



# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

**DECEMBER 2023**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
BE	Bowls England
BSUK	Baseball Softball United Kingdom
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
CC	Cricket Club
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
EA	England Athletics
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GaNTIP	Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NC	Netball Club
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf pitch
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
SMBC	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
TC	Tennis Club

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC). Building upon the preceding updated Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. It delivers:

- ◀ A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations.
- ◀ A series of strategic objectives and recommendations.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritises and can address key issues.
- ◀ Guidance as to how the PPOSS can be delivered.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete.

The ANOG has a similar staged approach, as follows:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand.
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together.
- ◀ Application: Application of an assessment.

Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this strategy should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises. Sport England's guidance sets out that the lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years (although it covers a longer period than this), although this can be increased if it is regularly kept up to date.

The PPOSS replaces the existing study for Solihull, which was originally completed in 2017.

### **Study area**

The study area comprises of the full local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Solihull as a whole. This entails splitting the Council's administrative area into three neighbourhood areas, made up of the following wards:

- ◀ **North Area** – Bickenhill, Kingshurst and Fordbridge, Castle Bromwich, Chelmsley Wood, Smiths Wood.
- ◀ **Central Area** – Elmdon, Lyndon, Olton, Silhill, St Alphege, Shirley East/West/South.
- ◀ **Rural Area** – Blythe, Dorridge and Hockley Heath, Knowle, Meriden.

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For a map showing the analysis areas, please see below.

Figure 1.1: Map of Solihull



## **Agreed scope**

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the project are as follows:

- ▶ Athletics
- ▶ Bowls
- ▶ Cricket
- ▶ Football
- ▶ Hockey
- ▶ Netball
- ▶ Rugby league
- ▶ Rugby union
- ▶ Tennis

In addition, other grass pitch sports are also included where supply and/or demand is identified (e.g., baseball/softball and Gaelic football).

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## PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

The vision of the PPOSS in Solihull is to provide:

*'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities that provides and promotes local opportunities for participation by all residents.'*

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 2.1 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPOSS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all relevant stakeholders.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

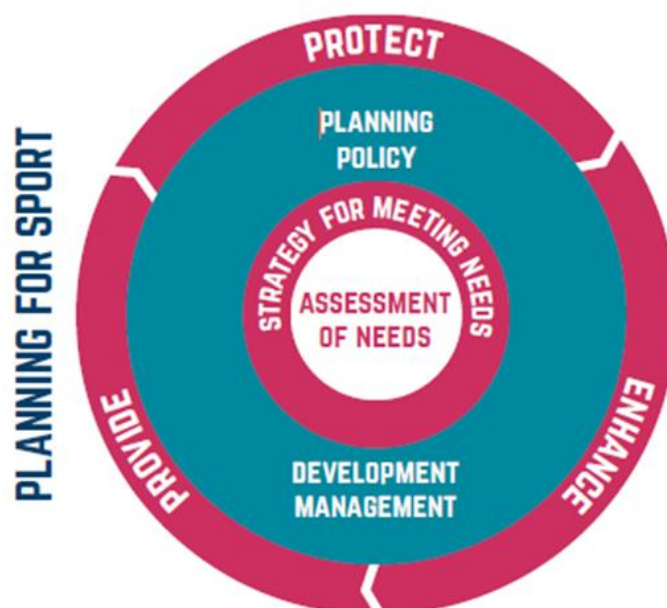
### AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

### AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so and where this is possible.

Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (2019)

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## PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

The table below highlights the current and future quantitative shortfalls for each main pitch sport included within the PPOSS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Natural turf pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions. The table below therefore uses this for football, rugby union and cricket, converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place (its current use) into the same unit of demand to enable an analysis to be undertaken.

Based on how the sports tend to be played, the match equivalent session units for football, rugby union and rugby league pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport, whereas for cricket, the number of match equivalent sessions is over the course of a season. This is because how much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a square, with only one match generally played per pitch per day and with the wickets rotated throughout a season to reduce wear and to allow for repair. Each wicket is therefore able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

For artificial surfaces, the carrying capacity of the provision is much higher, meaning how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how usage adversely affects quality, as is the case with grass pitches. Therefore, the total number of pitches required is instead used to form an analysis. This is pertinent to 3G and hockey (sand/water-based pitches).

Table 3.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2037)
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>	-	-	-
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	At capacity
	Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session
	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	At capacity
	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	At capacity
	Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1 match equivalent sessions
North	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 6 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 5.5 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 3.5 match equivalent sessions

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2037)
Rural	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	At capacity
	Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
Solihull	Adult	Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions
	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 7 match equivalent sessions	Spare capacity of 3 match equivalent sessions
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>	-	-	-
Central	11v11	Shortfall of 0.75 pitches	Shortfall of 0.75 pitches
North	11v11	Shortfall of 4 pitches	Shortfall of 6 pitches
Rural	11v11	Shortfall of 4 pitches	Shortfall of 5 pitches
Solihull	11v11	Shortfall of 8.75 pitches	Shortfall of 11.75 pitches
<b>Cricket squares</b>	-	-	-
Central	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 128 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 164 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 116 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 116 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (midweek)	Shortfall of 108 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 124 match equivalent sessions
North	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 50 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 62 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 44 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 44 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (midweek)	Shortfall of 50 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 54 match equivalent sessions
Rural	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 152 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 176 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 98 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 104 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (midweek)	Shortfall of 90 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 114 match equivalent sessions
Solihull	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 300 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 372 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 258 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 264 match equivalent sessions
	Senior (midweek)	Shortfall of 248 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 264 match equivalent sessions



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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2037)
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Central	Senior	Shortfall of 6 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 6 match equivalent sessions
North	Senior	Shortfall of 3.75 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 3.75 match equivalent sessions
Rural	Senior	Shortfall of 8.25 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 8.75 match equivalent sessions
Solihull	Senior	Shortfall of 18 match equivalent sessions	Shortfall of 21.5 match equivalent sessions
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
Central	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
North	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Rural	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Solihull	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met

For the remaining sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal activity. The current and future picture for each sport across Solihull is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 3.2: Headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	Supply is insufficient to satisfy club demand within the Borough, particularly for Solihull Arden TC, although this is skewed by the presence of other facilities on site. For non-club activity, Solihull is seemingly well placed given the quality of most of its courts and the supporting infrastructure and technology that is in place, although a lack of sports lighting presents a clear problem as this will be limiting demand.
<b>Netball</b>	Although indoor provision and provision in Birmingham is primarily use, the supply of outdoor netball provision in Solihull is considered to be insufficient to meet demand, particularly for training. This is primarily due to a lack of good quality courts, sports lighting and tenure, and resolving this would likely result in greater utilisation of courts.
<b>Bowls</b>	The green at Tippetts Field is currently operating above the capacity limit, although no issues are reported. With no other clubs reporting any capacity issues, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand.
<b>Athletics</b>	There is considerable demand for athletics and running within Solihull. Via the track at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, supply is sufficient to meet this, providing qualitative improvements take place in the near future. The track at North Solihull Sports Centre is not required in its current form; however, a form of alternative athletics provision should be included within any wider development of the site.
<b>Baseball/softball</b>	It is considered that there is sufficient provision to cater for the current levels of baseball/softball within Solihull on the premise that Birmingham Softball Club has continued access to Marston Green Recreation Ground.
<b>Gaelic football</b>	Through provision at Páirc na hÉireann and supplementary facilities at Box Tree's Farm and Old Damson Lane, Gaelic football is seemingly being well provided for within Solihull. However, capacity issues are reported at Box Tree's Farm, with expansion plans in place.

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## Conclusions

The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met.

Where spare capacity exists or where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with national planning policy.

For the most part, the shortfalls identified could be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, pitch re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting, enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites, and bringing disused sites back into use. However, there could be a need for some new provision in specific areas to completely alleviate existing and future deficits given the considerable shortfalls identified, especially for rugby union and cricket where current shortfalls are significant. This will also be necessary where other forms of eradicating the shortfalls are not possible (e.g., financially) or where they are not the preferred approach.

In relation to football, there is also a specific shortfall of artificial pitches that can only be met through increased provision. In addition, if club growth aspirations are realised, there may also be a requirement for additional grass pitches, particularly for adult and youth football. However, increasing the supply of 3G pitches would also help accommodate such demand.

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## PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the findings evidences in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This then informs the sport specific recommendations.

The included scenarios focus on the impact that they will have on the shortfalls and key issues identified and how they can be overcome. **However, whilst each can improve the picture to a greater or lesser extent, it should be noted that carrying out some scenarios to the fullest degree is likely to be unviable and that a combination of actions will instead be required to ensure that all current and future demand can be met.**

For some sports, no scenarios are included, although that is not to say that no action is required. Instead, recommendations are clear without the requirement for scenarios to be tested.

For site-specific and more localised recommendations, please refer to the Action Plan in Part 6 of the report.

### Football – grass pitches

#### *Assessment Report summary*

##### **Football – supply and demand summary**

- Actual spare capacity totals 29.5 match equivalent sessions per week across 28 pitches, whereas 24 pitches across 17 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 27 match equivalent sessions per week.
- There is a current shortfall of adult and youth 11v11 pitch capacity, with overall spare capacity identified on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- When factoring in future demand, shortfalls worsen on adult and youth 11v11 pitches and are created on youth 9v9 pitches. Although, the spare capacity on the mini pitches remain despite being reduced.

##### **Football – supply summary**

- The audit identifies a total of 210 grass football pitches within Solihull across 80 sites, with 184 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 68 sites.
- There are three disused sites that previously accommodated grass football pitches but are no longer marked out (Babbs Mill Park, Meriden Park and Rowood Drive).
- The Solihull Mitigation Strategy outlines sites potentially impacted upon by development allocations, with this relating particularly to Highgate United Football, Wychall Wanderers Football Club, Old Yardleians Rugby Club, Robin's Nest (Knowle Football Club) and The Land Rover Sports & Social Club.
- Most community available pitches across Solihull are managed by sports clubs (89 pitches), followed by pitches at education sites (49) and at Council sites (44).
- Of the pitches that are available for community use, 32 are assessed as good quality, 87 as standard quality and 65 as poor quality.
- Castle Bromwich Playing Fields, Coldlands Park, Meriden Sports Park, The Pavilions and The Land Rover Sports & Social Club are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision, whilst nine sites are without appropriate facilities.
- Two clubs play within the men's National League System and four clubs play within the Women's National League System; these have to adhere to ground grading requirements.

##### **Football – demand summary**

- There are 531 teams from within 85 clubs are identified as currently playing within Solihull, with this equating to 119 adult men's, 11 adult women's, 179 youth boys, 21 youth girls and 201 mini (mixed) teams.

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- ◀ There has been a large increase in demand since 2019, with 53 additional teams now identified.
- ◀ Leafield Athletic Ladies FC, Solihull Moors Foundation FC and Craven Athletic FC all export demand outside of Solihull.
- ◀ A total of 14 clubs identify latent and/or unmet in that they express they could field more teams if they had more capacity.
- ◀ Future demand from population growth projects an increase of 45 teams, whilst a total of 19 clubs quantify growth aspirations, with this amounting to 99 teams.

## Scenarios

### *Improving pitch quality/addressing overplay*

In total, there are 24 pitches in Solihull across 17 sites that are overplayed by a combined total of 27 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls across the Borough.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that the large majority of existing overplay would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

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

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
21	Chelmsley Town Football Club	North	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
22	Chelmsley Onward Squash Club	North	Adult	1	Standard	2	1
25	Coldlands Park	North	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
25	Coldlands Park	North	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
28	Dickens Heath Sports Club	Rural	Adult	1	Poor	1	1
28	Dickens Heath Sports Club	Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
29	Dorridge Primary School	Rural	Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	1	3
36	Glades Football (Lugtrout Lane)	North	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
57	Knowle C of E Primary School	Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1	2

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
62	Leaffield Athletic FC (Rumbush Lane)	Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	2	1
69	Marston Green Football Club	North	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1	2
69	Marston Green Football Club	North	Mini (5v5)	1	Poor	0.5	3.5
75	Meriden Sports Park	Rural	Adult	1	Standard	1	0
77	Moseley Cricket Club	Central	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
90	Robin's Nest (Knowle Football Club)	Rural	Adult	1	Good	1	1
96	Silhill Football Club	Central	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	0.5
97	Silhillians Sports Club	Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	4.5	2.5
97	Silhillians Sports Club	Rural	Mini (5v5)	2	Poor	1.5	6.5
115	The Land Rover Sports & Social Club	Central	Adult	2	Standard	1	0
117	The Pavilions	North	Youth (11v11)	1	Good	3	3
127	Wychall Wanderers Football Club	Rural	Adult	2	Poor	1.5	2.5

As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality was improved. The only exceptions to this are the adult pitches at Robin's Nest (Knowle Football Club) and Chelmsley Onward Squash Club, and the youth 11v11 pitches at The Pavilions and Silhillians Sports Club. These would continue to accommodate some level of overplay (the pitches at Knowle Football Club and The Pavilions are already good quality).

In addition, there are several sites containing pitches that would have actual spare capacity if it was not for them being poor quality (as this results in the capacity being discounted). This is the case across the following sites:

- ▶ Barn Lane Recreation Ground (one match equivalent session on youth 11v11)
- ▶ Bentley Heath Recreation Ground (two match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5)
- ▶ Dickens Heath Sports Club (two match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7)
- ▶ Highgate United Football Club (three match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7)
- ▶ Sharman's Cross Junior School (two match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5)
- ▶ Silhill Football Club (two match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5)
- ▶ Tippetts Fields (one match equivalent session on mini 5v5)
- ▶ Woodbourne Sports Club (one mini 7v7 match equivalent session and two mini 5v5)

As a result of improving quality across the overplayed and poor quality pitches, all pitch shortfalls would be alleviated across the Borough, with spare capacity evident on each pitch type. This is shown in the table below.

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Table 4.2: Current supply and demand if quality improved to good at overplayed sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
	Current total	Potential current total
Adult	4	4
Youth 11v11	7.5	1.5
Youth 9v9	2	2.5
Mini 7v7	5	12
Mini 5v5	7	18

In addition, future shortfalls will be reduced on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, and future actual spare capacity will increase on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.3: Future supply and demand if quality improved to good at overplayed sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	9.5	1.5
Youth 11v11	12.5	3.5
Youth 9v9	1.5	1
Mini 7v7	0.5	7.5
Mini 5v5	3	14

### *Bringing disused pitches back into use*

Currently, there are three disused sites in Solihull that previously contained football pitches. These are:

- ◀ Babbs Mill Park (three adult)
- ◀ Meriden Park (one adult)
- ◀ Rowood Drive (two mini 5v5)

Bringing these back into use would alleviate shortfalls on adult pitches whilst increasing spare capacity on mini 5v5 pitches. This is shown in the following tables.

Table 4.4: Current supply and demand if disused pitches were reinstated

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
	Current total	Potential current total
Adult	4	0
Youth 11v11	7.5	7.5
Youth 9v9	2	2
Mini 7v7	5	5
Mini 5v5	7	9

Table 4.5: Future supply and demand if quality improved to good at overplayed sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	9.5	5.5
Youth 11v11	12.5	12.5
Youth 9v9	1.5	1.5
Mini 7v7	0.5	0.5
Mini 5v5	3	3

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Based on the above, there would be a clear benefit in particular to re-establishing the pitches at Babbs Mill Park and Meriden Drive. There is less of a need at Rowood Drive based on capacity already existing on mini 5v5 pitches, and whilst the site could theoretically accommodate a larger pitch size, it could only provide one such pitch and is without supporting ancillary facilities.

### *Securing community use*

There are several sites in Solihull that do not allow any community access of their football pitches. As such, enabling community use at these sites would increase the available pitch stock and therefore further help to reduce shortfalls and increase spare capacity.

There are 25 pitches that are currently unavailable for community use but could be accessible in the future. These are provided at the following sites:

- ✦ Alderbrook School
- ✦ Cheswick Green Primary School
- ✦ Eversfield Preparatory School
- ✦ Greswold Primary School
- ✦ Haslucks Green Primary School
- ✦ Hockley Heath Academy
- ✦ Kingshurst Primary School
- ✦ Lyndon School
- ✦ Marston Green Junior School
- ✦ Oak Cottage Primary School
- ✦ Peterbrook Primary School
- ✦ St John The Baptist Catholic Primary School

In addition, spare capacity is discounted across several sites that do provide community access as this access is not considered to be secure (i.e., no long-term usage agreement is in place). This is the case across the following site:

- ✦ Highgate United Football Club
- ✦ Mill Lodge Primary School
- ✦ Old Yardleians Rugby Club
- ✦ St Augustine's Primary School
- ✦ Windy Arbour Primary School

Providing secure access to all of these sites would eradicate the capacity deficits on adult pitches and increase spare capacity on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. However, none of the sites provide youth 11v11 pitches that would have spare capacity, meaning the picture would be unaltered on this pitch type.

Table 4.6: Current supply and demand if all pitches were available and with secure tenure

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	4	1
Youth 11v11	7.5	7.5
Youth 9v9	2	4.5
Mini 7v7	5	15
Mini 5v5	7	11

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Future shortfalls would remain on adult and youth 11v11 pitches, with spare capacity increased on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Youth 9v9 pitches would have overall spare capacity rather than a shortfall existing.

Table 4.7: Future supply and demand if all pitches were available and with secure tenure

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	9.5	4.5
Youth 11v11	12.5	12.5
Youth 9v9	1.5	1
Mini 7v7	0.5	10.5
Mini 5v5	3	7

If community access was secured in addition to carrying out the above quality improvement scenario, actual spare capacity would not only exist across all pitch types but would be relatively significant for adult, youth 9v9, mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 pitches.

Table 4.8: Current supply/demand if quality improved and all pitches were available and with secure tenure

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential current total
Adult	4	9
Youth 11v11	7.5	1.5
Youth 9v9	2	5
Mini 7v7	5	22
Mini 5v5	7	22

Furthermore, when accounting for future demand, shortfalls would be alleviated on adult and youth 9v9 pitches, in addition to existing spare capacity on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.9: Future supply/demand if quality improved and all pitches were available and with secure tenure

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	9.5	3.5
Youth 11v11	12.5	3.5
Youth 9v9	1.5	1.5
Mini 7v7	0.5	17.5
Mini 5v5	3	18

Whilst a shortfall of youth 11v11 provision would remain, this could be overcome via pitch re-configuration and utilising the spare capacity of other pitch types (e.g., adult pitches could be converted).

Notwithstanding the above, as it may not be deemed possible to gain secured access to all provision, sites that provide a large quantity of pitches should be prioritised. Example of this are at Alderbrook School and Lyndon School.



## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

In addition, it should also be referenced that St Peter's Catholic School is currently in the process of carrying out work to improve the quality of its playing field area, with an aspiration to then re-provide pitches. Securing access to these should be sought given the quantity that will be an offer (two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch).

### *Loss of sites without secure tenure*

To further illustrate the importance of securing community use, it must be noted that there are currently 90.5 match equivalent sessions per week played on unsecured pitches across Solihull (pitches available for community use but without a long-term agreement). As such, the table below identifies the total amount that would need to be replaced if access was to be lost at the below sites with unsecure tenure.

