC in the Combined Counties Football League Premier Division North (Step 5) based on a new ground at Barlow's Park near Tadley and Whitchurch United in Wessex League Division One (Step 6) based at Longmeadow Sports Centre in Whitchurch.
- 5.14 Overton United play in the Hampshire Premier Football League (Senior Division) at two sports grounds in the village at Bridge Street (Overton Recreation Centre) and Berrydown.
- 5.15 Four other Basingstoke & Deane football clubs play in the next division of this league (Division 1 North). These are Silchester Village (Silchester Playing Field), Kingsclere FC (Fieldgate Centre although temporarily displaced while drainage improvement works are carried out), North Waltham FC (Testbourne School) and Twentyten FC (Wield Recreation Ground). At Under 23 level, two borough-based clubs - Whitchurch United and North Waltham FC - field teams in the East Division of the Hampshire Combination & Development Football League.

#### Women and Girls Teams

- 5.16 Three affiliated adult women's league teams are based in the borough:
- *Down Grange Ladies FC* (a section of Down Grange Youth FC) based at Stratton Park and competing in division 1 of the county women's league. The Borough Council is in the process of improving the pavilion at this site and the Local Football Facilities Plan identifies the grass pitches as a priority for quality improvement subject to the findings of a Pitch Power Assessment.
  - *Basingstoke Town FC Women* playing home matches in the county women's league division 3 on Sundays at HFA Winklebury
  - *Kingsclere FC Women* playing in the Thames Valley County Women's League Division 2 at the Fieldgate Centre on Sunday afternoons (currently displaced during drainage improvement works to Ecchinswell Village Hall & Recreation Centre and, on occasions, to Michael's Field in Hannington).
- 5.17 Demand is growing within the larger youth football clubs in the borough for more opportunities for girls to play competitive football. Whilst participation by girls remains primarily in the younger age groups within mixed teams, there is steady

growth in the number of girl's youth teams entering the Hampshire Girls Youth Football League.

- 5.18 The 2019/20 entry totals 15 girls age group teams at Basingstoke & Deane based community clubs which is a rapid rise from a few years ago. Basingstoke has 7 clubs/centres delivering FA Wildcats - regular opportunities for girls 5-11 to play football with FA qualified coaching support either recreationally or competitively in a league structure:
- Down Grange YFC (SSE Girls United) - Thursday evenings at Down Grange small-sided pitches or sand AGP (winter)
  - Basingstoke Colts YFC - Wednesday evenings at Waterend Sports Ground or Basingstoke Soccer Centre (winter)
  - Basingstoke Soccer Centre
  - Overton YFC - Berrydown Sports Ground
  - Hatch Warren Phoenix YFC - Brighton Hill Playing Fields
  - Chineham FC Tigers - Sherfield Park Open Space
  - Whitchurch United - Testbourne Community School

#### Affiliated Teams

- 5.19 The current number of affiliated teams by age group and gender at Basingstoke and Deane based clubs from data provided by Hampshire FA on 2019/20 affiliations updated through the consultation process and review of 2021/22 league data on the Hampshire FA website is as follows:

**Table 5.1: Basingstoke & Deane Football Teams affiliated to HFA**

Team Category	Number
Men Open Age	40
Women Open Age	3
Walking Football	2
Youth Male	130
Youth Female	15
Disability	3
Minisoccer (mixed)	139
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>332</b>

#### Recreational Football

- 5.20 Participation in recreational (unaffiliated) small-sided games of football - both within commercial leagues and regular weekly games among work colleagues or groups of friends - is the fastest growing sector of the game nationally and is played almost exclusively on artificial grass pitches. In Basingstoke, small-sided leagues are focused on the Basingstoke Powerleague Football Centre in Brighton Hill.
- 5.21 Hampshire FA's *Just Play* product promoting 'turn up and play' recreational football is currently undergoing a re-brand and will be re-launched in 2022. The borough currently has just one accredited Just Play Centre at the Vyne School 3G with an offer of weekly evening walking football sessions for the over 50s on Mondays from 7-9pm delivered by the Tadley Stain Strollers, an award-winning walking football club established in 2014. Weekly walking football sessions are also available indoors in the

sports hall at Basingstoke Sports Centre (BSC United, Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons).

- 5.22 In addition, the County FA has this season established a new *Play On Flexi-League* for recreational 11 a side football at Winklebury. Taking place on one Monday evening a month with kick off times at 7pm and 8.30pm, the Play On League is targeted at groups interested in some fun and casual competition with less commitment than a weekly league and without the requirement to travel away. The games are also relatively low cost at £55 per team (£5 per player per match).
- 5.23 Outside the traditional community youth football club model directed towards affiliated youth league match play, children's football coaching providers operate in the borough. The main provider currently is the Basingstoke School of Development Centre Youth FC based at The Peter Houseman Ground and, in the evenings, on the sand AGPs at Down Grange Sports Complex. The Development Centre provides coaching opportunities on a session basis for u9s to u16s boys and girls.
- 5.24 In addition, non-competitive development training squads for children aged under 6 are available at a number of the larger youth football clubs including Chineham FC Tigers, Tadley Calleva YFC, Loddon Sports, MFC Popley Youth and Whitchurch United Youth.

#### Disability

- 5.25 Since October, Hampshire FA has run a weekly *Open Access* Disability Football Sessions and low mobility session for adults with learning difficulties on Tuesday afternoons on the 3G pitch at Winklebury.
- 5.26 Disability football is under-developed in the community football clubs. An exception is Hatch Warren Phoenix YFC which has established a regular PAN disability indoor football skills training session for children aged from 6 to 16 years on Sunday mornings from 9-10am. Since October the sessions have run in the Dummer Cricket Centre hall having outgrown the Aldworth School Gym.

#### Schools football

- 5.27 A significant contributory factor to demand for affiliated youth football and mini soccer at weekends in Basingstoke & Deane is the extent to which football is taught and played competitively in schools in the borough, both in the state and the independent sectors. Pupils attending schools in the borough feed into the community youth football clubs.
- 5.28 Hampshire Schools' FA organise district competitions for affiliated primary schools (year 6) and affiliated secondary schools (years 8, 9 and 10), as well as county teams at u14, u15, u16 and u18. Affiliated schools in the borough fall within the Hampshire Schools' FA Basingstoke District.

#### Youth Tournaments

- 5.29 A number of Summer Tournaments sanctioned by Hampshire FA run annually in the borough (or at accessible playing field sites just over the boundary) although a number of these were cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid. Examples of regular events include:

- Basingstoke Town Colts Youth FC tournament (u7s-u16s) - a weekend in June (Water End)
- Tadley Calleva Youth FC annual 6 a side tournament (u8s-u16s) - a weekend in June (AWE Aldermaston)
- Oakley Youth FC - a weekend in May (Newfound Sports Ground).

#### Futsal

- 5.30 There is also growing interest in the indoor 5 a side game of Futsal in the area, promoted by the FA. The Hampshire County Futsal League is in its fifth season and games are played on Friday evenings twice a month at Sparsholt College's Sports Hall in Winchester. Basingstoke Futsal Club has a team competing in this league.

#### Soccer Schools

- 5.31 A variety of organisations (both commercial and charitable) run soccer schools or provide coaching at schools in the borough after school or in the school holidays. Some hire community football pitches causing additional wear and inhibiting close season recovery. Sherfield Park Open Space is an example where kids soccer schools are run in the school holidays although, as far as possible, these sessions take place off the marked pitches which are heavily used by Chineham Tigers teams.

#### Imported and exported demand

- 5.32 Little imported demand - i.e. clubs and teams from outside the borough playing on pitches in the borough - has been identified aside from a few teams from the Hook and Aldershot area in Hart District joining the Basingstoke & District Sunday Football League this season.
- 5.33 Exported demand is more evident due to lack of capacity on Sundays for all youth team age group matches. Several teams from Whitchurch United Youth travel to play in Andover at Picket Twenty. One Basingstoke Town CFC team travels to a 3G in Reading to secure a regular midweek training slot.
- 5.34 In addition, some use is made of the MOD football pitches just over the borough boundary at AWE Aldermaston Recreational Society Ground by borough-based teams. Kingsclere FC were playing home fixtures on this ground while their home ground at the Fieldgate Centre is being upgraded although it is understood the club's adult team has since folded. Tadley Calleva Youth also make use of these out-of-borough pitches on occasion including for their annual tournament.

#### Football Participation Trends

- 5.35 *Adults:* The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey<sup>3</sup> (May 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e. taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in football in England by adults (aged 16+) fell - 1.9% from 4.1% between May 2019 - May 2020 to 2.2% between May 2020 and May 2021.
- 5.36 If football participation in the borough were at the pre-pandemic national average (i.e. 4.1%), this would indicate around 6,400 adults (aged 16+) living in the borough play football out of a 16+ adult population in 2019 of approximately

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<sup>3</sup> Active Lives Adult Survey May 2020/21, Sport England, (October 2021)

160,000. At the 2020/21 national 16+ football penetration rate of 2.2%, this would suggest circa 3,500 over 16-year-olds in Basingstoke play football.

- 5.37 With approximately 55 adult male teams (including unaffiliated recreational teams of at least 11 players) currently, plus five affiliated u18 sides, the adult football club playing membership in the borough is close to 900 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). This suggests that well over two thirds of all regular adult football played in the borough is likely to be unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues or friendly games.
- 5.38 A marked upturn in demand for opportunities to play the game recreationally (i.e. outside the traditional club model) is supported by recent national participation data collected by the Football Foundation. This finding makes the case for sufficient supply of 3G pitches to accommodate demand for recreational small-sided football in addition to demand from affiliated league teams for training and matches.
- 5.39 *Children & Young People: The Active Lives Children & Young People Survey*<sup>4</sup> published its third report of findings in January 2021 based on data collected from year 3-11 pupils and parents of years 1-2 pupils in the 2019/20 year.
- 5.40 Focusing in on the older group (i.e. school years 7-11) and team sports activities, the findings show that just over a third (34.5%) of children aged 10 to 16 surveyed in England had participated in football outdoors at least once in the last week outside of school. Statistically significant data at local authority level for individual sports is not available.

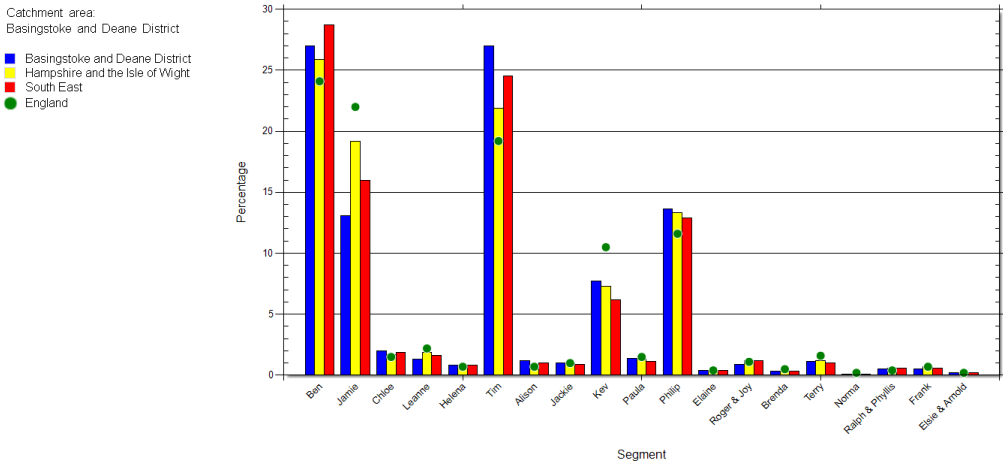
#### Sports Market Segmentation (SMS)

- 5.41 As the two graphs that follow illustrate, there is higher demand from those adult Sports Market Segmentation Groups 'Tim', 'Ben' and 'Philip' playing and wanting to play football in Basingstoke & Deane (the blue column) compared to the averages across the Active Sports Partnership area (Hampshire and IoW) and England as a whole (the green dot). This suggests there is considerable latent demand among adults in the borough to play football or to play more often.
- 5.42 Among the adult female SMS Groups football participation is low with 'Chloe' the Group most likely to play or want to play football in Basingstoke & Deane - i.e. 'fitness class friends, young image conscious females keeping fit and trim'.
- 5.43 The main characteristics of the main Groups already playing the game or interested in playing (i.e. latent demand) are:
- Ben - competitive male urbanites, recent graduates
  - Tim - settling down males, sporty professionals
  - Philip - comfortable, midlife males, professional.

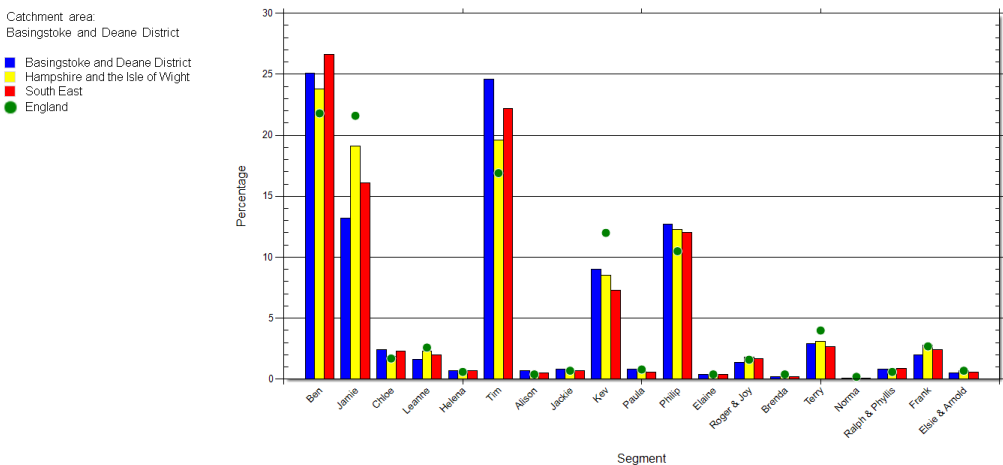
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<sup>4</sup> Active Lives Children and Young People Survey Academic Year 2019/20, Sport England (January 2021)

Population within catchment area participating in: Football 



Population within catchment area wanting to participate in: Football 



Club aspirations

5.44 Several of the larger youth football clubs report aspirations for further growth to provide for unmet and latent demand. However, at present, growth aspirations are constrained by lack of availability of pitch time in the peak hours for youth matches and mini-soccer on Sundays and of peak evening 3G slots for training. In particular, the following aspirations have been identified in consultation:

- *Basingstoke Town CFC* - the club has been actively campaigning to return to The Camrose Stadium since eviction by the landowner in 2019. The club consider that the HFA Winklebury complex is not the long-term solution for the club particularly should the first team achieve a promotion to Step 3 in the NLS. The club lost a quarter of its age group teams as a consequence of internal changes in recent seasons. Currently with 11 teams (including three men's teams, a women's team and one girls' team), the club aspires to re-establish 6 youth boys' sides and a second girls' team in the next year. Achieving this aspiration will depend on securing sufficient additional playing and training slots in the peak hours at the HFA

Winklebury Football Complex and, for youth teams, at The Everest Academy 3G which is in urgent need of extension and resurfacing to achieve FA compliance for match play. The women's team train on the 3G at Queen Mary's College. Currently, availability in the peak hours is very limited and the club has to look for pitch cancellations on a weekly basis to fit in existing teams. Thus, the club consider more 3G capacity is required in the town before the club's growth potential and plans can be achieved.

