

Warwick District Council

# Final Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report

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## Introduction and Scope

- 1.1 In September 2018, Warwick District Council, (WDC) working in partnership with Sport England, and the National Governing Bodies of Sport, commissioned naa to update the existing Playing Pitch Strategy for the period 2018 - 2029.
- 1.2 The strategy covers the sports of football, cricket, rugby, hockey, athletics and tennis, and updates the previous assessment and strategy that was produced in 2013.
- 1.3 This document is the assessment report.
- 1.4 It summarises the key issues arising from the assessment of facilities and reflects changes that have taken place in the years since the previous strategy. It informs the preparation of the strategy document (under separate cover).
- 1.5 For each of the sports covered, it aims to;
  - summarise the current supply of facilities;
  - outline current demand and evaluate projected demand;
  - evaluate the overall adequacy of provision to meet current and projected future demand; and
  - identify the key issues for the Warwick District Playing Pitch Strategy to address.
- 1.6 The strategy document will build on the issues identified and set out strategic priorities and actions for delivery.
- 1.7 The Council has also recently updated its *needs and evidence* base for Indoor Sports along with a new Strategy and Action Plan. Both pieces of work together provide a coordinated and long-term approach to sports facility provision and planning across Warwick for both indoor and outdoor sport.

## Key Drivers

- 1.8 Since 2014 Warwick District Council's corporate vision for the district has evolved and is:  
  
*'to make it a great place to live, work and visit where we aspire to build sustainable, safe, stronger and healthier communities.'*
- 1.9 There is now a corporate policy framework, known as *Fit for the Future*, which ensures that all strategies, projects and service plans focus upon three key themes: *services, people and money*.
- 1.10 In terms of *health and well-being*, Warwick District Council's aim is to enable and encourage the people of the district to have an equal access to a healthy life and sense of wellbeing, ensuring that actions are aligned with the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board's Strategy.
- 1.11 The Council's strategic priorities for health and well-being are, *to make every contact count* (MECC) in recognising that the Council has many opportunities to impact on people's mental and physical health and wellbeing by:

- Increasing opportunities for everyone to engage in sport, the arts and cultural activities;
  - Supporting independent living and decent housing for all;
  - Reducing obesity, particularly in children, and improving health outcomes generally by encouraging the availability and choices for healthy eating;
  - Reducing exposure to tobacco smoke;
  - Discouraging drug and alcohol misuse; and
  - Promoting and engaging in robust equality and disability policy.
- 1.12 Since the previous Strategy Sport England has also updated its focus, and this is set out in Sport England **Strategy 'Sporting Future – a new strategy for an Active Nation' 2016 – 2021**'. The release of the Sport England Strategy in May 2016 builds on the Government's strategy. It is titled - '*Sporting Future – a new strategy for an Active Nation*' 2016 – 2021. This strategy emphasises that future funding decisions will be made based on the social good that physical activity and sport can deliver, not simply on number of participants.
- 1.13 Sport England's vision is that '*everyone in England, regardless of age, background or level of ability, feels able to engage in physical activity and sport. Some will be young, fit and talented, but most will not. We need a sport sector that welcomes everyone - meets their needs, treats them as individuals and values them as customers.*' (*Towards An Active Nation 2016 – 2021*).
- 1.14 Within the new strategy there is a clear focus on tackling inactivity. It is recognised that more than one in four people in England (28%) do less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week. The new strategy therefore places a much greater emphasis on groups who are typically much less active such as women, disabled people and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 1.15 The new strategy makes clear recommendations with an emphasis placed on working locally to address high levels of physical inactivity and increase the number of active people. The Strategy will see investment driven by identification of local need.
- 1.16 Sport England has also placed a strong focus on the role that collaborative and multi-agency working with local partners has to play in supporting the step change that is required to tackle inactivity. There is a focus on the right mix of facilities, in accessible locations and the right programmes to engage those currently not taking part in sport and physical activity.
- 1.17 The new direction of Sport England connects with many of the local Warwick Council priorities. The added challenge for Warwick moving forward will be to re-double its efforts on the inactive and seek to ensure that facilities and programmes are developed, which encourage these groups.
- 1.18 Linking with these changing priorities, WDC and partners are updating their existing Playing Pitch Strategy for the following reasons:
- to ensure that the strategy remains current and up to date and reflective of local needs and priorities;

- to inform the implementation of the Local Plan. The local plan was adopted in 2017 and policy was informed by the findings of the previous strategy document. The updated strategy document will inform and support the determination of relevant planning applications and will also help identify priorities that can assist the allocation of developer contributions following building developments;
- to ensure that the impact of projected population growth and new development on the demand for sports pitches and the adequacy of the existing pitch stock is fully understood;
- to ensure that resources are maximised and are tailored to meet local need and to provide a foundation to increase opportunities for everyone to engage in outdoor sport and recreation;
- to provide an evidence base to support funding bids, from National Sports bodies like Sport England and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sport and of regional funders, for the delivery of sports and recreational facilities in the District; and
- to continue to provide a basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the adequacy of pitch provision to meet both current and projected need.

1.19 The remainder of this assessment report is set out as follows;

- **Section 2: Methodology** - this section sets out the methodology undertaken
- **Section 3: Strategic Context** - this section summarises the key issues in the district relating to demographics, health and wellbeing and the facility implications
- **Section 4: Hockey** - this section outlines the current picture for hockey and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 5: Football** - this section outlines the current picture for football and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 6: Rugby Union** - this section outlines the current picture for rugby and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 7: Cricket** - this section outlines the current picture for cricket and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 8: Tennis** - this section outlines the current picture for tennis and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 9: Athletics** - this section outlines the current picture for tennis and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 10: Conclusion** - this section summarises the key issues arising in the analysis of sport specific needs and outlines the key areas that need to be addressed within the strategy document.

### Introduction

- 2.1 This section summarises the methodology that has been used in the preparation of this assessment report and the strategy document that is under separate cover.
- 2.2 This assessment and strategy has been produced in line with 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013) and Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; (Sport England 2013). This differs slightly from the methodology used in the previous strategy, which was developed using a hybrid approach between this methodology (released during the strategy development) and the previous approved methodology, *Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy* (Sport England 2003).
- 2.3 The strategy has been developed by a steering group comprising representatives from;
- Warwick District Council (from Planning, Sport and Leisure, Green Spaces and Grounds Maintenance teams)
  - Sport England
  - The Birmingham FA and Football Foundation
  - The Warwickshire Cricket Board
  - England Hockey
  - The RFU
  - The LTA.

### Playing Pitches for Football, Cricket, Rugby and Hockey

- 2.4 Figure 2.1 summarises the stages of the methodology used. This assessment report summarises steps 1 – 6 (also referred to in the guidance as Stages A - C) while the strategy document will include recommendations and actions (Stages D and E).

Figure 2.1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach



### Geographical Analysis

- 2.5 The assessment covers the area within the local authority boundaries of Warwick District.
- 2.6 As in the previous strategy document, the adequacy of provision has been evaluated at a strategic level across the district as a whole. The compact nature of the district and the interrelationship between the different settlements within the district means that it has not been considered appropriate to formally subdivide the geographical area further.
- 2.7 This assessment report and strategy will however contain site by site analysis which should be used to inform local decision making. The strategy document will include key actions on a site by site basis as well as a summary of key actions by town.

### **Steps 2 and 3 – Gather Supply and Demand Information and Views**

#### **Supply**

- 2.8 The data collection process included a full audit of pitches across the district. For each site, the following information was collected;
- Site name, location, ownership and management type
  - Number and type of pitches and outdoor sports facilities
  - Accessibility of pitches to the community
  - Overall quality of pitches and ancillary facilities (including maintenance regimes)
  - Level of protection and security of tenure
  - Views of users and providers.
- 2.9 PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that the reference to five years within the Order is purely in relation to whether Sport England should be consulted in a statutory capacity. The fact that a playing field may not have been marked out for pitch sport in the last 5 years does not mean that it is no longer a playing field - this remains its lawful planning use whether marked out or not;
- Playing pitch – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
  - Playing field – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.
- 2.10 Although the statutory definition of a playing field is the whole of a site with at least one pitch of 0.2ha or more, this PPS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to pitch stock, for example, 5v5 mini football pitches. This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).
- 2.11 As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the pitches within Warwick District. There may however be instances where a site is omitted. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusion of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view. The strategy document will seek to ensure that the list of sites within the District is kept up to date as any omissions arise.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

## **Demand**

2.12 To evaluate the demand for playing pitches, the following information was collated;

- Number of sports clubs and teams and their match and training requirements
- Casual and other demand
- Educational demand
- Displaced demand (i.e. teams wishing to play within the district but unable to)
- Latent demand
- Future demand (including club and team aspirations for development as well as National Governing Body priorities and targets)
- User views and experiences, including trends and changes in demand.

2.13 The following tasks were undertaken to compile the above supply and demand data;

- Review of existing the previous WDC PPS, existing data on sports pitch provision and the Sport England Active Places tool
- Review of NGB data on pitches, outdoor sports facilities and local participation
- Full review of local league websites, fixture lists and pitch booking records
- Use of available technical quality assessment reports
- Undertaking non-technical site visits
- Undertaking a detailed survey and follow up consultation with secondary schools
- A full programme of consultation with sports clubs and league secretaries
- Face to face and telephone discussions with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities.

2.14 A high proportion of teams in Warwick District successfully engaged with the process as set out in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1: Club Survey Response Rate**

Cricket	Hockey	Tennis	Rugby Union	Football
74%	100%	75%	100%	77%

### **Steps 4, 5 and 6 – Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views**

2.15 The supply and demand information collated has been used, in line with the Sport England methodology, to;

- understand the situation at individual sites;
- develop the current and projected future pictures for each sport; and
- identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.

2.16 Figure 2.2 overleaf, extracted directly from the guidance (Sport England 2013), provides further detail of the issues explored during the analysis of the adequacy of provision.

2.17 This assessment and the resulting strategy document consider the demand in Warwick District both at the current time and up to 2029.

### **Steps 6 - 10 Develop the Strategy and Deliver the Strategy and Keep it Up to Date and Robust**

2.18 The strategy document will use the issues identified to set out a strategic framework for the provision of pitches. Recommendations and priorities will be developed following extensive



scenario testing and in conjunction with key stakeholders (both internal to the Council and external).

**Non Pitch Sports - Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; 2013)**

2.19 For tennis, the assessment stages (Phase A) of the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) approach are as follows:

Stage 1 – Prepare and tailor your assessment

Stage 2 – Gather information on supply and demand

Stage 3 – Assessment, bring the information together

2.20 The key tasks undertaken in relation to the assessment are briefly summarised below.

***Stage 1: Undertaking an Assessment:***

2.21 Stage A was carried out through detailed discussions with the steering group.

***Stage 2: Gather Information on Supply and Demand***

2.22 To gather information on supply, visits were made to all tennis courts and assessments made of their quality, maintenance and 'fit for purpose' rating. Discussions were held with operators, managers and users.

2.23 To gather information on demand, questionnaires were sent (many with follow up phone calls and/or visits) to all known sports clubs. Consultation took place with national and regional governing body of sport representatives.