Table 4.10: Summary of demand at unsecure sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current usage (match equivalent sessions)				
			Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
3	Arden Academy Grass Pitches	Rural	-	2	2	-	4
29	Dorridge Primary School	Rural	-	-	-	3	4
37	Grace Academy Solihull	North	4	-	-	4	4
45	Heart of England School Pitches	Rural	1	-	1	-	-
47	Highgate United Football Club	Rural	2.5	0.5	-	0	-
57	Knowle C of E Primary School	Rural	-	2	-	-	-
60	Langley Primary School	Central	-	-	-	1	-
61	Langley School	Central	1	-	1	-	-
63	Leafield Athletic Football Club (Tythe Barn Lane)	Rural	-	-	2	3	2.5
64	Light Hall School	Central	-	4	-	-	-
65	Lode Heath School	Central	-	4	4	-	-
73	Meriden C of E Primary School	Rural	-	-	-	4	-
76	Mill Lodge Primary School	Central	-	-	-	1	-
82	Old Yardleians Rugby Club	Rural	0	-	-	-	-
87	Park Hall Academy	North	12	-	-	-	-
92	Sharman's Cross Junior School	Central	1	-	-	-	1
93	Shirley Heath Junior School	Central	-	-	-	-	1
99	Smith's Wood Playing Field	North	2	2	-	-	-
102	Solihull College (Woodlands Campus)	North	1	-	-	-	-
106	Solihull School	Central	3	-	8	-	-
109	St Augustine's Primary School	Central	-	-	-	1	-
113	St Patrick's CE Academy	Rural	-	-	-	-	1
115	The Land Rover Sports & Social Club	Central	3	1.5	2	4.5	-
125	Windy Arbour Primary School	North	-	-	1	-	-
-	-	<b>Total</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>9.5</b>

If these pitches were to fall out of use, existing shortfalls would be significantly exacerbated for adult and youth 11v11 pitches, whilst shortfalls would be created on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.11: Current supply and demand balance without access to unsecure sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	4	33.5
Youth 11v11	7.5	21.5
Youth 9v9	2	15
Mini 7v7	5	13.5
Mini 5v5	7	3

When accounting for future demand, shortfalls would be evident across all pitch types and would be most significant on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 4.12: Future supply and demand balance without access to unsecure sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	9.5	39
Youth 11v11	12.5	26.5
Youth 9v9	1.5	20.5
Mini 7v7	0.5	18
Mini 5v5	3	6

Based on the above, it is important to secure tenure at these sites in order to ensure both current and future pitch shortfalls are minimised, although it is noted that this may not be possible at all sites.

Whilst not always possible, particularly at the secondary school sites, creating community use agreements would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term. Where there is external investment on sites e.g., by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. This also applies to new schools or for existing schools seeking changes to provision that requires planning permission as, via planning consent, the Council can mandate the implementation of a community use agreement as part of the planning stipulations.

### *Accounting for club future demand aspirations*

During consultation, 19 clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide, equating to a predicted growth of 99 teams. This has not currently been considered within the future demand outlined (which is currently based on population growth) as such demand is considered more aspirational than what has been set out. However, if it was to be realised, shortfalls would significantly worsen for adult and youth 11v11 pitches, whilst shortfalls would be created on youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches. Spare capacity would still remain on mini 7v7 pitches but at a reduced level.

Table 4.13: Supply and demand with club future demand aspirations accounted for

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Future total
Adult	4	11.5
Youth 11v11	7.5	17
Youth 9v9	2	10
Mini 7v7	5	2.5
Mini 5v5	7	3

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Whilst the above table shows significant shortfalls, some of the demand could still be accommodated on the existing supply if the other scenarios set out above are actioned (e.g., addressing overplay, improving quality, securing community use and securing tenure on pitches with spare capacity). This is shown in the table below. Shortfalls are evident on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst spare capacity exists on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches (adult pitches are at capacity).

Table 4.14: Impact of future demand aspirations against actioning all scenarios

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential future total
Adult	11.5	0
Youth 11v11	17	3.5
Youth 9v9	10	10.5
Mini 7v7	2.5	15
Mini 5v5	3	10

Based on the shortfalls identified, it is clear that additional pitches may be required if such growth aspirations are realised. This is the case for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 football.

## Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches and ensure any existing and future proposals provide replacement provision in line with national planning policy.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment to undertake improvements and utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to sites not currently available for community use in order to provide additional actual spare capacity.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure at sites that are currently unsecure through community use agreements and support negotiation with schools to secure appropriate access.
- ◀ Should full size 3G pitches be provided, seek the transfer of play from grass pitches to further free up grass pitch capacity.
- ◀ Regularly monitor future growth levels to determine if additional pitches are required, particularly for adult and youth football – this can be done via the Stage E process (see Part 8).
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Third generation turf (3G) pitches

### Assessment Report summary

#### 3G – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is a clear shortfall of 3G provision to meet requirements, as evidenced through the significant levels of unmet demand identified, particularly in respect of football.
- ◀ The FA training model suggest a current shortfall of 8.75 full size pitches, increasing to 9.75 when factoring in future demand.
- ◀ For rugby union, the creation of suitable 3G pitches may provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches, although this needs to be considered against grass pitch solutions.
- ◀ No demand for access to 3G provision has been identified from any other sports, other than for Gaelic football at Páirc na hÉireann, suggesting that no other demand currently requires consideration.

#### 3G – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are six full size and two smaller size 3G pitches identified in Solihull, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ Five of the full size pitches are serviced by sports lighting (the pitch at Páirc na hÉireann is not) although neither of the smaller sized pitches are.
- ◀ The Solihull Mitigation Strategy identifies that new full size 3G pitches could be provided as part of the relocation of Wychall Wanderers FC, Highgate United FC and Old Yardleians RUFC as well as the relocation of Knowle FC.
- ◀ An emerging feasibility study in relation to North Solihull Sports Centre identifies that it is suitable for the creation of a full size 3G pitch.
- ◀ A planning application has been submitted at Box Tree's Farm for the development of sports pitches, with this including a 3G pitch with sports lighting.
- ◀ Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst has an aspiration for the development of an additional 3G pitch, whilst St Peters Catholic School, Coldland Colts FC (two pitches), Silhillians Sports Club, Lode Heath School and Langley Primary School also have aspirations.
- ◀ Four of the six full size 3G pitches are either FA or FIFA certified, in addition to the smaller size pitch at Olton Primary School.
- ◀ No pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ For the full size 3G pitches, four are assessed as good quality and two as standard quality, whilst one smaller size pitch is good and one is standard.

#### 3G – demand summary

- ◀ The 3G pitches currently servicing Solihull are reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- ◀ This applies not only to midweek training capacity but also to weekend capacity, with 132 affiliated football teams currently registered as using the provision for regular match play.
- ◀ The majority of demand received currently comes via football, although Gaelic football is the predominant user at Páirc na hÉireann.
- ◀ Significant unmet demand is expressed in Solihull, with 24 responding football clubs as well as Silhillians RUFC stating that additional pitches are required.
- ◀ Several football clubs also currently export some training demand outside of Solihull, primarily due to a lack of capacity on the 3G pitches within the Borough.
- ◀ If future demand predications are realised, this will further increase 3G requirements for both football and rugby union.

## Scenarios

### Accommodating football training demand

If all teams were to utilise 3G pitches to accommodate their training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for 14 full size 3G pitches in Solihull (rounded up from 13.96). This calculation discounts the full size pitch at Páirc na hÉireann as it is not serviced by sports lighting.

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Based on current supply levels, the above means that there is a current shortfall of 8.75 full size 3G pitch equivalents based on the current supply.

Table 4.15: Current demand for 3G pitches in Solihull (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	Full size 3G pitch requirement <sup>1</sup>	Current number of full size 3G pitch equivalents	Current full size 3G pitch shortfall
531	14	5.25	8.75

When factoring in future demand, the requirement could increase to a total of 9.75 full size 3G pitches.

Table 4.16: Future demand for 3G pitches in Solihull (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	Full size 3G pitch requirement <sup>2</sup>	Current number of full size 3G pitch equivalents	Future full size 3G pitch shortfall
576	15	5.25	9.75

The table below explores what the requirement would be if every team is to train within the respective analysis area that they play in (although it is noted that some teams may play outside of their preferred area due to a lack of pitch availability). This not only identifies where the potential need may exist across Solihull, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 4.17: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area for training demand

Analysis area	Current demand	Current full size 3G pitch requirement <sup>3</sup>	Current number of full size 3G pitch equivalents	Current full size 3G pitch shortfall
Central	133	4	3.25	0.75
North	232	6	2	4
Rural	166	4	-	4
<b>Solihull</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5.25</b>	<b>8.75</b>

With current demand relatively evenly distributed across the three analysis areas, it is expected that the future demand identified from population growth will also follow this pattern, resulting in minimal increased need. However, if future demand from club aspirations is instead considered, the shortfalls will increase much more significantly, as evidenced in the table below. Such aspirations have previously been discounted as they are considered to be more aspirational and therefore not necessarily realistic.

<sup>1</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.25

<sup>2</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.25

<sup>3</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.18: Potential football training demand for 3G pitches incorporating club aspirations

Analysis area	Potential future demand	Future full size 3G pitch requirement <sup>4</sup>	Current number of full size 3G pitch equivalents	Future full size 3G pitch shortfall
Central	158	4	3.25	0.75
North	290	8	2	6
Rural	182	5	-	5
<b>Solihull</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5.25</b>	<b>11.75</b>

As seen, the total potential shortfall equates to 11.75 full size 3G pitches. This is made up of a shortfall of 0.75 in the Central Analysis Area, six in the North Analysis Area and five in the Rural Analysis Area.

The Solihull Mitigation Strategy identifies that new full size 3G pitches could be provided as part of mitigation packages for several sites subject to allocation in the Local Plan Review. Specifically, it references that provision could be suitable as part of the relocation of Wychall Wanderers FC, Highgate United FC and Old Yardleians RUFC, whilst a full size 3G pitch is also proposed as part of the relocation of Knowle FC (Robin's Nest). Both of these would reduce shortfalls in the Rural Analysis Area.

The creation of a 3G pitch is also being proposed at Box Tree's Farm, with this said to be solely for football use despite it being located at a site otherwise currently used for Gaelic football. This would also reduce the shortfall in the Rural Analysis Area.

### *Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches*

Moving match play to 3G pitches in addition to training demand is supported by the FA, which is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are presently played on council pitches be transferred. This is due to a recognition that councils often have budget restraints, with improving and maintaining pitches to an appropriate standard not always possible.

Within Solihull, there are currently 75 teams playing at local authority sites at peak time across the formats of play.

Table 4.19: Number of teams currently using council pitches in Solihull

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	30
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	11
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	8
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	14
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	12
<b>Total</b>			<b>75</b>

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below.

<sup>4</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.20: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No. of teams at peak time	No. of matches at peak time	No. of 3G units required per match <sup>5</sup>	Total 3G units required	No. of 3G pitches required
Adult	30	15	32	480	7.5
Youth 11v11	11	5.5	32	176	2.75
Youth 9v9	8	4	10	40	0.63
Mini 7v7	14	7	8	56	0.88
Mini 5v5	12	6	4	24	0.38

In total, 12 (rounded down from 12.14) full size 3G pitches would be required to accommodate all matches played on council pitches. As such, as this is lower than the number of pitches required to meet training demand, it could be considered practical to carry out this scenario in conjunction.

An alternative approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football from grass to 3G pitches. As such, the table below tests a scenario that would enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.21: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

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

Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for nine full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 9.08) to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 109 teams playing 7v7 football and 92 teams playing 5v5 football.

As the number needed to accommodate mini football is less than the number required for training, this again could be carried out in conjunction. Furthermore, considerable spare capacity would also remain to accommodate other formats of play across the facility stock.

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Solihull, meaning no clubs are utilising the provision for training (or matches).

Given the level of shortfall on grass rugby union pitches in Solihull (currently 18 match equivalent sessions currently and 21.5 match equivalent sessions when factoring in future demand from population growth), the creation of World Rugby compliant provision would be warranted as a means to reducing the shortfalls.

<sup>5</sup> Based on how pitches are split within a full size 3G pitch

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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Where new pitches are to be sought, focus should therefore be placed on accommodating demand from sites with shortfalls such as Berkswell & Balsall Rugby Club, Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club, Camp Hill Rugby Club, Old Edwardians Sports Club and Old Yardleians Rugby Club. Pitches could be developed in situ for the host clubs, or nearby providing sufficient access was enabled. This is to improve the supply and not to enable the dispersal of existing pitches.

When establishing the creation of World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision, this could be through developing provision primarily for rugby union. Alternatively, the provision could be established in conjunction with reducing 3G shortfalls for football, although this may necessitate the need for more pitches as the outcomes for football would be reduced.

Proposals for a 3G pitch at Silhillians Sports Club (as well as refurbishing its sand-based pitch) could provide an opportunity and be an ideal site to establish World Rugby compliant provision given significant usage of the grass pitch provision on site and the amount of overplay identified for both football and rugby union. In addition, both Solihull FC and Silhillians RUFC identify that the pitch could be used to transfer demand away from the grass football and rugby union pitches.

As part of the Solihull Mitigation Strategy, it identifies that the creation of a 3G pitch could be provided as part of mitigation packages for several sites subject to allocation in the Local Plan Review, with this specifically referencing the relocation of Old Yardleians RUFC. Currently, 6.25 match equivalent sessions per week of overplay exist on its pitches, of which five match equivalent sessions are received for training demand. This could therefore be transferred to 3G pitch provision to reduce the level of overplay.

As part of proposals at Box Tree's Farm, it is suggested that Birmingham Civil Service RUFC could transfer to the site via a grass pitch. If the proposed 3G pitch on site was to also be World Rugby compliant, this would ensure that the Club could accommodate all of its previous demand levels without any overplay, although at present it is only proposed to be used for football activity. The Club currently uses The Land Rover Sports & Social Club and previously had two senior teams, although it will now not be fielding any formally, instead focusing on social, touch and walking rugby as well as junior and female recruitment. The RFU reports that the lack of certainty over its home ground has had a big impact on the Club and its demand.

### *Other sporting requirements*

Gaelic football activity is currently recorded as taking place on the 3G pitch at Páirc na hÉireann. As the pitch is not currently accounted for within the modelling for football, priority should be placed on ensuring it can continue to accommodate Gaelic football demand, with this in turn ensuring no grass pitch issues at the site.

A 3G pitch with sports lighting is also proposed at Box Tree's Farm, although as referenced previously, the current position is that this will only be for football usage. Gaelic football activity is to be solely based on the grass pitches.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified shortfalls, with priority placed on establishing pitches in the North and Rural analysis areas.
- ◀ Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy rugby union demand; or, explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and rugby union appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.



# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions (and RFU dimensions where required).
- ◀ Seek FIFA/FA testing of all existing and new 3G pitches and ensure re-testing when it is required (every three years) so that pitches are on and remain on the FA pitch register to enable affiliated match play.
- ◀ For any pitches built to RFU specifications, seek World Rugby compliancy so that they can be used for full contact rugby union activity and ensure re-testing when it is required (every two years).
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.
- ◀ Ensure all 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and seek to resurface provision when it is required.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ◀ Ensure continued access to 3G provision for other grass pitch sports where it is currently recorded.

## Cricket squares

### Assessment Report summary

#### Cricket – supply and demand summary

- ◀ No actual spare capacity is identified at peak time for senior men's cricket (Saturday), whereas 99 match equivalent sessions exist on a Sunday and 68 match equivalent sessions exist midweek.
- ◀ In total, 13 sites are overplayed by a total of 300 match equivalent sessions a season, which is significant.
- ◀ Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket squares in Solihull to cater for all forms of cricket (Saturday, Sunday and midweek).

#### Cricket – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 26 grass cricket squares in Solihull provided across 21 sites, of which 22 squares are available for community use across 20 sites (Solihull School is unavailable).
- ◀ There are also a total of 23 active NTPs across Solihull with 11 accompanying grass wicket squares and the remaining 12 being standalone.
- ◀ There are also three sites that are either active sites which have previously accommodated cricket provision, or which are completely disused cricket sites (Dickens Heath Sports Club, Silhillians Sports Club and Land Rover Sports & Social Club).
- ◀ The Solihull Mitigation Strategy outlines a potential need for cricket provision to be included within the creation of hub sites across the Borough, whilst an aspiration exists to also improve the facilities at Lode Heath School.
- ◀ Dorridge CC reports that it is in the process of developing a second grass wicket square at Broadacre to field all of its teams at one site.
- ◀ Security of tenure concerns exist for Solihull Superkings, Solihull United and Catherine de Barnes cricket clubs.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket squares in Solihull found 14 to be good quality and eight to be standard quality (none are assessed as poor quality).
- ◀ Two sites are categorised as having poor quality ancillary provision, with these being Castle Bromwich Playing Fields and Old Edwardians Sports Club.
- ◀ There are 12 supplying 31 practice net bays, whilst Hampton & Solihull and Woodbourne cricket clubs want provision at their sites (Tippetts Field and Woodbourne Sports Club).

#### Cricket – demand summary

- ◀ There are 18 clubs playing in Solihull which collectively provide 207 teams, equating to 70 senior men's, nine senior women's and 128 junior teams.
- ◀ There has been a large increase in demand over recent years with some clubs seeing significant participation increases.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Berkswell CC, Knowle & Dorridge CC and Solihull Blossomfield CC all report latent/unmet demand.
- ◀ University of Birmingham and Sheldon Marlborough CC import some demand into Solihull, whereas Berkswell, Earlswood, Hockley Heath, Solihull Blossomfield, Solihull United and Tanworth & Camp Hill export demand outside of the Borough.
- ◀ Two disability cricket hubs are operating at Castle Bromwich Playing Fields and Knowle and Dorridge Cricket Club, with sessions at both venues taking place on Friday evenings.
- ◀ A total of 15 clubs undertake All Stars cricket, whilst 13 undertake Dynamo's and eight have women's softball demand.
- ◀ There are also substantial levels of additional demand for cricket, including Complete Cricket, LL Cricket League and Arden Sunday League.
- ◀ Future demand from population forecasts equates to the predicted growth of six senior men's, one senior women's, nine junior boys' and one junior girls teams (up to 2037), whereas 11 clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation amounting to a total predicted growth of 30 teams.

## Scenarios

### *Improving quality/addressing overplay*

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay (e.g., at Marston Green Recreation Ground), a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. As such, attempts should be made to reduce identified overplay, although it is recognised that many clubs do not necessarily believe that there are capacity issues and are able to accommodate such excess demand. This means that they are not always open to potential solutions (e.g., NTP installation).

Improving quality is one way to increase capacity, albeit many of the overplayed sites in Solihull are already considered to be good quality, and none are considered to be poor. Nevertheless, the impact of improving all overplayed squares to good quality is shown in the table below.

Table 4.22: Overplay if all squares were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	No. of squares	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
6	Balsall & Berkswell Football Club	1	Standard	24	20
13	Blossomfield Club	1	Good	33	33
15	Broadacre (Dorridge Cricket Club)	1	Good	35	35
17	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	1	Good	11	11
30	Earlswood Cricket Club	1	Good	8	8
39	Grove Lane	1	Good	30	30
40	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	1	Standard	35	29
71	Marston Green Recreation Ground	1	Standard	4	12
77	Moseley Cricket Club	1	Standard	23	5
81	Old Edwardians Sports Club	1	Standard	24	14
105	Solihull Municipal Club	1	Good	20	20
116	The Lant Playing Field	1	Standard	25	15
123	West Warwickshire Sports Complex	1	Good	28	28

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

As seen, only the square at Marston Green Recreation Ground would have overplay eradicated, with 12 match equivalent sessions per season of actual spare capacity created. In addition, improving quality would reduce existing overplay on the squares at Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club, Moseley Cricket Club, Old Edwardians Sports Club and The Lant Playing Field, although some level of deficit will remain.

In total, 64 match equivalent sessions of overplay would be alleviated. This would reduce current shortfalls for all forms of cricket, although a significant level of overplay would still remain, as shown in the following table.

Table 4.23: Current supply and demand balance if overplayed squares improved to good

Playing format	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Saturday	300	236
Sunday	258	194
Midweek	248	184

It would also reduce future shortfalls, as evidenced below.