- *Tadley Calleva FC* - the club would like to secure access to a 3G pitch for training and youth matches ideally through extension of the Barlow's Park site. If not at Barlow's Park, then in the Tadley/Baughurst local catchment area in the north of the borough.
- *Whitchurch United FC* - complete the ongoing lease negotiations with Whitchurch Town Council to provide the club with two new pitches and use of changing rooms at Mill Springs to bring teams back into the town from Andover.
- *Oakley Juniors FC* - the club would like to secure access to a 3G pitch locally for training and youth matches, ideally through development of a small-sided 3G pitch on their home Peter Houseman Ground.
- *MFC Popley Youth FC* - the club identifies unmet demand in the younger age groups due to pitch capacity limitations on Sunday mornings at Basingstoke Sports & Social Club Mays Bounty/Fairfield Primary School field exacerbated by the pitches holding water causing winter cancellations. The club also supports the project to provide a new sports pavilion. The club is heavily dependent on securing evening slots on the 3G at Everest Academy for training.
- *Down Grange Youth FC* - Similar to MFC Popley, the club identifies a need for more small-sided pitches (either grass or 3G) available within the town on a Sunday morning to meet aspirations to grow with current unmet demand in the younger age groups.
- *Overton Youth FC* - Currently using the Overton Recreation Centre Berrydown site for matches and the Testbourne School 3G in Whitchurch for training, the club aspires to increase the number of age group girl's teams and add more mixed teams in the younger age groups to meet demand. The club foresees capacity issues particularly for training midweek without further 3G provision in the Overton/Oakley area.
- *Hatch Warren Phoenix Youth FC* - the club currently uses the Council pitches at Hatch Warren Playing Fields and the school playing field at Hatch Warren Junior School as well as its own soccer school and regular pan disability sessions indoors at the Dummer Cricket Centre. The club is in early discussions with the cricket centre operator concerning the potential to develop new grass pitches at the Dummer site just to the south of the M3.

5.45 In addition to these aspirations of the larger multi-team clubs, several of the smaller single men's teams clubs have identified issues with inadequate pavilions and changing facilities, for example The Post Office Field in Bramley. For some clubs the issue is lack of access to a basic kitchen facility within the pavilions they use in order to generate

secondary spend from players and their families to help support the club's running costs.

## 6. The situation at individual sites

- 6.1 As agreed with representatives of the Football Foundation and Hampshire FA in July, the 8 key strategic natural turf football sites identified in the Basingstoke and Deane Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) as priority sites for quality improvement works were visited in late October/early November 2021 and, where appropriate, Pitch Power Assessments carried out and reports prepared. The findings are summarised in table 6.1 below and will be used to inform the prioritisation of projects within the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 6.2 The sites identified in the LFFP that were assessed through a combination of visual assessment, consultation with site managers/ground staff and application of the Pitch Power methodology were:
- Hurst School (LFFP: 3 natural turf, new AGP, pavilion improvement)
  - Peter Houseman Playing Field (LFFP: 2 natural turf, new 7v7 AGP)
  - Stratton Park (LFFP: 3 natural turf, pavilion improvement)
  - Hatch Warren Fields (LFFP: 3 natural turf)
  - Sherfield Park Open Space (LFFP: 2 natural turf)
  - Pineapple Playing Fields (LFFP: 2 natural turf, new pavilion)
  - Barlows Park - (LFFP: 3 natural turf)
  - Brighton Hill Playing Fields (LFFP: 6 natural turf)
- 6.3 The Football Foundation Pitch Power Assessment reports contain detailed maintenance recommendations for each site and the individual pitches on these sites that were assessed. The report recommendations and suggested budget costs summarised in the table below.
- 6.4 The maintenance practices are those the Foundation recommends are carried out to improve and maintain the pitches to a higher quality than is currently the case. Some of the maintenance included will already be undertaken. Where no recommendation is made - e.g. mowing or line marking - the information and images submitted from the site visits did not raise any specific issue or concern.
- 6.5 The detailed reports include information under each task setting out more detailed guidance as to rationales, frequencies, timings etc. to maximise effectiveness. Guidance is also provided in a number of the reports on the specialist equipment recommended for undertaking the specific tasks.
- 6.6 The budget costs reflect the recommended tasks, the number of pitches and the sizes of the pitches in question. They are indicative costs and assume the work is contracted to an organisation with appropriately trained staff in winter pitch maintenance. The Football Foundation is due to launch a new fund for Local Authority grass pitch improvement in 2022.

Table 6.1: Football Foundation Pitch Power Site Assessment Results Summary

Recommendations	Hurst School	Peter Houseman	Stratton Park	Hatch Warren	Sherfield Park OS	Brighton Hill
<b>Maintenance</b>						
Mowing (weekly)				All pitches		All pitches
Line marking (weekly)				All pitches		All pitches
Annual weed treatment (selective herbicide)	11 a side pitch	Both pitches	All pitches	All pitches	All pitches	All pitches
Out of season renovation (overseeding)	11 a side pitch	Both pitches	All pitches	All pitches	All pitches	All pitches
Application of fertiliser (2 x per year)	11 a side pitch	Both pitches	All pitches	All pitches	All pitches	All pitches
Decompaction (2 x per year)	11 a side pitch	Both pitches	All pitches	All pitches	All pitches	All pitches
Surface Grooming (fortnightly)	11 a side pitch	Both pitches	All pitches		All pitches	All pitches
Slitting (Monthly)	11 a side pitch	Both pitches	All pitches	All pitches	All pitches	All pitches
Scarification	11 a side pitch					Pitches 3 & 4
End of season renovation (goal mouth repairs)						All pitches
End of season renovation (Top dressing)				All pitches		All pitches
Annual budget cost	<b>£5,480</b>	<b>£9,676</b>	<b>£15,690</b>	<b>£20,138</b>	<b>£11,768</b>	<b>£28,620</b>

- 6.7 It is noted that no Pitch Power assessment was undertaken of the pitches at Barlow's Park as we were informed by the Tadley Calleva club representative on the site visit that these pitches were assessed with the last 12-18 months in connection with a successful funding application to the Foundation. No quality issues were apparent or raised in discussion on the site visit and a costed Planned Maintenance Schedule provided by the Barlow's Park Management Association evidencing that all the maintenance tasks recommended for the Pitch Power assessment sites are undertaken at this site at an annual cost of between £17,000 and £22,000 per annum. Moreover, the Association's equipment inventory includes those items recommended in the Pitch Power reports.
- 6.8 A Pitch Power assessment of the small-sided pitches at Hurst School was not undertaken. This site is subject to ongoing feasibility assessment for an u13/u14 size AGP due to planning restrictions on the main school playing field.
- 6.9 Carrying capacity for football is a measure of the number of *match equivalent sessions* (MES) of play (matches or training) each week that the pitch can

accommodate without adverse impact on the pitch quality for the following week.

**Table 6.2: FA PPS Guide - Pitch Carrying Capacities**

Rating	Adult Pitch 11v11	Youth Pitch (11v11 or 9v9)	Junior Pitch (7v7 or 5v5)
	<i>Carrying capacity - average Match Equivalent Sessions in a week</i>		
Good	3	4	6
Standard	2	2	4
Poor	1	1	2

Source: PPS Guidance Sport England, October 2013

6.10 The audit data table appended summarises the situation at each football pitch site with regard to:

*Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e. its carrying capacity).

*The amount of play estimated to take place at each site in the season* (i.e. the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club/team use for matches and training in the peak community hours.

*The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:

- RED - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
- AMBER - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
- GREEN - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity).

## 7. Current Supply and Demand Balance

### Grass Pitches

7.1 The table below compares estimates of the total football play on natural grass pitches in the peak period (weekends and evenings) against available capacity across all the football playing field sites in the borough.

7.2 Only those sites where there is secured community access (i.e. local authority and club owned/leased sites) are included in this analysis. The new grass football pitches at Whitchurch are excluded as not yet fully secured.

Table 7.1: Supply/Demand Balance - secured community football sites

Secured capacity (MES/week)	Estimated Use (MES/week)	Supply/Demand Balance (RAG)
270	230	+40

7.3 The table shows that there is a positive supply balance (i.e. unused capacity) of natural turf pitches for football in the borough as a whole. However, this borough-wide position obscures a considerable shortfall in capacity in the town itself and in

particular parts of the borough especially on Sundays when most of the youth league matches are played as well as Sunday morning adult men's league football. Consultation with the clubs, adult and youth league officials and affiliation records evidence that both these groups are experiencing demand growth.

- 7.4 Table 7.2 shows the secured football pitch sites that are currently played either above their quality capacity or cannot accommodate all the home club's current demand for affiliated league matches either on the site itself or with use of another accessible ground in the local area within the borough. These sites are RAG rated red.

**Table 7.2: Overplayed Sites**

Sites 'Overplayed'	Issues and Potential Opportunities
<b>NORTH</b>	
<b>Barlow's Park, Tadley</b>	Tadley Calleva FC youth teams not all accommodated since closure of The Green and transfer to new ground at Barlow's Park. The club travels to Vyne School 3G in the town for evening training and to a number of grass pitches for league games including Pineapple Field on Brimpton Common, Silchester Playing Field and two small-sided pitches at Hurst School (bringing in portable training lights) - Feasibility study for u13/u14 small sided dual use AGP at Hurst School in progress (supported by LFFP). Potential for future expansion of Barlow's Park site subject to securing additional land and funding.
<b>Silchester Playing Field</b>	Tadley Calleva FC youth and girls, Silchester FC, cricket share - Feasibility study for u13/u14 small-sided dual use AGP at Hurst School in progress (supported by LFFP). Potential for future expansion of Barlow's Park site subject to securing additional land and funding.
<b>Pineapple Sports Field</b>	Tadley Calleva Youth 6 mixed teams u10 to u12 - Improve pitch quality and provide on-site welfare facilities. Feasibility study for u13/u14 small-sided dual use AGP at Hurst School in progress (supported by LFFP). Potential for future expansion of Barlow's Park site subject to securing additional land and funding.
<b>Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere</b>	Kingsclere FC men and women and youth not all accommodated, rugby share. Pitch drainage enhancements nearing completion - Will need further ground works (e.g. roll, vertidrain and fraizing to ensure level, then reseeding). Also, enhanced ongoing maintenance will be critical to maintain quality. Feasibility study for u13/u14 small-sided dual use AGP at Hurst School in progress (supported by LFFP). Potential for future expansion of Barlow's Park site subject to securing additional land and funding.
<b>WEST</b>	
<b>Longmeadow Sports Centre, Whitchurch</b>	Whitchurch United FC Overplay if all teams were to play at home. Some exported demand to Picket Twenty in Test Valley - Barry Jackman development agreement should

Sites 'Overplayed'	Issues and Potential Opportunities
	provide two new grass pitches for the club. Opportunity to provide a new 7v7 AGP at an accessible hub site e.g. Peter Houseman or Newfound Sports Ground (supported by LFFP).
Peter Houseman Recreation Ground	Oakley Youth teams, Basingstoke School of Development teams - Opportunity to provide a new 7v7 AGP at accessible hub site e.g. Peter Houseman or Newfound Sports Ground (supported by LFFP).
St Mary Bourne Recreation Ground	Whitchurch United Youth teams, Soldiers Return - Barry Jackman development agreement should provide two new grass pitches for the club. Opportunity to provide a new 7v7 AGP at accessible hub site e.g. Peter Houseman or Newfound Sports Ground (supported by LFFP).
<b>EAST</b>	
Old Basing Recreation Ground	Old Basing FC growing and share with growing cricket and archery clubs - new provision in the east for football and/or cricket
Mapledurwell Recreation Ground	Chineham Tigers teams - new provision in the east for football
Sherfield Park Open Space	Chineham Tigers teams - Improve pitch quality; new provision in the east for football
Sherfield Green	Loddon Sports teams - new provision in the east for football

- 7.5 As well as existing overplay at these sites, at several other sites there is minimal spare capacity in the weekend peak on secured grass pitches to allow a 'buffer' or 'reserve' to give the most heavily used pitches time to recover following prolonged periods of wet winter weather. Bridge Street in Overton (west) and St Michael's Field in Hannington (north) are examples that are played close to capacity (AMBER rated).
- 7.6 Table 7.3 below considers the supply/peak demand balance on the borough's natural turf football pitches broken down by pitch type on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Table 7.3: Supply/Demand<sup>5</sup> Balance - peak period by team category/pitch type**

Pitch type	Total	Secured	Secured capacity MES/wk	Demand Saturdays	Demand Sundays	Total Demand in peak
11v11	40	36	55	20 teams	52 teams	72 teams
Y 11v11	28	12	30	16 teams	25 teams	41 teams
9v9	22	15	31	18 teams	45 teams	63 teams
7v7	26	20	90	12 teams	63 teams	75 teams
5v5	15	14	64	21 teams	60 teams	81 teams
<b>Totals</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>87 teams</b>	<b>245 teams</b>	<b>332 teams</b>

<sup>5</sup> HFA Affiliations 2019/20 season

- 7.7 The table shows the high demand for pitches on Sundays compared with Saturdays due to the match scheduling of the leagues, particularly the largest youth league, the Peter Houseman.
- 7.8 With around 85% of the secured capacity used (i.e. 230 match equivalent sessions used of 270 secured), it is evident that a high proportion of matches are between teams both based in the borough. This means that all home and away fixtures played between these teams take place on Basingstoke & Deane pitches as opposed to pitches out of the borough.
- 7.9 The table also shows the high reliance on unsecured pitches on education sites and on programming multiple games with staggered kick off times on the same pitch as well as the over-marking of small-sided pitches on larger pitches, to accommodate demand, particularly on Sundays.

#### 3G Pitches

- 7.10 During the last decade 3G AGPs have played an increasing role within the national game. They are regarded by the Football Association as the optimum facility for training by clubs. In recent seasons they have also become more popular for competitive matches to reduce reliance on local authority park pitches and maintenance particularly in response to increasing pressures on local government finances and budgets and the growing challenges presented by climate change and more extreme autumn and winter rainfalls.
- 7.11 With this in mind, the FA has designed a model scenario to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size<sup>6</sup> floodlit 3G AGPs if increased amounts of play were to take place on them.
- 7.12 The scenario question tested is: *How many full size floodlit 3G AGPs may be required to meet demand within the borough if all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G AGP to train on once a week?*
- 7.13 The answer is set out below based on five large floodlit 3G AGPs which have full community use during peak periods<sup>7</sup>.
- 7.14 The results should be viewed as providing no more than an indication of the 'full size pitch equivalents' that may be demanded should this model approach be followed in Basingstoke & Deane. In practice, in Basingstoke, as in all areas, actual demand by clubs and teams is influenced mainly by cost factors and many teams will continue to train for free in parks when evening light allows and on sand based artificial grass pitches if these charge lower hire fees than a 3G equivalent.

#### FA Training Scenario Results

- 7.15 As a guide the FA suggest that 1 full size floodlit 3G AGP could potentially accommodate the training demand from 38 teams. The information from the assessment indicates that there are 332 teams playing competitive football in Basingstoke and Deane. Using the FA's 1:38 ratio suggests that 9.5 full size equivalent floodlit 3G AGPs would be required to meet 100% of team football training on 3G within the borough.

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<sup>6</sup> A full size 3G AGP measuring 106m x 70m including run off/safety margins.

<sup>7</sup> Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

7.16 Under this FA scenario, with approximately 5.5 full size equivalent AGPs with secured community access (i.e. the borough's 4 full size AGPs plus the hockey size 3G at Everest Academy and the 3G MUGAs at Everest Academy, Beechdown Club and The Fieldgate Centre<sup>8</sup>), 4 more AGPs would be needed in the borough to meet the current training needs of all club teams.

#### Current usage of 3Gs

7.17 It is clear from consultation with the larger clubs, the AGP site managers and review of online bookings and availability that there is minimal unused capacity on the existing AGP pitches in the borough with no regular available slots during the midweek evenings most in demand for team training.

7.18 The lack of available slots in these times on the existing supply of AGPs is further evidenced by the reliance on sand based AGPs for football. There are approximately 12 hours a week of football bookings in the peak evening on the hockey AGPs at Down Grange Sports Complex and on the sand 9v9 AGP at Queen Mary's College.

## 8. The Future Picture of Provision

8.1 The analysis in table 8.1 considers the extent of forecast population growth in the borough and the potential impact on the level of demand for football pitches in the longer term to 2040.

8.2 Future population growth figures have been calculated for the period of this strategy against the primary age groups for football participation. The population growth estimates have been produced using Hampshire County Council Small Area Population Forecasts, 2020.

**Table 8.1: Population Projections and Football Team Generation Rates (TGR)**

Age Group	No. Teams	Pop 2020	Pop 2040	TGR	Pop Change	Potential Change in Teams
Adult Men 11v11 (16-45)	53	31,866	38,208	601	6,342	+10.5
Adult Women 11v11 (16-45)	3	32,753	38,494	10,918	5,741	-
Youth Boys 11v11 (12-15)	100	4,393	4,762	439	369	+0.8
Youth Girls 11v11 (12-15)	8	4,286	4,590	536	304	+0.6
Youth Boys 9v9 (10-11)	30	2,403	2,483	80	80	+1.0
Youth Girls 9v9 (10-11)	7	2,247	2,292	321	45	-
Mini Soccer Mixed 7v7 (8-9)	66	5,037	4,804	76	-233	-3.1
Mini Soccer Mixed 5v5 (6-7)	65	4,767	4,864	73	97	+1.3

<sup>8</sup> This excludes consideration of the Basingstoke Soccer Centre as the pitches do not accommodate any affiliated league match play or align with the Foundation's pricing policy. The two small-sided 3G training pitches at The Camrose are also excluded as they are closed.