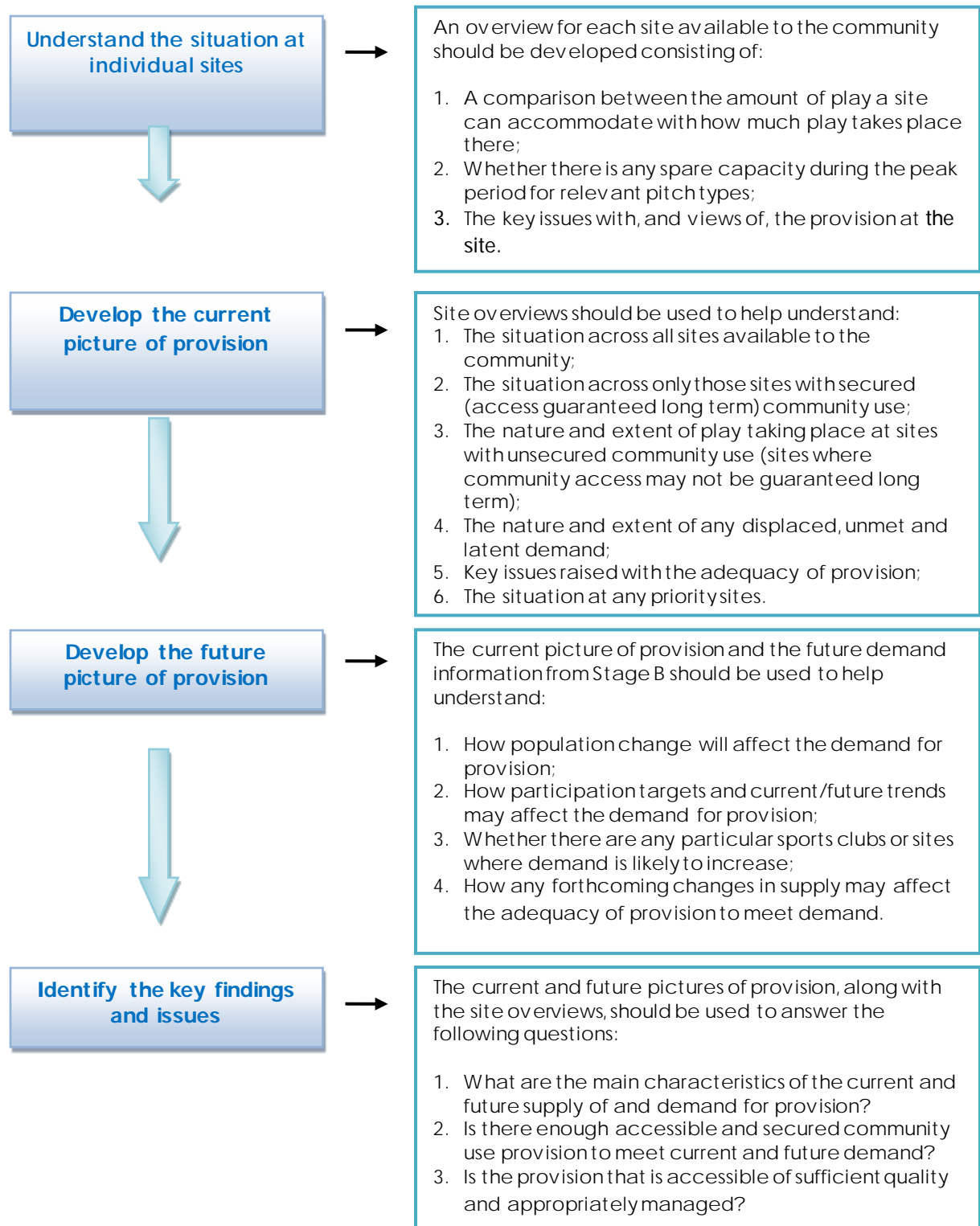
***Stage 3: Assessment – Bring the Information Together***

2.24 The analysis seeks to bring together the evidence gathered to gain an understanding of the relationship between supply and demand. Key findings and issues to be addressed are set out for each of the sports / facilities covered.

**B Application of Assessment – Strategy Development**

2.25 Recommendations and strategy priorities are developed to address the issues identified through the data collection and analysis undertaken in Step A.

Figure 2.2: Overview of the Assessment Process



### **This Assessment**

- 2.26 The remainder of this assessment therefore provides an overview of each sport in Warwick District and provides the evidence behind the issues presented in the strategy document.
- 2.27 To inform the analysis of the current and projected future picture for each sport, Section 3 summarises the strategic context, as well as demographic profile (both current and future).

### Introduction

- 3.1 This section briefly summarises the key policies that impact upon the preparation of this assessment and strategy and provides an overview of the demographics of the district and the impact of this on demand for pitch sports and outdoor sports facilities. It provides an overview only - sport specific issues are discussed in Sections 4 - 8.

### Strategic Context

#### National Level

- 3.2 At a national level, there are several key policies that impact upon the preparation of this Playing Pitch and outdoor sports facilities assessment.

- 3.3 **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation is set out in paragraphs 96 and 97 which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application. Paragraph 97 indicates that:

*'Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate'.*

- 3.4 Paragraph 97 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.*

- 3.5 The preparation of this playing pitch assessment and strategy will help to ensure that Warwick DC is able to deliver upon the requirements of this national policy.

- 3.6 **Sport England** has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long-established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance above. Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up to date assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this. Sport England recommend that a strategy is monitored and updated annually and refreshed every three years. This assessment will support the Council in implementing a robust strategic approach to the delivery of pitches. Sport England's National Strategy Towards an Active Nation ("016 - 2021) underpins this playing pitch assessment.

3.7 Focusing specifically on sport, most of the National Governing Bodies have facility strategies setting out the requirements for their sport as follows;

- The Football Association - National Game Strategy for Participation and Development (2018 - 2021)
- Cricket Unleashed –Strategic Plan (2016)
- The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2017) (currently being updated)
- England Hockey Facilities Strategy – (2017 - 2021).

3.8 Appendix A summarises the key principles of each of the strategic documents and these principles will be considered both in the assessment of the adequacy of facilities and in the strategy document determining the future priorities for delivery of each sport.

#### **Local Policy Context**

3.9 The preparation of this Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy also impacts upon, or is informed by, a number of key local documents.

3.10 The strategic drivers for facility provision across Warwick District in 2014 were to ensure:

- long-term sports facility needs deliver health and wellbeing and economic priorities;
- sports facility needs meet future population growth; and
- priorities take account of the current condition and projected lifespan of the Warwick District Council (WDC) owned stock.

3.11 Since 2014 Warwick District Council's corporate vision for the district has evolved and is:

*'to make it a great place to live, work and visit where we aspire to build sustainable, safe, stronger and healthier communities.'*

3.12 There is now a corporate policy framework, known as Fit for the Future, which ensures that all strategies, projects and service plans focus upon three key themes: services, people and money.

3.13 In terms of health and well-being, Warwick District Council's aim is to enable and encourage the people of the district to have an equal access to a healthy life and sense of wellbeing, ensuring that actions are aligned with the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board's Strategy.

3.14 The Council's strategic priorities for health and well-being are, to make every contact count (MECC) in recognising that the Council has many opportunities to impact on people's mental and physical health and wellbeing by:

- increasing opportunities for everyone to engage in sport, the arts and cultural activities;
- supporting independent living and decent housing for all;

- reducing obesity, particularly in children, and improving health outcomes generally by encouraging the availability and choices for healthy eating;
- reducing exposure to tobacco smoke;
- discouraging drug and alcohol misuse; and
- promoting and engaging in robust equality and disability policy.

3.15 The previous theme of health as a key driver is therefore still and arguably even more relevant for the current Strategy.

3.16 Table 3.1 summarises the other key documents that are informed by and / or inform this Playing Pitch Strategy.

**Table 3.1: Key Strategic Documents in Warwick DC**

Document details	Description of main content	Key implications for Playing Pitch Strategy
<p><b>Local Plan (September 2017)</b></p>	<p>The Local Plan was adopted in 2017 and is now represents official policy. It sets out a long term spatial vision of how the towns, villages and countryside will develop and change and how the vision will be delivered. It seeks to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote sustainable levels of growth</li> <li>• Provide well designed new developments that are in the right location and address climate change</li> <li>• Enable the districts infrastructure to improve and support growth.</li> </ul> <p>It includes several policies of direct relevance to this strategy document, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS2 – Protecting Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities – facilities will be protected unless they meet with the exception criteria stated in the policy</li> <li>• HS4 – Improvements to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities – contributions will be sought from developments to provide, improve and maintain appropriate open space, sport and recreational needs.</li> <li>• HS5 – Directing Open Space Sport and Recreation Facilities - development proposals will be supported if they address shortfalls in the built facilities / PPS / Green Infrastructure and meet with other specific criteria</li> </ul> <p>Specific policies impacting upon this strategy are also evident. These include;</p> <p>DS23 – Land for outdoor sports and recreation in Kenilworth – land at Castle Farm and Warwick Road is allocated for the provision of outdoor sport. This will offset the loss of some key existing sports sites which are allocated for residential development</p> <p>DS22 – Land at Former Leek Wootton Police HQ – this site is allocated for residential development</p> <p>DS14 – Land adjoining Warwick Technology Park allocated for the development of a community stadium</p>	<p>This strategy document supports the delivery of the local plan, providing the evidence base to inform decision making.</p>
<p><b>Warwick and District Fit for The Future</b></p>	<p>This vision agreed for the Warwick District area is;</p>	<p>Effective sports facilities can directly contribute to the achievement of this vision and many of the strategic priorities. In</p>

Document details	Description of main content	Key implications for Playing Pitch Strategy
	<p><i>Warwick District, a great place to live, work and visit, where we aspire to build sustainable, safe, stronger and healthier communities.</i></p> <p>The document seeks to build the priorities of the Council around the 4 thematic priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy, specifically;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing – building communities</li> <li>• Economy, Skills and Employment – creating an economically vibrant and creative community</li> <li>• Safer Communities – protecting communities from harm</li> <li>• Health and well being – creating a healthier community and encouraging a rounded and active view of lifestyles.</li> <li>• </li> </ul>	<p>particular, sports facilities are essential in the delivery of priorities relating to health, and well-being in particular.</p>
<p><b>Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy</b></p>	<p>The strategy sets out a series of priorities for the promotion of health and wellbeing of the population of Warwickshire. The three key priorities are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting independence</li> <li>• Community resilience</li> <li>• Integration and working together</li> </ul>	<p>This strategy document supports the achievement of the strategy goals and helps to guide decision making relating to facilities, which will have a direct impact on the delivery of these objectives.</p>



### **Demographic and Participation Profile**

- 3.17 An understanding of the character of an area, population trends and overall participation in sport underpins the evaluation of the adequacy of outdoor sports facilities in later sections. It provides an important context for the provision of outdoor sports facilities and can significantly influence the amount and type of demand for sporting activities, as well as the challenges associated with providing an adequate supply.

### **Demographic Context**

- 3.18 The demographic context is central to determining current and future need for outdoor sports facilities.
- 3.19 The total population of Warwick District according to the Census 2011 was 1337,736. The 2014 based subnational population projections indicate that this rose to 141,770 by 2018. The proportion of people falling into age groups defined as active (5 – 44) has fallen since the 2011 census, with almost 50% of the population now falling into inactive categories.
- 3.20 The age profile of the district is broadly in line with averages, although a slightly higher proportion of residents fall into active age groups than national levels. This is a positive indicator in terms of potential sport and physical activity participation. This may impact upon the overall levels of demand for outdoor sports facilities.

### **Projected Population Growth**

- 3.21 To ensure that there are sufficient facilities in the right place to meet projected future (as well as current) need, analysis of projected changes to the population profile also forms a key component of facility requirements for outdoor sports facilities.
- 3.22 Population growth in Warwick District is likely to fall into two categories;
- Trends based – these are based upon the continuation of recent demographic trends and assumptions made at a national level
  - Local policy base – new population in the district as a result of planned new housing.
- 3.23 This strategy will consider the impact of trends based population projections as a baseline while the impact of the planned housing growth will be considered as an additional scenario for each sport.

### **Trends Based Population Projections**

- 3.24 Trends based population projections (2014-based Subnational Population Projections released in May 2016 - the most up to date source available) reveal that the population of Warwick District will increase to 150,113 by 2029 (an increase of 8343 or 6% of the current population). (The impact of specific housing developments will be considered later in this section).
- 3.25 Critically for the provision of sports facilities, as in 2013, it is the proportion of the population in older age groups that is increasing. This is evident in Table 3.2, which indicates that the number of people in older age groups is rising and the proportion of people in younger age groups is declining. Given that it is the younger age groups that are more active in pitch sports, for the majority of sports considered in this document, changes to the population profile are therefore likely to mean that demand for facilities will not increase in line with population growth.

**Table 3.2: Projected increases in Population**

Age Range	2018	Proportion of Population	2029	Proportion of Population
0 - 15	23744	17%	25,958	17%
16-44	54785	39%	57241	38%
45 -64	35668	25%	34854	23%
65+	26573	19%	32060	21%
Total	141770		150113	

3.26 90% of the population of the district currently live in the main urban areas of Kenilworth, Warwick, Whitnash and Leamington Spa while the remainder live in small villages.