Table 4.24: Future supply and demand balance if overplayed squares improved to good

Playing format	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential total
Saturday	372	308
Sunday	264	200
Midweek	292	228

Most of the overplayed sites do not have an NTP, and thus by installing them could help to reduce overplay and allow the transfer of junior demand away from the grass wickets, providing sufficient space exists (further investigation is required to determine suitability). The following overplayed sites are without an NTP:

- ✦ Balsall & Berkswell Football Club
- ✦ Blossomfield Club
- ✦ Broadacre (Dorridge Cricket Club)
- ✦ Castle Bromwich Playing Fields
- ✦ Earlswood Cricket Club
- ✦ Grove Lane
- ✦ Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club
- ✦ Marston Green Recreation Ground
- ✦ Moseley Cricket Club
- ✦ Old Edwardians Sports Club
- ✦ West Warwickshire Sports Complex

Only the Lant Playing Field has recorded overplay with an existing NTP. Therefore, greater utilisation of the artificial provision should be encouraged.

An alternative approach to installing an NTP could be to establish hybrid wickets at overplayed sites, although the exact impact this can have on capacity has not yet been fully determined. The ECB and WCB identify that sites such as Blossomfield Club, Balsall & Berkswell Football Club, Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club, Solihull Municipal Club and West Warwickshire Sports Complex could be suitable for this due to the amount of demand accommodated and the level of play undertaken.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## *Enabling increased community access/establishing new provision*

Given the extent of the existing shortfalls across Solihull, there is likely to be a need for additional grass wicket squares given that it may not be feasible to undertake all the quality improvements and NTP installations required (and with this likely to have minimal impact at some sites). The table below therefore explores exactly how many squares would be needed within each analysis area to fully address shortfalls, based on no other scenarios being undertaken and based on a site being able to provide an average of 10 good quality wickets.

Table 4.25: Number of squares potentially required to alleviate shortfalls

Analysis area	Current shortfall (match equivalent sessions)	No. of squares potentially required to meet shortfall
Central	128	3
Rural	50	1
North	152	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>7</b>

In the Rural Analysis Area, a second square is being developed at Broadacre (Dorridge Cricket Club), where a high level of existing overplay is recorded (35 match equivalent sessions). This is currently being constructed and it is thought that it will be ready for play ahead of the 2024 season, albeit with limited use, and fully available for the 2025 season.

In addition, it is proposed that hub sites will be created across Solihull as part of the wider Mitigation Strategy, with some identifying a clear need for the inclusion of cricket provision. The PPOSS supports this based on the shortfalls identified. This particularly relates to the Balsall Common area, although this is more of a long-term plan to accommodate increased demand from proposed housing growth. This could help to reduce overplay, particularly for Berkswell CC, which is within the locality.

In the Central Analysis Area, an alternative option to establishing new provision could be to try and secure access to provision currently unavailable for community use at Solihull School, where four squares are provided. However, due to internal usage, this would not have as big of an impact on reducing shortfalls as new squares would.

Bringing disused grass wicket squares back into use could also be an option, with three identified across Solihull. These are located at Dickens Heath Sports Club (Rural Analysis Area), Silhillians Sports Club (Rural Analysis Area) and Land Rover Sports & Social Club (Central Analysis Area). The latter would be particularly beneficial given area shortfalls and the lack of alternative options/proposals.

Notwithstanding the above, bringing the disused grass wicket squares back into use could impact on the other pitch sports played at the sites (including football and rugby union) as the outfields would be used. This is particularly the case at Silhillians Sports Club, where other pitches are already overplayed. As such, any re-instatement would need to be carefully managed, particularly when seasons overlap, and an adequate maintenance regime would need to be put into place.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## *Accommodating exported demand*

There are currently several clubs that field teams outside of Solihull each week as demand cannot be accommodated on existing provision due to the lack of peak time capacity. This applies to three senior and three junior teams from Earlswood CC, two senior teams each from Berkswell CC and Solihull Blossomfield CC and four senior teams from Solihull United CC. The impact of accommodating this within Solihull is evidenced in the table below.

Table 4.26: Supply and demand balance if exported demand returned to the Borough

Playing format	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Saturday	300	432
Sunday	258	258
Midweek	248	290

As seen, shortfalls would significantly increase, and there is no clear means to accommodating all the demand without improving access to sites (e.g., schools) or without establishing new provision or bringing disused squares back into use. In total, six squares are required based on 11 senior teams needing to be accommodated at peak time (on a Saturday), with junior demand able to be fit in alongside this through midweek and Sunday access.

## *Accommodating future demand*

In total, 11 cricket clubs in Solihull express future demand, which if realised will further exacerbate existing shortfalls for all formats of play. The table below therefore studies the future demand on a club-by-club basis to better understand what can and cannot be accommodated on the existing level of supply.

Table 4.27: Accommodating future demand

Club	Future demand			Comments
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior	
Castle Bromwich CC	1	-	2	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.
Dorridge CC	1	1	-	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.
Hampton & Solihull CC	-	1	2	Site will become overplayed if demand is realised.
Knowle & Dorridge CC	-	1	-	Site will become overplayed if demand is realised.
Knowle Village CC	-	-	1	Junior demand could be accommodated on the existing NTP.
Moseley CC	-	1	-	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.
Olton & West Warwickshire CC	-	1	3	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.
Solihull Blossomfield CC	1	-	2	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.
Solihull Municipal CC	-	-	2	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.
Solihull Superkings CC	4	-	1	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Club	Future demand			Comments
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior	
Solihull United CC	2	2	1	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.

As seen, only one of the clubs could accommodate their future demand at the sites that they currently use (Knowle Village CC). As such, increased provision is required, again through accessing currently unavailable and/or unused sites or through new pitches being established.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites overplayed and/or assessed as standard quality, and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Install additional NTPs and/or hybrid wickets to accompany grass wicket squares (where space allows), particularly where overplay is present and where it cannot be eradicated via quality improvements.
- ◀ Seek to maximise use of existing NTPs for junior, recreational and midweek demand.
- ◀ Explore creation of additional squares in order to eradicate all shortfalls and to accommodate all expressed exported and future demand.
- ◀ Seek to bring disused provision back into use to further reduce overplay and accommodate exported and future demand.
- ◀ Seek to secure access to squares not currently available for community use (e.g., at Solihull School, Lode Heath School, Alderbrook School, St Peters School, Solihull Sixth Form College and Lighthall School) as a further means to accommodating demand.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place, particularly for Catherine-de-Barnes, Solihull Superkings and Solihull United cricket clubs.
- ◀ Improve the changing facilities where there is a need to do so e.g., at Castle Bromwich Playing Fields and Old Edwardians Sports Club.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities where demand exists to do so and consider the creation of additional practice nets at publicly open sites (e.g., parks and recreation grounds) to encourage and increase recreational demand.
- ◀ Create additional NTPs where required to further support the recreational and informal game (e.g., at park sites).
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is adequately provided for.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing or new cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g., through ball-strike issues).

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Rugby union - grass pitches

### Assessment Report summary

#### Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Only two pitches are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in senior rugby, with this totalling one match equivalent session per week.
- ◀ There are 13 senior pitches across eight sites that are overplayed by a total of 19 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There is a current capacity shortfall of 18 match equivalent sessions per week on rugby union pitches, increasing to 21.5 when accounting for future demand.

#### Rugby union - supply summary

- ◀ There are 41 grass rugby union pitches identified across 19 sites, of which 39 pitches are available for community use across 17 sites.
- ◀ The emerging Solihull Local Plan proposes new site allocations that could impact on grass rugby union pitch provision and Site Allocation 4 entails the loss of pitches at Old Yadleians Rugby Club.
- ◀ Another development to be considered relates to The Land Rover Sports & Social Club, with Jaguar Land Rover looking to develop car parking on a section of the site.
- ◀ A planning application has been submitted at Box Tree's Farm which includes the creation of a senior rugby union pitch (over marked by Gaelic football and football), with discussions taking place for the relocation of Birmingham Civil Service RUFC from The Land Rover Sports & Social Club.
- ◀ Two disused rugby union pitches are identified at Sharman's Cross and this is also subject to an allocation in the emerging Local Plan (Site Allocation 18).
- ◀ Tenure is unsecure for Birmingham Civil Service and Old Yardleians rugby clubs due to the abovementioned developments.
- ◀ Of pitches which are available for community use, there are 10 assessed as good quality, 25 as standard and four as poor.
- ◀ The ancillary facilities servicing Birmingham Civil Service, Berkswell & Balsall and Edwardian and Camp Hill rugby clubs are considered to be poor quality.

#### Rugby union - demand summary

- ◀ There are seven rugby clubs considered to be based in Solihull providing a total of 95 teams (16 senior men's, four senior women's, 39 age grade boys', three age grade girls' and 31 age grade mixed teams).
- ◀ Demand has increased significantly over recent years, with overall team numbers increasing from 68 to 95.
- ◀ All seven clubs currently use match pitches to accommodate training demand.
- ◀ Edwardian and Silhillians rugby clubs both report latent demand in that they would field more teams if they had access to increased pitch capacity.
- ◀ Five clubs (Berkswell & Balsall, Birmingham Exiles, Camp Hill, Edwardian and Silhillians rugby clubs) report future aspirations for additional teams, whilst population projections predict a growth of one senior men's, three age grade boys' and three age grade mixed teams.

## Scenarios

### Improving pitch quality

Maximising pitch quality through enhanced maintenance (M2) and the installation of drainage systems (D3) would alleviate overplay on three of the 13 overplayed pitches across Solihull. This is shown in the below table.

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.28: Capacity of overplayed pitches if quality improved to good (M2/D3)

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Sports -lit?	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Good quality rating (match equivalent sessions)
11	Berkswell & Balsall Rugby Club	Senior	2	Good	No	1.5	0.5
12	Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club	Senior	1	Standard	Yes	3.5	2.5
12	Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club	Age grade	1	Standard	No	0.5	1.25
16	Camp Hill Rugby Club	Senior	1	Good	Yes	0.5	0.5
81	Old Edwardians Sports Club	Senior	1	Good	Yes	2.75	2.5
81	Old Edwardians Sports Club	Senior	1	Standard	Yes	0.75	0.25
82	Old Yardleians Rugby Club	Senior	3	Standard	No	6.25	2.75
94	Shirley Park	Age grade	1	Standard	Yes	2	1
97	Silhillians Sports Club	Senior	2	Good	Yes	1.5	1

Overall, this would reduce current shortfalls from 18 match equivalent sessions to 7.5 match equivalent sessions across Solihull, whilst future shortfalls would reduce from 22 match equivalent sessions to 11 match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.29: Supply and demand balance of rugby union pitches with quality improvements

Demand	Capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Current	18	7.5
Future	21.5	11

Pitches located at Berkswell & Balsall Rugby Football Club, Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club, Old Edwardians Sports Club, Old Yardleians Rugby Club, Shirley Park and Silhillians Sports Club would still remain overplayed even if quality was maximised, although at reduced levels. This is predominately due to high levels of training demand on the provision.

### *Increasing access to training provision (grass pitches)*

Of the pitches that would remain overplayed despite quality improvements, the pitches at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club, Old Edwardians Sports Club, Silhillians Sports Club and Shirley Park are already serviced by sports lighting and are used to accommodate training demand. However, at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club, Silhillians Sports Club and Shirley Park, additional sports lighting could be created on the other pitches at the sites to enable training demand to be dispersed, which in turn would eradicate the shortfalls. In contrast, there is no onsite solution for the overplay at Old Edwardians Sports Club as all pitches are already serviced by sports lighting.



## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

At Berkswell & Balsall Rugby Club, installing additional sports lighting would increase capacity and eradicate overplay, as it is only minimal with 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week identified following quality improvements. One pitch at the site has spare capacity of one match equivalent session that can offset this.

At Old Yardleians Rugby Club, overplay could be reduced by installing sports lighting on pitches along with maximising quality improvements, although shortfalls would still remain. Therefore, additional pitch provision is required (or 3G pitch access).

### *Increasing pitch stock*

In addition to maximising pitch quality and sports lighting, additional pitch provision is required to fully alleviate identified shortfalls at Old Edwardians Sports Club and Old Yardleians Rugby Club. The table below therefore explores how many pitches are needed.

Table 4.30: Number of new pitches required to alleviate overplay

Site ID	Site name	Current capacity rating	Good quality rating	Club users	No. of pitches required
81	Old Edwardians Sports Club	3.5	2.5	Old Edwardians RUFC	1
82	Old Yardleians Rugby Club	6.25	2.75	Old Yardleians RUFC	1

As seen, one additional pitch is required for both clubs, providing it is established at a good quality (and that existing pitches are also improved).

In addition, if quality improvements and/or increased sports lighting is not possible at sites used by Berkswell & Balsall Common RUFC, Birmingham Exiles RUFC, Silhillians RUFC and Birmingham Civil Service RUFC (based on previous demand levels), each of these would also require one additional pitch to eradicate existing overplay.

An alternative to creating new pitches is the creation of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. To that end, the Solihull Mitigation Strategy identifies that one could be provided as part of the relocation of Old Yardleians Rugby Club alongside the reprovision of its grass pitches. This is supported by the findings of this study as it would alleviate the shortfalls identified, providing an adequate number of grass pitches are also provided.

Similarly, although shortfalls could be alleviated via improving quality and establishing additional sports lighting, a 3G pitch is also being proposed at Silhillians Sports Club. Providing this as World Rugby compliant (in addition to supporting football use) will lessen the need for other solutions at the site and help enable the Club's growth.

### *Accommodating future demand from club aspirations*

Future demand expressed through club aspirations and by the RFU based on its own targets projects the number of rugby union teams to grow by 19 teams across Solihull, which broken down equates to eight teams in the Central Analysis Area, five in the North Analysis Area and five teams in the Rural Analysis Area. This has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population growth; however, if such demand is realised, it will increase shortfalls throughout the Borough, as shown in the following table.

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.31: Supply and demand balance with future demand aspirations accounted for

Analysis area	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Central	6	9.75
North	3.75	8.75
Rural	8.25	10.75
<b>Solihull</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29.25</b>

This growth would further amplify the need to action other scenarios featured and in particular the need for additional pitches and/or access to World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision.

The table explores the impact of the future demand on a club-by-club basis and how it can be sufficiently accommodated.

Table 4.32: Summary of provision required to accommodate future demand aspirations

Club	Future team aspirations	Future demand (match sessions)	Comments
Berkswell & Balsall RUFC	1 x senior women's 1 x age grade girls	1	To accommodate current demand, the Club needs to improve its current pitch stock and access an additional pitch. This future demand would therefore entail a further pitch being required.
Birmingham Exiles RUFC	1 x senior men's 1 x senior women's 1 x age grade boys 1 x age grade girls 1 x age grade mixed	2.25	The age grade demand could be accommodated through quality improvements, whereas the senior demand would need access to an additional pitch as well as maximising quality improvements for the demand to be accommodated.
Camp Hill RUFC	1 x senior women's 1 x age grade girls	1	This demand could be accommodated one existing stock through improving quality.
Edwardian RUFC	1 x senior men's 2 x senior women's 1 x age grade boys 1 x age grade girls 1 x age grade mixed	2.75	To accommodate current demand, the Club needs to improve its current pitch stock and access an additional pitch. This future demand would entail a further pitch being required (or access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch).
Silhillians RUFC	1 x senior men's 1 x senior women's 1 x age grade girls	1.5	The age grade demand could be accommodated through improving the existing pitch stock, whereas the senior demand would need access to an additional pitch (or access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch).

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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In addition, especially for clubs with future demand for women's and girls' activity, it is imperative that the accompanying ancillary facilities are adequate in quality and inclusive. All rugby clubs which have a target to create female teams yet are currently serviced by only standard quality or poor quality provision.

### *Birmingham Civil Service RUFC*

At The Land Rover Sports & Social Club, Birmingham Civil Service RUFC previously had two senior teams but will now not be fielding any formally, instead focusing on social, touch and walking rugby as well as junior and female recruitment. This results in no current overplay at the site, whereas a shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions was present when teams were fielded.

The RFU reports that the lack of certainty over the provision at The Land Rover Sports & Social Club has had a big impact on the Club and its demand, with Jaguar Land Rover looking to develop car parking on a section of the site. Work is ongoing to determine what facilities could be retained and appropriate off-site mitigation for what is to be lost, with one senior rugby union pitch is currently provided at the venue.

As a resolution to the issues could see demand levels return (and potentially increase), it is imperative that the Club continues to be provided with at least one senior rugby union pitch, with this needing appropriate line markings, run off areas and posts in place. This also needs to be provided to an adequate quality as the poor quality nature of the existing provision was insufficient to meet previous usage levels without there being a capacity deficit.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches.
- ◀ Increase level of sports lighting at sites used by clubs to further alleviate overplay and to better accommodate training demand.
- ◀ Where pitch quality improvements and increased sports lighting cannot fully alleviate overplay, explore opportunities to supply affected clubs with increased pitch provision and/or World Rugby compliant 3G provision.
- ◀ Where World Rugby compliant 3G provision is provided, seek the transfer of demand from overplayed grass pitches.
- ◀ Ensure future demand can be adequately accommodated, particularly in regard to women's and girls' demand.
- ◀ Improve the ancillary facilities servicing the clubs and ensure facilities are inclusive and have appropriate segregation.
- ◀ Seek to provide increased security of tenure for clubs at their home grounds where it is required.
- ◀ Retain the stock of pitches at education sites for continued curricular and extra-curricular usage and encourage improved club links where possible.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Rugby league – grass pitches

### *Assessment Report summary*

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ As not enough demand is identified within Solihull to warrant creation of a team there is no current requirement to provide rugby league pitches within the Borough.
- ◀ Current demand can be met outside of Solihull providing demand is signposted to relevant clubs (e.g., in Birmingham).

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches in Solihull.
- ◀ Provision is provided in the neighbouring authority of Birmingham (through Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC and Erdington Griffins Juniors RLFC)

#### **Demand summary**

- ◀ No demand has been identified for rugby league in Solihull.
- ◀ In Birmingham, Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC fields a solitary senior team, although it also has a junior section that take part in regular training sessions, whereas Erdington Griffins RLFC fields four junior teams.

## **Scenarios**

### *Meeting rugby league demand*

As there is no known formal demand for rugby league in Solihull, there is no strategic need for provision to be developed.

Notwithstanding the above, due to high demand in neighbouring Birmingham, if suitable provision was to be established, it is likely that some demand would import into the Borough to make use of a secondary venue from Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC and Erdington Griffins Juniors RLFC. However, it is unclear as to whether this would be sufficient enough to make a pitch financially viable/sustainable.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Should any sites within Solihull be identified as potential to accommodate either Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC or Erdington Griffins RLFC, work with the RFL and relevant stakeholders to determine the feasibility.

## Hockey - artificial grass pitches

### *Assessment Report summary*

#### **Hockey – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ It is determined that supply is sufficient to meet match play demand, with spare capacity remaining for growth and an increase in usage.
- ◀ In terms of training, capacity issues are identified for three of the four hockey clubs.
- ◀ Overall, there is currently a sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches, although action is required to relieve the capacity pressures that exist, predominately in regards to training.

#### **Hockey – supply summary**

- ◀ There are eight full size hockey suitable AGPs in Solihull located across seven sites (Solihull School provides two pitches).
- ◀ Each pitch is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ In addition to the full size AGPs, there are also four smaller size hockey suitable pitches located across the Borough, although none are suitable for purposeful hockey demand.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Four of the full size AGPs are owned and managed by schools, three by sports clubs and the remaining pitch at North Solihull Sports Centre is managed by Everyone Active, on behalf of the Council.
- ◀ Security of tenure is limited, especially at schools with clubs accessing the pitches through short-term arrangements only.
- ◀ Most pitches offer full availability during the peak period, with the only exception being at Lode Heath School where midweek hours are somewhat restricted.
- ◀ Of the full size pitches, six are assessed as poor quality and the remaining two pitches are assessed as good, both located at Solihull School.
- ◀ Old Silhillians HC cites aspirations for the development of a second full size pitch at Silhillians Sports Club.