- 8.3 The overall borough population growth forecast over the Local Plan period from 2020 to 2040 is substantial i.e. +33,700 (from 178,700 to 212,300).
- 8.4 Assuming current football team generation rates (i.e. the number of residents in the prime football age groups in the population per existing football team), and the forecast population growth to 2040 in these age groups, demand for approximately 10 additional adult teams and 2-3 youth teams will be generated by 2040. As a consequence of the ageing population and declining birth rate, there may be a small reduction in the number of mini-soccer teams giving net growth of approximately 11 teams.
- 8.5 However, this figure should be considered with caution in the context of the increasing development focus and aspirations of the FA and several of the larger clubs in the borough to continue to grow girls and women's football. Based on recent girls' football growth trends in the borough and latent demand, the number of additional women and girl's football teams in the borough is likely to be considerably greater by 2040. It is reasonable to plan for a growth scenario where the existing number of women and girls' teams increases by 50% by 2040 as the larger clubs committed to development add new female age group sides year on year. A 50% growth assumption equates to one further 1-2 women's sides and 6-7 youth girls teams by 2040. If this growth is achieved, the total number of new football teams that will need to be accommodated by 2040 will be 18-20.
- 8.6 The impact of these factors - i.e. population growth, club team growth and development aspirations particularly in the women and girls' game - on the overall picture of pitch provision for football in the borough will need be kept under periodic review over the period of the strategy.
- 8.7 The audit of the existing pitches suggests sufficient secured capacity (in terms of aggregated Match Equivalent Sessions) in the supply of natural turf pitches borough-wide to accommodate current demand for match play provided youth pitches are over-marked on some of the supply and, on Sundays, staggered kick off times are used so that several games can be playing on the same pitch.
- 8.8 However, most of the unused capacity is currently on Saturdays and on single pitch sites not in the right places to adequately serve demands of the largest clubs (Chineham Tigers, Tadley Calleva, Oakley Youth, Overton Utd, Whitchurch Utd Youth, Basingstoke Town Colts Youth).
- 8.9 The forecast growth in football teams driven by population growth is likely to coalesce around these larger clubs, particularly for women and girls. Most of these clubs already struggle to accommodate their existing teams for match play and training and will need to secure additional capacity to grow.
- 8.10 Given there are current capacity issues for the larger multi-team clubs in terms of pitches for Sunday match play and for floodlit 3G for mid-week training, it is clear that the forecast population growth in the borough will exacerbate the need for additional capacity at these peak time over the period of the Local Plan.
- 8.11 To address the future capacity shortfall to 2040, as well as protecting the existing supply, there will be a need for a combination of the following:

- Enhancement and improved ongoing maintenance of the natural turf pitches on the key, secured playing field sites used by the large community clubs - 8 priority sites are identified for enhanced maintenance.
  - Provision of new AGPs accessible to the large community clubs and more AGPs accredited as suitable for affiliated match play - 4 priority locations are identified for new AGPs and two existing AGPs are identified for assessment to match play accreditation.
- 8.12 Opportunities will be afforded to address some of these needs through the development planning process for large-scale new housing schemes (e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy for off-site contributions). There will also be opportunities that arise for new on-site provision under Section 106 Agreements.
- 8.13 It is important to consider the likely distribution of the forecast population growth, in particular potential large new settlements allocated in the Local Plan, the accessibility of existing community football grounds from these settlements and the extent to which these grounds have unused capacity.
- 8.14 The two largest sites shortlisted for new settlements in the Local Plan Update (LPU) are to the west of the urban area at:
- *Manydown* where 2,100 new dwellings are currently proposed, and
  - *Popham Airfield* on the north side of the A303 (south of Overton) where 2,200 dwellings are proposed.
- 8.15 There are also large-scale new housing proposals west of the town at Basingstoke Golf Course and Hounsome. Under these west of Basingstoke settlement scenarios there is likely to be a concentration of future football demand from forecast population growth on the community football clubs on the west side of the urban area - e.g. in Oakley, Overton and Whitchurch. The pitches used by these large clubs are already played at or close to capacity on Sundays and mid-week evenings. This growth scenario further strengthens the needs case for the provision of AGP capacity in this area (as identified in the Football Foundation LFFP for Peter Houseman Playing Field).
- 8.16 On the east side of the urban area (to the east of Chineham), a total of 1,500 new homes are proposed across the two largest shortlisted sites (*Land East of Basingstoke* and *Lodge Farm*). Again, there is already pressure of football demand on the existing secured pitches in the peak Sunday and mid-week training times. This growth scenario therefore strengthens the existing needs case for more football capacity to relieve existing pressures of demand at Old Basing RG (shared with cricket and archery), Sherfield Open Space and to lesser extent, Waterend in Old Basing (sites used heavily by Chineham Tigers, Basingstoke Town Colts YFC and Old Basing Rovers).
- 8.17 The potential for future imported demand across neighbouring local authority boundaries also needs to be considered. Consultations with these authorities suggest that proposals in Andover to the west of Whitchurch and in the south of West Berkshire close to the northern borough boundary have the most potential to have an impact on

the future football balance of supply and demand in Basingstoke and Deane as detailed earlier in this report (para 4.6):

- Test Valley Borough Council has a priority in its current Playing Pitch Strategy to provide a second AGP in Andover. This project is also an investment priority in the Test Valley Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) of the Football Foundation.
  - West Berkshire proposals in the West Berkshire PPS and LFFP of relevance to the AGP provision gap in the north of Basingstoke & Deane include two new 3G pitch project proposals as yet unfunded and with no specific sites identified, one in the Burghfield /Mortimer area close to Tadley, the other in Thatcham.
- 8.18 Prioritisation of projects should take into consideration the extent to which the investment supports community football development objectives (e.g. more opportunities for under-represented groups in the sport particularly women and girls and the disabled) and the extent to which there is likely to be a need for additional playing capacity at the investment site in the context of planning decisions taken on the various new settlement scenarios (both within the borough and in the neighbouring local authority areas) and the timing of these decisions.
- 8.19 For example, should the west of Basingstoke new settlement scenarios proceed before those to the East of Basingstoke, increasing the capacity of the football grounds closest to this area already used by large clubs such as Overton United and Oakley Youth - e.g. The Peter Houseman Playing Field or Newfound Sports Ground - should be afforded priority over the enhancement needs at those club grounds to the east of the town and the proposed new AGP to serve population growth in this area.

## 9. Summary of Key Findings and Issues

### Football

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

- There are 51 natural turf football sites in the borough of which 36 are secured community sites.
- There are 5 AGP sites with significant community access plus two small-sided 3G MUGAs, all with minimal unused capacity in the peak midweek evening slots for team training.
- There has been some decline in participation in Saturday adult men's league football. However, this appears to be more than offset by growth in Sunday morning football and in non-affiliated recreational football particularly on 3G pitches.
- Youth football and mini-soccer demand continues to be strong and growing in the borough. There are 16 large clubs with 10+ teams of which 6 have more than 20 teams.
- Overall, there is a positive supply balance (i.e. unused capacity) of natural turf pitches for football in the borough as a whole. However, this borough-wide position obscures a considerable shortfall in capacity to the north, west and east of the town especially on Sundays.

## Football

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

No

- The audit suggests sufficient secured natural turf pitch supply borough-wide but unused capacity is not in the right places to adequately serve demands of some of the largest clubs (Chineham Tigers, Tadley Calleva, Oakley Youth, Overton Utd, Whitchurch Utd Youth).
- Whilst there has been additional AGP supply since the last PPS in 2015, the quantity of AGPs remains insufficient to meet FF training model ratio of 1:38 teams. There is a shortfall of 4 full sized equivalent AGPs on this measure.
- The main gaps in provision are in the north of the borough (Tadley/Baughurst area), between Basingstoke and Whitchurch to the west (Oakley/Overton area) and to the east (Old Basing, Chineham, Sherfield area). There are several large clubs in each of these areas.
- There is also pressure of demand in the peak period on the existing AGPs and grass pitches in Basingstoke town. Ensuring the existing AGPs are suitable and accredited for affiliated match play should be a priority alongside seeking opportunities for provision of an additional AGP in the town with secure community access in the peak period.

### Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

No

- There are inadequate maintenance regimes in operation at a number of key sites in the borough with natural turf pitches. These sites are identified in the audit along with recommendations in the report for enhanced regimes provided by Football Foundation following application of their new Pitch Power site assessment methodology.
- With regard to the AGPs, there is a strong needs case for resurfacing and FA compliance works at both the Queen Mary's College and Everest Academy pitches.

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

- Based on 2019/20 team generation rates, the forecast population growth in the borough indicates a need to accommodate a further 11 teams by 2040 with the majority of the growth in the adult age group. This understates the future demand in that TGRs take insufficient account of the growth trend and development focus of the FA and community clubs on girls and women's football.
- Girl's football will be a major demand driver. Continued growth in opportunities for women and girls to play competitive and recreation football is a key focus of the FA's new Strategy and the Football Foundation's prioritisation of investment in new facilities. In light of this, growth of 18-20 teams by 2040 is considered a more reasonable estimate.

## Football

- To accommodate this growth is likely to exert more pressure on capacity at key sites that are already full or over played.

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

No

- The forecast growth in football teams driven by population growth is likely to coalesce around the existing larger community clubs - particularly for women and girls. Most of these clubs already struggle to accommodate their existing teams for match play and training and will need to secure additional capacity to grow.
- To address the future capacity shortfall to 2040, as well as protecting the existing supply, there will be a need for a combination of the following:
  - Enhancement and improved ongoing maintenance of the natural turf pitches on the key, secured playing field sites used by the large community clubs - 8 priority sites are identified for enhanced maintenance.
  - Enhancement to FA match play standard and improved ongoing maintenance of the AGPs with extensive existing community club and recreational football use in Basingstoke Town at Everest Academy and Queen Mary's College.
  - Provision of new AGPs accessible to the large community clubs and more AGPs accredited as suitable for affiliated match play - 3 priority locations are identified for new AGPs.
- The detailed supply / demand assessment for this update of the borough Playing Pitch Strategy endorses the Football Foundation Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) priorities for more capacity in the north area (potentially at Hurst School or Barlow's Park), the mid-west area serving Overton and Oakley (potentially at the Peter Houseman Playing Field, Newfound Sports Ground and/or as part of the proposed Manydown housing development) and in the longer term - once the two existing non-compliant AGPs at Everest and Queen Marys have been upgraded - in Basingstoke Town (potentially at Costello School, subject to feasibility).
- In the area to the east of the town, the development brief for large-scale new housing schemes includes reference to a new AGP. The needs assessment supports the case for keeping under review the needs case for additional provision in this area in the context of the high levels of current use in the peak period of the AGPs on the north east side of the town at the Vyne and Everest schools as well as the natural turf pitches at Old Basing Recreation Ground, Sherfield Open Space and Waterend on Sundays.
- There is potential for a new AGP close to Tadley at Burghfield Common in West Berkshire. This project should be kept under review in relation to the prioritisation of the additional AGP supply needed in the north area of Basingstoke & Deane Borough.

Basingstoke and Deane Playing  
Pitch Strategy 2022:  
Appendix C  
Hockey - Assessment of Need



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This appendix to the Basingstoke & Deane Playing Pitch Strategy details the current picture of facility supply and demand for the playing pitch sport of **hockey** across the administrative area of the Borough of Basingstoke & Deane.
- 1.2 It also sets out how this current picture of provision is likely to change over the time period of the next Local Plan (to 2040). The likely future picture of provision is assessed based on potential changes in supply (both committed and planned hockey infrastructure projects within the borough and its primary travel catchment), forecast changes in the resident population (including consideration of areas with allocations in the Local Plan for large scale housing growth) along with national trends in participation in hockey, and the development aspirations of the community hockey club based in the borough.
- 1.3 The policies, development programmes and investment priorities of the national governing body for the sport will also influence the future picture of facility supply and demand for the sport in the borough. These are summarised in Section 2 below.
- 1.4 The final section brings together the information on supply and demand in the borough and draws conclusions as to the adequacy or otherwise of the existing supply to accommodate current demand (both from within the borough and, if relevant, displaced demand from neighbouring local authority areas). Conclusions are also drawn as to the likely facility needs for this playing pitch sport to 2040.

## 2. England Hockey Facilities Strategy 2017-27

- 2.1 England Hockey (EH) published a ten-year strategy in 2017 towards its vision *A Nation Where Hockey Matters*. To grow the participation base, EH has set an ambitious target to double the number of club hockey players from 140,000 in 2017 to 280,000 nationally by 2027.
- 2.2 The strategy recognises the need to ensure that there are sufficient fit-for-purpose hockey pitches and supporting facility infrastructure to drive this ambition and the need for a facilities strategy to address the challenges to this growth from the conversion of existing sand-based pitches to football 3G.
- 2.3 The Facilities Strategy focuses available resources on:
  - **Protecting** existing hockey provision from conversion to 3G and by supporting clubs to achieve greater security of access to facilities.
  - **Improving** existing facilities where they are no longer fit for purpose.
  - **Developing** new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain.

### 3. Supply and Demand Information Sources

- 3.1 For all four sports included in the PPS, pitch supply information has been gathered, as far as possible, by a combination of data collection and review, surveys and consultations. For hockey this comprises:
- Sport England Active Places Power audit for playing pitches.
  - England Hockey, Hampshire Hockey Association, South Hockey League and South Clubs Women's Hockey League websites.
  - Basingstoke Hockey Club's website.
  - A survey return submitted by Basingstoke HC and a phone interview with the club chairman.
  - Telephone interview with the Duty Manager of Queen Mary College Sports Centre regarding the 9v9 sand based floodlit artificial grass pitch (AGP) at the College.
  - A site visit to the Down Grange Sports Complex for a visual, non-technical inspection of the two floodlit AGPs at this site and information provided by the grounds managers in the course of the site visit.
  - League fixture lists.
  - Booking records for the Down Grange AGPs and Queen Mary College 9v9 AGP.
  - Sport England Active Lives Survey hockey participation data.
  - Sport England Sports Market Segmentation latent hockey demand data.

### 4. Supply

- 4.1 Findings relating to hockey artificial grass pitch supply in Basingstoke & Deane are detailed below.
- 4.2 There are three full size hockey artificial grass pitches (AGPs) with floodlights in Basingstoke borough, two with secured community access at the Council's Down Grange Sports Complex in the town and a further pitch with no community club access at Cheam School, an independent preparatory school with boarding pupils situated in the northeast of the borough towards Thatcham.
- 4.3 A 9v9 football size sand based floodlit AGP is also provided at Queen Mary's College Sports Centre in Basingstoke town and available for hire during the evenings and at weekends together with changing rooms and car parking. Currently, there are no community football bookings on this pitch on three evenings a week or at weekends. This provision is not suitable for hockey matches but could be suitable for a range of development activities from junior coaching and 'Quick Sticks' (a small sided hockey game for 7-11 year primary school age children) through to 'walking hockey' and 'back to hockey' social sessions for adults.
- 4.4 There are a further two smaller sand based floodlit AGPs in the borough - one at a special needs school, the other at an independent preparatory school. The small size of these pitches limits their potential for hockey use other than school/club link activities.

**Table 4.1: Hockey AGP Sites in Basingstoke & Deane**

Site Name	Postcode	Ownership
<b>FULL SIZE PITCHES</b>		
Down Grange Sports Complex, Basingstoke (2)	RG22 5SN	BDBC
Cheam School, near Thatcham (1)	RG19 8LD	Independent School
<b>SMALL SIDED PITCHES</b>		
Queen Mary's Sports Centre, Basingstoke (9v9)	RG21 3HF	Vith Form College
Dove House School Academy, Basingstoke (5v5)	RG21 5SU	Special School
Thorn Grove School, Highclere (5v5)	RG20 9PS	Independent School

Quantity of Hockey Pitches

4.5 Table 4.2 compares the quantity of competition size sand based AGPs within Basingstoke & Deane and four neighbouring local authorities in Hampshire - Hart, Test Valley, East Hampshire and Winchester. These four local authority areas have current playing pitch strategies. Provision is benchmarked both in terms of the number of pitches and the resident population per hockey pitch. This shows that, on a per capita basis, Basingstoke & Deane, with three competition compliant pitches has lower supply relative to its neighbour local authority areas in the county.