### Planned Housing Growth

3.27 The Council has recently prepared its Local Plan to determine where and how much new development should take place in the District. This plan seeks to deliver 10,659 new dwellings up to 2029. This will generate growth in population significantly above the levels predicted through trends based analysis set out in Table 3.2.

3.28 The Local Plan identifies the development land that is needed to meet the growth and regeneration needs of the District and identifies sustainable sites to accommodate this. The spatial strategy seeks to focus growth within and adjacent to built up area and therefore the main focus of growth will be Warwick, Leamington, Whitnash and Kenilworth as well as the southern edge of Coventry.

3.29 The plan indicates that as well as smaller housing sites, there will be several large strategic growth areas where large numbers of housing will be provided. Where large scale housing developments are provided, these may have greater locational impact on the demand for playing fields and sports pitches. The total impact of the new housing development is therefore considered in this assessment report and the specific impact of the larger development sites is also taken into account. The locations of the larger sites are summarised in Table 3.3.

**Table 3.3: Housing Locations (greater than 500 dwellings)**

Development	Dwellings
Land West of Europa Way	1210
Land South of Harbury Lane	1605
Gallows Hill	630
Whitnash East	500

Development	Dwellings
(South of Sydenham)	
The Asps	900
East of Kenilworth (Thickthorn)	760
East of Kenilworth (Policyds12)	640
Kings Hill (Policy DS20)	1800
<b>Total</b>	<b>8045*</b>

\*The above table considers developments of 500 houses or more and therefore does not detail the total planned housing growth in the district.

- 3.30 Sport England has developed a Playing Pitch Calculator which can be used to indicate how much demand will be created by a proposed development and the cost associated with this. This calculator can therefore be used to evaluate the impact that the creation of additional dwellings in Warwick will generate.
- 3.31 The calculator uses information from The Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment to provide an estimate of the demand from the population of new development. It considers
- The likely number of people from the new population in each of the individual pitch sport age groups (Derived from the profile of the current population)
  - Using the Team Generation Rates (TGR) prepared as part of the PPS and the profile of the population (a), the likely number of teams that will be generated by the new development
  - The number of match equivalent sessions that will be generated by the new population and the subsequent demand in terms of pitch requirements.
- 3.32 The resulting figures should then be considered in the context of the findings of the assessment in order to determine the ability of the existing facilities to sustain the additional demand and any requirements for new and / or improved provision. This assessment evaluates the total additional demand that will be created across the district by the housing growth and the strategy seeks to provide facilities to meet these needs.
- 3.33 The total impact of all of the proposed dwellings, as well as the individual impact of each of the strategic sites is considered in each of the sport specific sections.
- 3.34 It should be noted that the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator only covers the following sports;
- Football
  - Cricket
  - Rugby
  - Hockey.

3.35 To ensure that the future demand for tennis is also quantified to take into account the likely impact of the proposed housing growth, existing rates of participation in tennis will be applied to the projected new population to determine the additional number of players that will be created. This will be explored further in the tennis section.

### **Sports Participation Profile**

3.36 In 2013 the analysis of the Districts sports participation set out a very positive picture across Warwick District of a healthy and active population with a high propensity to participate in sport and physical activity.

3.37 2018 sees the position much the same:

- 61% of adults report undertaking 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity compared to the national average of 57%;
- 42% of adults (14 plus) take part in sport at least once a week compared to the national average of 37%. 47.5% for men and 36.55 for women;
- 26.3% of adults (16 plus) take part in sport and active recreation three times a week compared to the national average of 23.7%. 31% for men and 21.6% for women; and
- 51.9% of adults who are inactive want to take part in sport, demonstrating there is an opportunity to increase participation.

3.38 The map below shows the adult participation rates for sport across the District on an area basis, with the darker shading representing the highest participation rates.

**Map 3.1: Adult Participation in Sport across Warwick District**



3.39 The 2013 needs and evidence concluded that the participation profile is generally matched to community recreation and activity based opportunities, i.e. swimming and health and fitness, as opposed to formal sport. Looking at the participation numbers, providing accessible community facilities for sport and physical activity clearly helps to cater for this profile and resident needs, while also attracting new participants.

3.40 This would still appear to be the case however it is evident that there are some challenges. In geographical terms there is east / west split in the district and a real pocket of low participation centred around the Manor ward. It should also be noted that in the north of

the district around the Kenilworth area, participation is also lower, although still in the mid range and not low.

- 3.41 Inactivity continues to present a challenge and female participation also lags behind that of male.

## Summary

### Context - Summary and Key issues

The key points and issues arising from analysis of the context and issues for this playing pitch assessment in Warwick DC are therefore;

- the preparation of the assessment will contribute directly to the national and local policy agenda, providing information for decision making in relation to planning applications and ensuring that there are sufficient facilities to meet the needs of the growing population;
- This assessment and strategy document will also inform local priorities – in particular supporting the drive to improve health and wellbeing of the local population. The implementation of this strategy will help to ensure that a network of facilities is provided that facilitate this, both now and in future years as the population grows and its composition changes. An effective network of outdoor sports facilities can be central to the achievement of health improvement and participation related goals and will be key to delivering the desired outcomes of other strategies. This strategy will provide the foundations for delivering such a network and therefore support the achievement of the key goals of many local, regional and national strategic documents;
- Trends based population data indicates that the population of Warwick District will increase significantly between the current time and 2029, generating additional demand for playing pitches and sporting infrastructure;
- Although the population will increase, the highest proportional growth however will be in the older age groups. These groups have a lower propensity to participate in pitch sports than average. This means that while there will be a significant increase in the number of residents in the district, the total demand for pitches and tennis courts is likely to increase by a smaller percentage;
- Housing planned as part of the Local Plan will have further implications for the adequacy of sports pitches in the district, with 10,659 new dwellings bringing large numbers of additional residents into the district. It is essential that the impact of this is considered and that additional capacity is provided where required to meet this extra need
- analysis of the Districts sports participation set out a very positive picture across Warwick District of a healthy and active population with a high propensity to participate in sport and physical activity. There are however pockets of inactivity which an effective network of sports facilities can help to address.

### Introduction

- 4.1 Hockey is now almost exclusively played on AGPs and increasingly, AGPs are also used for football. The FA now approves certain types of AGP for use in competitive fixtures (those listed on the FA register) and the FA National Facilities Strategy recognises the role that these facilities play in the provision of facilities for football. AGPs that are compliant with World Rugby specifications can also be used for rugby match play and training.
- 4.2 The analysis of the adequacy of AGPs and the requirement for additional facilities therefore spreads across all three sports. England Hockey Policy Guidance on AGPs (Artificial Grass Pitch Surface Policy 2016)) indicates the suitability of AGPs to be as follows;
- Category 1 - Water Based (suitable for high level hockey and football training if the pitch is irrigated)
  - Category 2- Sand Dressed (acceptable surface for hockey and suitable for football training)
  - Category 3 - Sand Filled (preferred surface for hockey and suitable for football training)
  - Category 4 – Long Pile 3g (acceptable surface for football and introductory Level Hockey but not competitive match play hockey).
- 4.3 Technology continues to move on and new forms of pitch are being developed frequently. Pitch requirements are therefore likely to evolve as technology becomes more advanced.
- 4.4 This section considers the adequacy of AGPS for hockey. Specific needs for football and rugby will be considered separately in the relevant sport specific sections, however the interrelationships between the sports will be identified where relevant and in particular, in the conclusions section of this document (section 10).

### Supply

- 4.5 Table 4.1 summarises the full size AGPs in Warwick District. It records eight pitches in total, which is an increase of one pitch from the 2013 strategy.
- 4.6 Five of the pitches in the district are sand based and are therefore suitable for hockey. Five pitches were also recorded in 2013 and provision for hockey therefore remains static, despite the overall increase in the number of AGPs available.
- 4.7 The five sand-based pitches are located on four sites, with Warwick School containing two pitches. The presence of two pitches on this site means that this venue is regionally important for hockey, as it offers the potential to accommodate large tournaments and large-scale training activity.

**Table 4.1: AGPs across Warwick District**

Site Name	AGP - Surface Type	Built / Refurbished	Opening Hours	Suitability for Hockey
John Atkinson Sports Centre	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	2003	5.30 - 9.30 midweek, weekend 10 -3	No – 3G pitch
Meadow Community Sports Centre	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	2012	6 - 9 midweek, 9 - 6 weekend	No – 3G pitch
St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre	Sand Dressed	Resurfaced in ???	8am – 10pm	Yes
Aylesford School	Sand Filled	2006	6 - 10 and 9 - 6 at weekends	Yes
North Leamington School	Sand Dressed	2009	5.30 - 9.30 midweek, weekend 9 - 4.30	Yes
Warwick School Sports Centre	Sand Filled (two pitches)	Refurbished 2016	6- 10.30 midweek, Saturday 7am - 6pm	Yes
Cryfield Pavilion (Warwick Uni)	3g	2017	Weekend 9 - 5	No – 3G pitch

4.8 Spatially, sand-based pitches are concentrated in the settlements of Warwick and Leamington Spa. Cryfield Pavilion (Warwick University) is the only facility located outside of the main urban area and this is situated in the northern extremities of the district, towards Coventry. It should be noted however that this site predominantly serves the needs of students and staff at the university and therefore has only limited role in community activity.

- 4.9 In addition to the above, there is a water based AGP owned and managed by University of Warwick. This pitch is however located at Westwood Campus and therefore falls outside of the district.
- 4.10 Since the research was undertaken for this assessment, a World Rugby compliant 3G AGP has also been developed at Warwick School. It is believed that this facility is now open to the community although existing usage is unknown.

### Pitch Quality

- 4.11 Table 4.2 summarises the quality of each community sand based AGP and highlights any issues identified.
- 4.12 It reveals that overall, the quality of facilities is standard but that the age of the stock is starting to show, with quality issues starting to emerge and some pitches starting to approach a poor classification. This issue was also evident in the 2013 PPS, but only pitches at Warwick School have since been refurbished. Overall therefore, the quality of pitches for hockey has therefore declined since 2013.
- 4.13 The pitch at St Nicholas Park is considered to be particularly in need of refurbishment in the next two years if it is to continue to be suitable for hockey.

**Table 4.2: Quality Issues at Sand Based AGPs that are suitable for hockey**

	Quality Rating	Quality Comments
St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre	Standard	Pitch quality deteriorating but still standard condition although ageing. Some stones and rips in the surface. Changing facilities also limited quality – showers are poor and there is a lack of separate changing.
North Leamington School	Standard	Facility dereriorating. Grip remains adequate but line markings are poor and equipment is also poor. Concerns about the quality of lighting raised by clubs
Aylesford School	Standard	Facility of standard quality but starting to age. Use for football is impacting suitability of surface for hockey.
Warwick School Sports Centre	Good	Newly refurbished pitches but changing rooms poor. Costs for community use perceived to be high.

### Demand

#### Current Participation

- 4.14 There are four hockey clubs playing in Warwick District running a total of 25 adult teams and 2 junior sections. The same clubs therefore continue to operate as in 2013, however there has been a slight increase in the amount of teams that are playing in the district (from 22 to 25 adult teams). Both Leamington Hockey Club and Warwick Hockey Club continue to run junior sections, offering progression through from a young age to senior hockey.



- 4.15 As in 2013, three of the four clubs align themselves with Warwick District. Shipston Ladies Hockey Club however continue to travel to Warwick District from Stratford upon Avon District to use the pitch at St Nicholas Park. The club would however prefer to play within Shipston itself if facilities were available.
- 4.16 Table 4.3 summarises the teams in each club and outlines the approximate number of hours that they use pitches, as well as the site used. The usage is based upon the assumption that each team plays alternate home and away games.
- 4.17 It reveals that unlike in 2013 when all teams played all of their fixtures within Warwick District, during the season when data was collected, some clubs travelled out of the district to the new pitch at Warwick University, Westwood Campus, which is located just in Coventry City. This pitch is a new high quality water based pitch designed for high standard hockey.