## Hockey – demand summary

- ◀ There are currently four community hockey clubs playing in Solihull, collectively catering for 986 members and 63 teams.
- ◀ Compared to data collected in 2019, the number of hockey teams has increased from 57 to 63 teams, despite a reduction in senior men's activity.
- ◀ Back to Hockey sessions take place at Solihull School via Old Silhillians HC.
- ◀ Old Silhillians, Olton & West Warwickshire and Solihull Blossomfield all report plans to grow their demand in the future.
- ◀ Olton & West Warwickshire HC reports latent/unmet demand in that current pitch capacity is impacting on demand and potential growth.
- ◀ Based on current demand, pitches at Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club, Silhillians Sports Club and West Warwickshire Sports Complex do not have capacity for an increase in demand, although the remainder do.

## Scenarios

### *Accommodating match play demand*

One full size hockey pitch with sports lighting is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day, which equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time based on them playing on a home and away basis (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' pitch).

Using the above, on the basis that there are eight full size AGPs available which can accommodate hockey matches in Solihull, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 32 matches and 64 teams across the Borough at peak time (on Saturdays). However, quality issues mean that some of the provision cannot be used, whilst limited availability at some sites reduces the overall capacity further. This results in the overall capacity in Solihull being reduced to 54 teams and 27 match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.33: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for match play

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Number of teams		Comments
				Potential capacity	Actual capacity	
40	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	North	1	8	8	Full availability
65	Lode Heath School	Central	1	8	6	Availability reduced to football usage received
79	North Solihull Sports Centre	North	1	8	0	Poor quality and currently unused

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Number of teams		Comments
				Potential capacity	Actual capacity	
91	Saint Martin's School	Central	1	8	8	Full availability
97	Silhillians Sports Club	Rural	1	8	8	Full availability
106	Solihull School	Central	2	16	16	Full availability
123	West Warwickshire Sports Complex	Central	1	8	8	Full availability
<b>Total</b>				<b>64</b>	<b>54</b>	-

Based on 40 senior teams currently playing in the Borough, there is sufficient provision to cater for peak time demand. However, it is also clear that for this remain the case, all pitches require protection, other than the one at North Solihull Sports Centre.

### *Accommodating training demand*

In terms of capacity for training, most AGPs in Solihull have high levels of existing usage, with spare capacity for growth minimal. This is exacerbated by additional usage from other sports, most predominately football, which further reduces availability for hockey clubs at desired times. The table below summarises the existing position for clubs at the sites they currently access.

Table 4.34: Hockey pitch training capacity by club

Club	Site/s used	Capacity summary
Hampton-in-Arden HC	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	No remaining spare capacity
Old Silhillians HC	Silhillians Sports Club	No remaining spare capacity
	Solihull School	Spare capacity exists
Olton & West Warwickshire HC	Lode Heath School	No remaining spare capacity
	Solihull School	Spare capacity exists
	West Warwickshire Sports Complex	No remaining spare capacity
Solihull Blossomfield HC	Saint Martin's School	Spare capacity exists
	Solihull School	Spare capacity exists

As seen, capacity issues are present for three of the four hockey clubs, with this particularly pressing for Hampton-in-Arden HC given that it currently only uses one venue (which is at capacity).

In addition, whilst theoretical spare capacity exists for Old Silhillians, Olton & West Warwickshire and Solihull Blossomfield hockey clubs, it must be noted that all three are competing for capacity at the same venue (Solihull School). Whilst the site has capacity for an increase in usage, this does not mean it could accommodate increases from all three clubs, which links to the latent demand expressed by Olton & West Warwickshire HC.

To free up capacity, the 3G recommendations set out previously should be carried out as an increase in 3G provision will enable football demand to be transferred away from the sand-based pitch stock. This will then free up midweek capacity for hockey clubs. However, this does not take into account if any informal activity exists, and therefore some football demand would likely still remain on the sand-based provision.

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

An aspiration also exists at Silhillians Sports Club for the creation of a second full size hockey suitable pitch. This offers another potential solution for addressing capacity pressures, although further investigation is required to ensure that it is warranted and that it will not impact on the sustainability of other provision (e.g., at Solihull School). Furthermore, it must be assured that any development does not negatively impact on other sports at the site (e.g., football and rugby union), such as through reducing or removing pitch sizes and/or run off areas.

### *Accommodating future demand*

When accounting for future demand, clubs in Solihull aspire to grow by 13 additional teams in total (eight senior and five senior teams).

Of the future demand, five teams are projected by Olton & West Warwickshire HC. The Club states that it would need more hours at Solihull School and Lode Heath School to accommodate this demand. In contrast, Old Silhillians and Solihull Blossomfield hockey clubs report that their future demand can be accommodated at Silhillians Sports Club for the former and Saint Martin's School for the latter.

The table below highlights the current and future capacity of the AGPs in Solihull on the basis that four match equivalent sessions per week of match play can be catered for within the peak period (Saturday 09:00-17:00).

Table 4.35: Summary of capacity at peak time for senior hockey (Saturday) if future demand is realised.

Site ID	Site name	Peak time availability (Saturday)	Capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity (teams)	Usage (match equivalent sessions)	Usage (teams)
65	Lode Heath School	09:00-17:00	4	8	2	4
106	Solihull School	09:00-17:00	4	8	2	4
<b>Future demand (club aspirations)</b>						
65	Lode Heath School	09:00-17:00	4	8	3	6
106	Solihull School	09:00-17:00	4	8	-	4

As seen, the pitches at Lode Heath School and Solihull School display spare capacity, even with future demand aspirations included.

Notwithstanding the above, in order to accommodate the expressed future demand, additional capacity for midweek training is also required. There is also a clear need to secure tenure at most venues and to improve quality given that many pitches have reached the end of their lifespan and are considered poor quality.

The provision identified at the following sites are in need of imminent resurfacing:

- ◀ Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club
- ◀ Lode Heath School
- ◀ North Solihull Sports Centre
- ◀ Saint Martin's School
- ◀ Silhillians Sports Club
- ◀ West Warwickshire Sports Complex

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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Of these, five are in current use for hockey, whilst the remaining one at North Solihull Sports Centre is not currently in use for club hockey and is being considered for conversion to a 3G surface.

### *North Solihull Sports Centre feasibility study*

An emerging feasibility study in relation to the North Solihull Sports Centre identifies that the site is suitable for the creation of a full size 3G pitch as part of a wider development. This would be in replacement of the sand-based pitch which is not required for hockey based on current demand, with EH also confirming that no clubs require access for match play or training based on its location. As such, the conversion from sand-based to a 3G surface should be supported.

Glades FC is identified as a potential user of the pitch at North Solihull Sports Centre should it be converted to 3G. This is important as the Club is currently a significant user of the sand-based pitch at Lode Heath School, where additional capacity for hockey is required.

### *Protecting sand-based AGPs for hockey*

As seven of the full size pitches located in Solihull are used extensively for hockey, none of them should be considered for 3G pitch conversion unless a replacement pitch in a suitable location is provided. As such, all the pitches should be protected for future hockey usage and attempts should be made for this to be ensured through planning management e.g., through having permitted development rights removed (meaning planning permission would be required for a surface change).

To clarify, the pitch at North Solihull Sports Centre can be converted to 3G, but all remaining pitches required protection for hockey.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ With the exception of the pitch at North Solihull Sports Centre, protect all of the full size pitches for continued hockey usage.
- ◀ Resurface pitches that have reached the end of their recommended lifespans and ensure sinking funds are in place at all sites to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Look to improve security of tenure for all clubs through long-term community use agreements.
- ◀ Seek to increase capacity of pitches for hockey demand where capacity pressures exist through the transfer of football demand to existing and new 3G pitches.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.



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## Other sports- baseball/softball

### *Assessment Report summary*

#### **Other grass pitch sports – Baseball/softball supply and demand summary**

- It is considered that there is sufficient provision to cater for the current levels of baseball/softball within Solihull on the premise that Birmingham Softball Club have continued access to Marston Green Recreation Ground.

#### **Other grass pitch sports – Baseball/softball supply summary**

- There is one dedicated baseball diamond, located at Marston Green Recreation Ground.

#### **Other grass pitch sports – Baseball/softball demand summary**

- Birmingham Baseball Club originates in Solihull and comprises of circa 40 members and consists of two senior teams.
- The Club trains on Wednesday evenings, whilst matches are played on Saturday afternoons, all at Marston Recreation Ground.

## Other grass pitch sports – Gaelic football

### *Assessment Report summary*

#### **Other grass pitch sports – Gaelic football supply and demand summary**

- Through provision at Páirc na hÉireann and supplementary facilities at Box Tree's Farm and Old Damson Lane, Gaelic football is seemingly being well provided for within Solihull.
- However, some capacity issues are identified, which leads to John Mitchel's GAA having expansion plans at Box Tree's Farm.

#### **Other grass pitch sports – Gaelic football supply summary**

- Páirc na hÉireann is a central hub of Gaelic football provision in the region, also acting as Warwickshire GAA's headquarters and offering two grass pitches and a full size 3G pitch.
- In addition, there is a further Gaelic football pitch supplied on land behind Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club (Old Damson Lane).
- Box Tree's Farm also supplies a Gaelic football pitch, with this used for additional activity by John Mitchel's GAA.
- The pitches at Páirc na hÉireann are rated as good quality, whereas the pitches at Box Tree's Farm and Old Damson Lane is standard.
- No changing facilities are provided at Old Damson Lane or Box Tree's Farm.
- At Box Tree's Farm, a planning application has been submitted for the development of additional provision; this will include another Gaelic football pitch (over marked by rugby union and football) and a 3G pitch, as well as a large clubhouse and car parking.

#### **Other grass pitch sports – Gaelic football demand summary**

- Sean McDermott's GAA comprises of 300 members and consists of one senior men's, one senior women's, seven junior boys' and three juniors' girls' teams.
- The Club generally trains at Old Damson Lane and uses Páirc na hÉireann for match play.
- John Mitchel's GAA comprises of 200-300 members and consists of several junior teams representing in addition to five adult teams.
- The Club's senior teams play matches at Páirc na hÉireann, due to it being the county ground, whereas matches for its remaining teams and all training takes place at Box Tree's Farm.
- John Mitchel's GAA reports that it has reached capacity at Box Tree's Farm, with this linking to its expansion plans.

## Scenarios

No suitable scenarios have been identified, with the following recommendations instead considered necessary based on the supply and demand findings.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Ensure continued access to Marston Green Recreation Ground for Birmingham Baseball Club.
- ◀ Ensure continued use of the dedicated provision for Gaelic football activity for as long as it is required.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility for the development of additional provision at Box Tree's Farm providing a robust business plan is in place, particularly in relation to the 3G pitch.
- ◀ Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are provided.

## **Bowling greens**

### **Assessment Report summary**

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Only one of the greens is currently operating above the capacity limit, with this being at Tippetts Field (used by Solihull Marsh Lane BC), although no issues are reported.
- ◀ With no affected clubs reporting any issues and with all remaining greens having capacity for growth, currently supply is considered sufficient to meet demand.
- ◀ Whilst no shortfalls are identified, with all but one green in current club use, it is also clear that most of the supply requires protection to ensure that demand can continue to be accommodated.

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ There are 16 crown green bowls greens in Solihull provided across 15 sites, in addition to two flat greens at two sites.
- ◀ There are two crown greens (at West Warwickshire Sports Complex and The Land Rover Sports and Social Club) that have been identified as disused, although both sites are still active for other sports.
- ◀ Tenure issues exist for Greville Arms, Old Tavern and Bradford Arms bowls clubs due to only rental agreements existing, as well as Hockley Heath BC and Marston Green BC on account of their lease arrangements nearing expiry.
- ◀ None of the crown greens or flat greens in Solihull are serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ Across the Borough, seven crown greens are assessed as good quality, nine as standard quality and none as poor quality, whereas both flat greens are standard quality.
- ◀ Solihull Marsh Lane, Solihull RBL and Woodbourne bowls clubs all state a need for their ancillary facilities to improve.

#### **Demand summary**

- ◀ There are 16 clubs using bowling greens, with membership, where known, equating to 677 members, made up of 458 senior men, 198 senior women and 21 juniors.
- ◀ For crown green bowls, there are 14 clubs and 607 members, with this equating to 423 senior men, 163 senior women and 21 juniors, whereas there are 70 flat green members (although data is unknown for one of the two clubs).
- ◀ The average membership across the clubs is 43 for crown greens and 70 for flat greens.
- ◀ Despite a correlation of the national trend of declining membership, only Hockley Heath BC reports a decrease in membership numbers, with most remaining clubs reporting static participation.
- ◀ Five crown bowls clubs report that their greens are also available for pay and play, although take-up is seemingly low.
- ◀ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision and that no potential members are being turned away, suggesting that there is no latent or unmet demand.
- ◀ Seven crown green and one flat green club report future demand aspirations, with this equating to an overall growth of 118 members (80 senior and 48 junior).

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### **Scenarios**

#### *Impact of accommodating current and future demand*

BCGBA or Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green operating with a membership of over 80 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand.

In Solihull, where membership is known, one green is currently operating above the membership threshold, located at Tippetts Field (used by Solihull Marsh Lane BC). However, the Club does not express any capacity issues and suggests that both current and future demand can be accommodated via the existing provision. As such, despite high levels of demand, there is no identified requirement for additional green space, although support is required to ensure that this remains the case.

Similarly, none of the other clubs report any capacity issues and none report any latent or unmet demand. As such, no action is currently required, other than to continue monitoring the clubs to ensure that their demand is met.

#### *Achieving club sustainability*

It is suggested that clubs operating with a membership of below 20 members per green could be unsustainable and at risk from folding. In Solihull, Pavilions BC is operating below this with just 13 members, although it does have future demand to increase this to 58.

Given its current low membership, the Club should be supported to increase its demand and that it remains operational. As an example of how this could be achieved, the green is currently assessed as standard quality so improving it to good could help demand grow.

#### *Disused provision*

Two disused bowling greens are identified in Solihull, with these being at Land Rover Sports & Social Club and West Warwickshire Sports Complex. With no clubs considered to have any demand for additional green space, no requirement for bringing them into use has been identified. As a result, the greens could be re-purposed for other sporting needs or kept as strategic reserve should demand for bowls increase in the future (e.g., a new club may form in the area).

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect all existing greens that are in use.
- ◀ Improve green quality at sites assessed as standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Seek to improve ancillary facility quality where it is necessary e.g., at Tippetts Field.
- ◀ Support clubs operating with a high membership to ensure demand continues to be met on their existing provision.
- ◀ Assist Pavilions BC in growing demand to more sustainable levels.
- ◀ Re-purpose disused greens for other sporting needs or hold as strategic reserve for any future demand.
- ◀ Support the implementation of new products to increase participation within the Borough i.e., Bowls Bash (a shortened format) and Play Bowls (pay and play participation).

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## Tennis courts

### *Assessment Report summary*

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ For club-based tennis, there is a perceived shortfall of provision in Solihull, particularly for Solihull Arden TC. However, no clubs report any issues, suggesting that there is no requirement for additional court space.
- ◀ For non-club activity, Solihull is seemingly well placed given the quality of most of its courts and the supporting infrastructure and technology that is in place, although a lack of sports lighting presents a clear problem as this will be limiting demand.

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ A total of 155 tennis courts are identified in Solihull across 35 sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 121 are categorised as being available for community use at 26 sites compared to 34 that are unavailable at nine sites.
- ◀ Mini tennis courts are provided at Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club, whilst three padel courts are located at Solihull Arden Club.
- ◀ Of the courts, 57 are operated by sports clubs, 23 by the Council, 73 by education providers and two are ran commercially.
- ◀ All clubs have security of tenure, either via freehold for their sites or long term lease agreements.
- ◀ Most courts have a macadam surface; there are 74 of this type compared to 57 artificial courts, six artificial clay courts, two clay courts and 16 polymeric courts.
- ◀ Only. Furthermore, whilst all clubs are serviced to some degree, no local authority courts are.
- ◀ 58 courts are assessed as good quality, 78 are standard quality and 19 are poor quality and included within the good quality stock are courts at Bentley Heath Recreation Ground, Knowle Park, Elmdon Park, Malvern Park and Shirley Park following recent improvements.
- ◀ Hampton-in-Arden TC reports that the ancillary provision at Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club is in poor condition, whilst Solihull Arden TC wishes to increase the amount of car parking at Tippetts Field.

#### **Demand summary**

- ◀ There are eight tennis clubs in Solihull, with membership equating to 3,149, where known through consultation.
- ◀ Club-based demand has seemingly increased in recent years, aligned to national trends.
- ◀ Informal and recreational tennis demand is relatively high and participation is aided through the implementation of LTA products (e.g., ClubSpark) at most local authority and park sites.
- ◀ All local authority courts are free to access, with the Council joining in partnership with the LTA to increase access and opportunities for all to play.
- ◀ There is one Local Tennis League (Solihull Tennis League) which recommends use of eight sites.
- ◀ LTA Youth Start is taking place at Shirley Park, Solihull Tennis Club and West Warwickshire Sports Complex.
- ◀

## **Scenarios**

### *Accommodating current and future club-based demand*

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The LTA suggests that a court without sports lighting can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Based on this, two clubs in Solihull have current apparent capacity issues, with these being Berkswell & Balsall TC (at Berkswell & Balsall Tennis Club) and Solihull Arden TC (at Solihull Arden Club). However, the membership at Solihull Arden TC also includes non-tennis playing members, which distorts the figures significantly.

For Berkswell & Balsall TC, it is already fully serviced by sports lighting. As such, the only way to fully alleviate capacity issues would be to provide each club with access to additional provision. To that end, with a deficit of only 15 members, only one additional court would be required. However, this minimal shortfall also means that it is likely that the existing stock can accommodate the demand, providing it is carefully managed.

### *Improving the recreational tennis offer*

Increasing recreational tennis demand is currently a priority for the LTA, with twice as many people playing casually rather than at clubs. To enable this, it has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

In Solihull, the following local authority sites have been identified for investment:

- ◀ Elmdon Park (three courts)
- ◀ Meriden Park (three courts)

Of these, the courts at Elmdon Park are due to be resurfaced, whilst the courts at Meriden Park are just being gated.

Such investment could be replicated at other local authority sites, particularly where quality is poor, including at:

- ◀ Meriden Sports Park (two courts)
- ◀ Olton Jubilee Park (two courts)

With only two courts provided at each of Meriden Sports Park and Olton Jubilee Park, there may also be an opportunity to develop more courts as part of the investment. The LTA identifies that those sites with a minimum of three courts and suitable ancillary facilities are more likely to deliver a sustainable tennis programme.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Explore options to provide increased sports lighting and, if required, court space to clubs operating above the capacity guidance.
- ◀ Explore the establishment of sports lighting at Council sites to increase capacity.
- ◀ Consider development of additional courts for recreational demand, potentially through adding more courts to existing sites such as Meriden Sports Park and Olton Jubilee Park.
- ◀ Where local authority courts are improved/established, ensure the operation of the provision is sustainable and in line with other recommendations.

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- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing courts where demand is, or could be, high.
- ◀ Support opportunities to add to the stock of padel courts at suitable sites (e.g., leisure centres) given its growing demand (separate to existing tennis courts) and seek to maximise activity.

## Netball courts

### Assessment Report summary

#### Supply and demand summary

- ◀ With the presence of five clubs as well as recreational activity and England Netball initiatives, there is a relatively high level of demand for netball identified across Solihull, although this is predominately taking place via indoor provision and/or in Birmingham.
- ◀ Increased utilisation of outdoor courts is being prevented due to a lack of security of tenure and because there is only one good quality court provided and very few sports-lit courts.

#### Supply summary

- ◀ There are 60 netball courts identified in Solihull across 20 sites, with 45 courts at 14 sites available for community use.
- ◀ 59 courts are operated by education providers, with the remaining court managed by a sports club at Marston Green Tennis Club.
- ◀ There are 48 courts with a macadam surface, eight with a polymeric surface and the remaining one court has an artificial surface.
- ◀ Only 11 courts (18%) are serviced by sports lighting across four sites, which represents a significantly low number.
- ◀ 42 netball courts are overmarked (e.g., by tennis courts) compared to only 17 that are dedicated for netball use (standalone).
- ◀ Of the courts, one is assessed as good quality, 45 as standard quality and 14 as poor quality, with the good quality court available to the community as well as 35 standard quality courts and nine poor quality courts.