**Table 4.2: Quantity by Local Authority Populations**

Local Authority	No. Pitches <sup>1</sup>	Population*	Resident Population per community hockey AGP (all ages)
Basingstoke & Deane	3	182,432	1 per 60,811
Test Valley	5	131,698	1 per 26,340
Hart	5	100,377	1 per 20,075
East Hampshire	3	126,134	1 per 42,045
Winchester	4	128,184	1 per 32,046

\* Hampshire County Council Small Area Population Forecasts, 2020

Secured Community Access to the Supply

4.6 A key issue for hockey nationally is the heavy reliance of community hockey clubs on availability of pitches on education sites in the peak hours (Monday to Thursday evenings and at weekends) most particularly in the main winter season from September to April. In Basingstoke & Deane borough this is not a major issue as full community access is secured to both AGPs at Down Grange as the site is in the ownership of the Borough Council. However, access to the third competition size pitch in the borough at Cheam School is unlikely to be an option should the club require further capacity in future. Cheam School is an independent preparatory school with boarding pupils.

<sup>1</sup> Sport England Active Places Playing Pitch Strategy Reports, November 2021 - operational full-size sand dressed, sand filled and water based artificial grass pitches

- 4.7 Whilst community access is fully secured at Down Grange, hockey competes with football for access to the AGPs for any slots that fall outside a core programme of match play and training that the hockey club block books with the Council at the start of each playing season.
- 4.8 We understand that community access to the 9v9 AGP at Queen Mary's 6th Form College Sports Centre may not be secured formally i.e. by means of a legally binding Community Use Agreement. However, there is an established community sports centre operation at this site (delivered by staff employed by the College) and there is no known risk or threat to continued community access to this AGP or to the 3G AGP that is also available to community groups and clubs on this site.
- 4.9 At present, the 9v9 size sand based AGP at this sports centre is hired by football clubs and community groups for small-sided games on three evenings a week. There are currently no community football bookings on two evenings or at weekends. If required, this unused capacity is available for hockey coaching and development activities at reasonable hire charges. The majority of community demand for football at this site is accommodated on the 3G pitch.

#### Ancillary facilities

- 4.10 Basingstoke Hockey Club has a lease with the Borough Council on a bar and social areas on the upper floor of a two-storey building - The Maidenwell Pavilion - located close to the two AGPs and car parking. A balcony affords views for hockey spectators over the end of the pitches. Four team changing rooms with showers and WCs are provided on the ground floor. The hockey players use these changing rooms during the block booked hockey programme times. The changing rooms, WCs, facilities and the car parks on the site are shared with other sports users of the site i.e. an athletics club, road running clubs and football hirers of the AGPs and mini-soccer pitches. A lift and access changing are provided in the pavilion. However, there is no dedicated changing room for use by match officials.
- 4.11 At Queen Mary's College, car parking is provided for use by community hirers during the evenings and at weekends. Changing rooms and WCs are also available to hirers of the AGPs in the Sports Centre.

#### Accessible supply in neighbouring authorities

- 4.12 For some borough residents living outside the Basingstoke urban area and close to the borough boundary, hockey pitches and clubs in neighbouring local authority areas are more accessible by car than Down Grange Sports Complex.
- 4.13 Accordingly, some hockey demand is likely to be exported from the borough to clubs in West Berkshire or in Surrey with home pitches closer to borough residents than Down Grange and within an approximate 20-minute journey time by car:

**Table 4.3: Hockey AGPs in Drive Time Catchment**

Pitch Site(s) - home fixtures	Local Authority Area	Community Hockey Club	Number of pitches	Approximate drive -time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Henwick Worthy Sports Ground, Thatcham RG18 3BX<sup>2</sup></li> <li>○ Trinity School, Newbury</li> <li>○ Tilsley Park, Abingdon</li> </ul>	West Berkshire	Newbury & Thatcham HC (10 league teams, social teams, juniors)	3 (separate locations)	20 minutes north of Kingsclere
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eversley Sports Association, Fox Lane, Eversley RG27 0NQ</li> </ul>	Hart	Yateley HC (8 league teams, social teams, juniors)	1 (all training and home games)	13 minutes north east of Stratfield Turgis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Army Astros, Princes Ave, Aldershot, GU11 2LD</li> <li>○ Calthorpe Park School, Fleet, GU51 5JA (<i>short pile 3G - training use only</i>)</li> </ul>	Hart	Fleet & Ewshot HC (10 league teams, social teams, juniors)	3 (two locations)	18 minutes east of Old Basing & Chineham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kings International College, Camberley, GU15 2PQ</li> </ul>	Surrey Heath	Camberley & Farnborough HC (7 league teams, social teams, juniors)	1 (all training and home games)	20 minutes east of Old Basing & Chineham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Heath End Pitch, Monkton Lane, Farnham, GU9 9EN</li> <li>○ Army Astros, Princes Ave, Aldershot, GU11 2LD</li> </ul>	Waverley  Rushmoor	Aldershot & Farnham HC (11 league teams, social teams, juniors)	3 (two locations)	14 minutes south east of Odiham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eggar's School, Holybourne, Alton GU34 4EQ</li> <li>○ Amery Hill School, Alton, GU34 4EZ</li> </ul>	East Hampshire	Alton HC (11 league teams, social teams, juniors)	2 (separate locations)	13 minutes south of Herriard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ King's School, Winchester, SO22 5PN</li> <li>○ Winchester University Sports Stadium, SO23 0QA</li> </ul>	Winchester City & District	Winchester HC (11 league teams, social teams, juniors)	2 (separate locations) plus some overspill at Ganger Farm new pitch in Test Valley	20 minutes south west of Dummer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ John Hanson School, Floral Way, Andover, SP10 3PD</li> <li>○ Kings Chase Ganger Farm, Romsey SO51 0EE</li> </ul>	Test Valley	Andover HC (7 league teams, social teams, juniors)	1 (all training and home games at school)	11 minutes west of Hurstbourne Priors

<sup>2</sup> N&THC pitch at Henwick being re-laid in 2021.

## New Pitch Proposals

- 4.14 In Alton in Hart District, the Alton Convent School has proposals for a hockey AGP pending planning determination.
- 4.15 Newbury & Thatcham HC has aspirations (pre-planning) to secure a second hockey AGP or a smaller training pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground. The club hires the existing AGP (upgraded in summer 2021) from West Berkshire Council as preferential user and has its own clubhouse on the site.

## 5. Demand

- 5.1 Findings relating to hockey demand in Basingstoke and Deane are detailed below.

### Clubs and Teams

- 5.2 There is currently a single hockey club based in Basingstoke & Deane borough, Basingstoke Hockey Club based at the Council owned Down Grange Sports Complex in Basingstoke town.
- 5.3 The club has multiple league teams (for both men and women), masters' teams (veterans) for men and women, youth teams for boys and girls and a large junior section (minis) as detailed in the table below:

**Table 5.1: Basingstoke Hockey Club Team and Player Numbers**

Data Sources	Men's teams (players)	Women's teams (players)	Mixed	Boys 11-15yrs teams (players)	Girls 11-15yrs teams (players)	Minis (boys & girls) 7-10yrs	Total teams (players)
Club survey 2021	6 (100)	6 (100)	1	5 (65)	5 (65)	B: 75 G: 75	23 (480)
EH affiliations 2019*	7 (85)	9 (163)	1	3 (52)	3 (56)	B: 38 G: 41	23 (435)

\* Category 1 Players – junior or adult club members who play in regular league hockey or tournaments

- 5.4 Basingstoke Hockey Club has a block booking from September to end April with the Borough Council on both AGPs at Down Grange Sports Complex for its core programme of home fixtures and regular training times. For the 2021/22 season, although there is some variation at weekends to reflect the pattern of home and away fixtures, the block booked times are broadly as follows:

Saturdays:

AGP1 - full pitch from 9am to 1.30pm

AGP2 - full pitch from 9am to 3.30pm

Sundays:

AGP1 from 9am to 5pm

AGP2 from 10.30am to 3.30pm

Weekdays:

AGP1 & AGP2: Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm for adult training.

AGP2: Monday evenings (2.5hrs), Tuesday evenings (3hrs), Thursday evenings (1hr) for junior training.

- 5.5 The club reports growing demand in the current season (2021/22) among juniors with between 25 and 30 new joiners (as evidenced by the figures in table 5.1 above).
- 5.6 To accommodate this growth, the club requires additional slots outside the main programme which is block booked seasonally in advance and charged at the standard rate. Over a season, the club pays to the Council between £45,000 and £50,000 for pitch hire plus rent for the first floor of the Maidenwell Pavilion.
- 5.7 To secure additional slots in the peak early evening period, the club competes with football clubs, community hirers, 5 a side leagues and football coaching schools. The hockey club has no preferential booking priority for slots outside the main block booked core programme.
- 5.8 Prior to the opening of the second AGP at Down Grange, the club travelled to Eastleigh where it hired a hockey AGP (at Thornden School) to accommodate overspill 'home' fixtures (i.e. exported demand). Provision of the second hockey AGP has ensured that all the club's activities now take place at Down Grange.

Other Hockey Activities

- 5.9 The club identified in consultation that membership growth has been experience particularly in the younger age groups since the end of the Government's covid19 movement restrictions. With hockey played extensively in the independent schools and at some state schools in the borough there is a steady demand within the younger age groups for opportunities to play club team hockey.

Club Aspirations

- 5.10 Basingstoke Hockey Club has aspirations to secure more regular core programme capacity in the peak after school and early evening to accommodate the growth in demand it is experiencing in its numbers of junior players.

Hockey Participation Trends

- 5.11 *Adults:* At national level, the most recently published findings of the Active Lives Adult Survey<sup>3</sup> (May 2021) showed that self reported regular participation (i.e. taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in hockey in England by all adults (i.e. male and female aged 16+) decreased from 0.3% between May 2019 - May 2020 to 0.2% between May 2020 to May 2021. In the three previous years, adult participation vacillated between 0.2% and 0.3%. Further Active Lives Survey data covering the period of lockdowns and other movement restrictions imposed in

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<sup>3</sup> Active Lives Adult Survey May 2018/19, Sport England, (October 2019)

response to the coronavirus pandemic indicate that this is likely to be the main cause of the decrease in regular adult participation in 2020/21.

- 5.12 If participation in the borough were at the pre-pandemic national average (i.e. 0.2% to 0.3%), this would indicate between 320 and 480 adults (aged 16+) living in the borough play hockey out of a 16+ adult population in 2019 of approximately 160,000.
- 5.13 With approximately 200 current adult players at the Basingstoke Hockey Club, this suggests that either adult participation in hockey in Basingstoke & Deane is below the national average or that significant number of adult hockey players living in the borough play for teams in neighbouring local authority areas (i.e. exported demand). Given the generally higher than average adult hockey take up in the South Region and the large number of alternative clubs and pitches in the drive time catchment area for borough residents (as shown in Table 4.3), it seems likely that there is a good deal of exported demand for adult hockey.
- 5.14 *Children & Young People:* The Active Lives Children & Young People Survey<sup>4</sup> published its third report of findings in January 2021 based on data collected from year 3-11 pupils and parents of years 1-2 pupils in the three terms of the 2019/20 academic year.
- 5.15 Focusing in on the older group (i.e. school years 7-11) and team sports activities, the national findings show that 6.4% of those children and young people surveyed in England had participated in hockey at least once in the last week in the summer term either in or out of school. Statistically significant data at local authority level for individual sports is not available.

#### Sports Market Segmentation (SMS)

- 5.16 As the graphs in Figures 5.2 and 5.3 illustrate, there is higher demand from those adult Sports Market Segmentation Groups 'Tim' and 'Alison' playing and wanting to play hockey in Basingstoke & Deane (the blue column) compared to the averages across the Active Sports Partnership area (Hampshire and Isle of Wight), the Southeast region and England as a whole (the green dot).
- 5.17 This suggests there is considerable latent demand among adults in Basingstoke & Deane to play hockey or to play hockey more often.
- 5.18 The main characteristics / descriptors of the five main Sports Market Groups already playing the game or interested in playing more (i.e. latent demand) in the borough are as follows:
- Chloe - fitness class friends
  - Ben - competitive male urbanites, recent graduates
  - Tim - settling down males, sporty professionals
  - Philip - comfortable, midlife males, professional
  - Alison - stay at home mums.

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<sup>4</sup> Active Lives Children and Young People Survey Academic Year 2019/20, Sport England (January 2021)

5.19 In Basingstoke & Deane there is a higher-than-average participation rate for graduate and professional men aged 18-45 and graduate women aged 18-25. As the segmentation demonstrates there is also high latent demand for hockey from these groups. There is an opportunity to target latent demand within these groups in the borough by organising and promoting the right programmes for example Rush Hockey, Back to Hockey or Walking Hockey (aimed at older people).

Figure 5.2: Market Segmentation – currently participating in Hockey

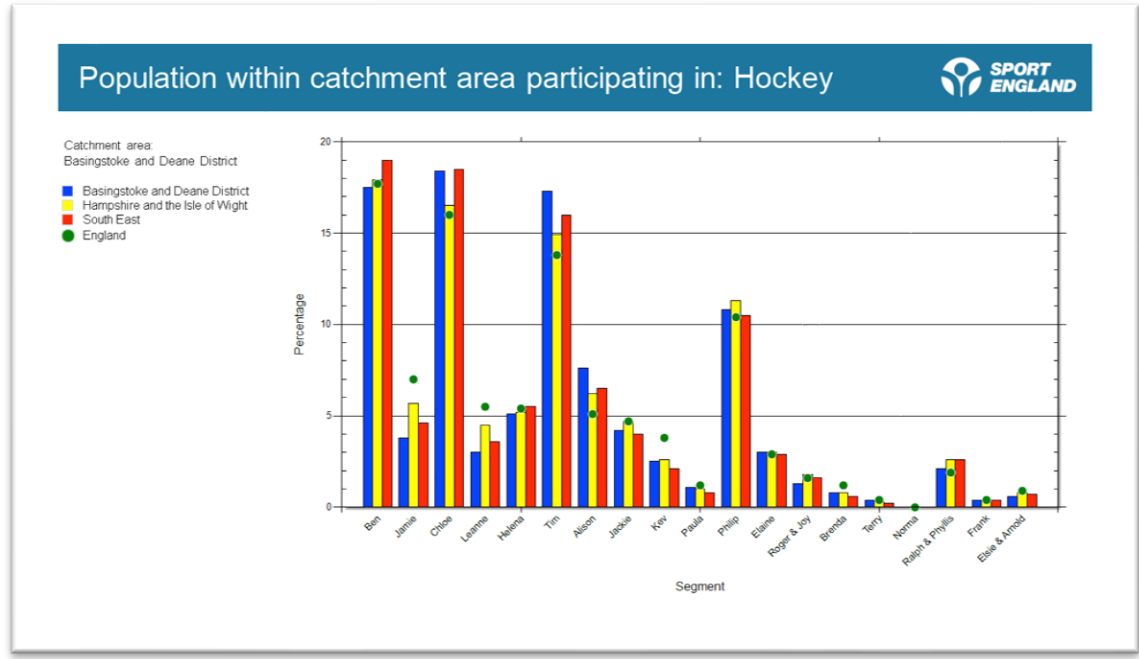
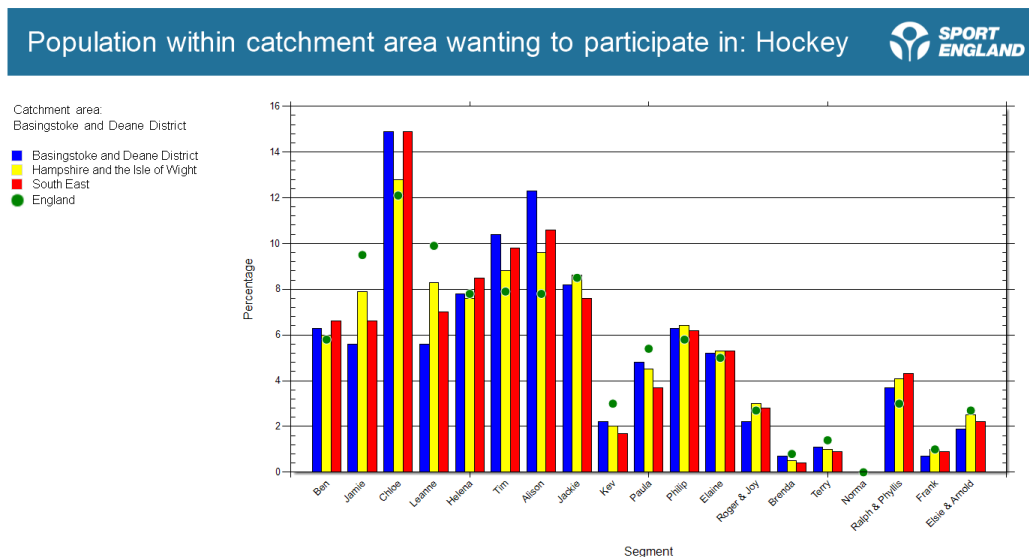


Figure 5.3: Market Segmentation – would like to participate in Hockey



Source: Sport England Sports Market Segmentation Planning Tool

### Peak Hours

- 5.20 Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to around 5pm are the main focus for league hockey play (allowing for travel time for visiting clubs). This places heavy demand on the available pitches at weekends. With the opening of the second AGP at Down Grange, current demand for match play is comfortably accommodated.
- 5.21 Evening training slots are most sought after for hockey on midweek evenings. These time slots are also in heavy demand from football teams for training and for small sided games of football in those areas where there is insufficient, accessible 3G supply to accommodate all the midweek football demand. Basingstoke & Deane is such an area with a shortfall of 3G pitches. This shortfall of 3G supply is evidenced in the PPS Football Assessment of Need (PPS Appendix B).