**Table 4.3: Hockey Teams in Warwick District**

Club	Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior	Venue	Trends	Issues Identified as Barriers
Warwick Hockey Club	6	5	Run junior academy and enter U10 / U12 and U14 tournaments on occasions as well as badgers events. Also have U16 A and B	Warwick School. Pavilion located next to Warwick Racecourse. Aylesford School use an overspill venue.	Number of teams static, but number of junior players is increasing	Shortage of coaches and volunteers
Khalsa Hockey Club	4	None, but 1 mixed team		St Nicholas Park. No clubhouse	Increasing	Lack of home ground
Leamington Hockey Club	3	5	Run junior academy and enter U10 / U12 and U14 tournaments on occasions as well as badgers events.	North Leamington School. Clubhouse at Leamington Rugby Club. Also use Westwood Campus, Coventry.	Increased adult ladies teams. Junior playing numbers also increasing	Cost of pitch hire and lack of internal / external funding. Poor facilities in Leamington
Shipston Ladies Hockey Club		1		St Nicholas Park. No clubhouse	Number of teams static, but club struggling with playing numbers	Requirement to travel to Warwick

4.18 Table 4.3 reveals that;

- participation in hockey continues to increase across Warwick District, with all clubs experiencing growth in player numbers in at least one age group (with the exception of Shipston Ladies, who commute in from outside of the district);

- increases in participation are evident in both senior and junior sections;
- the barriers to participation vary by club, with issues relating to facilities (cost / availability and quality) being a concern. Warwick Hockey Club, who use the recently refurbished pitches at Warwick School are the only club not to highlight problems relating to pitch provision;

4.19 Table 4.4 considers the facility requirement for each club and current usage patterns and reveals that all of the sand-based facilities in the District are used for hockey to varying degrees. It also provides comment on the key concerns of each club relating to the venues that they use.

**Table 4.4: Hockey Clubs and Venues**

Club	Venue	Approximate Hours Matches	Approximate Hours Training	Comments on Current Venue
Warwick Hockey Club	Warwick School	20 hours (across 2 pitches)	9 hours (across two pitches)	Strategically important pitch for hockey in the region. Facilities of good quality and improving (still bedding in). Poor changing facilities and no on-site pavilion which impacts club activity.
	Aylesford School	2 hours	N/a	Facility of lower quality but used as an overspill venue. Surface is basic but adequate but there are no easily accessible changing rooms. Hockey users must compete with football. A hockey league is held on the pitch during the summer months (outside peak time for hockey).
Khalsa Hockey Club	St Nicholas Park	3 hours club. Plus, additional 2 hours for Khalsa Leamington and over 40's team	4.5 hours	Club challenging for place in national league and require higher quality venue than St Nicholas Park can offer. If promoted, this venue would not meet league requirements in particular with regards run off, dug out, spectator provision, location of changing etc. Club seeking to develop own facility on land that they have purchased. The club have already obtained planning permission.
Leamington Hockey Club	North Leamington School	8.5 hours	4 hours	Club unhappy with pitch quality – both pitch surface and changing accommodation require refurbishment. Site also has poor lighting.
	Westwood (Warwick University)	2.5 hours matches	4.5 hours	Club using excellent facility for teams playing at the highest level. Club would prefer to play in Leamington and cost may also be prohibitive.

Shipston Ladies Hockey Club	St Nicholas Park	1.5 hours	N/a – Club train on tarmac in Shipston on Stour	Club happy with venue at St Nicholas Park but are seeking their own venue in Shipston on Stour.
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4.20 Table 4.4 therefore reveals several issues relating to facilities in Warwick District for hockey. Of particular note;

- all of the existing sand based facilities are used for hockey, although the amount of activity at each site varies. Usage is lowest at Aylesford School, which is only used for hockey for two hours weekly;
- demand for hockey is highest at a weekend, when facilities are required to accommodate competitive fixtures
- While the smaller clubs use just one venue, Warwick HC and Leamington HC both use overspill venues (Aylesford School and Westwood Campus) in order to ensure that all of their demand can be accommodated.
- although hockey facilities are well used, concerns are raised with both the quality and quantity of facilities, particularly in Leamington, where Leamington HC wish to see facilities of improved quality, and Khalsa HC are looking to provide their own pitch on the site of their clubhouse;
- there are also concerns about the lack of on site clubhouses. Social facilities are seen as key to developing a club atmosphere and building the number of players.

4.21 The issues raised by Khalsa HC and Leamington HC with regards venue quality require further note. Both clubs, but particularly Khalsa HC, have teams playing a high standard of hockey and league requirements therefore stipulate that pitches need to be of a good standard and include key ancillary facilities such as spectator seating and dugouts. While both teams are currently able to meet their requirements within the district, promotion would ensure that the teams would need to travel to Westwood Campus (the nearest facility meeting criteria) or an alternative venue in order to continue to meet the necessary facility specifications.

#### ***Displaced Demand***

4.22 Shipston Ladies Hockey Club are a clear example of displaced demand, travelling into Warwick District to play hockey due to a lack of facilities more local to their home.

4.23 In contrast, Leamington HC have chosen to travel out of the district to Westwood Campus (Warwick University) in order to access high quality facilities suitable for the standard that they play at. They do however indicate that they wish to see suitable facilities of a high quality in Leamington and to an extent they are therefore also displaced. The facilities at Westwood Campus do however only just fall outside of the boundaries of Warwick District and the level of travel required is therefore not considered unreasonable (particularly given the quality of facilities that are on offer and the catchment area that such facilities would typically be considered to serve).

#### ***Educational Demand***

- 4.24 Educational use of AGPs takes place outside of peak hours and there is therefore no impact upon the availability of the facilities for community hockey (as the artificial surface means that AGPs are not impacted upon by levels of use in the same way that grass pitches are).
- 4.25 School participation can however have a knock-on impact on demand for hockey. At a national schools level, tournaments are run for U14, U16 and U18 age groups for both genders. The number of schools entering these tournaments is however declining, with this generally attributed to lack of staff, the need to have time off to participate and frequently, the loss or resurface of a pitch means that the school no longer has a facility on which to train.
- 4.26 Warwick School is the only school to enter the Warwickshire Schools Hockey League in 2018 (both girls and boys) and reflecting the importance of hockey to the school, the school has also hosted the County round of the national 7 aside competition on numerous occasions and has also reached the national finals stages. Warwick Hockey Club in particular highlight the importance of the strong links that they have with Warwick Hockey Club.
- 4.27 There are also other localised school hockey competitions for both primary and secondary schools but it is clear that there is greater scope for hockey to be developed further in schools in the district.

#### **Academy Centres**

- 4.28 In addition to demand from club and school use, Warwick School is used as an important venue for Academy Centres and Development Centres. These sessions generally take place on a Sunday afternoon.
- 4.29 This site is therefore strategically important to hockey in the district (as a training venue, but also as a competition venue as illustrated above) due to the location of two pitches side by side.

#### **Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views**

- 4.30 The adequacy of AGPs to accommodate demand for hockey, taking into account both training and competitive fixtures is discussed in the section that follows. Demand for football is also considered as while hockey teams cannot use facilities designed for football (3g pitches), sand based surfaces are used for football training (as well as ad hoc community activity) and hockey clubs can face extensive competition in accessing pitches.
- 4.31 The FA National Facilities Strategy seeks to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3g pitches however and in areas where the stock of 3g pitches is adequate for football, it is typical that sand-based sites are used primarily by hockey clubs. This may present challenges in itself, as several sand-based pitches in Warwick (St Nicholas Park, Aylesford School and North Leamington School) are currently reliant upon income from football clubs.

#### **Situation at Individual Sites**

- 4.32 Supply and demand of AGPs is measured by considering;
- the amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 18:00 to 21:00; Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00;

- the amount of play that takes place (measured in hours);
- whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
- any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.

4.33 To ensure that issues for hockey are fully taken into account however, as well as evaluating usage over the week, capacity at peak time should also be considered. England Hockey guidance suggests that no AGP should be considered able to sustain more than 4 to 5 games on any one day, however this is dependent on factors such as floodlighting, warm up areas and local league structures.

4.34 It should be noted that usage figures are approximate only as bookings at most sites fluctuate.

Table 4.5: Site Specific Usage

Site Name	Midweek Peak	Weekend Peak	Hours Hockey Training	Hours Hockey Matches	Spare Capacity / Availability	ME at Peak Time	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (ME_)
St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre	18	16	4.5	4.5	13.5 midweek, 9.5 weekend. Football usage takes up much of these hours, but there is ad hoc spare capacity available. Hockey is the primary use at weekends.	2.5	1.5
Aylesford School	10	16	0	2	Pitch accommodates no midweek hockey, but capacity is largely taken up with football clubs training and 5v5 leagues (Monday and Tuesday). 2 hours hockey usage at weekend	0.5	4

Site Name	Midweek Peak	Weekend Peak	Hours Hockey Training	Hours Hockey Matches	Spare Capacity / Availability	ME at Peak Time	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (ME_)
North Leamington School	10.5	15	4	8.5	Spare capacity equivalent to 6.5 during the midweek peak periods, but this is largely taken with heavy schedule of football training. Scope for additional activity at weekends, primarily Sunday PM	3	1
Warwick School Sports Centre	20	32	9	22 (includes some usage from Academy centres)	Scope to accommodate additional play from club, although facility does also host school fixtures. Only 10 hours remaining at the weekend across the two pitches.	5	3

### Current Picture of Provision

- 4.35 Table 4.5 therefore indicates that there is spare capacity at sites that are suitable for hockey both across the week and at weekends. Midweek however, the majority of this is taken up by football clubs.
- 4.36 There is greater spare capacity at weekends around the hockey usage, primarily on a Sunday afternoon, with most activity on either a Saturday or Sunday morning.
- 4.37 Table 4.6 summarises the total peak time usage on each AGP in Warwick District and indicates that there is scope to increase the amount of play on the existing facilities.
- 4.38 It records demand at peak time in Warwick District as 11 match equivalents (this could be accommodated within 3 pitches).
- 4.39 It should however be noted that while there appears to be capacity on the existing sites, at least two clubs highlight that they seek to play their fixtures between 11am and 3pm in order to facilitate travelling for the away teams. This reduces the number of matches that can be played on one day and therefore causes the displacement of teams (overspill to another pitch). If just three pitches were available, there would be insufficient availability to accommodate all of the required matches within these timeframes.
- 4.40 The relocation of Shipston on Stour HC (with only one team) would not change the overall requirement for pitch provision.

**Table 4.6: Peak Time Demand**

Site Name	ME at Peak Time	Capacity at Peak Time	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (ME_
St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre	2.5	4	1.5
Aylesford School	0.5	4	3.5
North Leamington School	3	4	1
Warwick School Sports Centre	5	8	3
TOTAL	11	20	9

- 4.41 Table 4.6 therefore reveals that there is a degree of spare capacity in the District, with three pitches required if all pitches are to be played throughout the day, and four pitches needed if there is any growth in participation (and / or all fixtures are to be played between 11am and 3pm).
- 4.42 The above table does not however take into account the additional usage that is currently displaced to Warwick University. As Leamington HC would prefer this to take place in



Leamington, this should be included. As this would generate an additional 1 match equivalent in addition to that set out above, demand would increase to 12 match equivalents overall. Unless matches are to be tightly scheduled (and to ensure that capacity for growth is retained) a minimum of four pitches would therefore be required to meet demand.

- 4.43 It appears therefore that similar to in 2013, there is sufficient capacity within the existing facility stock to meet demand in quantitative terms, but there are concerns relating to the quality of facilities.

#### ***England Hockey Perspective***

- 4.44 England Hockey released a new Facility Strategy in 2017 and the key principles of this document are set out below.

#### ***England Hockey Strategy***

- 4.45 The strategy vision is for every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players. The outcome is to provide More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

- 4.46 The strategy reveals that the club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside the affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

- 4.47 The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are to:

**1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

- 4.48 We currently have over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

**2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**

- 4.49 The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to be more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

**3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate**

- 4.50 The research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and to allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

- 4.51 The strategy therefore seeks to stabilise the future of England Hockey and to ensure that there are sufficient facilities for hockey and that the right facilities are provided in the right place to meet club need. The strategy also seeks to ensure that pitches are appropriately managed and maintained, and that elite clubs are supported to develop the pitches that they need.

- 4.52 With specific regards to Warwick District therefore, the strategy seeks to protect the required number of facilities, ensuring that provision is of the right quality and in the right location.