#### Demand summary

- ◀ There are five netball clubs based in Solihull, although only Marston Green NC utilises outdoor provision (at Marston Green Tennis Club).
- ◀ The remaining four clubs (Elmdon, Foxes, Lyndon Centre and North Solihull Stars netball clubs) utilise indoor provision for training activity at Grace Academy, Lode Heath School, Solihull College & University Centre, Tudor Grange Leisure Centre and Alderbrook School).
- ◀ All affiliated match play demand takes place outside of Solihull, in Birmingham, via the use of central venues by the Birmingham Netball League and the Birmingham Intermediate League (exported demand).
- ◀ Some training demand is also exported due to lack of availability within Solihull and because of hire costs.
- ◀ Imported demand is identified through Aces NC, which is otherwise based in Birmingham.
- ◀ Foxes Little League operates in Solihull, with the indoor courts at Lighthall School utilised.
- ◀ Play Netball and Leisure Leagues run commercial leagues at St Peter's Catholic High School and Lighthall School, although this is via indoor provision.
- ◀ England Netball initiatives Back to Netball and Walking Netball are being operated via indoor provision at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ No clubs report any latent or unmet demand, and they all express demand to grow, although this is not quantified.

## Scenarios

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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No suitable scenarios have been identified, with the following recommendations instead considered necessary based on the supply and demand findings.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Secure community use at sites that are currently in use or that could be used in the future.
- ◀ Improve court quality at existing sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs and for England Netball initiatives (e.g., Alderbrook School, Grace Academy, Lighthall School and Lode Heath School).
- ◀ Establish additional sports lighting at venues in use for netball or at venues that could attract netball demand following installation.
- ◀ Seek to improve access to educational sites, particularly where quality is good and sports lighting is or could be provided.
- ◀ Ensure demand can continue to be accommodated outside of Solihull (e.g., in Birmingham) where this is the case through choice.

## **Athletics**

### **Assessment Report summary**

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There is considerable demand for athletics and running within Solihull, although via the track at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, supply is sufficient to meet this, providing qualitative improvements take place within the lifespan of this strategy.
- ◀ There is no requirement to retain the 400-metre track at North Solihull Sports Centre in its current form, although EA have recommended that athletics/running should continue to have a presence as part of the wider site development via a NewGen type development.
- ◀ Away from track and field activity, emphasis should be placed on supporting the other activities identified (e.g., Parkrun), with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ In Solihull, there are two full size purpose built outdoor athletics tracks provided, located at North Solihull Sports Centre and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ An emerging feasibility study in relation to North Solihull Sports Centre identifies that there is no strategic requirement to retain the existing 400m athletics track, although there is a need for some sort of athletics / running facility to be provided as part of the wider development.
- ◀ Both tracks are operated by Everyone Active on behalf of the Council.
- ◀ The provision at North Solihull Sports Centre is assessed as poor quality with significant signs of wear and tear evident, whilst the provision at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is assessed as standard quality, with resurface due within the lifespan of this study.
- ◀ Tudor Grange Leisure Centre has UKA TrackMark accreditation; North Solihull Sports Centre does not.

#### **Demand summary**

- ◀ There are four clubs in Solihull affiliated to England Athletics.
- ◀ Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club is a large athletics club with around 300 members based at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Centurion Running Club is a road running and track club that utilises provision at North Solihull Sports Centre for some of its activity.
- ◀ Balsall Common Run Club and Knowle & Dorrige Running Club utilise the road network for all activity and therefore do not have demand for access to a purpose-built facility.
- ◀ There is also currently one Run Together group in Solihull, based at Shirley Park.

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- ◀ Two Parkrun events are held weekly, at Babbs Mill Park and Malvern Park, as well as one junior Parkrun event at Malvern Park.
- ◀ Other running events are held annually including Solihull Half Marathon & 10k.
- ◀ No clubs express latent or unmet demand, suggesting that any latent or unmet demand that does exist is due to other barriers preventing participation, rather than a lack of club capacity.
- ◀ All clubs have aspirations to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Parkrun is likely to increase.

### **Scenarios**

#### *North Solihull Sports Centre Feasibility study*

An emerging feasibility study in relation to North Solihull Sports Centre identifies that there is no strategic need to retain the existing 400-metre athletics track at the site as the main track and field provision for the Borough is provided at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre. This is also reinforced by the fact that the track is not accessed any dedicated athletics club use, with only very limited use by a road running club (Centurion Road Runners). As such, it is not considered to be sustainable through England Athletics guidance and the space could be better utilised to accommodate other sporting provision.

However, consultation with England Athletics identifies that it would require athletics to be considered as part of the wider development of the site, and that the new facility mix could include one of its NewGen athletics facility concepts. This is primarily because it is accessed by a running club (Centurion Running Club) as well as Couch to 5k groups. Furthermore, the feasibility study only consulted with current user groups, meaning wider consultation is still required to further inform the potential development.

In addition, the loss of the 400-metre track at North Solihull Sports Centre will emphasise the requirement to protect the provision at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre and to resurface the track within the next 12-24 months. A condition survey has been produced which outlines required works.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protecting provision at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre for continued athletics activity
- ◀ Resurface the track at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre within the next two years to ensure demand can continue to be met.
- ◀ Ensure the track at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre remains TrackMark accredited.
- ◀ Consider improving sports lighting to LED at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ As part of the redevelopment at North Solihull Sports Centre, support wider development plans providing some form of alternative athletics provision is included, in line with England Athletics new generation of track products.
- ◀ Carry out additional consultation to inform provision requirements at the site.
- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Parkrun and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs/groups continue to have home bases to operate from and pursue improved security of tenure where it is required.



## PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via a combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

#### Recommendations:

- a) Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b) Secure affordable community access and tenure at sites for high quality, high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c) Provide clear guidance on community use agreements and seek to maximise community use of all facilities.

**Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

NPPF paragraph 103 states that 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.

Linked to this, the PPOSS and its findings should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields and ancillary facilities. All applications should be assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors and aligned to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of sports facilities and will use the PPOS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy. Sport England will object to proposals relating to developments impacting on playing field provision (and accompanying ancillary provision) unless at least one of its five policy exceptions is met.

The exceptions are:

- ◀ **Exception 1:** Excess of provision - a robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- ◀ **Exception 2:** Ancillary development - the proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.
- ◀ **Exception 3:** Land incapable of forming part of a pitch - the proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:
  - ◀ reduce the size of any playing pitch;
  - ◀ result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
  - ◀ reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain their quality;
  - ◀ result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site; or
  - ◀ prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site.
- ◀ **Exception 4:** Replacement provision of equivalent or better quality and quantity - the area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field:
  - ◀ of equivalent or better quality, and
  - ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity, and
  - ◀ in a suitable location, and
  - ◀ subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.
- ◀ **Exception 5:** New sports provision benefit outweighs the loss of the playing field - the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.

There are instances within the PPOSS where it is outlined that provision is not required. However, in such cases, this is only when it is not needed for the sport currently accommodated, with reconfiguration/replacement for another sporting use therefore proposed. A facility not being required for a specific sport does not equate to it being surplus to requirements in a broader playing pitch or outdoor sports sense as it can help meet other provision shortfalls.

### **Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.**

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in Solihull for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of such facilities has been classified as secure; however, it is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use, such as Grace Academy and Park Hall Academy. Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time. Securing community use will therefore help to create additional capacity and could help to address deficiencies.

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For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.

Given current budgetary pressures, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds for the acquisition and development of sites, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position manage assets and to apply for external funding for site improvements. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be enhanced and sites developed.

Local sports clubs that could be able to manage their own assets should be supported by partners including the Council and NGB's to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop business and sports development plans to show how facilities can be sustainable and to maximise income generation.

Relevant clubs could also be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>6</sup>. They should also be signposted to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of council sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/NGBs accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to maintain sites to the existing or better standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e., not those with a City-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of an accreditation award).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards the improvement of the site.</p>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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Furthermore, the Council could establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites.

As an example, outcomes may include:

- ◀ Increasing participation, particularly in target areas such as women's and girls' activity.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the sites remain available for other purposes and for other users.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain so that extensions can be secured, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site development. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding (unless the agreement has been recently entered into).

### **Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed**

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools and higher/further education establishments is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Solihull, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from providers to open up provision is also an issue, especially at academies and independent schools.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the venues and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

In some instances, facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large education sites offering several pitches, such as at Solihull School. Securing access to this site will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the Central Analysis Area, in which the school is located within.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the providers where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

As detailed earlier, NGBs, Sport England and other funding bodies can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant organisations or are going to receive investment in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

Where new schools are provided, these should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential impact of the provision. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

To enhance outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

### **Recommendations:**

- d) Improve quality
- e) Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f) Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.
- g) Secure developer contributions through Section 106 and the Community

### ***Recommendation (d) – Improve quality***

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets, it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g., the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which should be prioritised for improvement.

With pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include the use of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

### ***Addressing quality issues***

Quality in Solihull is variable but generally facilities are assessed as standard quality, although poor quality provision is more prevalent than good quality provision. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality pitches is also essential.

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the facilities tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that quality can vary year on year dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall, although maintenance regimes could be altered to reduce this impact.

If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues). Where this occurs, it is vital that the improvements are advertised and marketed towards potential users as their perception of the provision may need altering.

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer (although other provision can be key for income generation) and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.

For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.

For rugby union and rugby league, the respective NGBs are now also utilising Pitch Power, with reports being produced similar to those for football.

For cricket and the ECB, Pitch Power will also be utilised in the near future. The current equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the GMA. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England Wales.

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Specifically for tennis, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

For the improvement/replacement of 3G and hockey provision, this is most commonly linked to age, with any surfaces older than 10 years generally requiring replacement. Where pitches are provided, sinking funds should be put into place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when it is required.

### **Addressing overplay**

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock, it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match/usage limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, RFU, RFL, ECB and EH all recommend a maximum number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Table 5.2: Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	4 per day	4 per day	N/A

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

For cricket, an increase in NTPs is key to reducing overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ with existing squares or at other playing field sites such as parks and recreation grounds.

For rugby union, additional sports lighting, in conjunction with quality improvements, can further reduce levels of overplay at club sites as it allows clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting can be provided as an alternative.

Similarly, additional sports lighting can help resolve capacity issues for both tennis and netball as it can allow for greater court usage, especially during winter months.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but which are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality was improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

### **Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide and sporting context. As such, this takes into account the level of demand accommodated and the potential impact the recommended actions will have on addressing the identified shortfalls/issues. The proposed site-hierarchy is summarised in the following table.

Table 5.3: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches / facility types, generally including provision of an AGP (or potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches / facility types.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport but may cater for more at a basic level.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school/college/university with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers.



# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.
Additional benefits	Best placed for helping to meet Council targets, such as reducing health inequalities.	Well placed for helping to meet Council targets, such as reducing health inequalities, although at a more localised level.	Limited impact on meeting Council targets e.g., reducing health inequalities, although still capable of contributing.

**Hub sites** are of Borough-wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. Actions at these sites are likely to have a greater impact on addressing the issues identified in the PPOSS.

**Key centres** are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

**Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports.

For council sites in this tier, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites (especially those unattached) that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

## **Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners, in collaboration with the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need. This should be underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with the PPOSS able to be used as an evidence base for attracting investment.

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the PPOSS Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.

In order to address the needs of the community, as well as to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a co-ordinated approach to the strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners as well as through the PPOSS Steering Group as well as with neighbouring local authorities. Cross-border developments can accommodate demand from with Solihull (and vice versa) and lessen requirements within the Borough.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development. This includes delivery from education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector and can be informed via the Stage E process, with the Steering Group to continue to meet following adoption of this study (see Part 8 for further details).

### **Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions**

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing developments.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form the basis of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions and should aid the negotiation process with developers.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sport and by pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport and on that provision. That percentage is then applied to the population growth and the additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions. This then provides the associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) provided. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development (or group of developments) on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for contributions to be put towards improvements to increase the capacity of existing provision, or if new provision is required (or a combination of both). Where development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused.

The preference from Sport England and the NGBs is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

Where new provision is not required but where contributions to existing sites is instead to be sought, the PPOSS Action Plan should be used to identify suitable sites within the locality that should receive the funding. This may involve directing investment into provision most likely to receive demand from the housing development, or into provision that is most in need (e.g., due to quality issues).

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives which should be implemented to enable best use of the Calculator:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings (see Part 8 for further information).

### **OBJECTIVE 3**

To provide new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

#### **Recommendations:**

- h) Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current facility stock.
- i) Identify opportunities to increase to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

### **Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock**

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. To reduce the identified shortfalls, there is not necessarily a need for a significant level of new provision, with the current provision instead able to be better utilised to overcome most deficits. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity and/or to artificial surfaces.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g., converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage and secure tenure.
- ◀ Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- ◀ Establishing additional sports lighting.
- ◀ Installing artificial surfaces (e.g., NTPs).

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome, typically through pitch quality improvements to increase the carrying capacity of pitches, securing community use agreements for sites that do not provide security of tenure to ensure spare capacity can be fully utilised, and gaining access to unavailable sites to increase the pitch stock available to the community.

### **Recommendation (i) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not widely recommended as a priority, except for rugby union and cricket shortfalls and more widely for 3G and youth 11v11 football pitches, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

For rugby union and cricket, it is imperative that any new provision that is established will be accessed by relevant clubs (i.e., clubs with existing capacity issues). Typically, demand from both sports can be very club-orientated, which can make the use of secondary venues unlikely (and many are also inappropriate in regards to ancillary facilities and site management). Failure to provide pitches in the right location could therefore lead to the provision becoming unused and unsustainable.

## **SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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Large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision above and beyond what has been identified in the PPOSS. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the School to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the School as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

### *Site hierarchy*

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. This is done via classifying sites as hub sites, key centres or local sites.

### *Partners*

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council-operated venues).

### *Priority*

Although hub sites are most likely to have **high** priority actions, as they have wider importance, these have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are on occasion also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

The **low** priority actions tend to be where little work is required, or where the status quo can be maintained, or they are for single pitch or single sport sites with only local specific importance. However, the actions may still contribute to addressing issues for specific users and there may also be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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## **Costs**

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The brackets are:

- ◀ (L) -Low - less than £50k
- ◀ (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k
- ◀ (H) -High £250k and above

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:  
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

## **Timescales**

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

- ◀ (S) -Short (1-2 years)
- ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years)
- ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years)

## **Aim**

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three Sport England aims of the Strategy;  
**Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2037)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity total (match equivalent sessions)
Football (grass pitches)	Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	Solihull	Adult	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 9.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 12.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 3
Football (3G pitches)	Central	Full size	Shortfall of 0.75	Shortfall of 0.75
Cricket	Central	Saturday	Shortfall of 128	Shortfall of 164
		Sunday	Shortfall of 116	Shortfall of 116
		Midweek	Shortfall of 108	Shortfall of 124
	Solihull	Saturday	Shortfall of 300	Shortfall of 372
		Sunday	Shortfall of 258	Shortfall of 264
		Midweek	Shortfall of 248	Shortfall of 292
Rugby union	Central	Senior	Shortfall of 6	Shortfall of 6
	Solihull	Senior	Shortfall of 18	Shortfall of 21.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Solihull	Full size	At capacity	At capacity
Tennis	Solihull	Courts	Shortfall	Shortfall
Bowls	Solihull	Greens	Spare capacity	Spare capacity
Netball	Solihull	Courts	Spare capacity	Spare capacity
Athletics	Solihull	Tracks	Supply is sufficient to meet demand	Supply is sufficient to meet demand
Other sports	Solihull	Grass pitches	Sufficient for baseball/softball and Gaelic football	Sufficient for baseball/softball and Gaelic football



# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as at Silhill Football Club.</li> <li>◀ Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Lighthall School and Lode Heath School.</li> <li>◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites such as at Alderbrook School</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required such as at The Land Rover Sports and Social Club</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>◀ Consider installation of one additional full size 11v11 3G pitch to alleviate football training shortfalls.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Provide new provision and explore options to reinstate lapsed pitches such as at The Land Rover Sports and Social Club</li> <li>◀ Sustain quality of squares through dedicated maintenance regimes.</li> <li>◀ Reduce overplay at Blossomfield Club, Moseley Cricket Club, Old Edwardians Cricket Club, Solihull Municipal Club, The Lant Playing Field and West Warwickshire Sports Complex via the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity, e.g., Moseley Cricket Club.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Sustain pitch quality at key sites to ensure overplay does not occur, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Camp Hill Rugby Club and Old Edwardians Sports Club.</li> <li>◀ Ensure Birmingham Civil Service RUFC continues to be provided with access to one senior pitch.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required, e.g., Old Edwardians Sports Club.</li> </ul>
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision and sustain quality to adequately meet demand.</li> </ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Seek to improve park courts such as Elmdon Park and Olton Jubilee Park.</li> </ul>
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Alderbrook School	B91 2SN	Football	School	One adult, one youth 9v9 and three mini 5v5 pitches. All are assessed as standard quality but not available for community use.	Explore community use options with the School given local shortfalls.	School FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
1	Alderbrook School	B91 2SN	Rugby union	School	One poor quality age grade pitch which is unavailable for community use and not sports lit.	Retain for continued curricular use and explore quality improvements to better accommodate it.	School RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
1	Alderbrook School	B91 2SN	Tennis	School	Four standard quality polymeric and one poor quality macadam court. The courts are available for community but not sports lit.	Explore establishment of sports lighting to attract community demand given quantity of courts provided.	School LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
4	Armco Arena (Solihull Moors Football Club)	B92 9EJ	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch, which is played to capacity. Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities. Site Allocation 20 could impact on the site; if this occurs, the Mitigation Strategy outlines that it should be dealt with separately due to the nature of the Club, the level it plays at and the facilities it requires.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity. Should the site come forward for development, ensure the provision is mitigated appropriately in line with national planning policy.	Club FA FF	Key centre	H	M	L	Protect Enhance
4	Armco Arena (Solihull Moors Football Club)	B92 9EJ	3G	Sports Club	One good quality full size 3G pitch, which is both available for community use and sports lit. The pitch is FA approved and can be used to host competitive matches. Site Allocation 20 could impact on the site; if this occurs, the Mitigation Strategy outlines that it should be dealt with separately due to the nature of the Club, the level it plays at and the facilities it requires.	Ensure quality is sustained and that a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Also ensure FA testing takes place every three years so that it can continue to be used for match play. Should the site come forward for development, ensure the provision is mitigated appropriately in line with national planning policy.	Club FF	Key centre	H	M	L	Protect
8	Barn Lane Recreation Ground	B92 7NA	Football	Council	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that have spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
13	Blossomfield Club	B91 3JY	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square that is overplayed by 35 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain quality and install an NTP to reduce overplay via the transfer of demand away from grass wickets. Alternatively (or additionally), explore creation of hybrid provision on site.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Provide
13	Blossomfield Club	B91 3JY	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green that is used by Blossomfield BC.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Club Bowls England	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
13	Blossomfield Club	B91 3JY	Tennis	Sports Club	Three standard quality macadam, two good quality artificial and two artificial clay courts. The artificial and artificial clay courts are serviced by sports lighting. Used by Blossomfield TC.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and explore options of providing additional sports lighting on the macadam courts to increase capacity.	Club LTA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
16	Camp Hill Rugby Club	B90 2DH	Rugby union	Sports Club	One good quality senior pitch and one standard quality senior pitch, both serviced by sports lighting. The good quality pitch is overplayed and the standard quality pitch is played to capacity. Serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay and to create actual spare capacity. Also seek to improve quality of ancillary facilities.	Club RFU	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
26	Colebrook Recreation Ground	B90 1BF	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch which has actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
27	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore)	B90 4AL	Tennis	Commercial	Two poor quality macadam courts which are not serviced by sports lighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate commercial use and explore if sports lighting can be added to increase capacity.	LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
31	Elmdon Heath Recreation Ground	B92 9JS	Football	Council	Five poor quality adult pitches which are played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
32	Elmdon Park	B92 9EY	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch which has spare capacity but this is discounted.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
32	Elmdon Park	B92 9EY	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Improve court quality to better accommodate demand and explore providing sports lighting to better accommodate recreational demand and to increase capacity.	LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
33	Eversfield Preparatory School	B91 1AT	Football	School	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, both assessed as standard quality. The pitches are not available for community use.	Explore options of community use given local shortfalls.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
33	Eversfield Preparatory School	B91 1AT	Cricket	School	One standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
38	Greswold Primary School	B91 2AZ	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches which are unavailable for community use.	Improve quality and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
42	Haslucks Green Junior School	B90 2EJ	Football	School	Two standard quality pitches, one mini 5v5 and one mini 7v7. The pitches are unavailable for community use.	Explore options of community use given local shortfalls.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
43	Hazel Oak School	B90 2AZ	Tennis	School	One good quality macadam court which is neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Sustain quality and retain for continued curricular use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
48	Hillfield Park	B90 4UJ	Football	Council	One adult pitch which has spare capacity but discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
60	Langley Primary School	B92 7DJ	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch, which is not available for community use. An aspiration exists for the creation of 3G provision at the site.	Improve quality. Also explore feasibility of 3G pitch installation given local shortfalls and when considered against other options in the area.	School FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
61	Langley School	B92 7ER	Football /3G	School	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, both assessed as poor quality. Both pitches are played to capacity. The school harbours aspirations to have a full size 3G pitch installed.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and ensure long term security of tenure is provided to users. Explore feasibility of 3G pitch installation given local shortfalls and when considered against other options in the area.	School FA FF	Key centre	M	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance
61	Langley School	B92 7ER	Cricket	School	One standalone NTP which is available for community use.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School ECB	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
61	Langley School	B92 7ER	Netball	School	Two poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use but not sports lit.	Improve court quality and explore options of providing sports lighting to better accommodate recreational demand and to increase capacity.	School EN	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
64	Lighthall School	B90 2PZ	Rugby union	School	One good quality age grade pitch which is available for community use but unused. The pitch has spare capacity, but this is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain as community available given local shortfalls should there be any future demand.	School RFU	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
64	Lighthall School	B90 2PZ	Tennis	School	Four standard quality polymeric courts which are available for community use but not sports-lit.	Explore the option of providing sports lighting to increase capacity and attract community demand.	School LTA	Key centre	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
64	Lighthall School	B90 2PZ	Netball	School	Three standard quality polymeric courts which are available for community use but not sports-lit.	Explore the option of providing sports lighting to increase capacity and attract community demand.	School EN	Key centre	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
65	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Football	School	Youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches assessed as standard quality and played to capacity. Work is currently ongoing in regard to a potential mitigation package at the site and a recommendation is in place for this to include improved pitches. The School also has an aspiration to install a full size 3G pitch on site.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and ensure long term security of tenure is provided to users via a community use agreement. Also explore the feasibility of 3G pitch installation given local shortfalls and when considered against other options in the area.	School FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
65	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Cricket	School	One standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused. Work is currently ongoing in regard to a potential mitigation package at the site and a recommendation is in place for this to include an improved wicket and practice nets as well as potential re-orientation.	Improve quality and seek to attract community usage given local shortfalls of provision. Also ensure long term security of tenure is provided to users via a community use agreement.	School ECB	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
65	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Rugby union	School	One poor quality senior pitch which is available for community use but unused. The pitch has spare capacity but this is discounted due to quality issues and unsecure tenure. Work is currently ongoing in regard to a potential mitigation package at the site and a recommendation is in place for this to include an improved senior rugby union pitch and the potential installation of sports lighting.	Improve quality to create actual spare capacity and secure community use via a community use agreement. Work in collaboration with the RFU to identify and attract club usage given local shortfalls.	School RFU	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
65	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Hockey	School	One poor quality full sized sand-based pitch, which is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. Used by Blossomfield HC. Work is currently ongoing in regard to a potential mitigation package at the site and a recommendation is in place for this to include refurbishment of the pitch.	Resurface pitch for hockey usage and ensure a sinking fund is place for long-term sustainability. Also provide security of tenure for Blossomfield HC via establishing a community use agreement.	School EH	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
65	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Netball	School	Five standard quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports-lit.	Explore opportunities to establish sports lighting at the site to help attract usage and increase capacity.	School EN	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
66	Lyndon Playing Fields	B92 7QB	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches that have actual spare capacity.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect
67	Lyndon School	B92 8EJ	Football	School	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 pitches, all assessed as standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options with the School given local shortfalls, especially given quantity of pitches provided.	School FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
67	Lyndon School	B92 8EJ	Cricket	School	One standalone NTP which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	School ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
67	Lyndon School	B92 8EJ	Netball	School	Four poor quality macadam courts which are neither available for community use nor sports-lit.	Improve quality for curricular use and then explore community use options.	School EN	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
68	Malvern Park	B91 3DW	Tennis	Council	Four good quality macadam courts that are not serviced by sports lighting.	Sustain quality and explore the feasibility of providing sports lighting on site to better accommodate recreational demand.	LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
68	Malvern Park	B91 3DW	Athletics	Council	Parkrun and junior Parkrun event held on site.	Ensured continued activity and seek to maximise participation.	England Athletics	Local	M	L	L	Protect
76	Mill Lodge Primary School	B90 1BT	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch which is assessed as standard quality and available for community use. The pitch has actual spare capacity but this is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
77	Moseley Cricket Club	B90 3PE	Football	Sports Club	One poor quality adult pitch which is overplayed. Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Club FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
77	Moseley Cricket Club	B90 3PE	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square and one standard grass wicket square, used by Moseley CC. The good quality square has spare capacity of 30 match equivalent sessions, whilst the standard square is overplayed by 23 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and consider NTP installation to fully eradicate it.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
80	Oak Cottage Primary School	B91 1DY	Football	School	One good quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
81	Old Edwardians Sports Club	B90 3PE	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass wicket square. Used by Old Edwardians, Solihull United cricket clubs as well as LL Cricket League. The square is overplayed by 24 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve square quality to reduce overplay and install an NTP to eradicate it through the transfer of demand away from the grass wickets. Also improve quality of ancillary provision.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
81	Old Edwardians Sports Club	B90 3PE	Rugby union	Sports Club	One good quality senior pitch and one standard quality senior pitch, both serviced by sports lighting. Pitches are accessed by Old Edwardians RUFC and overplayed. The ancillary facilities are assessed as poor quality.	Improve quality on the second pitch to reduce overplay and explore options to fully alleviate it (e.g., access to additional grass provision or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch). Also improve quality of the ancillary facilities.	Club RFU	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
83	Olton Jubilee Park	B92 8QE	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which has spare capacity, although this is discounted due to quality issues. Not serviced by any ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity. Also look at options at providing ancillary facilities on site to better accommodate demand.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
83	Olton Jubilee Park	B92 8QE	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam courts which are not sports lit.	Improve court quality and explore sports lighting options to help increase capacity and attract demand.	LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
83	Olton Jubilee Park	B92 8QE	Netball	Council	One poor quality macadam court, which is not sports lit.	Improve court quality and explore sports lighting options to help increase capacity and attract demand.	EN	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
85	Páirc na hÉireann	B92 0DB	3G	Council	One good quality, full size 3G pitch which is available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting. Serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Also explore installation of sports lighting (subject to planning conditions) and FA testing so that it can be placed on the pitch register to enable competitive matches to be played.	FA FF	Hub site	H	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
85	Páirc na hÉireann	B92 0DB	Gaelic football	Council	Two good quality Gaelic football pitches, leased from the Council. Serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain quality of the pitches and sustain quality of ancillary facilities.	GAA	Hub site	H	L	L	Protect Enhance
86	Palmer's Rough Recreation Ground	B90 3LW	Football	Council	One poor quality adult and one youth 11v11 pitch which have spare capacity discounted due to quality issues. Not serviced by any ancillary facilities.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and look at options to provide ancillary facilities on site.	FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
89	Peterbrook Primary School	B90 1HR	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
91	Saint Martin's School	B91 3EN	Hockey	School	One poor quality, full size sand-based pitch which is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. Used by Olton & West Warwickshire HC.	Resurface the pitch to improve quality and protect as a hockey-based surface. Also encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability and provide security of tenure to Olton & West Warwickshire HC via a community use agreement.	School EH	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
91	Saint Martin's School	B91 3EN	Tennis	School	Six good quality artificial courts which are not available for community but are sports lit.	Explore community use options with the School given quantity of courts provided and the presence of sports lighting.	School LTA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
92	Sharman's Cross Junior School	B91 1PH	Football	School	One adult and two mini 5v5 pitches, all assessed as poor quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity whereas the mini pitches have spare capacity but this is discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity and seek to establish a community use agreement for club users to provide security of tenure.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
93	Shirley Heath Junior School	B90 3DS	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is available for community use. It has spare capacity but this discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular usage.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
94	Shirley Park	B90 3GF	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which has spare capacity but this is discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
94	Shirley Park	B90 3GF	Rugby union	Council	Two standard quality age grade pitches, with one pitch serviced by sports lighting and overplayed. The non-lit pitch is played to capacity and both are used by Camp Hill RUFC. Car parking can be an issue on match days.	Improve quality to reduce overplay and consider installation of additional sports lighting to further alleviate it. To fully eradicate overplay, explore options for additional pitch space or access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. Also seek resolution to car parking issues.	RFU	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
94	Shirley Park	B90 3GF	Tennis	Council	Four good quality macadam courts which are not serviced by sports lighting.	Explore options of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and better accommodate demand.	LTA	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
96	Silhill Football Club	B91 1RQ	Football	Sports Club	Two adult (one standard and one poor) and one poor quality mini 5v5 pitch. The standard quality adult pitch is played to capacity, whilst the other is overplayed. The mini 5v5 pitch has spare capacity but this is discounted due to quality issues. Serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and to create actual spare capacity.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
101	Solihull Arden Club	B91 1RG	Tennis	Sports Club	Seven good quality artificial, three standard quality artificial and three good quality macadam courts. Only the good quality artificial courts are sports lit and the Club is currently operating over capacity. In addition, three padel courts are provided and the site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Improve quality to better accommodate club demand and explore opportunities to provide additional court provision to alleviate capacity issues. Also explore the feasibility of servicing all courts with sports lighting to help with this.	Club LTA	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
103	Solihull Football Centre	B91 3LD	3G	Commercial	One smaller size 3G pitch which is available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting. The pitch is assessed as standard quality.	Improve surface quality to better accommodate community demand.	FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
104	Tanworth Lane Sports Ground	B90 4BY	Football	Private	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all assessed as standard quality. The youth and mini pitches have actual spare capacity whilst the adult pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Utilise capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect
105	Solihull Municipal Club	B91 3LE	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch which has actual spare capacity but discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Club FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
105	Solihull Municipal Club	B91 3LE	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square with an accompanying NTP. The square is overplayed by 20 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain quality and explore options to provide the Club with increased capacity (e.g., via additional provision) to meet its current and future demand.	Club ECB	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
105	Solihull Municipal Club	B91 3LE	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green that is used by Solihull Municipal BC.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Club BCGBA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
106	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Football	School	One adult and two youth 9v9 pitches which are available for community use and assessed as good quality. The pitches are played to capacity.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites and ensure long-term security of tenure is provided.	School FA FF	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect
106	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Cricket	School	Four grass wicket squares (three with NTP's) are provided. All squares are assessed as good quality; however, they are unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options given significant local shortfalls. If provided, seek long-term security of tenure for users.	School ECB	Key centre	H	S	L	Protect



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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
106	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Rugby union	School	Five standard quality senior pitches which are available for community use. The pitches are played to capacity due to heavy internal usage.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School RFU	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
106	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Hockey	School	Two good quality sand-based hockey pitches which are both available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. Used by Solihull Blossomfield HC and Old Silhillians HC.	Protect both pitches for continued hockey use and seek to provide club users with a community use agreement to improve security of tenure. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	School EH	Key centre	H	S	L	Protect
106	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Tennis	School	Eight artificial and four macadam courts, all assessed as good quality. The courts are not available for community use but are sports-lit.	Explore community use options with the School given quantity of courts provided.	School LTA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
106	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Netball	School	Five standard quality macadam courts, which are not available for community use. Three of the courts are sports-lit.	Explore community use options with the School given quantity of courts provided.	School EN	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
107	Solihull Sixth Form College	B91 3WR	Football	College	One standard quality adult pitch, which is available for community use but played to capacity.	Establish a community use agreement for club users in order to provide security of tenure.	College FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
107	Solihull Sixth Form College	B91 3WR	Cricket	College	One standalone NTP which is unavailable for community use.	Explore opportunities to gain community access to the provision.	College ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
107	Solihull Sixth Form College	B91 3WR	Rugby union	College	One standard quality senior pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	College RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
107	Solihull Sixth Form College	B91 3WR	Tennis	College	Four standard quality polymeric courts which are neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Retain for curricular use.	College LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
107	Solihull Sixth Form College	B91 3WR	Netball	College	One standard quality polymeric court which is neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Retain for curricular use.	College EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
109	St Augustine's Primary School	B91 3NZ	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which has spare capacity but this is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to establish a community use agreement for club users to provide security of tenure and actual spare capacity.	School FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
114	St Peter's Catholic School	B91 3NZ	Football / 3G	School	The School has an aspiration for the development of a full size 3G pitch.	Explore the feasibility of installing a 3G pitch given local shortfalls and when considered against other options in the area.	School FA FF	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Provide
114	St Peter's Catholic School	B91 3NZ	Netball	School	One poor quality macadam court, which is neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Improve quality for curricular use.	School EN	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
115	The Land Rover Sports & Social Club	B92 9LN	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches, all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitches are overplayed, whilst the remaining pitches are played to capacity. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. The land is due to be developed with Jaguar Land Rover looking to develop car parking on a section of the site. Work is ongoing to determine what facilities could be retained and appropriate off-site mitigation for what is to be lost.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should any of the site be permanently lost in line with national planning policy. For any retained provision, seek to improve quality to alleviate capacity issues. Also provide long-term security of tenure for club users and improve ancillary provision.	Club FA FF	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
115	The Land Rover Sports & Social Club	B92 9LN	Cricket (disused)	Sports Club	One disused grass wicket square, which is no longer used or maintained.	Ensure provision is accounted for as part of any site development and mitigation given local cricket shortfalls.	Club ECB	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide
115	The Land Rover Sports & Social Club	B92 9LN	Rugby union	Sports Club	One poor quality senior pitch which is serviced by sports lighting. The land is due to be developed with Jaguar Land Rover looking to develop car parking on a section of the site. Work is ongoing to determine what facilities could be retained and appropriate off-site mitigation for what is to be lost. Birmingham Civil Service RFC utilises the site but has recently stopped playing competitive matches, in part due to uncertainty surrounding the site.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should any of the site be permanently lost in line with national planning policy, with at least one grass senior rugby union pitch required with appropriate posts, line markings and run off areas. For any retained provision, seek to improve quality to alleviate capacity issues. Also provide long-term security of tenure for club users and improve ancillary provision.	Club RFU	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
115	The Land Rover Sports & Social Club	B92 9LN	Bowls (disused)	Sports Club	One disused bowling green.	No requirement for the green. However, the land should be appropriately mitigated if lost as part of the development plans as it could meet shortfalls of other sports provision.	Club BCGBA	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect
118	Tippetts Field	B91 2PF	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one mini 5v5 pitch. The adult is assessed as standard quality and the mini pitch as poor. The adult has actual spare capacity, whereas the mini pitch has spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
118	Tippetts Field	B91 2PF	Cricket	Sports Club	Two good quality grass wicket squares, with an NTP accompanying one. Used by Hampton & Solihull CC. One square has five match equivalent sessions of spare capacity, whereas the other is played to capacity.	Sustain quality and support aspirations for the creation of practice nets on site.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Provide

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
118	Tippetts Field	B91 2PF	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green that is used by Solihull Marsh Lane BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club BCGBA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
118	Tippetts Field	B91 2PF	Tennis	Sports Club	Six standard quality artificial courts which are serviced by sports lighting.	Improve court quality to better accommodate club demand.	Club LTA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
120	Tudor Grange Academy Solihull	B91 3PD	Football	School	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all assessed as good quality. All pitches are available for community use but played to capacity.	Sustain quality.	School FA FF	Hub site	H	L	L	Protect
120	Tudor Grange Academy Solihull	B91 3PD	3G	School	One full size 3G pitch which is both available for community use and sports lit. The pitch is assessed as good quality and FA approved so that it can be used to host competitive matches.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long term sustainability and that FA testing takes place every three years.	School FF	Hub site	H	M	L	Protect
120	Tudor Grange Academy Solihull	B91 3PD	Cricket	School	One standard quality grass wicket square which is accompanied by an NTP as well as one standalone NTP. The grass square is played to capacity. Used by Olton & West Warwickshire, Solihull Superkings and Solihull United cricket clubs.	Improve square quality to provide additional capacity and ensure no future overplay.	School WCB ECB	Hub site	H	M	L	Protect Enhance
120	Tudor Grange Academy Solihull	B91 3PD	Rugby union	School	One standard quality senior pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Retain as community available given local shortfalls should there be any future demand.	School RFU	Hub site	M	L	L	Protect
120	Tudor Grange Academy Solihull	B91 3PD	Tennis	School	Five poor quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore options of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and attract demand.	School LTA	Hub site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
120	Tudor Grange Academy Solihull	B91 3PD	Netball	School	Four poor quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Improve quality and explore options of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and attract demand.	School EN	Hub site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
121	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	B91 1NB	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch which is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to increase capacity.	FA FF	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
121	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	B91 1NB	3G	Council	One good quality full size 3G pitch. Available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. Not currently on the FA pitch register so cannot be used for affiliated match play.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long term sustainability and seek FA testing so that the pitch can be used for competitive matches.	FA FF	Key centre	H	M	L	Protect
121	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	B91 1NB	Athletics	Council	An eight lane 400-metre track assessed as standard quality and serviced by sports lighting. Used by Solihull and Small Heath AC. The main track and field provision in the Borough and used as a competition venue.	Resurface the track within the lifespan of this study to better accommodate club and community demand and to attract increased usage. Also ensure it remains TrackMark accredited.	England Athletics	Key centre	H	M	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
123	West Warwickshire Sports Complex	B91 1DA	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square that is overplayed by 14 match equivalent sessions.	Explore opportunities to install an NTP to eradicate overplay through the transfer of demand away from the grass wickets. Alternatively (or additionally), explore creation of hybrid provision on site.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Provide
123	West Warwickshire Sports Complex	B91 1DA	Hockey	Sports Club	A poor quality full sized sand-based pitch which was installed in 2010. The pitch is serviced by sports lighting and is used by Olton & West Warwickshire HC.	Improve quality by resurfacing and protect as a sand-based surface. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	Club EH	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
123	West Warwickshire Sports Complex	B91 1DA	Tennis	Sports Club	Seven good quality artificial courts which are all sports lit.	Sustain court quality.	Club LTA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
123	West Warwickshire Sports Complex	B91 1DA	Bowls (disused)	Sports Club	One disused bowling green which is overgrown and no longer maintained.	Consider repurposing the provision to meet shortfalls of other sporting provision.	Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
124	Widney Junior School	B91 3LQ	Cricket	School	A standalone NTP which is available for community use and used by Solihull Municipal CC.	Seek to improve security of tenure for club users via long term usage agreement.	School ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect
124	Widney Junior School	B91 3LQ	Netball	School	One poor quality macadam court, which is neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Improve quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
128	Olton Primary School	B92 7QF	3G	School	One smaller sized 3G pitch which is assessed as good quality. The pitch is available for community use but not sports lit.	Retain for continued curricular use.	School FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
132	Greville Arms	B91 2RB	Bowls	Private	One standard quality bowling green that is used by Greville Arms BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
135	Dickens Heath Community Primary School	B90 1NA	Tennis	School	One standard quality macadam court which is neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Retain for curricular use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
136	Solihull Royal British Legion	B91 3DH	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green that is used by Solihull RBL BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	Club	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
137	Colebrook Bowls Club	B90 2LL	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green that is used by Colebrooke BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	Club	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
-	Rowood Drive	B92 9NG	Football (disused)	Council	Disused football provision, last used circa 2011. Development proposals are coming forward that will involve mitigation via improvements and developments at Lode Heath School.	Consider mitigation proposals that are in place using the findings of this study to inform this process.	FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Enhance Provide