## 6. The Situation at Individual Sites

- 6.1 The pitches at Down Grange were quality-assessed in late October in the 2021/22 season. England Hockey has reviewed and agreed the pitch audit assessments.
- 6.2 Carrying capacity for hockey is a measure of the number of hours a week in the peak period (evenings and weekends) that the AGPs suitable for hockey use are available for community hockey use, i.e. total community hours available less hours allocated to other sports (football and tennis) during the main winter season.
- 6.3 The audit data table appended summarises the situation at each hockey AGP site with regard to:

*Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and available capacity (hours per week) at times of peak demand. (It is noted that the Borough Council's peak times used for the purposes of its pitch hire charges significantly exceeds the definition in Sport England's Guidance for Playing Pitch Strategies. The audit uses the Sport England definition).

*The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e. the expressed demand) including use for football and any other sports in the peak period.

*The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch, whether demand in the peak period is:

RED - i.e. Current demand exceeds the carrying capacity in the peak period

AMBER - i.e. Current demand matches the carrying capacity in the peak, or

GREEN - i.e. current expressed demand (use) falls below the carrying capacity in the peak period indicating unused capacity.

## 7. Current Supply and Demand Balance

- 7.1 Demand for hockey is stronger in Hampshire and in the neighbouring South Region counties of Surrey and Berkshire than the national average. This is driven, in part, by strong schools' hockey in the independent sector. Also, the availability of many large

[www.continuumleisure.co.uk](http://www.continuumleisure.co.uk)

community hockey clubs committed to growth across both genders and all age groups. There are also high representations in the population of those Sport Market Groups with the highest propensity to play hockey or to be interested in playing more hockey.

- 7.2 England Hockey affiliation data indicates that most hockey clubs in the region have increased the number of players quite substantially in recent seasons - most particularly juniors - notwithstanding the disruption of the coronavirus pandemic over the last 18 months. In consultation, it is clear that this regional picture of strong growth in junior hockey demand is reflected at Basingstoke Hockey Club.
- 7.3 The table below summarises the current supply/demand balance based on the hockey club's secured access to the AGPs at Down Grange - i.e. the core block booked programme in 2021/22.

**Table 7.1: Current Supply/Demand Balance**

Secured capacity (Peak hours/week)	Demand estimate (Peak hours/week)	Supply/Demand Balance (RAG)
31 (average in Oct 21*)	33 (current hours +2hrs early evening for junior sessions)	- 2 hours

\* Council booking records

- 7.4 Although this analysis of the current situation at the Down Grange AGPs shows a small negative supply/demand balance, this takes no account of the unused capacity in the peak on both AGPs at Down Grange, mostly on AGP1. Unsurprisingly, the new pitch (AGP2) is preferred and books up first. A number of slots in the peak weekend and evening period for a part or full pitch remain available on both pitches.
- 7.5 The hockey club is able to hire additional slots to address unmet demand for junior hockey and adult social hockey initiatives. However, each week in the season the club competes with football groups to secure a booking on available slots in the peak period at a charge of £69.78 per hour. Most of the available slots are later in the evenings and therefore unsuitable for younger age groups.
- 7.6 There is more unused available capacity on the sand based 9v9 AGP in the town at Queen Mary's College Sports Centre. This pitch is currently available for hire for hockey or football (i.e. no current bookings) from 6-10pm on Monday and Thursday evenings and from 6-9pm on Friday evenings. The pitch is also available to hire on Saturdays and Sundays from 8am to 5pm. Current hire charges are: £41 per hour (£34.50 per hour for a block booking of 10 or more hours).
- 7.7 The analysis takes no account of the hockey demand that is currently exported to clubs and pitches in accessible towns outside Basingstoke & Deane as discussed earlier (para 5.13). However, in consultation with sports and leisure managers in the neighbouring local authority areas, none of the existing hockey pitches or clubs have been identified currently as at risk. Whilst a number of these clubs are reliant on school pitches, most have community club access formally secured through Community Use Agreements and/or Conditions of Grant. In addition, additional pitch supply may be provided in future in Alton (the Convent School) to the south and/or at Henwick Playing Fields in Thatcham to the north.

7.8 However, in view of the likely extent of exported hockey demand from the edges of the borough, and the impact on demand of forecast population growth (explored in the following section), the position regarding these accessible 'external' hockey pitches and clubs in the drive time catchment area should be kept under periodic review.

## 8. The Future Picture of Provision

8.1 The analysis below considers the extent of forecast population growth in Basingstoke and Deane to 2040 - i.e. the timescale of the new Local Plan - and the potential impact on the level of demand for hockey AGPs.

8.2 Future population growth figures have been calculated for the period of this strategy against the primary age groups for hockey participation. The population growth estimates have been produced using Hampshire County Council Small Area Population Forecasts, 2020.

8.3 The overall borough population growth forecast over the Local Plan period from 2020 to 2040 is substantial i.e. +33,700 (from 178,700 to 212,300).

8.4 Table 8.1 shows the number of additional male and female youth and adult hockey teams that would be created by the estimated population growth in these age groups assuming existing 'Team Generation Rates' (i.e. the existing population in these age groups divided by the existing number of teams in that age group).

**Table 8.1: Population Projections and Hockey Team Generation Rates (TGR)**

Age Group	No. Teams	Pop in Age Group 2020	Pop in Age Group 2040	Current Team Generation Rate	Pop Change in Age Group	Potential Change in Hockey Team No's
Males aged 16-55	6	45,077	49,214	7,513	4,137	0.55
Females aged 16-55	6	45,941	49,243	8,207	3,302	0.40
Boys aged 11-15	5	5,544	6,282	1,109	738	0.67
Hockey Girls aged 11-15	5	5,384	6,142	1,077	758	0.70

8.5 Assuming current hockey team generation rates (i.e. the number of residents in the prime hockey age groups in the population per existing hockey team), and the forecast population growth to 2040 in these age groups, demand for approximately 1 additional adult team and 1.4 additional youth hockey teams (boy and girls aged 11-15) will be generated by 2040 requiring playing capacity for matches and training.

- 8.6 However, Sport England's PPS Guidance (2013) guidance on hockey team generation omits the younger age groups (under 11s), a major area of growth in many hockey clubs over the eight years since the PPS guidance was published. Basingstoke Hockey Club has approximately 150 junior players that are not included in the team generation analysis in table 8.1.
- 8.7 The team generation analysis also excludes any consideration of demand growth. England Hockey has an ambitious target to double the number of players between 2017 and 2027. Basingstoke Hockey Club has indicated in consultation an aspiration to continue to grow. It is estimated the club has grown in size by around 5% per annum on average over recent years.
- 8.8 Should player numbers growth continue at this rate, and taking into account latent demand, the number of additional hockey teams in Basingstoke and Deane is likely to be substantially greater than +2.4 by 2040.
- 8.9 Due to the way in which junior hockey play is organised in community hockey clubs, with large numbers of minis and juniors playing in coaching squads and groups as opposed to teams, and to allow for demand growth, England Hockey advocate use of Sport England's *Playing Pitch New Development Calculator* tool. England Hockey considers this planning tool provides a more accurate assessment than team generation rates of the likely impact on hockey pitch demand of forecast population growth in an area.
- 8.10 The Playing Pitch Calculator estimates the additional demand for match play and training in match equivalent sessions in the weekly peak period for a population resulting from new development and calculates the number of new pitches required to meet the estimated demand from this new population and the approximate cost of the new pitch provision.
- 8.11 Table 8.2 below sets out the findings of the Playing Pitch Calculator for hockey in the borough based on the following assumptions:
- The current population growth forecast to 2040 of +33,705
  - 100% of demand from the new population will be in the peak period (i.e. for matches and training at weekends or weekday evenings).
  - Demand growth of +5% per annum to 2040.
  - 100% of adult match play in the peak period.
  - 75% of junior match play in the peak period.

**Table 8.2: Additional pitch capacity needed to meet demand from new population in 2040**

Number of teams generated by new population with demand growth factor	Additional Match Equivalent Sessions (MES) per week in peak (weekend)
+2.3 adult teams	1.14 adult MES
+2.9 junior teams	1.09 junior MES
<b>+5.2 teams</b>	<b>+2.23 MES</b>
Number of hockey pitches required to meet the estimated demand	Estimated Capital Cost*
<b>0.56</b>	<b>£450,000</b>

Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator

\*Sport England Facilities Cost Guide 2021

- 8.12 In summary, the findings show that based on current growth trends in the sport, the additional population in Basingstoke & Deane in 2040 will generate just over 5 new teams (i.e. broadly double the Team Generation Rate calculation at table 8.1). To accommodate the match equivalent sessions (home games and training) for an additional 5 teams will require additional pitch capacity in the weekly peak equivalent to just over half a pitch.
- 8.13 As identified above, the Basingstoke Hockey Club has aspirations to continue to grow to meet latent and future demand in the town and its catchment as access to suitable pitches in the peak period at affordable hire charges and to adequate ancillary facilities allow.
- 8.14 In light of these growth aspirations and the potential for additional 3G provision in the town in future releasing more capacity for hockey on the existing hockey pitches at Down Grange, the overall picture of pitch provision for hockey in the borough will need be kept under periodic review.
- 8.15 At the present time, the assessment of future community demand for hockey based on the scale of forecast population growth to 2040 (table 8.1 above) does not support the case for provision of additional hockey pitches in the borough.
- 8.16 However, it is important to consider the likely distribution of the forecast population growth, in particular potential large new settlements allocated in the Local Plan, the accessibility of Down Grange and out-of-borough hockey sites from these settlements and the extent to which AGPs at these sites have unused capacity in the weekly peak.
- 8.17 The two largest sites shortlisted for new settlements in the Local Plan Update (LPU) are to the west of the urban area at:
- *Manydown* where 2,100 new dwellings are currently proposed, and
  - *Popham Airfield* on the north side of the A303 (south of Overton) where 2,200 dwellings are proposed.
- 8.18 Under the Manydown and Popham settlement scenarios the concentration of future hockey demand from forecast population growth is likely to fall on the Basingstoke Hockey Club at Down Grange as this facility on the west side of the town is the most accessible. Some hockey demand generated by these settlements may gravitate towards the clubs and pitches in Andover or Winchester.
- 8.19 On the east side of the urban area (to the east of Chineham), a total of 1,500 new homes are proposed across the two largest shortlisted sites (*Land East of Basingstoke* and *Lodge Farm*).
- 8.20 Population growth under these scenarios is also likely to increase demand for the hockey pitches in Basingstoke but with a proportion of the additional demand from these settlements travelling east to access opportunities to play hockey at one or

other of the clubs and pitch sites in Yateley/Eversley, Aldershot/Fleet or Camberley to the east.

- 8.21 The potential for future imported demand across neighbouring local authority boundaries also needs to be considered. Consultations with these authorities suggest the following of relevance to the future picture of hockey demand in Basingstoke & Deane:

*Test Valley:* Further housing growth will take place on the east side of Andover over the Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan period to 2040. The Test Valley PPS does not identify current or future export of hockey demand to Basingstoke & Deane.

*Hart:* No major new housing settlements are proposed in the Hook area (closest to Basingstoke & Deane) in the Hart Local Plan and the Hart PPS does not identify current or future export of hockey demand to Basingstoke & Deane.

*Winchester:* Whitchurch is 15-20 minutes drive-time (A34) from Kings Worthy and the rural north parts of Winchester district. However, there are currently no major new settlement proposals in this part of the district. The PPS for Winchester identifies adequate playing capacity for hockey within the City & District with good access (via the A3090) to the new pitch opening at Test Valley Council's King's Chase / Ganger Farm Sports Complex in Romsey which has unused capacity around its core use by Romsey Hockey Club as this club's second pitch.

*East Hampshire:* Alton is a 15–20-minute drive-time from Basingstoke (A339). There are allocations for substantial new housing in the district in the District's Local Plan (e.g. on the former Corrs Brewery site in Alton town). However, Alton Town has good provision for hockey with secured use of two school pitches and potential for a third at Alton Convent School under current proposals.

*West Berkshire:* Kingsclere in the northwest of Basingstoke & Deane is within the drive-time catchment area of Newbury (A339) and the northern villages of Tadley, Baughurst, Silchester and Mortimer West End are close to (and in some cases bridge) the borough boundary. Some residents of these towns and villages are likely to travel north to Thatcham to opportunities to play hockey (e.g. at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground) rather than drive into Basingstoke to Down Grange. New large-scale settlements of 2,000 or more units are proposed in Thatcham (east of Newbury close to the A4) and at Sandford Park (south of Newbury Rugby Club close to the A339). The latter proposal is subject to the decision of a Public Inquiry held in May 2021. The current proposals include a new school with a full-size natural turf football pitch but no hockey AGP. The site is within a short drive-time of Kingsclere. The West Berkshire PPS (2019) concludes there is sufficient capacity at existing hockey pitches in the borough to accommodate forecast future demand, particularly so if the Newbury & Thatcham Hockey Club is successful in its aspirations to develop a second pitch at the Council-owned Henwick Worthy Sports Ground.

- 8.22 Rather than new hockey pitch provision, the priority facility needs are for enhancement of the changing facilities at the Council's Maidenwell Pavilion at Down Grange and, in the next two years resurfacing of the original AGP. The floodlights to this pitch,

although currently compliant for league play, are overdue for replacement with more efficient LED lamps and switchgear.

- 8.23 Capacity issues should be resolvable through negotiation between the Council and the Hockey Club concerning extension of the core block booked programme to facilitate additional regular slots in the early evening peak (currently hired to football groups) and transfer of the football bookings at these time to 3G where possible. This will be facilitated in the event that the proposed project to convert the rugby pitch to 3G secures the necessary funding to proceed.
- 8.24 Alongside these negotiations at Down Grange, the hockey club should explore with the Queen Mary's College Sports Centre the options to hire evening and/or weekend slots for junior sessions and or small-sided hockey games on the Sports Centre's 9v9 floodlit AGP.
- 8.25 England Hockey is currently working with the regional associations and leagues to introduce greater flexibility in the rules as to when fixtures are played in order to relieve the growing pressure of demand in the Saturday daytime peak. This initiative, if successful, will serve to reduce the future need for additional pitch capacity to meet peak demand.