#### Latent Demand

- 4.53 Leamington Hockey Club believe participation to be inhibited by the quality of facilities that are available in the District. They currently have a junior waiting list and suggest that the club would be able to sustain higher numbers of players if facilities were of better quality and more were available locally. There are also challenges recruiting coaches and volunteers and this impacts upon the number of players that can be accommodated (particularly for junior training) at any one time.
- 4.54 Khalsa Hockey Club raise similar concerns, indicating that they are seeking to develop their own ground in order to grow the number of teams that the club runs. They believe that their relocation would see a significant increase in participation and that it would help to alleviate latent demand that is currently evident in the district.
- 4.55 Warwick Hockey Club also believe that creating an on-site club house would help the club to increase participation and reduce latent demand.

#### Future Picture of Provision

- 4.56 The future requirement for AGPs for hockey will be impacted upon by several things, including population growth, changes to the demographic profile, club development and evolving participation trends. These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

#### Population Change – Trends Based Population Growth

- 4.57 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to trends-based population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population change and gain an understanding of future demand.
- 4.58 Table 4.7 summarises the implications of this population change and reveals that there will be limited impact. By 2029 there will have been a decline in the number of people in the age groups that typically play adult hockey and only a slight increase in those that play junior hockey. This means that no additional teams will be generated however changes will also be insufficient to cause a reduction in the amount of teams in the district.

**Table 4.7: Impact of Changes to the Population Profile**

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future Population	Population Change in Age Group	Potential Change in Team Numbers
Senior Men (16-55yrs)	13	38106	2931	37946	-160	-0.1
Senior Women (16-55yrs)	12	38106	3176	37946	-160	-0.1

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future Population	Population Change in Age Group	Potential Change in Team Numbers
Junior Boys (11-15yrs)	4	3704	926	37946	127	0.0
Junior Girls (11-15yrs)	4	3704	926	3831	127	0.0

4.59 This means that trends-based population change would result in demands for pitches remaining static in terms of peak time demand. There may however be a slight increase in demand for training (but insufficient to create additional teams).

4.60 Population growth linked with new housing development will be considered later in this section.

### Changes in Participation Trends

4.61 England Hockey seek to build participation in the sport, with a particular focus placed upon retention of existing players as well as an increase in the number of players aged 14+. In addition to the traditional form of the game, new forms of hockey have also been introduced, including Rush Hockey and Back to Hockey, as well as Flyerz, a form of hockey suitable for disabled participants. These forms do not require formal facilities and can be played on any facility (including the small based sand AGPs).

4.62 By 2022, England Hockey aspire to double the playing market (in terms of number of players) through a 7% growth year on year where clubs have capacity to deliver this. With all the clubs in Warwick District already thriving, there are strong foundations on which to deliver increased growth. Data suggests that participation in hockey has increased since the 2013 PPS and England Hockey aspirations therefore seek to ensure that this continues.

4.63 Application of a 7% year on year growth target is likely to have a direct impact on the number of teams created (although it is impossible to accurately predict the exact growth in teams, as the increase in participants will be spread across the range of hockey disciplines). By way of illustration, a 7% year on year growth in the number of adult hockey teams would generate a further 10 teams in Warwick by 2022. This shows the potential impact in terms of demand for facilities.

### Club Aspirations

4.64 Clubs in Warwick District share the aspirations of England Hockey to increase participation, with Leamington HC seeking to create an additional female team and Khalsa HC targeting the establishment of a youth section. Both clubs however believe that facilities are holding the clubs back.

4.65 Club aspirations alone therefore would generate an additional 0.5 match equivalents at peak time (Saturday) as well as circa 2 match equivalents on a Sunday morning. This would see demand equate to 13 match equivalents at peak time, clearly requiring 4 pitches.

4.66 Growth in line with England Hockey targets would see greater increases in participation, potentially up to 4 – 5 match equivalents. This would mean that 4 pitches would clearly be

required to sustain activity within Warwick District, and potentially 5 pitches longer term (if all increased demand occurred at peak time on a Saturday).

- 4.67 As highlighted previously, the quality of pitches is as much of a concern for clubs as the amount of facilities available and to an extent, it is the quality of provision that is causing any displacement that is evident, with clubs travelling to reach facilities that they believe to be of acceptable quality.
- 4.68 Most notably, both Leamington HC and Khalsa HC first teams play at a standard that requires facilities that they use to meet certain quality criteria.
- 4.69 Changes to the National Hockey League system that are due to be implemented in 2019 may see facility requirements become even more stringent for both Khalsa HC and Leamington HC over the course of the next few seasons. The number of teams in the National league will be expanding, and both clubs have teams that are very likely to achieve promotion into these leagues as a result. While the pitch at Warwick University Westwood Campus is of sufficient quality to meet these league regulations, neither club wishes to travel to use the facility and both raise concerns about the costs associated with this facility. They would however be forced to use this facility if constrained by the existing infrastructure. Instead, both clubs wish to see facilities of appropriate standard developed in Leamington, with Khalsa HC looking to develop their own new pitch at their club base.

**Impact of Proposed Housing Growth Across Warwick District (New Development Calculator)**

- 4.70 Table 4.8 summarises the findings of the New Development Calculator to summarise the overall impact of the projected housing growth (cumulative across the District) on demand for hockey at the peak period.
- 4.71 It considers both the overall impact of all proposed houses across the district (highlighted in bold) but also details the specific impact of the larger strategic housing sites.
- 4.72 It should be noted that peak periods have been taken to be the same as those that currently exist, and assumed that the same proportion of teams in each age group may choose to play in the peak period. The spread of play across the weekend in each age group means that this may be a conservative estimate, as some teams are forced to play in other timeslots due to a lack of availability at the time that they wish to use pitches.

**Table 4.8 – Impact of New Development on Demand for Hockey Across Warwick District**

Increased Demand (Match Pitch Equivalent Sessions)		
<b>District Wide</b>		
District Wide	3.19	1 AGP
<b>Strategic Housing Sites</b>		
Land West of Europa Way (1210 dwellings)	0.34	0 – 1 AGPs
Land South of Harbury Lane (1605 dwellings)	0.45	0 – 1 AGPs

Increased Demand (Match Pitch Equivalent Sessions)		
<b>District Wide</b>		
Gallows Hill (630 dwellings)	0.18	0 – 1 AGPs
Whitnash East (500 dwellings)	0.14	0 – 1 AGPs
The Asps (900 dwellings)	0.25	0 – 1 AGPs
East of Kenilworth Thickthorn (760 dwellings)	0.21	0 – 1 AGPs
East of Kenilworth (policy ds12) 640 dwellings	0.18	0 – 1 AGPs
Kings Hill (1800 dwellings)	0.50	0 – 1 AGPs

4.73 Table 4.8 therefore reveals that overall, the proposed housing growth will result in an overall increase in demand across the district equivalent to 3 match equivalent sessions at peak time. This is spread across the district, with no individual development generating a full match equivalent demand for hockey.

#### Future Requirements

4.74 It is clear therefore that changes to the facility stock are required in order to meet future demand across Warwick District. Table 4.9 summarises the total need and the opportunities available and the strategy document will need to address how these requirements will be delivered.

4.75 It indicates that in the maximum growth scenario (where new housing, as well as sports development growth aspirations are required,

**Table 4.9: Facility Need for Hockey**

Club	Current Facilities and Issues	Requirement and location	Overall Requirement	Opportunities for Delivery
Warwick Hockey Club	Warwick - 11 teams at peak time – 5.5 match equivalents – 2 pitches. Club also use overspill venue currently in order to schedule fixtures between 11 and 3pm.	Warwick - 11 teams at peak time – 5.5 match equivalents – 2 pitches. Club also use overspill venue currently in order to schedule fixtures between 11 and 3pm.	Warwick (Warwick HC) – 5.5 match equivalents at peak time (2 pitches). Club currently have access to 3 <sup>rd</sup> pitch for overspill at peak time but all fixtures could	Warwick - Warwick School – strategically important regional site for hockey with 2 pitches. Club seeking on site clubhouse  Warwick - Aylesford School- facility of standard quality with limited / no access to

Club	Current Facilities and Issues	Requirement and location	Overall Requirement	Opportunities for Delivery
	Poor changing facilities and no on site clubhouse.		be accommodated within 2 pitches.	changing facilities. Will require refurbishment if long term use for hockey required. Currently used as overspill venue only
Khalsa HC	St Nicholas Park. Pitch quality insufficient if club is promoted. No on site clubhouse	Currently based in Warwick with clubhouse in Leamington - 2 match equivalents at peak time. Aspirations for growth of a youth section (outside of peak time)	Leamington (Leamington HC and Khalsa HC) - 2 pitches (6 match equivalents total at peak time) of which 2 may be at National League level in future years. Potential for clubs to travel to Westwood Campus for pitch to meet national league requirements if decision is taken not to provide this in Leamington. Scope for further growth of hockey in Leamington, with both clubs having aspirations for additional teams.	Warwick - St Nicholas Park - facility of standard quality with limited / no access to changing facilities. Will require refurbishment if long term use for hockey required.
Leamington HC	North Leamington High School (clubhouse at Leamington Rugby Club). Senior teams travel to Westwood Campus, Warwick University	8 teams at peak time - 4 match equivalents. Club also have youth section - require facilities on Sunday.	Leamington. Scope for further growth of hockey in Leamington, with both clubs having aspirations for additional teams.	Leamington - North Leamington School - facility of standard - poor quality and requires refurbishment
Shipston HC	St Nicholas Park - club seeking to relocate back to Stratford upon Avon District	0.5 match equivalents (but not necessarily required in Warwick)	Growth of up to 3 match equivalents at peak time from trends based population and new housing development potentially sees requirement for further AGP	Khalsa HC - seeking to develop own pitch on club site in Leamington
TOTAL	25 senior teams	12 match equivalents at peak time - 4 pitches minimum when taking into account growth aspiration of clubs	Current and projected future demand - at least 5 pitches taking into account impact of trends based population growth, proposed housing development England Hockey growth aspirations	

### Summary and Key Issues – AGPs for Hockey

4.76 The key issues for hockey are summarised in Section 10.

## Introduction

- 5.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for football in Warwick District. It includes;
- a brief overview of the supply and demand for football;
  - an understanding of activity at individual sites;
  - a picture of the adequacy of current provision; and
  - the future picture of provision for football.

## Football in Warwick DC – An Overview

### Pitch Supply

- 5.2 There are 127 individual formal grass football pitches currently available for community use across Warwick District. This represents a slight increase on the pitch stock that was available in 2013 (125 pitches). It is clear however that the composition of the pitch stock has changed, with the number of larger pitches (adult size) having decreased and the number of smaller sized pitches targeting younger age groups having grown. This suggests that pitch provision has become more tailored to demand (as senior football declines and youth and age group football increases in popularity). By way of illustration, 29% of pitches are now full sized compared to 44% in the previous PPS.
- 5.3 Table 5.1 summarises the breakdown of pitch sizes. Pitch totals should also be considered approximate only, as on many sites, layouts change weekly in response to league fixtures.
- 5.4 It should be noted that pitches and teams within this section are categorised according to pitch size requirements (ie teams in U17 and U18 age groups use adult pitches). This differs slightly from the categorisation methods used in FA affiliation data, which considers U17 and U18 teams to be juniors.

**Table 5.1: Football Pitches across Warwick DC**

Pitch Type	Recommended Pitch Dimensions (including run off)	Pitches Available to the Community (Used or not used in 2013)	Pitches Available to the Community (Used or not used in 2018)	% of Total Pitch provision
Adult Football (aged 16+)	106 x 70 m	55	38	29%
Junior Football (age U13 - U16)	88/97 x 56/61 m	24	22	17%
9 v 9 (age U11 and U12)	79 x 52 m	11	23	18%
7 v 7 (age U9 and U10)	61 x 43 m	17	26	20%
5 v 5 (age U7 and U8)	43 x 33 m		19	15%
Total		125	127	

5.5 While Table 5.1 indicates that pitch provision remains relatively consistent with 2013, it disguises some other key changes. In addition to the changes in the composition of the pitch stock, it is clear that;

- some sites are now packed very tightly, with pitches having only minimal run offs and very little room on the sites for the provision of further pitches; and
- there are several schools that previously accommodated community use that now do not.