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2037)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity total (match equivalent sessions)
Football (grass pitches)	North	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 6
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 2
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 5.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
	Solihull	Adult	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 9.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 12.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 3
Football (3G pitches)	North	Full size	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 6
Cricket	North	Saturday	Shortfall of 50	Shortfall of 62
		Sunday	Shortfall of 44	Shortfall of 44
		Midweek	Shortfall of 50	Shortfall of 54
	Solihull	Saturday	Shortfall of 300	Shortfall of 372
		Sunday	Shortfall of 258	Shortfall of 264
		Midweek	Shortfall of 248	Shortfall of 292
Rugby union	North	Senior	Shortfall of 3.75	Shortfall of 3.75
	Solihull	Senior	Shortfall of 18	Shortfall of 21.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Solihull	Full size	At capacity	At capacity
Tennis	Solihull	Courts	Shortfall	Shortfall
Bowls	Solihull	Greens	Spare capacity	Spare capacity
Netball	Solihull	Courts	Spare capacity	Spare capacity
Other sports	Solihull	Grass pitches	Sufficient for baseball/softball and Gaelic football	Sufficient for baseball/softball and Gaelic football
Athletics	Solihull	Tracks	Supply is sufficient to meet demand	Supply is sufficient to meet demand

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Bring disused sites back into use such as Babbs Mill Park and Meriden Park.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Bluebell Recreation Ground, Marston Green Football Club and The Pavilions.</li> <li>◀ Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Grace Academy and Park Hall Academy.</li> <li>◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites such as Kingshurst Primary School.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required at Castle Bromwich Playing Fields</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>◀ Provide additional 3G pitches to meet shortfall of provision.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Provide new provision and explore options to reinstate lapsed (where relevant) pitches.</li> <li>◀ Reduce overplay at Castle Bromwich Playing Fields and Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club via the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity, e.g., Knowle &amp; Dorridge Cricket Club (Lugtrout Lane)</li> <li>◀ Improve quality at Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club and sustain quality of other squares.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required such as Castle Bromwich Playing Fields.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Sustain pitch quality at key sites to ensure overplay does not occur, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
Hockey	◀ No action required.
Bowls	◀ Protect provision and sustain quality to adequately meet demand.
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Seek to improve park courts such as at Meriden Park.</li> </ul>
Netball	◀ No action required.
Athletics	◀ No action required.

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
5	Babbs Mill Park	B37 6LN	Football (disused)	Council	Three adult pitches last marked out circa 2019.	Consider bringing adult pitches back into use given local shortfalls.	FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
5	Babbs Mill Park	B37 6LN	Athletics	Council	Parkrun event held on site.	Ensure continued activity and seek to maximise participation.	England Athletics	Local	M	L	L	Protect
12	Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club	B92 9ED	Rugby union	Sports Club	Two senior pitches which are assessed as standard quality. One pitch is serviced by sports lighting, and is overplayed, whilst the non-lit pitch has no spare capacity at peak time. Serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities. Included as a proposed employment site in Draft Local Plan Review (Site 20) but will be retained or relocated.	Improve quality to reduce overplay and consider installation of additional sports lighting to further alleviate it as this will enable better distribution of training demand. Should development proposals result in the loss of the site, ensure appropriate mitigation in line with national planning policy.	Club RFU	Key centre	H	L	M	Protect Enhance
12	Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club	B92 9ED	Gaelic football	Sports club	One Gaelic football pitch that is assessed as standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality and ensure continued access.	Club GAA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
14	Bluebell Recreation Ground	B37 6SR	Football	Council	Three poor quality youth 11v11 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Not serviced by any ancillary provision.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and look at options to provide ancillary facilities.	FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
17	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	B36 9EY	Football	Council	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all assessed as standard quality and played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve ancillary facilities to better accommodate demand.	FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
17	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	B36 9EY	Cricket	Council	One good quality grass wicket square, used by Castle Bromwich CC and Warwickshire County Cricket Club. The square is overplayed by 14 match sessions.	Sustain quality and explore opportunities to install an NTP to reduce overplay via the transfer of demand away from the grass wickets.	ECB	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Provide
17	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	B36 9EY	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality macadam courts which are not serviced by sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore opportunities of providing sports lighting to better enable community use.	LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
18	Catherine-de-Barnes Cricket Club	B91 2TJ	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square, used by Catherine-de-Barnes CC. The square is played to capacity.	Explore opportunities to install an NTP to create additional capacity as any further usage currently will result in overplay.	Club ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
21	Chelmsley Town Football Club	B37 7HW	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all assessed as standard quality. The youth and mini pitches have actual spare capacity, whilst the adult pitch is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Club FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
22	Chelmsley Wood Onward Club	B37 7NS	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed, the youth pitch has actual spare capacity, and the mini pitch has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and to create actual spare capacity.	Club FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
22	Chelmsley Wood Onward Club	B37 7NS	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality crown bowling green that is accessed by Banbury BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
25	Coldlands Park	B91 2RT	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch, one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch and one standard quality mini 5v5 pitch. The youth pitches are overplayed, whilst the mini pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. Discussions are ongoing with the Council regarding a proposal for two 3G pitches at the site to replace the grass pitches. A new pavilion and additional car parking is also being proposed.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay. Additionally, explore the feasibility of 3G pitch proposals given local shortfalls and when considered against other options in the area. A phased approach could also be explored, rather than two 3G pitches being provided initially. Also ensure ancillary provision is improved.	FA FF	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance
34	Field Lane (Hampton Football Club)	B91 2RT	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all assessed as good quality and played to capacity.	Sustain pitch quality.	Club FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
35	Fordbridge Community Primary School	B37 5BU	Tennis	School	Two poor quality macadam courts that are neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Improve quality for curricular use.	School LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
36	Glades Football Club (Lugtrout Lane)	B91 2RX	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch. The adult and mini pitches are assessed as good quality, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is assessed as standard. The adult and youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity, the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed and the mini pitches have actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
37	Grace Academy Solihull	B37 5JS	Football	School	Two adult, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all assessed as standard quality and played to capacity.	Seek to provide club users with security of tenure via the creation of a community use agreement.	School FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
37	Grace Academy Solihull	B37 5JS	Rugby union	School	One standard quality senior pitch which is available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Retain as community available should club demand exist in the future.	School RFU	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
37	Grace Academy Solihull	B37 5JS	Hockey	School	One smaller sized sand-based pitch which is available for community use but unused. The pitch is not serviced by sports lighting.	Retain for continued internal usage.	School	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
37	Grace Academy Solihull	B37 5JS	Tennis	School	Four standard quality macadam courts which are available for community use and sports lit.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	School LTA	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
37	Grace Academy Solihull	B37 5JS	Netball	School	Three standard quality macadam courts, which are available for community use and sports lit	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	School EN	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance



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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
40	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	B92 0DQ	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass wicket square. Used by Hampton-in-Arden CC and overplayed by 35 match equivalent sessions.	Improve square quality to reduce overplay and explore opportunities to install an NTP to assist with this. Alternatively (or additionally), explore creation of hybrid provision on site.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
40	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	B92 0DQ	Hockey	Sports Club	One full size sand-based pitch which is available for community use and sports lit. Used by Hampton-in-Arden HC and assessed as poor quality having not been resurfaced since 2005.	Resurface pitch for hockey usage and ensure a sinking fund is place for long-term sustainability.	Club EH	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
40	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	B92 0DQ	Tennis	Sports Club	Four standard quality artificial clay and one standard quality mini court. All courts are serviced by sports lighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Club LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
46	Heath Park	B37 6TB	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch, with spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
52	John Henry Newham Catholic College	B37 5GA	Football	School	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all assessed as good quality and played to capacity.	Seek to provide club users with security of tenure via the creation of a community use agreement.	School FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
52	John Henry Newham Catholic College	B37 5GA	3G	School	One standard quality full size 3G pitch, with sports lighting. It is FA approved.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long term sustainability, with resurfacing due in the near future. Also ensure that FA testing takes place every three years.	School FA FF	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect
52	John Henry Newham Catholic College	B37 5GA	Tennis	School	Four standard quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Explore potential of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and to attract community demand.	School LTA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
52	John Henry Newham Catholic College	B37 5GA	Netball	School	Three standard quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Explore potential of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and to attract community demand.	School EN	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
53	Kingshurst Primary School	B37 6BN	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
54	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Lugtrout Lane)	B91 2RX	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square with spare capacity for an additional team on a Sunday. Used by Knowle & Dorridge CC and serviced by good quality ancillary facilities. Practice nets are disused.	Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand or via the transfer of activity from an overplayed site. Also explore options to bring the practice nets back into use.	Club ECB	Local	L	M	L	Protect
59	Lanchester Park	B36 9LP	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
69	Marston Green Football Club	B37 7EX	Football	Sports Club	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5, all assessed as poor quality. The youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitch are overplayed, the youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity, and the mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay.	Club FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Provide Enhance
70	Marston Green Junior School	B37 7BA	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches which are not available for community use.	Explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
71	Marston Green Recreation Ground	B37 7ER	Football	Council	One adult, two youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all are assessed as standard quality. The adult and mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity at peak time, whilst the youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches have actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
71	Marston Green Recreation Ground	B37 7ER	Cricket	Council	One standard quality grass wicket square. Used by Marston Green CC and overplayed by four match equivalent sessions.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	ECB	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
71	Marston Green Recreation Ground	B37 7ER	Baseball	Council	One dedicated baseball pitch which is assessed as standard quality.	Ensure continued access for baseball demand.	BSUK	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
74	Meriden Park	B37 7NZ	Football (disused)	Council	One adult pitch last marked out circa 2019.	Consider bringing pitch back into use given local shortfalls.	FA FF	Local	L	M	M	Protect Provide
74	Meriden Park	B37 7NZ	Tennis	Council	Three poor quality macadam courts which are not serviced by sports lighting.	Improve quality and explore options of providing sports lighting on site to better cater for community use.	LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
79	North Solihull Sports Centre	B37 5LA	Hockey	Council	One full size sand-based pitch which is available for community use and sports lit. Not currently accessed by any hockey clubs. The pitch is assessed as poor quality having been resurfaced last in 2008.	Explore as a potential site for 3G pitch conversion based on shortfalls in the analysis area and given no requirement for hockey. Also ensure a sinking fund is in place for long term sustainability.	EH FA FF	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance
79	North Solihull Sports Centre	B37 5LA	Athletics	Council	One six lane 400-metre track which has been assessed as poor quality. No requirement has been identified for the track in its current form.	Consider the loss of the track as part of a wider sports development but ensure that another form of athletics provision is included (e.g., a new generation track). Wider consultation is required to determine the most appropriate facility mix.	EA	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance
87	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	Football	School	Four good quality adult pitches which are available for community use but played to capacity.	Seek to provide a community use agreement for club users to provide security of tenure.	School FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
87	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	Cricket	School	One standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School ECB	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
87	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	Rugby union	School	One good quality senior pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School RFU	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
87	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	Tennis	School	Four standard quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Explore potential of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and to attract community demand.	School LTA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
87	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	Netball	School	Four standard quality macadam courts, which are available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting.	Explore potential of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and to attract community demand.	School EN	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
99	Smith's Wood Playing Field	B36 0UG	Hockey	School	One smaller sized sand-based pitch which is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.	Retain for recreational use.	School EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
98	Smith's Wood Academy	B36 0UE	Tennis	School	Three standard quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting.	Explore potential of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and to attract community demand.	School LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
98	Smith's Wood Academy	B36 0UE	Netball	School	Three standard quality macadam courts, which are available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting.	Explore potential of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and to attract community demand.	School EN	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
99	Smith's Wood Playing Field	B36 0UG	Football	School	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both assessed as standard quality and played to capacity.	Explore quality improvements to build future capacity.	School FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
99	Smith's Wood Playing Field	B36 0UG	Rugby union	School	One senior pitch assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but unused.	Improve quality to better accommodate curricular usage and retain as community available should club demand exist in the future.	School RFU	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
102	Solihull College (Woodlands Campus)	B36 0NF	Football	College	One poor quality adult pitch which is available for community use and played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality.	College FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
110	St John The Baptist Catholic Primary School	B36 0QE	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
117	The Pavilions	B37 6BU	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all assessed as good quality. The youth pitch is overplayed, the adult pitch is played to capacity at peak time, and the mini pitches have actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Seek transfer play to sites with actual spare capacity in order to alleviate overplay and improve quality of ancillary facilities.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
117	The Pavilions	B37 6BU	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green that is used by Pavilions BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	Club BCGBA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
119	Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst	B37 6NU	Football	School	Two adult, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all assessed as standard quality and played to capacity.	Seek to provide a community use agreement for club users in order to provide security of tenure.	School FA FF	Hub site	M	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
119	Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst	B37 6NU	3G	School	One standard quality full size 3G pitch, with sports lighting and FA approved. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2015. The School reports aspirations to develop a full size 3G pitch in addition to the existing pitch.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long term sustainability and that FA testing takes place every three years. Also explore feasibility of the development of an additional 3G pitch given local shortfalls and when considered against other options in the area.	School FA FF	Hub site	H	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance
119	Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst	B37 6NU	Tennis	School	Four standard quality polymeric courts which are available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.	Improve court quality to better accommodate demand.	School LTA	Hub site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
119	Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst	B37 6NU	Netball	School	Four standard quality polymeric courts which are available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.	Improve court quality to better accommodate demand.	School EN	Hub site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Proide
129	Marston Green Tennis Club	B37 7BS	Tennis	Sports Club	Four standard quality artificial and one standard quality macadam court. Only two of the artificial courts are not serviced by sports lighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Club LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
129	Marston Green Tennis Club	B37 7BS	Netball	Sports Club	One good quality macadam court which is serviced by sports lighting.	Sustain court quality for continued club usage.	Club EN	Local	M	L	L	Protect
138	Toby Carvery Castle Bromwich	B36 0AG	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green that is used by Bradford Arms BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	Club BCGBA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
140	St Leonards Church	B37 7BT	Bowls	Private	One standard quality bowling green that is used by Marston Green BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
141	Castlewood Special School	B36 9LF	Tennis	School	Two poor quality macadam courts which are neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Improve quality for curricular use.	School LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
142	Forest Oak School	B36 0UE	Netball	School	One standard quality artificial court which is not available for community use but is serviced by sports lighting.	Retain for curricular use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## RURAL ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2037)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity total (match equivalent sessions)
Football (grass pitches)	Rural	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 4
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 5.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
	Solihull	Adult	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 9.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 12.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 3
Football (3G pitches)	Rural	Full size	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall 5
Cricket	Rural	Saturday	Shortfall of 152	Shortfall of 176
		Sunday	Shortfall of 98	Shortfall of 104
		Midweek	Shortfall of 90	Shortfall of 114
	Solihull	Saturday	Shortfall of 300	Shortfall of 372
		Sunday	Shortfall of 258	Shortfall of 264
		Midweek	Shortfall of 248	Shortfall of 292
Rugby union	Rural	Senior	Shortfall of 8.75	Shortfall of 8.75
	Solihull	Senior	Shortfall of 18	Shortfall of 21.5
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Solihull	Full size, floodlit	At capacity	At capacity
Tennis	Solihull	Courts	Shortfall	Shortfall
Bowls	Solihull	Greens	Spare capacity	Spare capacity
Netball	Solihull	Courts	Spare capacity	Spare capacity
Other sports	Solihull	Grass pitches	Sufficient for baseball/softball; capacity issues for Gaelic football	Sufficient for baseball/softball; capacity issues for Gaelic football
Athletics	Solihull	Tracks	Supply is sufficient to meet demand	Supply is sufficient to meet demand

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Silhillians Sports Club.</li> <li>◀ Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Leafield Athletic Football Club (Tythe Barn Lane)</li> <li>◀ Enable use of currently unavailable primary school sites.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>◀ Develop additional 3G pitches in the area to meet provision shortfalls.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Alleviate overplay at Broadacre (Dorridge Cricket Club) and Grove Lane</li> <li>◀ Improve quality at Balsall and Berkswell Football Club and sustain quality of other squares.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Sustain pitch quality at key sites to ensure overplay does not occur, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
Other grass pitch sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Explore the feasibility of the plans for the development of Box Tree's Farm.</li> </ul>
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision and sustain quality to adequately meet demand.</li> </ul>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Arden Academy	B93 0PT	Hockey	School	One smaller sized sand-based pitch which is available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting.	Retain for curricular use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
2	Arden Academy	B93 0PT	Tennis	School	Six standard quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Explore opportunities to install sports lighting to increase capacity and help attract demand.	School LTA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
2	Arden Academy	B93 0PT	Netball	School	Four standard quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Explore opportunities to install sports lighting to increase capacity and help attract demand.	School EN	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
3	Arden Academy Grass Pitches	B93 0PT	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all assessed as standard quality and played to capacity.	Seek to provide a community use agreement for club users to provide security of tenure.	School FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
3	Arden Academy Grass Pitches	B93 0PT	Rugby union	School	Two senior pitches assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but unused.	Retain as community available should club demand exist in the future.	School RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
6	Balsall & Berkswell Football Club	CV7 7BN	Football	Sports Club	One adult, two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch. The youth pitches are assessed as good quality, the adult pitch as standard and the mini pitches as poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and to create actual spare capacity.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
6	Balsall & Berkswell Football Club	CV7 7BN	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass wicket square that is used by Berkswell CC. Overplayed by 24 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and install an NTP to eradicate it through the transfer of demand away from the grass wickets. Alternatively (or additionally), explore creation of hybrid provision on site.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
6	Bentley Heath Recreation Ground	B93 9BQ	Football	Council	Two youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 pitch. The pitches have spare capacity, but this is discounted due to poor quality. Not serviced by ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity and explore options to provide appropriate ancillary facilities on site.	FA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
10	Bentley Heath Recreation Ground	B93 9BQ	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam courts which are not sports lit.	Explore the possibility of installing sports lighting to encourage community use.	LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
11	Berkswell & Balsall Rugby Club	CV8 1NQ	Rugby union	Sports Club	Three senior pitches, all assessed as good quality, with one serviced by sports lighting. The two non-lit pitches are overplayed. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve quality to reduce overplay and consider installation of additional sports lighting to further reduce it. To fully eradicate overplay, explore alternative training arrangements (e.g., access to additional pitches or a 3G pitch). Also improve the ancillary facilities.	Club RFU	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
15	Broadacre (Dorridge Cricket Club)	B93 8QA	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square, which is overplayed by 35 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities. A second square is being developed that will be ready for the 2024 season and fully useable by 2025.	Ensure new provision is provided to a good quality and seek to maximise usage in order to eradicate existing overplay.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
19	Chadwick End Football Pitch	B93 0BL	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch which has actual spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	Club FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect
23	Cheswick Green Primary School	B90 4HG	Football	School	One standard mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular usage.	School FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
28	Dickens Heath Sports Club	B94 5NA	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch. The adult, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 provision is assessed as poor quality, whereas the youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches are assessed as standard. The adult and youth 11v11 provision is overplayed, whilst the mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to quality issues. Spare capacity exists on the mini 5v5 pitch.	Improve pitch quality to eradicate overplay.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
28	Dickens Heath Sports Club	B94 5NA	Cricket (disused)	Sports Club	One grass wicket square which is no longer provided or maintained.	Consider re-instating the grass wickets given local shortfalls. However, it could impact on the quality of the football pitches.	Club ECB	Hub site	M	S	M	Protect Provide
29	Dorridge Primary School	B93 8EU	Football	School	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both assessed as standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitch is overplayed whereas the mini 5v5 pitch is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and seek to establish a community use agreement for club users in order to provide security of tenure.	School FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
30	Earlwood Cricket Club	B93 6EE	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square which is overplayed by eight match equivalent sessions. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality and consider the installation of an NTP to reduce overplay via the transfer of demand from grass wickets.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
39	Grove Lane	B93 8AR	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square which is overplayed by 30 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Consider the installation of an NTP to reduce overplay via the transfer of demand from grass wickets.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
44	Heart of England School	CV7 7FW	Tennis	School	Six standard quality macadam courts which are neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Explore installation of sports lighting to enable and encourage community use given the quantity of courts provide.	School LTA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
44	Heart of England School	CV7 7FW	Netball	School	Three standard quality macadam courts which are neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Explore installation of sports lighting to enable and encourage community use.	School EN	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance



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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
45	Heart of England School Pitches	CV7 7FW	Football	School	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, both assessed as standard quality and played to capacity.	Seek to establish a community use agreement for club users in order to provide security of tenure.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
45	Heart of England School Pitches	CV7 7FW	Rugby union	School	One poor quality senior pitch, which is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality and retain as community available should club demand exist in the future.	School RFU	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
45	Heart of England School Pitches	CV7 7FW	Cricket	School	One standalone NTP which is not available for community use.	Explore options for enabling community use access given local shortfalls.	School ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
47	Highgate United Football Club	B90 1PH	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and two mini 7v7 pitches. The adult and one of the mini 7v7 pitches are assessed as standard quality, whilst the remaining pitches are poor. All provision has spare capacity discounted due to either poor quality or unsecure tenure. Subject to development allocation and subsequently featured in the Solihull Mitigation Strategy.	Ensure continued protection of the provision and, should development proposals proceed, ensure appropriate mitigation in accordance national planning policy.	Club FA FF	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Provide
49	Hockley Heath Academy	B94 6RA	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
50	Hockley Heath Recreation Ground	B94 6HH	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5, all assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity exists on all pitches, except for the mini 7v7 pitches which are played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand and improve quality of ancillary provision.	FA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
50	Hockley Heath Recreation Ground	B94 6HH	Bowls	Council	One standard bowling green, used by Hockley Heath BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
51	Holly Lane	CV7 7EA	Football	School	One youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to establish actual spare capacity.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
55	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Station Road)	B93 8ET	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square, which has 30 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity (but none at peak time for any playing format). Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain quality.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
56	Knowle & Dorridge Racquets Club	B93 0PJ	Tennis	Sports Club	Eight good quality artificial courts that are all serviced by sports lighting.	Sustain quality.	Club LTA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
57	Knowle C of E Primary School	B93 0JE	Football	School	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch which is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and seek to establish a community use agreement for club users to provide secure tenure.	School FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
58	Knowle Village Cricket Club	B93 0NX	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality grass wicket square, accompanied by an NTP. The square has 24 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity and is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain quality.	Club ECB	Local	M	L	L	Protect
62	Leafield Athletic Football Club (Rumbush Lane)	B94 5NA	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both assessed as poor quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Club FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
63	Leafield Athletic Football Club (Tythe Barn Lane)	B90 1PH	Football	Sports Club	One youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all assessed as standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity, whilst the mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve quality to create actual spare capacity.	Club FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
73	Meriden C of E Primary School	CV7 7LW	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is played to capacity.	Seek to establish a community use agreement for club users to provide secure tenure.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
75	Meriden Sports Park	CV7 7SP	Football	Council	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch, both assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed, whilst the mini pitch has actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and to create actual spare capacity. Also improve quality of ancillary facilities.	FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
75	Meriden Sports Park	CV7 7SP	Cricket	Council	One standalone NTP which is available for community use.	Retain for recreational demand and seek to maximise use for this purpose.	ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
75	Meriden Sports Park	CV7 7SP	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam courts which are not serviced by sports lighting.	Improve court quality to better accommodate demand and explore the option of providing sports lighting to increase capacity.	LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
75	Meriden Sports Park	CV7 7SP	Netball	Council	Two standard quality macadam courts, which are not sports lit.	Improve court quality to better accommodate demand and explore the option of providing sports lighting to increase capacity.	EN	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
82	Old Yardleians Rugby Football Club	B90 1PW	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch which has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. Subject to development allocation and subsequently featured in the Solihull Mitigation Strategy.	Ensure continued protection of provision, and if development proposals proceed, ensure appropriate mitigation in line with national planning policy.	Club FA FF	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
82	Old Yardleians Rugby Football Club	B90 1PW	Rugby union	Sports Club	Three standard quality senior pitches, which none serviced by sports lighting. All pitches are overplayed. The Club has only 12 years remaining on the lease agreement and is therefore deemed to have unsecure tenure. Subject to development allocation and subsequently featured in the Solihull Mitigation Strategy.	Ensure appropriate mitigation in line with national planning policy. At least four grass pitches (or 3G equivalent) are required for all demand to be adequately accommodated, with at least one serviced by sports lighting.	Club RFU	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
90	Robin's Nest (Knowle Football Club)	B93 0NX	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one mini 5v5 pitch, both assessed as good quality. The adult pitch is overplayed, whilst the mini pitch has actual spare capacity. Subject to development allocation and subsequently featured in the Solihull Mitigation Strategy.	Ensure continued protection of provision, and if development proposals proceed, ensure appropriate mitigation in line with national planning policy. Any relocation also needs to meet current and future ground grading requirements.	Club FA FF	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
95	Shirley Town Football Club	B90 1PH	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch which has actual spare capacity.	Utilise capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Club FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
97	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 9LW	Football / 3G	Sports Club	Three youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. All pitches are assessed as poor quality, except for one of the youth 11v11 pitches and the youth 9v9 pitches (which are standard quality). The standard quality youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed, whilst the mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. An aspiration exists to establish a full size 3G pitch on site.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and create actual spare capacity. Also explore feasibility of the creation of a 3G pitch given local shortfalls and considered against other options in the area. If this is proceeded with, encourage it to be football and rugby compliant.	Club FA FF	Hub site	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
97	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 9LW	Cricket (disused)	Sports Club	One disused four wicket grass square. The provision is no longer maintained and has not been used for an extended period of time.	Consider re-instating the grass wickets given local shortfalls. However, this needs to be considered against the impact on the quality of the football and rugby union pitches on site to ensure that it can be appropriately managed.	Club ECB	Hub site	H	S	M	Protect Provide
97	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 9LW	Rugby union	Sports Club	Four good quality senior pitches and five standard quality age grade (non-posted) pitches. Two of the senior pitches are serviced by sports lighting. The non-lit pitches have actual spare capacity, whereas the sports-lit pitches are overplayed. Serviced by standard ancillary provision.	Improve quality to reduce overplay and consider installing additional sports lighting to further reduce it. Alternatively, explore feasibility of the plans for the creation of a 3G pitch as a means to resolving capacity issues, providing it is World Rugby compliant. Also improve ancillary provision.	Club RFU	Hub site	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
97	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 9LW	Hockey	Sports Club	A full size sand-based pitch which is assessed as poor quality following its last resurface in 2009. The Club has plans to refurbish the pitch and install a second pitch on site so that all demand can be housed from one venue. Used by Old Silhillians HC.	Protect as a hockey suitable pitch and support club with its plans to refurbish it to improve quality. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Should plans for a second pitch be formalised, consider proposals against the lack of current need, the impact this will have on the sustainability of other hockey facilities in the area as well as on other sports at the site.	Club EH	Hub site	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
113	St Patrick's C.E Academy	B94 6DE	Football	School	One mini 5v5 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay.	School FA FF	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
116	The Lant Playing Field	CV7 7GE	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass wicket square, accompanied by an NTP. Used by Berkswell CC and overplayed by 25 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve quality of the grass wicket to reduce overplay and encourage greater use of the NTP. To fully eradicate it, explore options to relocate some demand (e.g., to additional provision). Also improve quality of ancillary facilities.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
126	Woodbourne Sports Club	B94 5LW	Football	Sports Club	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all assessed as poor quality with the exception of the youth 9v9 pitch which is assessed as standard. The youth 11v11 and mini pitches have spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
126	Woodbourne Sports Club	B94 5LW	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass wicket square that is by Woodbourne CC. The square has spare capacity of 14 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and support aspirations for the creation of practice nets on site.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
126	Woodbourne Sports Club	B94 5LW	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green that is used by Woodbourne BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club BCGBA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
127	Wychall Wanderers Football Club	B90 1PH	Football	Sports Club	Two poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed. Subject to development allocation and subsequently featured in the Solihull Mitigation Strategy.	Ensure continued protection of provision, and if development proposals proceed, ensure appropriate mitigation in line with national planning policy.	Club FA FF	Local	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
130	Berkswell & Balsall Tennis Club	CV7 7GE	Tennis	Sports Club	Four good quality artificial and two standard quality clay courts. All courts are serviced by sports lighting.	Improve quality of the clay courts to better accommodate demand.	Club LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
131	Ye Old Knowle Bowling Club	B93 8QA	Bowls	Sports Club	Two good quality bowling greens, used by Ye Old Knowle BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
133	Olton Tavern	B92 8NU	Bowls	Private	One standard quality bowling green that is used by Olton Tavern BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	BCGBA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
134	Knowle Park	B93 9HT	Bowls	Council	One standard quality bowling green. Currently unused by a club.	With no demand identified, explore alternative sporting uses or retain as strategic reserve.	BCGBA	Local	L	M	L	Protect
134	Knowle Park	B93 9HT	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam courts which are not serviced by sports lighting.	Sustain quality and explore the feasibility of installing sports lighting to better accommodate demand.	LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
139	Hockley Heath Social Club	B93 9NH	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green which is used by Hockley Heath BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club BCGBA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
-	Box Tree's Farm	B94 6EA	Gaelic football	Sports Club	One Gaelic football pitch and a planning application has been submitted for the development of additional provision. This will include an additional Gaelic football pitch (over marked by rugby union and football) and a full size 3G pitch.	Explore the feasibility of the plans for the development of the sports ground and in particularly the 3G pitch. This should be subject to the site being fully available for community use and that a robust business plan and programme of use is in place.	Club GAA FF FA	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance

## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2037 (in line with the Solihull Local Plan Review), with this future demand then translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual provision required. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases before converting the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches that may be required to meet the growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision. The Calculator splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required to support the new demand.

The four scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Solihull, thus showing how the calculator works and what it can provide. They are based on proposed housing figures in the emerging Local Plan Review, meaning that they are subject to change; however, they are only being used as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from the growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions; where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will use either a 3G pitch (football demand) or an AGP (hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on sports-lit grass pitches (i.e., for rugby union).

Scenario one is based on the total overall housing requirement in Solihull over the Local Plan period (to 2037), whereas the remaining scenarios breakdown the requirement in line with the hub areas outlined in the Council's Mitigation Strategy. The hub areas shown are Blythe, Balsall Common and East of Solihull.

For reference, the indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.4 people per dwelling, which is based on the current average occupancy rate in the Borough. However, it should be recognised that this is forecast to decline in the future in line with national trends.

The Council's latest housing requirement and housing supply position can be found at the following link:

<https://digital.solihull.gov.uk/LocalPlan/DownloadDoc.ashx?docid=1747856>.

### ***Scenario One: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth requirement over the Local Plan period (2037)***

The Solihull Draft Local Plan Review states that it will allocate sufficient land to ensure sufficient housing land supply to deliver 15,872 additional dwellings up to 2037. The estimated additional population derived from this housing growth is 38,093 people (2.4 people per dwelling).

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 15,872 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 15,872 dwellings	
	Match demand per week	Training demand
Adult football	11.22	91.70
Youth football	17.27	
Mini soccer	17.35	
Rugby union	5.85	6.52
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	3.45	10.36
Junior & mixed hockey	2.33	2.07
Cricket	320.25	N/A

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>7</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>8</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	11.22	£1,166,782	£246,191	22.45	£4,194,858
Youth football	17.27	£1,453,437	£305,222	19.69	£3,679,396
Mini soccer	17.35	£515,375	£108,229	0	£0
Rugby union	5.85	£927,103	£198,400	11.71	£2,187,365
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	6.74	£2,202,783	£444,962	13.49	£2,519,850
Sand based AGPs	0.86	£735,220	£22,792	1.73	£322,727
3G	2.41	£2,568,155	£95,982	4.83	£901,841

Overall, an additional 61.72 pitches could be required to accommodate increased demand from overall housing growth in addition to 73.88 changing rooms. This would require an expected capital cost of £9,568,856 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £1,421,777.

Notwithstanding the above, please note that the figures above will include sites that already have planning permission. These therefore will not necessarily contribute to the deliver of new or improve pitch provision in line with the calculator as such conditions will already be agreed.

### **Scenario Two: Likely demand generated from grass pitch sports generated from the Draft Site allocations in the Blythe Hub Area**

Including windfall developments, Solihull Local Plan Review identifies site allocations in the Blythe hub area equating to 2,598 dwellings, with estimated population growth therefore equating to 6,235 people (2.4 people per dwelling).

<sup>7</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>8</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 2,598 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 2,598 dwellings	
	Match demand per week	Training demand
Adult football	1.84	15.00
Youth football	2.82	
Mini soccer	2.84	
Rugby union	0.95	1.06
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.57	1.70
Junior & mixed hockey	0.32	0.34
Cricket	52.53	N/A

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision in Blythe

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>9</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>10</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	1.84	£198,242	£39,054	3.68	£707,363
Youth football	2.82	£248,541	£50,205	3.27	£629,634
Mini soccer	2.84	£83,557	£16,544	0	£0
Rugby union	0.95	£154,302	£28,546	1.91	£367,052
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	1.11	£373,890	£68,796	2.21	£425,367
Sand based AGPs	0.14	£131,703	£3,424	0.28	£54,414
3G	0.39	£440,941	£13,498	0.79	£151,815

Overall, an additional 10.10 pitches could be required to accommodate increased demand from overall housing growth in addition to 12.14 changing rooms. This would require an expected capital cost of £1,631,176 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £220,067

### **Scenario Three: Likely demand generated from grass pitch sports generated from the Draft Site allocations in the Balsall Common hub area**

Including windfall developments, Solihull Local Plan Review identifies site allocations in the Balsall Common hub area equating to 2,138 dwellings, with estimated population growth therefore equating to 5,131 people (2.4 people per dwelling).

<sup>9</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>10</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)



## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 2,138 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 2,138 dwellings	
	Match demand per week	Training demand
Adult football	1.51	12.34
Youth football	2.32	
Mini soccer	2.34	
Rugby union	0.79	0.88
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.47	1.40
Junior & mixed hockey	0.27	0.28
Cricket	43.23	N/A

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision in Balsall Common

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>11</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>12</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	1.51	£163,138	£32,138	3.03	£582,104
Youth football	2.32	£204,523	£41,314	2.69	£518,117
Mini soccer	2.34	£68,763	£13,615	0	£0
Rugby union	0.79	£126,981	£23,492	1.57	£302,061
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.91	£307,682	£56,613	1.82	£350,044
Sand based AGPs	0.12	£108,382	£2,818	0.23	£44,779
3G	0.32	£362,859	£11,108	0.65	£124,932

Overall, an additional 8.31 pitches could be required to accommodate increased demand from overall housing growth in addition to 9.99 changing rooms. This would require an expected capital cost of £1,342,327 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £181,098.

### **Scenario Four: Likely demand generated from grass pitch sports generated from the Draft Site allocations in the East of Solihull hub area**

Including windfall developments, Solihull Local Plan Review identifies site allocations in the East of Solihull hub area equating to 2,097 dwellings, with estimated population growth therefore equating to 5,032 people (2.4 people per dwelling).

<sup>11</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>12</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.7: Likely demand from grass pitch sports generated from 5,032 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 5,032 dwellings	
	Match demand per week	Training demand
Adult football	1.48	12.10
Youth football	2.27	
Mini soccer	2.29	
Rugby union	0.77	0.86
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.46	1.37
Junior & mixed hockey	0.26	0.27
Cricket	42.40	N/A

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.8: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision in East of Solihull

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>13</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>14</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	1.48	£159,990	£31,518	2.97	£570,875
Youth football	2.27	£200,587	£40,519	2.64	£508,156
Mini soccer	2.29	£67,434	£13,352	0	£0
Rugby union	0.77	£124,534	£23,039	1.54	£296,240
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.89	£301,750	£55,522	1.78	£343,295
Sand based AGPs	0.11	£106,290	£2,764	0.23	£43,915
3G	0.32	£355,861	£10,894	0.64	£122,522

Overall, an additional 8.15 pitches could be required to accommodate increased demand from overall housing growth in addition to 9.80 changing rooms. This would require an expected capital cost of £1,316,447 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £177,607.

## Conclusion

Scenario One shows that, through overall housing growth, demand will be generated to some extent for all pitch sports, and the level of demand generated for football, 3G, rugby union and cricket is such that new provision will likely be warranted. As demand generated for hockey does not equate to a whole pitch, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPOSS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g., to select suitable sites).

<sup>13</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>14</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

## **SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

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In addition, the three hub area scenarios show sufficient growth that will likely necessitate the creation of new provision to accommodate the increased demand at a more localised level. Where new pitches are to be provided in line with this, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Notwithstanding the above, the need for new provision is only clear when collectively looking at the allocated sites, with demand likely to equate to less than the need for a whole pitch for any sport when looking at individual developments. This is relevant in case the collective approach is not possible and/or if a more individualistic approach is instead to be sought.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

## **PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. It is also recommended that any meetings, where possible, are aligned to the Council's S106 and developer contributions decision making process as this will enable the relevant stakeholders to input into this.

### ***Delivery***

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Solihull in relation to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities as well as supporting ancillary facilities. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and by using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Borough can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life, and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

The creation of this document should therefore be regarded as only part of the planning process. The success of the Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. To that end, each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as a key document within the study area, guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision, being used to attract and distribute both internal and external investment, and being used as an evidence base to support or oppose any development proposals. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. The Steering Group also needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

### ***Monitoring and updating***

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

## SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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It is agreed that the Council is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up to date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust. This makes it less likely to be able to be used as an evidence base for any funding bids or development proposals.

To extend the lifespan of the PPOSS for as long as possible, it is advised that regular Steering Group meetings take place to review the study. Ideally, these should take place twice yearly, aligned to the split of summer and winter sport seasons and in line with affiliation periods.

The review process should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ Actions undertaken since the adoption of the PPOSS or since the last review, as well as any actions that have been attempted but have been unsuccessful (and for what reason).
- ◀ Any changes required to the priority afforded to each remaining action (as the priority of some may change following the delivery of others or for more general reasons e.g., alterations in participation trends or focus areas).
- ◀ Any significant changes to supply and demand information and what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues (e.g., development pressures) and opportunities (e.g., S106 contributions or club aspirations).
- ◀ Priority actions to be focused on before the next review.
- ◀ How the PPOSS has been applied to date and the lessons learnt.

Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary, amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.


These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings. The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

In addition, as referenced above, timing the meetings in line with S106 and developer contributions decisions making can also be beneficial.

# SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## Checklist

To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the Steering Group can refer to Sport England's Stage E Checklist, as shown below.

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 9: Apply &amp; deliver the strategy</b>		
◀ Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
◀ Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work?		
◀ Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust &amp; up to date</b>		
◀ Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
◀ Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
◀ Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
◀ Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
◀ Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
◀ Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		