## 9. Summary of Key Findings and Issues

### Hockey

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

- On a per capita basis, with 3 competition hockey pitches (of which 2 are secured for community use), Basingstoke & Deane has less provision per capita than its neighbour local authorities.
- However, the current picture of provision for hockey is good as, since the last PPS in 2016, the club has secured access to a second new pitch at Down Grange Sports Complex. Accordingly, the club no longer depends on access to school sites which has been particularly problematic for many clubs. Prior to the opening of the second pitch, the club relied on unsecured access to a school pitch in Eastleigh Borough.
- The distribution of settlements across the borough and the location of hockey clubs and sites in neighbouring local authorities suggest that Basingstoke & Deane is a net exporter of hockey demand.
- Despite the major programme disruptions over the last 18 months, the Basingstoke Hockey Club has seen recent growth in demand, focused largely in the younger age groups.
- The current aspirations of the club with regard to providing opportunities for new juniors are constrained to a degree by lack of preferential booking rights over football groups for additional slots on the AGPs in the peak early evening - i.e. over and above the club's core block booking which is negotiated with the Council seasonally in advance.

## Hockey

- In the winter season, several youth football teams (for example from Berg Youth FC, Down Grange FC, Sherborne St John FC, Blues & Whites FC and Beggarwood FC) have weekly bookings on the AGPs on Mondays - Thursdays, most between 5.30 or 6pm and 7 or 7.30pm.
- There is a 9v9 floodlit AGP at Queen Mary's College Sports Centre (with changing rooms and car parking) which has unused capacity in the peak. Although off site for the hockey club and therefore not ideal, this provision offers some potential for the club to grow its junior programme (e.g. Quick Sticks) and its social programme for adults - e.g. walking hockey, back to hockey.

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

Yes

### Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

- The planned maintenance programme for the pitches at Down Grange may not have been implemented fully in recent times. The position needs to be ascertained by the Council and a planned maintenance schedule agreed between the parties, its implementation monitored and reports made available to the club.
- The changing facilities in the Maidenwell Pavilion are in need of refreshing. In the event that the planned project to provide a spectator stand, WCs and storage beside the athletics track proceeds (currently this project with planning consent is unfunded), the opportunity should be taken to enhance the changing provision in the pavilion to include provision of changing for officials.
- The playing surface of the original AGP at Down Grange will need to be replaced by 2025.
- Similarly, although currently compliant, the floodlights to this pitch will also need replacing by 2025 and upgraded to LED to reduce energy consumption.

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

- Analysis of the impact of forecast population growth in the borough to 2040 based on current team generation rates suggests growth of approximately 2.4 teams over the Local Plan period.
- The team generation method of forecasting demand ignores the area of greatest growth in recent seasons - i.e. among younger primary age children - and the age group training squad approach to programming adopted by most community clubs. To account for these factors, England Hockey advocates that Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator is used to forecast the likely impact of a population growth on additional playing capacity required. Application of the Playing Pitch Calculator to Basingstoke & Deane indicates a potential for around 5 new teams and requirement for further hockey pitch capacity by 2040 equivalent to just over half a pitch.
- This assumes the current hockey growth trend in the borough (5% per annum

## Hockey

approximately) is sustained.

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

#### Yes

- The situation will need to be kept under periodic review during the Local Plan timescale to 2040. However, it is considered likely that the 2 existing pitches at Down Grange together with the 9v9 pitch at Queen Mary's College Sports Centre should provide sufficient capacity to meet future hockey demand provided that sufficient football/rugby 3G capacity is secured to allow transfer of current football bookings in the early evening peak hours from the hockey pitches at Down Grange to 3G.
- Ongoing consultation will be required with the relevant NGBs (EH / FA/FF and potentially the RFU and Basingstoke RFC) to ensure this transfer happens to support the growth of hockey and the long-term sustainability of the Basingstoke Hockey Club at Down Grange Sports Complex.



Basingstoke and Deane Playing Pitch Strategy 2022  
Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of Needs

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This appendix to the Basingstoke & Deane Playing Pitch Strategy details the current picture of facility supply and demand for the playing pitch sport of **rugby** - at individual sites across the administrative area of the Borough of Basingstoke & Deane.
- 1.2 It also sets out how this current picture of provision is likely to change over the time period of the next Local Plan (to 2040). The likely future picture of provision is assessed based on potential changes in supply (both committed and planned rugby infrastructure projects within the borough and its primary travel catchment), forecast changes in the resident population (including consideration of areas with allocations in the Local Plan for large scale housing growth) along with national trends in participation in rugby, and the development aspirations of the community rugby clubs based in the borough.
- 1.3 The policies, development programmes and investment priorities of the national governing body for the sport will also influence the future picture of facility supply and demand for the sport in the borough. These are summarised in Section 2 below.
- 1.4 The final section brings together the information on supply and demand in the borough and draws conclusions as to the adequacy or otherwise of the existing supply to accommodate current demand (both from within the borough and, if relevant, displaced demand from neighbouring local authority areas). Conclusions are also drawn as to the likely facility needs for this playing pitch sport to 2040.

## 2. Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards

- 2.1 In 2021 the Rugby Football Union (RFU) launched The England Rugby Strategy *2021 Onwards*, setting out the governing body's vision of *A Successful and Thriving Game Across England* together with a mission statement, guiding principles and eight priorities:
  1. Enabling positive, enjoyable player experiences
  2. Creating the best possible high-performance system
  3. Enhancing player welfare
  4. Supporting clubs to sustain and grow themselves
  5. Driving rugby union to reflect the diversity of society
  6. Building a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
  7. Connect with and grow the rugby community
  8. Ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce.
- 2.2 The most directly relevant to the planning of provision of playing opportunities and appropriate playing pitches and ancillary facilities for the sport within local authority areas are priorities 4. and 5. The strategy identifies the following objectives under these priorities:

#### PRIORITY OBJECTIVE - FLOURISHING RUGBY COMMUNITIES

- Support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

#### SUB-OBJECTIVES

- Provide support to club and CB volunteers, helping them attract new, diverse volunteers and developing clubs to be fit for the future and self-sustaining
- Support clubs to manage their risks and liabilities
- Provide guidance to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets

- 2.3 In the area of club facilities, the RFU remain committed to the governing body's long-established priorities for investment to meet the needs of the game i.e.
- Increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child- friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club.
  - Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches (this includes support for enhanced pitch maintenance programmes).
  - Improve the quality and quantity of floodlighting.
  - Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development outcomes<sup>1</sup>.

### 3. Supply and Demand Information Sources

- 3.1 For all four sports included in the PPS, the following pitch supply information has been gathered, as far as possible, by a combination of data collection and review, surveys and consultations:
- Sport England Active Places Power audit for playing pitches.
  - Rugby Football Union and Hampshire Rugby websites.
  - Websites of the community rugby clubs based in the borough.
  - Online survey returns submitted by the clubs.
  - Site visits to the sites with rugby pitches for visual, non-technical inspection.
  - League fixture lists.
  - Sport England Active Lives Survey rugby participation data.
  - Sport England Sports Market Segmentation latent rugby demand data.

### 4. Supply

- 4.1 Findings relating to rugby pitch supply in Basingstoke & Deane are summarised below.

#### Natural turf pitches

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<sup>1</sup> There are in excess of 160 World Rugby certificated pitches on the RFU register in England. Many are located on university sites. In the last 5 years, the RFU has invested in rugby AGPs on both club sites and community sites. 'Rugby Turf' AGPs are on rugby club sites, operated by the RFU and used by the host club and other local clubs and education establishments, enabling games to be played and training to be maximised. 'Rugby Share' AGPs are on community sites with a guaranteed number of hours for use by rugby.

- 4.2 Within the borough there are four rugby clubs with access to playing pitch sites plus at least ten secondary schools with one or more youth pitch marked in the autumn and/or spring terms to support delivery of the physical education curriculum.
- 4.3 Between them, the four playing pitch sites used as club home grounds provide a total of 9 full size grass rugby pitches. A further 17 youth and mini-rugby pitches were marked out across these playing pitch sites at the time of our site visits in late October.
- 4.4 The Borough Council's Down Grange Sports Complex, the home ground of **Basingstoke Rugby Club**, is by far the largest of the four rugby sites in the borough with access to a floodlit stadium pitch, 3 further full-size pitches, 14 youth and mini-rugby pitches/training grids including an area equipped with training lights in front of a large clubhouse.
- 4.5 The Council licenses use of the pitches to the rugby club along with the rugby clubhouse access and car park. The club has a long lease on the clubhouse (approximately 60 years unexpired).
- 4.6 A second club is also now based in Basingstoke town although its origins are in Chineham to the east of the town. **Chineham RFC** is a full member sports section of the Basingstoke Sports & Social Club and based at the Mays Bounty Ground pavilion. The club has an annual rolling agreement to use a single pitch immediately behind the pavilion in the ownership of Basingstoke College of Technology (BCOT).
- 4.7 In the north of the borough at Kingsclere, the **Kingsclere Rugby Club** has an annual licence from the Borough Council to use a rugby pitch and supporting changing and social facilities at The Fieldgate Community Centre and Playing Field. The agreement includes access to a football pitch on the playing field on Sunday mornings for mini-rugby.
- 4.8 To the west of the urban area just outside Overton on the privately owned Laverstock Park Estate is the home ground of **Overton RFC**. This ground has 2 full size pitches (one with training lights), a youth pitch and 2 mini-rugby pitches. The club has a clubhouse (self build) and a small, unmade car park with access to overspill parking when required. The club has recently agreed a short lease (5 years).
- 4.9 Also of relevance as providing rugby playing opportunities for residents of the northern villages in Basingstoke & Deane borough are two rugby club grounds - **Tadley RFC** and **Aldermaston RFC** - located in Aldermaston Ward just across the northern borough boundary in West Berkshire. The Tadley Club has three full size pitches (two with lights) at its own freehold ground (Frank Jose Park, Tadley). Aldermaston RFC is a member section of the Aldermaston Recreation Society has a single pitch owned by the Ministry of Defence at the AWE Sports Ground in Aldermaston.
- 4.10 In addition, **Hook & Odiham RFC**, established with RFU support just six years ago in 2015 to fill a gap in provision in Hart District for community rugby, offers opportunities for men's league rugby to residents on the east side of Basingstoke e.g. the Chineham and Old Basing areas. The club's current home ground in Stroud Lane, Rotherwick (shared with Rotherwick Cricket Club) is a ten-minute drive-time from Old

Basing just to the north of Hook. Currently a single team club, Hook & Odiham RFC has two pitches and a clubhouse in development at a new permanent home in Hook resulting from a development agreement. The new location will provide capacity for the club to grow and will be similarly accessible to residents on the east side of Basingstoke & Deane.

4.11 Most secondary schools in the borough teach rugby as part of their PE curriculum and mark pitches on their school playing fields in the autumn and/or spring terms. There is no current community use currently to any of the state school pitches although at least one - Hurst School in Baughurst - includes its pitch in the list of school sports facilities available to hire out of hours.

4.12 Of the school rugby sites, the most significant with regard to rugby development is Cheam Preparatory School. This independent school with day and boarding pupils to age 13 has high quality playing fields and changing rooms and is situated close to the West Berkshire boundary. The school has strong links with Newbury RFC to the north.

Quantity of natural turf pitches - benchmarking

4.13 The table below compares the quantity of natural turf rugby pitches (club, school and public park/sports ground pitches) within Basingstoke & Deane and four neighbouring local authorities in Hampshire - Hart, Test Valley, East Hampshire and Winchester. These four local authority areas have current playing pitch strategies. Provision is benchmarked both in terms of the number of pitches and the resident population per pitch.

4.14 This shows that Basingstoke & Deane is relatively well provided with rugby pitches relative to its neighbour local authority areas in the county. This is largely because of the large number of youth and mini-rugby pitches available at Down Grange.

**Table 4.1: Quantity by Local Authority Populations**

Local Authority	No. Senior Pitches	No. Youth/Mini Pitches	Total Pitches	Population*	Population per rugby pitch
Basingstoke	19	24	43	182,432	4,243
Test Valley	23	9	32	131,698	4,116
Hart	3	0	3	100,377	33,459
East Hampshire	9	11	20	126,134	6,307
Winchester	20	4	24	128,184	5,314

\* Hampshire County Council Small Area Population Forecasts, 2020

Secured community access to the supply

4.15 None of the four rugby clubs located in the borough own their home grounds freehold and, whilst the rugby pitches used by three of the four clubs are in public ownership and therefore secured as playing pitches, none of the clubs has long term security of access to the pitches they play and train on.

4.16 The Basingstoke club at Down Grange has a long (99 years) lease with the Council on the land that covers the clubhouse and car park. This lease has 60 years unexpired. The club also leases the main 'caged' pitch from the Borough Council. The pitch is

secured on a shorter lease with just 8 years to run. Whilst community access to the other playing pitches at Down Grange is also fully secured as a Council-owned playing field, Basingstoke Rugby Club hires these pitches from the Council on a weekly basis. As the main community club hirer, the Council offers the rugby club the opportunity to book pitches before other hirers.

- 4.17 The Kingsclere club's access to the Fieldgate Community Centre facilities and playing pitches is secured season by season under terms of a licence agreement with the Borough Council.
- 4.18 The Chineham club has secured access to the clubhouse and parking facilities at the Mays Bounty Ground by becoming a full member section of the Basingstoke Sports & Social Club. However, similar to the Kingsclere club at Fieldgate, access to the playing pitch used by Chineham RFC is subject to continuing renewal of a licence with the landowner, in this case Basingstoke College of Technology (BCOT).
- 4.19 The Overton club has recently agreed a short lease (5 years) with the private owners of the club's home ground, a former cricket ground on the Laverstoke Park Estate. Although the club consider there is no risk to their future on the site as designated playing field land, the short length of lease has proved a barrier to securing facility improvement grants from the RFU and public bodies in the past.

#### Recreational rugby

- 4.20 As open access Council-owned playing fields and sports grounds, the pitches at Down Grange and the Fieldgate Centre are accessible for recreational play - e.g. small sided 'pitch up and play' touch rugby games among groups of friends or work colleagues - when not hired for club games or training. There are also numerous other public parks and recreation grounds with maintained grass areas (without rugby posts) in the town and the surrounding parishes that are suitable for informal touch rugby.

#### 3G Rugby Turf Artificial Grass Pitches

- 4.21 At present, there are no artificial grass pitches to World Rugby Regulation 22 certified standard for contact rugby in Basingstoke & Deane. However, the Basingstoke RFC has a proposed project (with planning consent) for upgrading the main stadium pitch to this standard. This project was identified as a priority for rugby in the borough in the previous Playing Pitch Strategy in 2015. The project has not progressed to date as it remains subject to securing the necessary funding.
- 4.22 Currently, the nearest World Rugby certificated rugby AGPs to Basingstoke are on education sites with limited access for community clubs and all located to the east of the borough on education sites in Surrey:
- o Weydon School, Farnham, GU9 8UG - 17 miles, 28 minutes drive-time
  - o Samuel Cody Sports College, Farnborough, GU14 8SN - 18 miles, 23 minutes drive-time
  - o Salesian College, Farnborough, GU14 6LH - 20 miles, 22 minutes drive-time
- 4.23 To the south of Basingstoke the nearest WR AGP is at Applemore College which is located between Totton and Fawley in New Forest District. Other are to the west at Chippenham RFC and to the north at Oxford Harlequins RFC. All these pitches are well outside the drive-time catchment for the Basingstoke & Deane clubs to access on a regular basis.

### Supply Changes

- 4.24 Within the borough, the only significant committed supply change is the upgrading of the drainage to the pitches at the Fieldgate Centre used by Kingsclere RFC. The works are well advanced and scheduled for completion in Spring 2022 with the club returning to the site for the start of the 2022/23 season. This season the club is playing its home fixtures at AWE Aldermaston and the junior section trains with the Aldermaston club's juniors on Sunday mornings.
- 4.25 Outside the borough, the main supply change of relevance as having potential for drawing exported demand from Basingstoke & Deane is the new rugby club ground in development at Hook in Hart District as a permanent home ground for Hook & Odiham RFC. The two new pitches and ancillary facilities at this new playing field site will provide capacity for this recently established club to grow and develop a junior section.
- 4.26 Other significant rugby pitch supply changes are taking place in Romsey (King's Chase/Ganger Farm new pitches including a rugby compliant AGP at Ganger Farm replacing Romsey Sports Centre pitches and providing substantial additional playing and training capacity) and in Newbury (a rugby compliant AGP on the existing youth/minis pitches at Newbury RFC for shared use by Newbury RFC and Newbury FC). However, these major projects are not likely to impact significantly on community rugby in Basingstoke & Deane.