5.6 For those sites that now remain, football pitches are therefore more tightly packed than they were previously.

### **Unsecured Pitches**

5.7 As outlined above, the number of schools offering community use has reduced since 2013 and attitudes towards community use are less positive than they were at this time.

5.8 The previous PPS raised concern about the key role in the provision of facilities for pitch sports and the lack of secure long-term community access agreements. Importantly, this has not changed and that if anything, schools have greater independence (primarily due to their academy status) in relation to their charging policies and the rental agreements that they set. This has been illustrated recently by the removal of access to Champion School, one of the key sites in 2013, due to the perceived poor condition of changing facilities and the concerns about security.

5.9 That said, the vast majority of secondary schools are currently allowing access to their facilities. There remains unsecured access to North Leamington School and Aylesford School and pitches are also rented out to the local community by the University of Warwick.

5.10 Although there are formal arrangements for indoor facilities and the AGPs at John Atkinson Sports Centre (Myton School) and Meadows Community Centre, grass pitches are let on a more ad hoc and informal basis through both schools. Pitches at the Kenilworth Sixth Form centre are also let to clubs (on an unsecured basis).

5.11 For all of the above sites, long term access to these facilities continues to be unsecure as;

- a. Many have policies in place that are reviewed annually or biannually
- b. There is frequently no advertisement of facilities, despite schools indicating that they are available
- c. Some schools do not have specific booking / letting procedures in place, making it difficult for clubs to access facilities
- d. As independent bodies, academies are able to control their own facilities easily, and there are no third parties involved (other than clubs) to input into letting policies and procedures, as well as pricing models.

5.12 This assessment report will consider the adequacy of supply taking into account the concerns surrounding long term access to these school sites.

5.13 Unlike the secondary schools, the majority of primary schools are not open for community access but do have some playing fields. The amount of primary schools offering community



use in 2018 is significantly lower than 2013 and it is clear therefore that overall, there is a lower reliance upon pitches at school sites than there was in recent years.

- 5.14 Most primary schools in the district do not contain formal marked out pitches and are of limited quality. They therefore have limited potential for formal community use. There is however use of pitches at Sydenham Primary School and Norton Lindsey School and Woodloes Primary School is also used on an ad hoc basis.

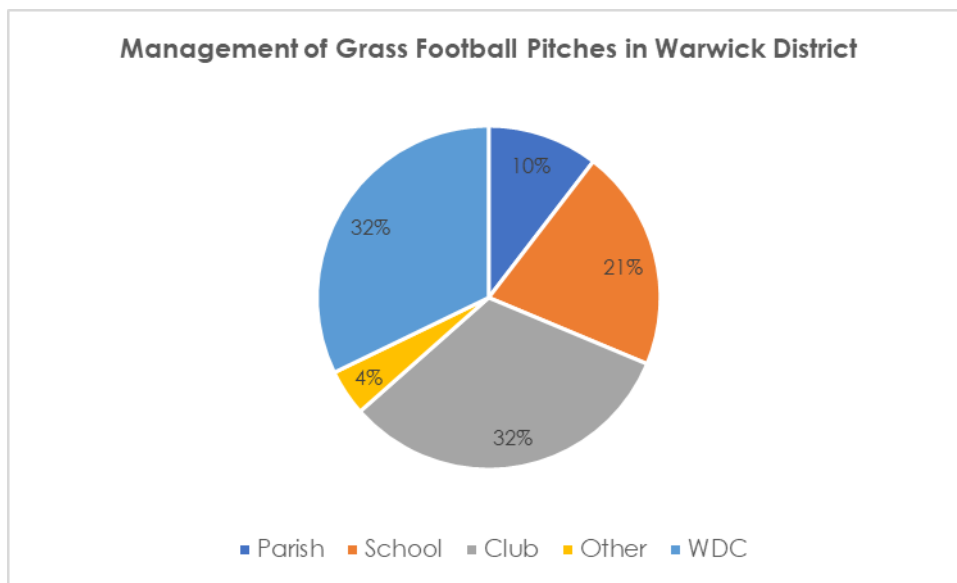
### **3g AGPs**

- 5.15 The FA approves certain types of AGP for use in competitive fixtures (those listed on the FA register) and the FA National Facilities Strategy recognises the role that these facilities play in the provision of facilities for football.
- 5.16 There are three 3g pitches in Warwick District and this represents an increase of one pitch since the 2013 PPS. As in 2013, there are pitches at John Atkinson Sports Centre and Meadow Community Sports Centre and both are full sized. An additional pitch has also been provided at Cryfield Pavilion (Warwick University) although it should be noted that there is very limited community use on this pitch as it primarily caters for students and university staff.
- 5.17 The facilities at both Cryfield Sports Pavilion and Meadow Community Sports Centre are listed on the FA register and are therefore approved to accommodate competitive play. As was the case in 2013, the facility at John Atkinson Sports Centre is not approved (it was tested but failed).

### **Ownership and Management**

- 5.18 Chart 5.1 illustrates that Warwick DC manages more pitches than any other provider, being responsible for just over 30% of all pitches. The Council therefore have significant control over the range, type and quality of facilities provided. Football is the only sport included within this playing pitch strategy where this is the case.
- 5.19 The high proportion of facilities managed (and or / owned) by the local authority emphasises the important role that the Council has in enabling football participation and the particular reliance that football has on the public sector.
- 5.20 While the Council is the key provider of pitches, a similar proportion (30%) are owned and managed by clubs. The FA National Strategy recognises the challenges that the reliance on public ownership brings and seeks to increase the number of asset owning clubs, as well as to work closely with partners to improve the landscape for football. The existing engagement with facility ownership and management with clubs in the district therefore suggest that there are strong foundations for the ongoing development of football within Warwick District.
- 5.21 20% of pitches that are available to the community are located on school sites. This represents a significant risk to the pitch stock, as outlined earlier. Particularly where schools have academy status, decisions can be made changing (or impacting, for example price increases) quickly. This highlights the importance of securing long term access to the grass pitches on school sites in order to retain a steady supply of playing fields.

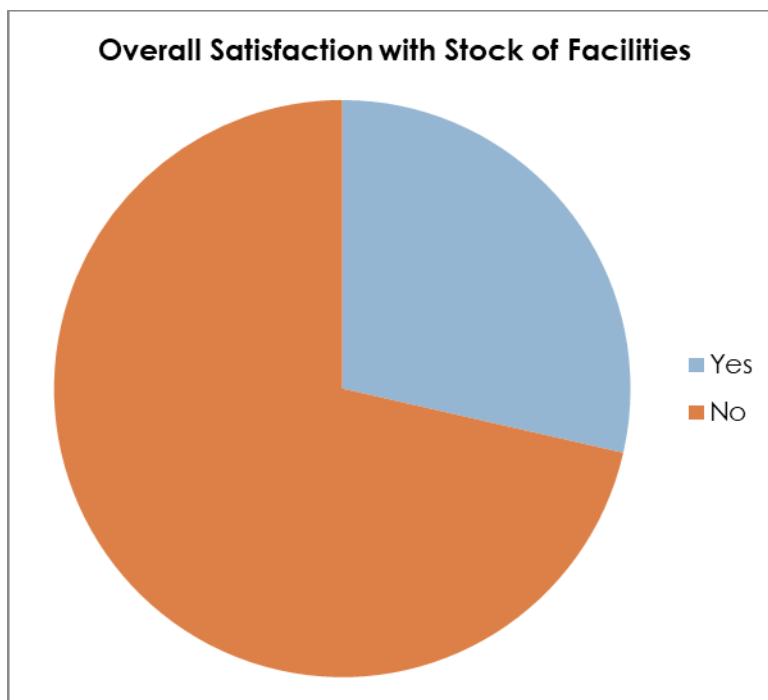
**Chart 5.1: Management of Playing Pitches (pitches available for community use only)**



**Views on the Pitch Stock across Warwick DC**

- 5.22 A full consultation exercise was undertaken with football clubs across Warwick District. In addition to collating valuable data to enable a detailed assessment of the adequacy of provision, this also provides an understanding of current levels of satisfaction with the existing infrastructure.
- 5.23 Chart 5.2 overleaf indicates that more clubs are dissatisfied with provision than are happy with the facilities provided in the District in 2018.

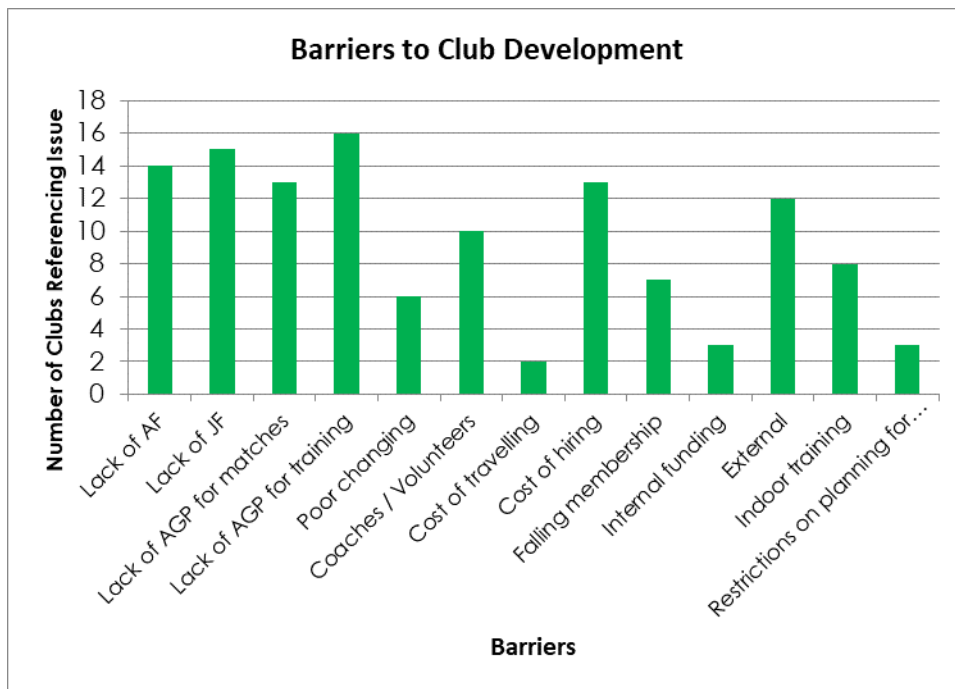
**Chart 5.2: Satisfaction with Pitch Provision**



5.24 satisfied are;

- perceived poor quality of pitches, with drainage being raised as a particular concern;
  - limited access to 3G pitches across the district;
  - the poor quality of changing accommodation; and
  - the overall perception that with increasing populations due to housing growth, there is a need for investment into the facility stock to improve both quality and quantity of pitches.
- 5.25 This presents a similar picture to that that was evident in 2013, where just 33% of clubs were satisfied. Quality concerns (and more specifically drainage) were raised as the key issue at this time and the impact of informal use on grass pitches was also a worry for clubs. The concern evident about a lack of 3G pitches in 2018 is however much greater and this suggests that this type of facility is becoming increasingly important.
- 5.26 Chart 5.3 overleaf illustrates that reflecting the dissatisfaction with the facility stock, the quality and quantity of pitches are highlighted as the key barriers to the growth of football in the District by clubs. A perceived lack of AGPs is particularly apparent, again reflecting the increasing emphasis that is placed on these facilities.
- 5.27 In particular, the key concerns raised were;
- a. Lack of AGPS (this was much more evident than in 2014)
  - b. Lack of good quality junior football pitches (more clubs referencing this than 2014)
  - c. Lack of good quality adult football pitches
  - d. Cost of hiring facilities and lack of external funding also raised as significant.
- 5.28 Overall therefore, the lack of AGPs is now seen as a greater concern than in 2014, while the remainder of issues remain very similar to those identified in the previous playing pitch strategy.
- 5.29 It should also be noted that the cost of hiring pitches also features highly amongst concerns for clubs and it should be ensured that this is taken into account when planning the network of facilities to meet future need.

Chart 5.3: Barriers to Club Development



### Pitch Quality and Changing Accommodation

- 5.30 All local leagues running within the district require (within their rules) clubs to keep their grounds in playable condition (and deemed suitable by the Management Committee). Pitch quality is therefore an essential component of an effective pitch stock and as highlighted, is one of the key concerns of local football clubs with the existing infrastructure.
- 5.31 The presence and quality of changing facilities can also be of significance in determining the suitability of pitches and a lack of facilities can impact on the desirability of grounds for clubs, particularly where there is a lack of toilets as well as changing facilities.
- 5.32 There are specific rules relating to pitch quality, changing accommodation and social facilities for clubs participating in leagues at levels on the football pyramid and this will be returned to later. In addition, the Junior Premier League and the Midland Premier League also have requirements relating to the type of facilities that must be provided.
- 5.33 To ensure that pitches meet league requirements, pitch quality and changing accommodation is therefore as important as the number of pitches. A number of different sources have been used to evaluate the quality of sites and these are discussed in brief in the sections that follow. The overall quality of pitches and the issues that are to be addressed is determined by the triangulation of data from all sources.

### Site Visits

- 5.34 Site visits undertaken mid-way through the playing season categorise almost all pitches as standard. There are few pitches of very high quality and site assessment scores range from 51% to 81%. Warwick University were the only grass pitches achieving scores of good.
- 5.35 Despite almost all pitches therefore being classified as standard, there was relatively extensive variation in quality in the pitch stock. Pitches were however overall, considered to be in relatively good condition for the time of year that they were assessed.

5.36 Table 5.2 summarises the approximate breakdown of pitches by percentage score.

**Table 5.2 – Pitch Quality**

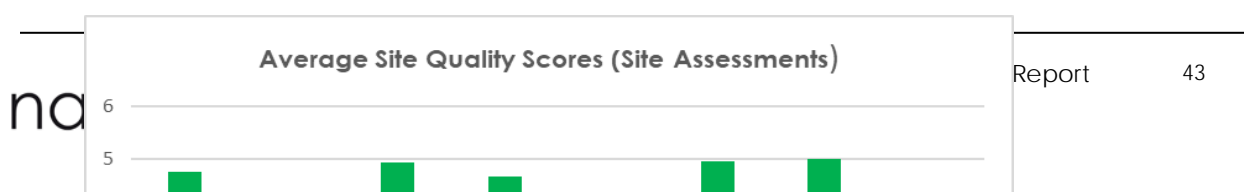
Score achieved		Poor	Standard			Good
		Below 50%	50 – 59%	60 – 69%	70 – 79%	80% +
Percentage of Pitches		0%	30%	45%	20%	4%

5.37 The average score achieved by pitches visited is 63% and this is based upon the appearance of pitches and the maintenance programme that has been undertaken. It is clear that in many instances, the maintenance programmes are fairly limited and particularly on Parish Council sites, are often supplemented by the clubs. In general, with regards football pitch quality, site visits reveal that;

- there is significant evidence of compaction on many sites across the district. Deep vertical draining and earthquaking is needed on some pitches and compaction is significantly severe that it is likely to cause issues with drainage
- there were few clear issues with drainage at the time of site visits, but weather conditions immediately prior to the site visits may influence this any disguise any issues that are present;
- Linking with the compaction identified, there was heavy use evident on many sites, including scuffing and skid marks. Several sites had multiple pitches marked very closely together leaving little room for further pitches and / or run off on the existing facilities. This suggests that there is high demand on these facilities
- Reflecting concerns about the levels of maintenance carried out at some pitches, there is evidence of weed growth on some pitches, including Fairy Ring at Newbold Comyn and Harbury Lane. Since the previous PPS however, work has been undertaken by the FA (through the FA Pitch Improvement Programme) supporting both clubs and the local authority to tailor maintenance regimes to the pitches provided and it is clear that there has been improvement in this area since the previous PPS
- Most sites were undulating and uneven
- Although unofficial use was raised as a key concern in 2013, there was very little evidence of this during site visits. Some individual site-specific issues such as molehills were however identified
- The availability of changing facilities is good, but the quality of facilities at some sites is relatively poor and in need of improvement. This is the case at both Council venues and club sites. There are also issues with access to changing facilities on some school sites.

5.38 Chart 5.4: summarises the issues identified through site visits, by illustrating the average score achieved for each credit rating.

**Chart 5.4: Key Issues Arising from Site Visits**



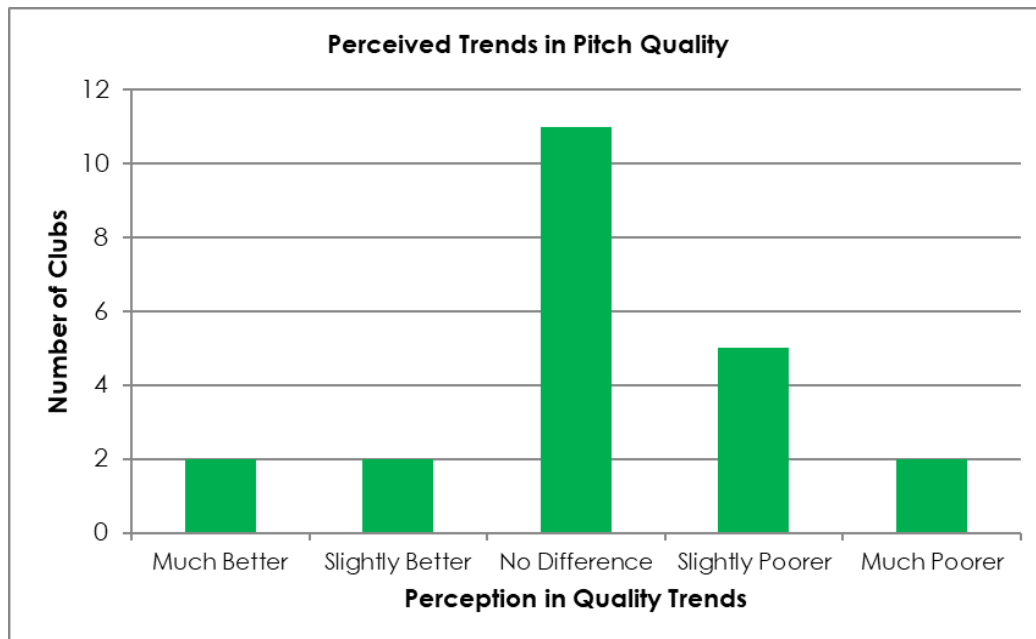
5.39 Assessments undertaken as part of the 2013 PPS raised fewer concerns (but are not directly comparable as they were based upon a different site assessment matrix which was compatible with the TaLPF methodology). They do however reflect similar issues, specifically;

- Evenness / grass coverage
- Wear and tear in goalmouths
- Impact of informal recreation – dog fouling and litter
- Some concerns with drainage
- Availability of changing facilities is strong, but quality of facilities is poor.

## Views on Pitch Quality

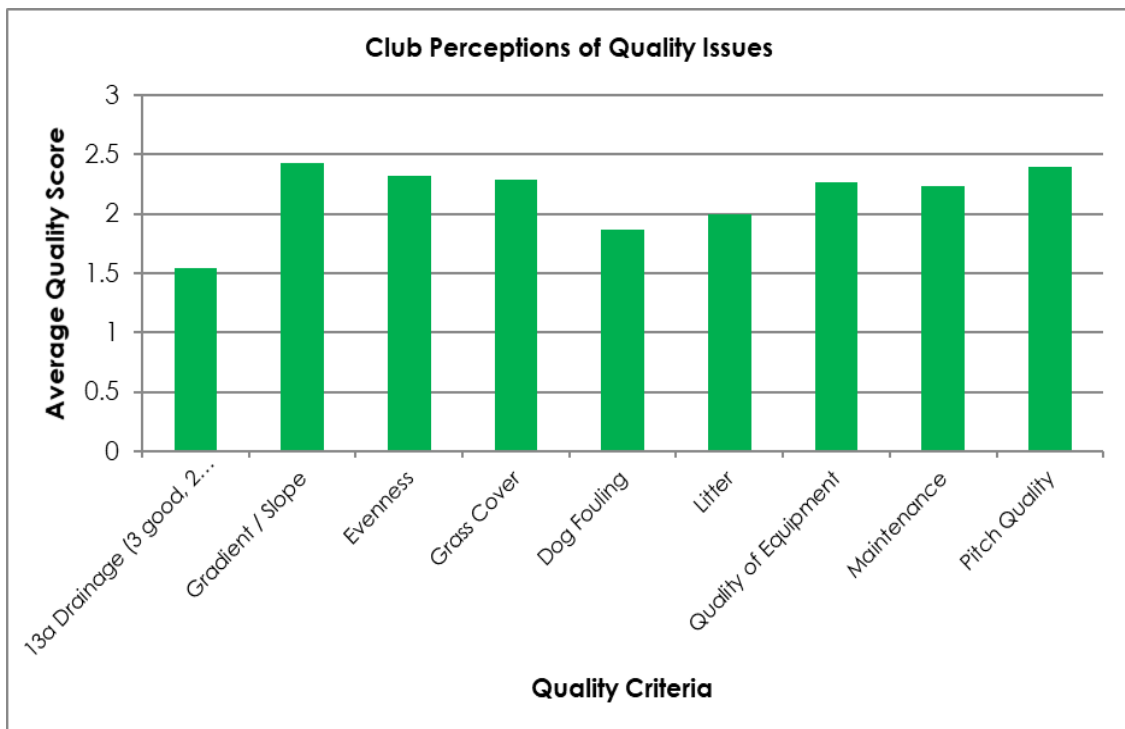
- 5.40 Building on the findings of site visits, Chart 5.5 and 5.6 evaluate the user perception (club) of pitch quality. Chart 5.5 illustrates that the quality of provision is believed to be relatively static but that more clubs indicate that pitches are deteriorating than believe there to be improvement.

Chart 5.5: Trends in Pitch Quality



- 5.41 Overall, clubs playing on private pitches are more likely to believe that pitch quality has improved, with this primarily attributed to investment and an effort to improve pitch maintenance. In contrast, pitches owned by WDC are generally viewed more negatively, with clubs indicating that quality is either declining or static.
- 5.42 Looking more closely however, it is clear that there are very few differences in the perception of quality between pitches owned and managed by different providers. The only pattern that is evident, is that drainage is more negatively rated on pitches owned and managed by Warwick District Council.
- 5.43 Site visits identified several issues with compaction and a potential knock on impact to drainage, it is evident that clubs continue to have significant issues with pitch drainage and this is evident in Chart 5.5.
- 5.44 Chart 5.5 illustrates the club perceptions relating to quality of pitches and confirms many of the findings of the site visits and other consultations (a score of 3 equates to good, 2 to average and 1 poor). On the whole, there is a relatively strong correlation between the findings of site visits and the issues raised during consultation.
- 5.45 While drainage is identified as the key area of concern, there are also perceived to be issues with dog fouling and litter, which were not particularly apparent during site visits. These issues were however also raised during the 2013 PPS, suggesting that there are ongoing problems in this area.

Chart 5.6: Club Perceptions of Quality



5.46 Most clubs rate changing facilities as acceptable (although there are some poor-quality facilities identified and areas for improvement which will be discussed later). The lowest scoring factor relating to changing accommodation was the number of changing rooms in relation to the number of pitches provided on site ie. the adequacy of changing facilities to cope with demand at peak time.

5.47 Quality issues and views specific to each site are summarised in Table 5.2 later in this section. Overall however the key messages arising from site visits and consultation in relation to quality are;

- across the district in general, the quality of pitches is standard. Within the standard categorisation however there are a range of facilities and some clear dissatisfaction with the quality of pitches that are provided. Pitches achieving lower scores (below 60%) include Baginton Millenium Fields, Stonehouse Close, Cubbington, John Atkinson Sports Centre, Kenilworth School, Kenilworth Wardens Football Club, Leek Wootton Sports Club, Norton Lindsey Recreation Ground, St Georges Field Barford, St Marys Lands, St Peters Celtic, Stoneleigh Village Hall and Sydenham Primary School. These sites are predominantly the smaller facilities in the district;
- there are particular concerns with drainage. Levels of compaction are high (which is influenced by heavy use) and this compounds (and in many instances causes) the drainage issues experienced. Heavy usage is also evident with lots of scuffing and skid marks. Pitches are therefore likely to deteriorate as the season progresses, although for the time of year that they were assessed pitch condition was considered good;
- consultation reveals that the level of unofficial and recreational use on pitches is a key challenge (although fewer concerns were identified during site visits) and this occurs as a result of the number of pitches that are open and accessible to the public. The particular reliance on facilities that are managed by the Council and Parish



Councils and therefore the use of sites that double up as public recreational venues contributes to this, but it should also be noted that the recreational function of these sites is important and obtaining appropriate balance is essential;

- there was weed growth on several sites, as well as some site specific issues such as moles. Maintenance schedules vary but in general, are relatively basic and little out of season reinstatement takes place. This has a detrimental effect on both the immediate quality of the pitch, but also the long term capacity of the pitch across the season and beyond. Many of the issues arising (including drainage / compaction / evenness / worn goalmouths etc) could be addressed through improved in and out of season maintenance;
- the quality of changing provision is varied and there are examples of poor facilities as well as good. As outlined in the 2013 PPS, while the availability of facilities is good, the quality of provision is more limited.