## 5. Demand

- 5.1 Findings relating to rugby pitch demand are detailed below.

### Clubs and Teams

- 5.2 There are currently four rugby clubs with their main home pitch located in Basingstoke & Deane borough; Basingstoke Rugby Club and Chineham Rugby Club in the urban area, Overton Rugby Club in the west of the borough and Kingsclere Rugby Club in the north.
- 5.3 All four clubs offer opportunities to men to play amateur league rugby to a good standard. The senior club - Basingstoke RFC - is one of the largest clubs in the county with over 500 playing members. The club's two senior teams currently play in London 3 South West (Level 6) and Hampshire 3 respectively. Overton RFC has teams in Hampshire 1 and Hampshire 2. Chineham also play in Hampshire 2, Kingsclere in Hampshire 3. Further opportunities for good standard county league rugby are available to residents of the borough at the three clubs just over the borough boundary: Tadley RFC and Aldermaston RFC (Berks, Berks & Oxon SW Premier) and Hook & Odiham RFC at Rotherwick (Hampshire 3).
- 5.4 The Basingstoke club provides opportunities for women's league rugby and for age grade girls' teams. All four clubs run boys age grade teams and mixed mini-rugby age grade teams and/or training squads. The numbers of playing members by age and gender are detailed in the table below:

[www.continuumleisure.co.uk](http://www.continuumleisure.co.uk)

**Table 5.1: Basingstoke & Deane Rugby Club Team and Player Numbers**

Club	Mens teams (players)	Womens teams (players)	Boys players	Girls players	Minis	Total players
Basingstoke RFC	2 (37)	1 (35)	1 boys u18 team (35) 1 girls u18 team (35) 5 boys teams u12 to u16 (161) 2 girls teams u13 to u15 (38) 5 u7 to u11 age grades (174 mixed) Recreational Touch Group (40 mixed)			555
Chineham RFC	2 (46)	0	4 u7 to u11 age grades (50 mixed) plus u18 group (6)			102
Overton RFC	2 (45)	0	4 u7 to u11 age grades (91 mixed) plus 17 u13 boys			153
Kingsclere RFC	1 (35)	0	4 u6 to u10 age grades (40 mixed) 1 u6 pre-training group (18 mixed)			93

Sources: Club survey returns

- 5.4 Tadley Rugby Club just across the borough boundary to the north runs three men's teams (60 players) plus u18s and a large youth and minis section with teams at each age grade from u7 (200 players approximately) and a girls u15 squad of 10 players.
- 5.5 Aldermaston RFC currently runs one league side and a second development team plus a small mixed juniors section on Sunday mornings.
- 5.6 Hook & Odiham RFC currently run just one men's league side but aspire to develop a junior section within the next 2-3 seasons.
- 5.7 Opportunities for women and girls to play rugby in the borough have grown substantially from a very low base in recent seasons, particularly at the Basingstoke Club which currently has a women's team, a mixed touch rugby group and three age grade girls teams in addition to mixed mini squads at u7-u10 which the other three clubs also run.
- 5.8 Providing more opportunities for women and girls only rugby (from age u12/13 upwards) is a development aim of the Chineham club. However, improved changing facilities for females will be required at the Mays Bounty Ground to achieve this objective. The RFU has been consulted on designs for new changing facilities within a project to replace the Basingstoke Sports & Social Club pavilion. However, whilst the project has planning consent progress remains subject to securing the necessary funding.

Imported and exported demand

- 5.9 No imported rugby demand has been identified - i.e. community club teams from neighbouring local authority areas playing or training on rugby pitches in Basingstoke Borough.

- 5.10 None of the four clubs based in the borough are located very close to the boundary and, with the possible exception of Hart District to the east which has just one single team club currently, there is adequate pitch supply and playing opportunities at clubs in the neighbouring local authorities. Accordingly, it is unlikely that they attract individual players living in other local authority areas in any significant number.
- 5.11 The exception it likely to be the Basingstoke Club by virtue of its offer of opportunities to women and girls to play competitive inter club matches. Several female players at this club are likely to travel from outside the borough to access these opportunities.
- 5.12 In terms of exported demand, the proximity to the borough boundary of the two clubs to the north of the urban area - i.e. Tadley and Aldermaston - is likely to impact. However, neither club ground is considered 'at risk'. Tadley RFC own their ground freehold whilst the Ministry of Defence has committed to retain AWE Aldermaston and there are no current proposals that impact on the Recreation Society and sports facilities. Accordingly, continued availability of the additional capacity at these clubs to residents of Basingstoke & Deane seems assured.

#### Club aspirations

- 5.13 The priority rugby development aims and any associated facility enhancement aspirations of the four clubs located in the borough are as follows:
- 5.14 **Basingstoke RFC** - The club strives to sustain its success over recent seasons in growing opportunities at the grassroots level of the game and to encourage more players to join the club going forward.

The club considers that maintaining and improving and the quality of the playing pitches and facilities is vital to the ongoing success of the club. Specifically, the club has concerns as to the quality of the main pitch and the floodlit training areas. These playing areas are very heavily used and become compacted and/or water-logged at different times of the year. In the short term, the club advocates exploring the available options for enhanced maintenance regimes to these areas. In the medium term, the club continues to aspire to secure the necessary funding to allow the upgrading of the main pitch to a World Rugby Regulation 22 approved AGP.

The club would also like to improve its main clubhouse facilities to enable a better commercial offering to the local community and to generate increased income. The club's priorities for the clubhouse are to:

- Replace the toilets
- Update the committee room to a multi-purpose space
- Refresh the main hall.

- 5.15 **Chineham RFC** - The club aims to grow its junior section 'bottom up' from the existing younger age to achieve progression from minis through age grade youth rugby to the adult game including new opportunities for women and expanded opportunities for girls to play.

The club recognises that in order to achieve its growth aims it will require both additional playing and changing capacity. As we continue to grow one pitch will not

be sufficient as it is already overused. We will need to look at training and playing on other facilities with floodlighting. We need more changing rooms, including female changing facilities as we continue to grow our youth with the target to grow the female section.

- 5.16 **Overton RFC** - The club is focused on sustaining its existing playing membership in the short term having gone through a period of growth in juniors in the seasons leading up to the pandemic. The club is in the process of minor self-build improvement works to its pavilion to provide a larger clubroom and upgrading the kitchen to better meet the needs of its membership. It is also striving to improve insulation values to reduce running costs.

Whilst the available pitches provide sufficient capacity at current player numbers, the club considers more playing and training capacity would be needed if the playing membership were to grow further. The club's priority for enhancement of its playing facilities is to upgrade the training lights to LED.

- 5.17 **Kingsclere RFC** - The club is currently displaced to Aldermaston pending completion of the drainage works at the Fieldgate Centre which, when completed, should improve the player experience and playing capacity of the pitch. Once re-established at its home ground, the club hopes to expand its minis section across all seven age grades from U6 to U12 within two seasons.

The main facility priority for the club and the Community Association that manages this site on behalf of the Borough Council is that the improved quality of the pitches is maintained once the drainage works are completed. This will necessitate a higher maintenance specification for the pitches to be agreed between the Council and the Community Association and user clubs and for the regime to be implemented and monitored. It will also be critical to relocate large-scale community events in the winter season to alternative sites so as to protect the pitches for sports use.

#### Rugby Participation Trends - Active Lives Survey

- 5.18 *Adults*<sup>2</sup>: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey (May 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation in rugby union (i.e. taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in England by adults (aged 16+) halved from 0.4% to 0.2% between May 2018 - May 2019 and May 2020 - May 2021. In the three previous years, adult participation was 0.5%. Further Active Lives Survey data covering the period of movement restrictions imposed in response to the coronavirus pandemic indicate that this is likely to be the main cause of the decrease in regular adult participation in 2020/21.
- 5.19 If rugby participation in Basingstoke were at the pre-pandemic national average (i.e. 0.4%) this would indicate approximately 640 adults (aged 16+) living in the borough play rugby out of a 16+ adult population in 2020 of 160,000 approx.
- 5.20 With 10 adult teams (including u18 sides) currently, the affiliated adult rugby club playing membership aggregated across the four Basingstoke & Deane clubs is close to 200 players (198). This is substantially lower than the national average

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<sup>2</sup> The Active Lives Survey defines adults as aged 16+ whilst under RFU regulations adult rugby starts at 18+

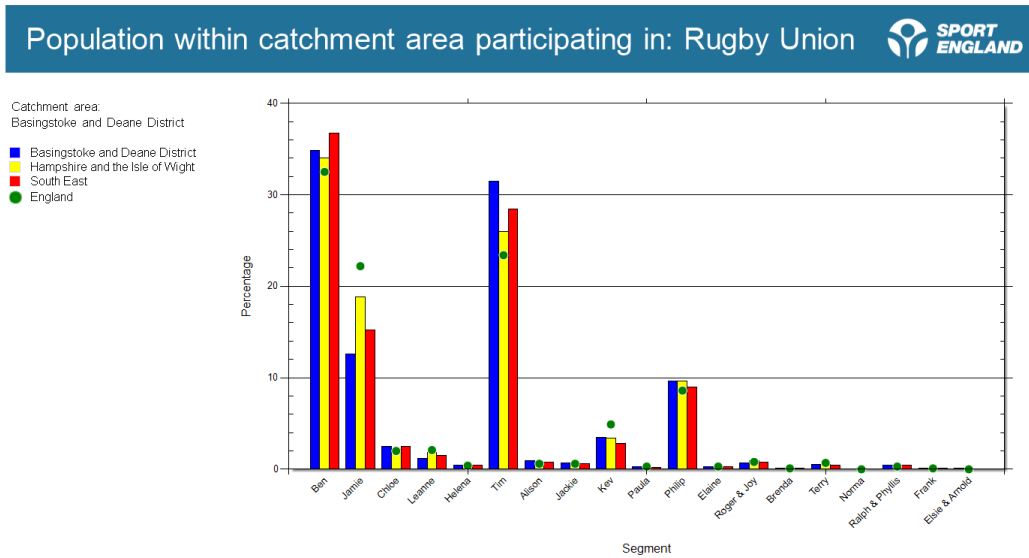
possibly indicating a lower propensity for rugby participation by the adult (16+) population of Basingstoke & Deane than the national average (i.e. higher than average latent demand).

- 5.21 Given the population profile (detailed in the Sports Market Segmentation section below), the data possibly also indicates that a significant number of adult rugby players living in the borough play for teams in neighbouring local authority areas (i.e. exported demand), the clubs at Tadley and Aldermaston for example.
- 5.22 *Children & Young People:* The Active Lives Children & Young People Survey published its third report of findings in January 2021 based on data collected from year 3-11 pupils and parents of years 1-2 pupils in the 2019/20 academic year.
- 5.23 Focusing on the older school age group (i.e. school years 5-11) and team sports activities outside of school, the findings show that 10% of children aged 10 to 16 surveyed in England had participated in rugby outdoors at least once in the last week. Statistically significant data at local authority level for individual sports is not available.

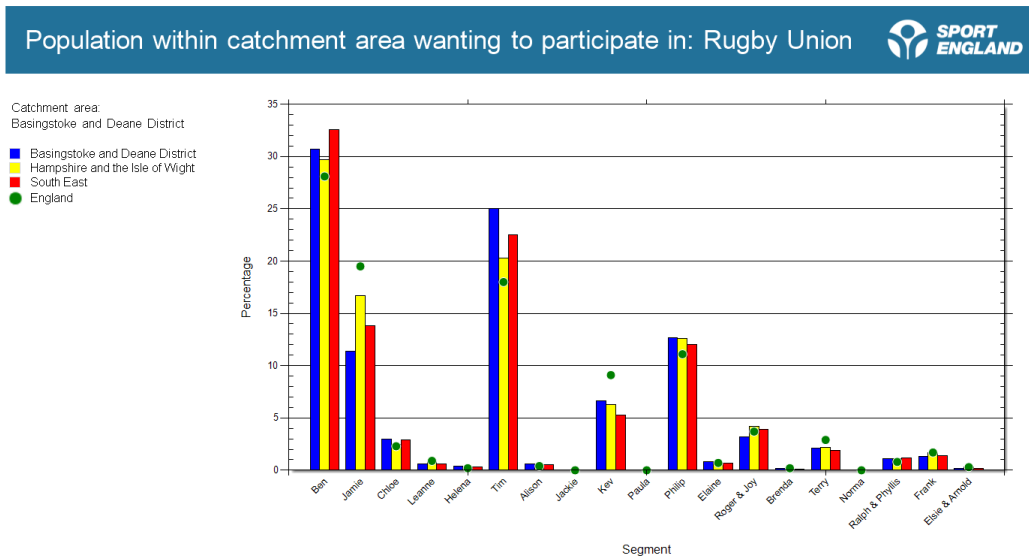
#### Sports Market Segmentation (SMS)

- 5.24 As the two graphs below illustrate, there is higher demand from the adult male Sports Market Segmentation Groups 'Tim' and 'Philip', and among the female groups 'Chloe', playing and wanting to play rugby in Basingstoke & Deane (the blue column) compared to the averages across the Active Sports Partnership area (Hampshire and Isle of Wight), the South East region and England as a whole (the green dot).
- 5.25 Although below the regional benchmark, 'Ben' is the largest Group in the borough in terms of both current participation in rugby and latent demand (i.e. want to play more). In Basingstoke & Deane, there are higher proportions of 'Bens' both playing rugby and wanting to play more rugby compared to the national and CSP averages.
- 5.26 This data suggests there is considerable latent demand among adults in Basingstoke and Deane to play rugby or to play rugby more often.
- 5.27 The main descriptors of the three main Sports Market Groups already playing the game or interested in playing more (i.e. latent demand) are as follows:
- Ben - competitive male urbanites, recent graduates
  - Tim - settling down males, sporty professionals
  - Philip - comfortable, midlife males, professional
  - Chloe - fitness class friends
- 5.33 In Basingstoke & Deane there is a higher-than-average participation rate for graduate and professional men aged 18-45 and graduate women aged 18-25. As the segmentation demonstrates there is also high latent demand for rugby within these groups. There is an opportunity to target latent demand within these groups by organising and promoting the right programmes to attract their participation, for example 'pitch up and play' sessions of Touch Rugby, Rugby 7s etc.

Market Segmentation – currently participating in Rugby



Market Segmentation – would like to participate in Rugby



Source: Sport England Sports Market Segmentation Planning Tool

Peak Hours

5.34 Current expressed demand for pitch time by affiliated clubs and teams for games and training is summarised in the table appended from data provided by the four borough-based clubs in online survey returns and sourced from the Hampshire Rugby website.

5.35 In terms of peak times of play, Saturday afternoons are the main focus for league play and Sunday mornings from 10am for junior games (allowing for travel time for visiting clubs) and minis training. This places heavy demand on the available pitches at weekends. Midweek evening games under lights are most often played on Wednesdays. Peak training nights are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

## 6. The Situation at Individual Sites

- 6.1 The pitches were quality-assessed in late October in the 2021/22 season. Representatives of the RFU have reviewed and agreed the pitch audit assessments.
- 6.2 Carrying capacity for rugby is a measure of the number of *match equivalent sessions* (MES) of play (matches or training) each week that the pitch can accommodate without adverse impact on the pitch quality for the following week.

**Table 6.1: RFU PPS Guide - Pitch Carrying Capacities**

Drainage Ratings	Poor Maintenance (M0)	Adequate Maintenance (M1)	Good Maintenance (M2)
Natural inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
Natural adequate (D1)	1.5	3	3
Pipe (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe & Slit (D3)	2	3	3.5

Source: PPS Guidance Sport England, October 2013

- 6.3 The audit data table appended summarises the situation at each rugby pitch site with regard to:

*Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e. its carrying capacity).

*The amount of play estimated to take place at each site in the season* (i.e. the expressed demand) for club/team use for matches and training in the peak community hours.

*The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:

- RED - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
- AMBER - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
- GREEN - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity).

## 7. Current Supply and Demand Balance

- 7.1 The table below summarises the current supply/demand balance. The assessment includes the Fieldgate Centre pitch in Kingsclere as the drainage works are nearing completion.
- 7.2 The first row shows the current position including ALL pitches currently used by the four clubs. The second row shows the current position with only those pitches that the rugby clubs have access fully secured under a lease.

**Table 7.1: Current Supply/Demand Balance**

Available capacity (MES/week)	Demand estimate (MES/week in peak)	Supply/Demand Balance (RAG)
83	48	
Club secured capacity (MES/week)	Demand estimate (MES/week in peak)	Supply/Demand Balance (RAG)
3 (Down Grange Cage)	48	

- 7.3 The findings indicate that, across the four home club sites, there is substantial spare capacity currently available. The findings reflect the large number of youth and mini pitches available for the clubs to hire on a week-to-week basis during the peak weekend period at Down Grange.
- 7.4 However, there is a clear issue with regard to security of access for the rugby clubs to all the available pitches aside from the 'caged' main pitch at Down Grange where the Basingstoke club has a secured access under a lease. It is also noted that this lease has just 8 years to run to 2030.
- 7.5 The large number of pitches available to hire at Down Grange also obscures significant capacity issues at individual clubs - most particularly for floodlit training on midweek evenings at Down Grange for the Basingstoke club and for matches and training at BCOT for the Chineham club - as detailed in the audit appended.
- 7.6 Current capacity at the Fieldgate Centre for Kingsclere RFC are being addressed through the installation of a new drainage system although the floodlighting solution for training is part permanent and part mobile due to the pitch layout for other playing pitch sports on this site.
- 7.7 Potential options to alleviate the training capacity issues at Down Grange for the Basingstoke club include:
- Exploring the feasibility of increasing playing capacity of the two floodlit areas through a more intensive maintenance regime and/or an improved drainage system.
  - Purchasing mobile training lights (similar to those at Chineham RFC) to extend the training area onto other pitches to spread wear.
  - Permanent lighting to another of the full-size pitches to provide additional floodlit match play options.
  - Upgrade the playing surface of the main pitch and/or the training grids area to a 3G playing surface (World Rugby Reg 22 compliant).
- 7.8 The options to resolve the capacity issue for the Chineham club are more limited as there is only a single pitch and the club already has mobile training lights to enable wear to the spread on this pitch. Potential solutions for this club may include:

- Negotiating increased access on training evenings or Sunday mornings to the adjacent Fairfields Primary School playing field and using cones as pitch markings for mini rugby to further spread the wear. (The Sports & Social Club already has some use of this playing field).
- Programming mini rugby on Sunday mornings at Down Grange where there is unused capacity at this time by Basingstoke RFC on some of the grass pitches and training grids which are available to hire.
- Opportunity to identify an alternative site in the borough through Local Plan and/or a developer agreement.

## 8. The Future Picture of Provision

- 8.1 The analysis below considers the extent of forecast population growth in Basingstoke and Deane to 2040 - i.e. the period of the new Local Plan - and the potential impact on the level of demand for rugby pitches.
- 8.2 Future population growth figures have been calculated for the period of this strategy against the primary age groups for rugby participation. The population growth estimates have been produced using Hampshire County Council Small Area Population Forecasts, 2020.
- 8.3 The overall borough population growth forecast over the Local Plan period from 2020 to 2040 is substantial i.e. +33,700 (from 178,700 to 212,300).
- 8.4 Table 8.1 shows the number of additional male and female youth and adult rugby teams that would be created by the estimated population growth in these age groups assuming existing 'Team Generation Rates' (i.e. the existing population in these age groups divided by the existing number of teams in that age group).

**Table 8.1: Population Projections and Rugby Team Generation Rates (TGR)**

Age Group	No. Teams	Pop in age group 2020	Pop in age group 2040	Current Team Generation Rate	Pop Change in age group	Potential Change in Rugby Team No's
Rugby Senior Men 19-45	8	28,967	34,818	3,621	5,851	1.62
Rugby Senior Women 19-45	1	29,881	35,139	29,881	5,258	0.18
Rugby Boys aged 13-18	7	6,107	6,915	872	808	0.93
Rugby Girls aged 13-18	3	5,980	6,791	1,993	811	0.41
Rugby Mixed 7-12	17	14,418	14,393	848	-25	0

- 8.5 Assuming current rugby team generation rates (i.e. the number of residents in the prime rugby age groups in the population per existing rugby team), and the forecast population growth to 2040 in these age groups, demand for approximately two

additional senior rugby teams and between one and two youth teams will be generated by 2040 requiring playing capacity for matches and training (i.e. +3.14 teams in total).

- 8.6 However, this figure should be considered with caution in the context of the aspirations of the RFU and at least two of the four rugby clubs in the borough to continue to grow, particularly in the area of providing more opportunities for women's rugby and for girls only rugby from age twelve.
- 8.7 It is also highly likely that there will continue to be some further growth in mixed small-sided rugby in the younger 7-12 age grades. Although the population forecasts show no growth in the number of 7–12-year-olds in the borough by 2040, the development activities of the four clubs and rugby in schools, with the support of the RFU, is highly likely to convert latent demand in this age group to generate more young players.
- 8.8 Based on the trends in the clubs' playing memberships in the younger age groups, the clubs' stated aspirations to continue to grow and the extent of latent demand for rugby in the borough, it must be likely that the number of additional rugby teams in Basingstoke and Deane will exceed +3.14 by 2040.
- 8.9 The additional playing capacity afforded by the opening of the two new pitches at Hook for the Hook & Odiham club will provide a small amount of additional playing capacity in the catchment area for east Basingstoke.
- 8.10 However, the main capacity issue is not at weekends (i.e. for Saturday match play and for Sunday morning youth and mini rugby). The analysis indicates that there is adequate spare capacity in the existing borough supply to accommodate this level of growth, albeit all the spare capacity is at one site, Down Grange, and whilst secured for community pitch sports, these pitches are not secured for rugby or for a particular club. Hire of off-site pitches is also not favoured by rugby clubs due to the cost and impact on secondary income from catering sales.
- 8.11 The greater challenge in accommodating future team growth is in the midweek, particularly the peak Tuesday and Thursday evenings for training. As the appended detailed audit shows, the floodlit training area and main pitch at Down Grange are already over-played by Basingstoke RFC as is the BCOT pitch at Basingstoke Sports & Social Club used by Chineham RFC.
- 8.12 The priority facility need for the playing pitch sport of rugby in Basingstoke and Deane borough is therefore additional floodlit training capacity with the focus on these two clubs and sites. As set out in the previous section there are a number of options available to achieve this additional capacity including upgrading the main pitch at Down Grange to 3G. These needs and options will need to be considered to agree the future strategy and priority actions.
- 8.13 Although, at present, the assessment of future community demand for rugby based on the scale of forecast population growth to 2040 (table 8.1 above) does not strongly support the case for provision of additional rugby pitches in the borough, the supply/demand balance and changes will need to be kept under periodic review. In particular, opportunities for the Chineham Rugby Club to secure a minimum of two

pitches should be explored as growth of this club is already constrained by lack of capacity on the BCOT site to which future access for the club is unsecured.

- 8.14 Future reviews will need to consider the distribution of the population growth, in particular potential large new settlements allocated in the Local Plan, the accessibility of Down Grange and out-of-borough rugby sites from these settlements and the extent to which the floodlit provision at these sites have unused capacity in the weekly peak, particularly on midweek evenings for training.
- 8.15 The two largest sites currently shortlisted for new settlements in the Local Plan Update (LPU) are to the west of the urban area at:
- o *Manydown* where 2,100 new dwellings are currently proposed, and
  - o *Popham Airfield* on the north side of the A303 (south of Overton) where 2,200 dwellings are proposed.
- 8.16 Under the Manydown and Popham settlement scenarios the concentration of future rugby demand from forecast population growth is likely to fall on the Basingstoke Rugby Club at Down Grange as this facility on the west side of the town is the most accessible. Some rugby demand generated by these settlements may gravitate towards the clubs and pitches in Andover or Winchester.
- 8.17 On the east side of the urban area (to the east of Chineham), a total of 1,500 new homes are proposed across the two largest shortlisted sites (*Land East of Basingstoke* and *Lodge Farm*).
- 8.18 Population growth under these scenarios is also likely to increase demand for the rugby pitches in Basingstoke but with a proportion of the additional demand from these settlements travelling east to access opportunities to play rugby at one or other of the clubs and pitch sites to the east e.g. Hook & Odiham RFC at its new ground in Hook (when completed), Aldershot & Fleet RFC at Aldershot Park, Farnborough RFC at Oak Farm Playing Fields or Camberley RFC at Watchetts Recreation Ground.
- 8.19 The potential for future imported demand across neighbouring local authority boundaries also needs to be considered. Consultations with these authorities suggest the following of relevance to the future picture of rugby demand in Basingstoke & Deane:

*Test Valley:* Further housing growth will take place on the east side of Andover over the Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan period to 2040. The Test Valley PPS does not identify current or future export of rugby demand to Basingstoke & Deane.

*Hart:* No major new housing settlements are proposed in the Hook area (closest to Basingstoke and Deane) in the Hart Local Plan and the Hart PPS does not identify current or future export of rugby demand to Basingstoke & Deane. Whilst there may be a very small number of Hart residents in the west side of the district joining Basingstoke RFC to play at London 3 standard, the balance of cross boundary movement is likely to be from east Basingstoke to Hook & Odiham RFC or to Aldershot & Fleet RFC.

*Winchester:* Whitchurch is 15-20 minutes drive-time (A34) from Kings Worthy and the rural north parts of Winchester district. However, there are currently no major new settlement proposals in this part of the district. The PPS for Winchester identifies adequate playing capacity for rugby within the City & District.

*East Hampshire:* Alton is a 15-20 minute drive-time from Basingstoke (A339). There are allocations for substantial new housing in the district in the District's Local Plan (e.g. on the former Corrs Brewery site in Alton town). However, Alton Town has ample provision for rugby at Anstey Park in the town although it is noted that the poor quality of the drainage at these park pitches is a priority identified in the East Hampshire Playing Pitch Strategy.

*West Berkshire:* Kingsclere in the north west of Basingstoke & Deane is within the drive-time catchment area of Newbury (A339) and the northern villages of Tadley, Baughurst, Silchester and Mortimer West End are close to (and in some cases bridge) the borough boundary. Some residents of these towns and villages are likely to travel north to Newbury to opportunities to play rugby at Newbury Rugby Club rather than drive into Basingstoke to Down Grange.

New large-scale settlements of 2,000 or more units are proposed in Thatcham (east of Newbury close to the A4) and at Sandleford Park (south of Newbury Rugby Club close to the A339). The latter proposal is subject to the decision of a Public Inquiry held in May 2021. The current proposals include a new school with a full-size natural turf football pitch which could also be marked for rugby. The site is within a short drive-time of Kingsclere. The West Berkshire PPS (2019) concludes there is sufficient capacity at existing rugby sites in the borough.

Currently, Newbury Rugby Club are in final stages of negotiations of a proposal with West Berkshire Council and Newbury FC (currently Step 6) to create a 3G football stadium (future proofed to Step 4) on the site of pitches currently used for mini and youth rugby to replace the football club's former Faraday Road Football Ground closed in 2018 to make way for a new industrial estate. The Council is seeking a suitable open space in the area to create a replacement playing pitch to meet planning requirement for no net loss of playing pitches. Under the plans, the rugby club will have guaranteed access to the football stadium 3G pitch on Sunday mornings for minis etc and for midweek training.

- 8.20 Rather than new rugby pitch provision, the priority facility need is for enhancement of the floodlit grass pitches at Down Grange to increase capacity for training. The priority is to secure the required funding to upgrade the main pitch to 3G as currently proposed and with planning consent.
- 8.21 Improved changing facilities are also a priority at both the Basingstoke club and Chineham RFC at Mays Bounty should this club continue to play at this site. These improvements are needed to enable and facilitate growth particularly of women and girls' rugby in the town and borough.

## 9. Summary of Key Findings and Issues

### Rugby

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

- With 43 rugby pitches (of all sizes), Basingstoke & Deane has more rugby pitch provision than three of the four neighbouring Hampshire local authority areas both in terms of the number of pitches and on a per capita basis. Only Test Valley has more overall provision per capita.
- However 17 of the pitches are on school sites and either unavailable or unused for community rugby out of school hours.
- It is also important to note that only 19 of the 43 pitches (45%) are full size and that just nine of the 19 full size pitches are currently available to the four community rugby clubs located within the borough. The remainder - and one of the nine club home pitches - are on education sites.
- A further key characteristic of the supply is the uneven distribution of the pitches available to the clubs. Nearly three-quarters of this supply is on a single site in the town - Down Grange Sports Complex - with a further pitch also in the urban area at Mays Bounty/Basingstoke College, the home of Chineham RFC.
- Basingstoke Rugby Club at Down Grange is by far the largest of the four community rugby clubs based in the borough with over 500 players, including women's and girl's age grade teams and a mixed recreational touch rugby group.
- Despite the large number of pitches at Down Grange, the size of the Basingstoke club places heavy demand on the available floodlit areas - the main pitch and an area in front of the clubhouse - for adult and youth team training and some floodlit matches mid-week, social touch rugby on Monday evenings and women's evenings on Fridays.
- Outside the urban area, the northern villages are relatively well served with supply both within the borough (Kingsclere RFC) and larger clubs with their own grounds just over the boundary in Tadley (Tadley RFC) and Aldermaston (Aldermaston RFC).
- Rugby demand in the west of the borough (e.g. Whitchurch, Overton, Oakley) is served by the Overton Rugby Club based outside Overton at Laverstoke Park.
- The Hook & Odiham Rugby Club - currently at Rotherwick Playing Fields and moving shortly to a new ground in development in Hook - provides good accessibility to residents east of the urban area (e.g. Old Basing, Chineham, Sherfield on Loddon).

## Rugby

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

No

- Across the borough as a whole, there is no shortfall in the quantity of rugby pitches accessible and secured for community use.
- However, the borough-wide position obscures a number of significant capacity issues at individual clubs - most particularly for training on midweek evenings. This shortfall is particularly acute at Down Grange due to the size of the Basingstoke club. The Chineham club also has capacity issues on the single pitch site at Mays Bounty/BCOT.
- All four clubs also lack adequate security of access to the available pitch supply. The Chineham and Kingsclere clubs rely on annual licence agreements, the Overton club on a short lease with private owners and the Basingstoke club on a 21-year lease with the Council to its main pitch (with 8 years to run) and on weekly hire for the other pitches at Down Grange.

### Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

No

- There are maintenance issues at Down Grange with regard to the most heavily used floodlit areas. Specialist assessment is needed to establish the feasibility of enhanced maintenance and/or drainage as a cost-effective option to improve the resilience and playing capacity of the floodlit pitch and training area.
- An enhanced regime of grounds maintenance is also needed for the rugby and football pitches at the Fieldgate Centre (both used by Kingsclere RFC). This is required to sustain the quality of these two pitches on completion of the new drainage currently being installed on the field.
- The main quality issue at Mays Bounty Ground in Basingstoke for the Chineham Rugby Club is the inadequate pavilion changing in the out-dated pavilion shared with cricket, squash and junior football on this site.

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

- Analysis of the impact of forecast population growth in the borough to 2040 based on current team generation rates suggests growth of between three and four new teams over the Local Plan period.
- Based on the trends in the clubs' playing memberships in the younger age groups, the clubs' stated aspirations to continue to grow and the extent of latent demand for rugby in the borough, it must be likely that the number of additional teams will exceed this.

## Rugby

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

No

- Although, at present, the assessment of future community demand for rugby based on the scale of forecast population growth to 2040 does not strongly support the case for provision of additional rugby pitches in the borough, the supply/demand balance and changes will need to be kept under periodic review. In particular, opportunities for the Chineham Rugby Club to secure a minimum of two pitches should be explored as growth of this club is already constrained by lack of capacity on the BCOT site to which future access for the club is unsecured.
- The supply/demand balance and changes will need to be kept under periodic review. Future reviews will need to consider the distribution of the population growth, in particular potential large new settlements allocated in the Local Plan, the accessibility of Down Grange and out-of-borough rugby sites from these settlements and the extent to which the floodlit provision at these sites have unused capacity in the weekly peak, particularly on midweek evenings for training.
- The facility priorities for the sport of rugby in Basingstoke and Deane are:
  - To improve security of access to the facilities used by the community rugby clubs
  - To resolve the training capacity issue for the Basingstoke club at Down Grange
  - To resolve the inadequate changing provision and pitch capacity at Mays Bounty/BCOT or secure alternative provision for the Chineham club.