5.48 Pitch quality in the District is perceived to be one of the key challenges facing the game and a key issue to address if football is to continue to develop and grow and if grass pitches are to continue to service the growing needs of local football clubs.

#### Quality of AGPs

5.49 Table 5.3 summarises the full size 3g AGPs across Warwick District and indicates that the quality of facilities is good overall, with two of the three pitches listed on the FA register. The remaining pitch is now ageing and approaching the end of it's lifespan although it remains playable.

**Table 5.3: Quality of AGPs**

Site Name	AGP Surface Type	Built / Refurbished	Quality Comments	Overall Quality Rating
John Atkinson Sports Centre	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	2003	Facility limited, quality and close to a poor rating. Improved surface is key aspiration of school as pitch is now nearing the end of it's lifespan. Surface would not meet standard required for FA approval in current form.	Poor – Standard
Meadow Community Sports Centre	Rubber crumb pile (3G)		Facility good and pitch surface tested and listed on FA pitchregister.	Good
Cryfield Pavilion	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	2017	Good overall, new pitch surface only provided in 2017. Site listed on the FA pitchregister.	Good

#### Demand

### Current Participation – Match Play

- 5.50 There are 274 football teams based in Warwick District. Table 5.4 summarises the breakdown of these teams and compares it to the number of teams that were playing in the District at the time of the 2013 PPS. It reveals that while there has been a relatively large reduction in the number of adult teams, all other forms of the game have seen increasing levels of demand. This suggests that there may be greater pressures on pitches now than in 2013.
- 5.51 Just 20% of the teams in the District are now senior teams, with the remainder being age group teams. Reflecting this, the proportion of pitches that are full size has reduced significantly since the previous PPS, with 30% of pitches now being senior pitches. This suggests that supply is reasonably tailored to the demand, with a high proportion of pitches accommodating age group teams.
- 5.52 As noted earlier, pitches and teams within this section are categorised according to pitch size requirements (ie teams in U17 and U18 age groups use adult pitches). This differs slightly from the categorisation methods used in FA affiliation data, which considers U17 and U18 teams to be juniors.

**Table 5.4: Football Teams in Warwick DC**

Club	Number of Teams	Proportion of Teams in District	Number of Teams in Previous PPS	Trend
Adult 11v11	56	20.51%	72	Significant decline
Youth 11v11	76	27.84%	61	Increasing participation
9v9	46	16.85%	46	Static
7v7	59	21.61%	78	Increasing participation (previous PPS classified these teams as mini soccer).
5v5	36	13.19%		
Inclusive	1	0%	0	Increasing participation

### Club Structure and Participation Trends

- 5.53 Consultation with local leagues demonstrates a steady increase in participation at a junior level. This reflects the findings of the club consultation, with most responding junior clubs recording either static or increasing participation. It is clear that many junior clubs are growing into large entities, while there are few smaller junior clubs with low numbers of teams.
- 5.54 In contrast, the number of teams participating in adult leagues is declining, and this is the overriding concern raised by the leagues. There has been a net reduction of 10 teams over the past five years in the Leamington and District Sunday League alone, with the main reason being difficulties recruiting sufficient members to form a team. Reflecting this, no responding senior teams indicated that their participation levels are increasing. This picture reflects the challenges that are facing adult football nationally, with declining formal participation and increasing reliance on midweek leagues on AGPs.
- 5.55 Feedback from local clubs and leagues in relation to recent participation trends indicates that;
- for adult football, the key challenge is recruiting sufficient members to put out a team week in and week out. There is great concern about the ongoing reduction in the number of adult teams.
  - While the Sunday league raise concerns about lack of access to 3G AGPs, the quality of pitches is not perceived to be a deterrent, with conditions being relatively good overall (although issues with drainage are recognised);
  - increases in other opportunities, particularly for adult football (other interests / midweek football leagues / changing work patterns) are also perceived to impact football development;
  - at a younger age group, there are high volumes of young people wishing to join teams and many junior clubs are starting new mini age groups each season and retaining members of other teams who subsequently progress through the age groups within the club; and
  - for most responding clubs, access to facilities (particularly AGPs) was raised as a greater concern than retaining players and / or recruiting coaches and volunteers. Facilities were therefore considered to be the key barriers to growth of football in the District.

### **Pyramid Clubs**

- 5.56 There are several clubs playing in the National League System within Warwick District. As a result of the standard of football played, there are specific requirements that must be adhered to in relation to the facilities provided at the home ground.
- 5.57 Table 5.5 summarises these clubs and highlights the ground grading requirements that must be met. If clubs continue to progress up the pyramid, requirements and regulations for facilities that clubs must adhere to will become more onerous.
- 5.58 In addition to the teams listed, Central Ajax FC are also in the Midlands Football League, but in the lowest division, meaning that they are just outside of the national league system.

**Table 5.5: Pyramid Clubs**

Club	League	Standard	Associated Ground Grading Requirements	Current Location
Leamington FC	National League North West Midlands Regional Premier League (ladies)	STEP 2 (men) and STEP W4 (ladies)	Grading B	Philipps 66 Community Stadium
Racing Club Warwick	Midland Football League	STEP 6	Grade G / H	Racing Club Warwick FC
Leamington Hibernian	Midland Football League	STEP 7	Step 7 Minimum Grading	Stonehouse Close
Alvis Sports FC	Midland Football League	Step 7	Step 7 Minimum Grading	Alvis Sports and Social Club

5.59 Ground grading specifications are available in full at <http://nav.thefa.com/sitecore/content/TheFA/Home/Leagues/NationalLeagueSystem/GroundGrading>.

5.60 Issues identified at each site in relation to meeting these criteria will be evaluated later in this section.

### Displaced Demand

5.61 Most football clubs in Warwick District are currently playing at their preferred location.

5.62 Alvis Sports however are unable to accommodate all of their activity on their home ground and the club therefore also use Finham Primary School, Finham Park School and Bishop Ullathorne Catholic College (all in Coventry City). The club are seeking to accommodate all teams on as small a number of sites as possible rather than to play across multiple venues and consider their existing teams that are forced to play elsewhere displaced. While these teams are actually displaced into Coventry City, the location of the Alvis Sports and Social Club right on the border with the city means that the overspill venues used are geographically appropriate (although in an ideal scenario all teams would be based together).

### Training Needs

5.63 Consultation demonstrates that there is little evidence of training on grass, with most clubs accessing AGPs either within Warwick District, or travelling outside the district to reach an AGP. The exceptions to this, where grass training does take place on the pitch are;

- Alvis Sports and Social Club (floodlit pitch),
- Sydenham Primary School,
- Bishops Tachbrook,
- Newbold Comyn,
- Grass pitches adjacent to Philips 66 Community Stadium,
- Leamington Rugby Club,
- Acre Close Playing Field.

5.64 All three 3G AGPs within Warwick District are used for football training, however it is clear that there is also extensive use of the sand-based pitches at Aylesford School, North

Leamington School and St Nicholas Park. Sand is not an approved training surface for football clubs and the use of these facilities is therefore something that needs to be addressed.

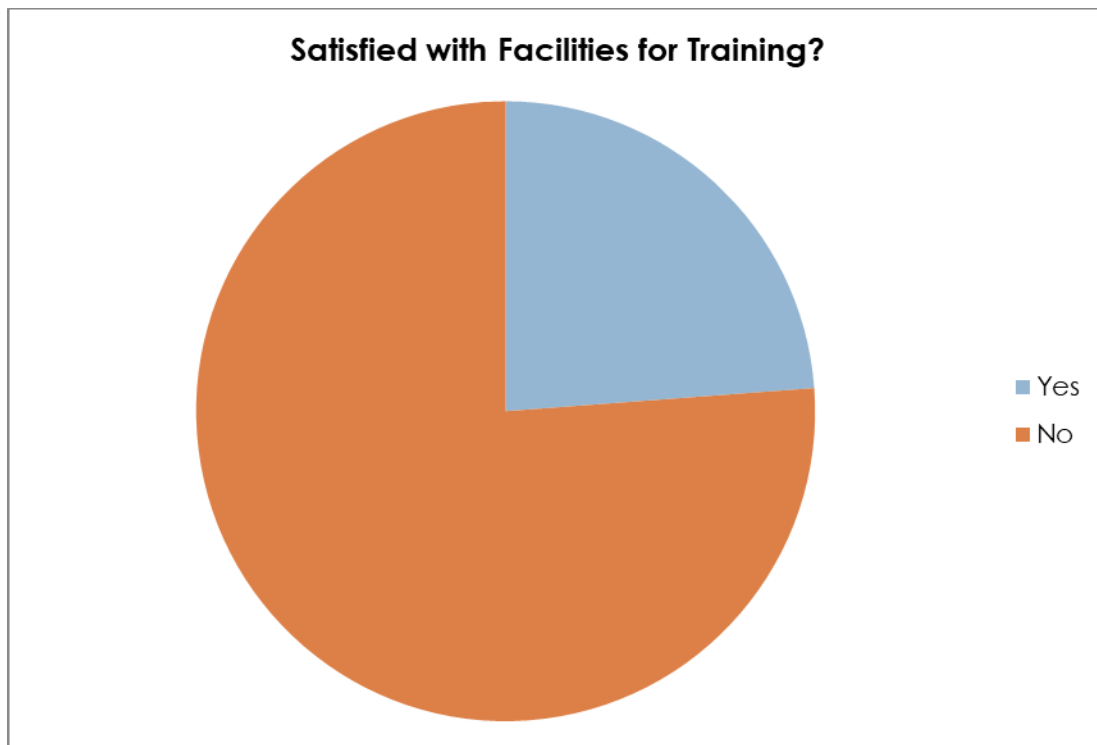
5.65 Added to the use of sand-based facilities which suggests that there are insufficient 3G pitches for the number of teams that wish to use them, the lack of supply is further evidenced by a number of clubs travelling outside the district into Coventry City to use both 3G and sand-based pitches. Facilities used include:

- Sidney Stringer (3G pitch)
- King Henry (3G pitch)
- Blue Coat School (3G pitch)
- Wolston Community Leisure Centre (3G pitch)
- Powerleague (3G pitch)
- Bablake School (sand based pitch)

5.66 While geographically, Coventry City is close to some parts of Warwick District, it is evident that clubs are travelling to these venues from all over Warwick District. As well as not being the preferred venue for clubs training, this travel also impacts on the adequacy of provision within Coventry City.

5.67 Reflecting the varied training habits of clubs and the clear requirement for clubs to travel for training, club consultation demonstrates high levels of dissatisfaction with the facilities that are provided for training. A significantly greater proportion of clubs are dissatisfied with facilities for training than are satisfied. This is set out in Chart 5.7.

Chart 5.7: Satisfaction with Training Facilities



5.68 The concerns raised included;

- there is perceived to be insufficient 3g pitches for the number of teams that wish to use them;
- there is lots of competition for pitches and availability is poor - all available slots are either too early (before 6) or too late;
- the cost of facilities is a barrier to usage - clubs cannot afford to pay the hire charges required; and
- the condition of existing training facilities is perceived to be poor and pitches are not suitable for football (this complaint was primarily raised in relation to the sand-based pitches that are used for football).

5.69 Access to training facilities was also highlighted as a key concern and access to the 3g pitches was one of the main reasons for dissatisfaction with the playing stock. It is clear that this represents a key concern.

#### **Educational Demand**

5.70 The majority of secondary schools in Warwick District have their own playing fields, and only Arnolds Lodge Independent School has no formal grass pitches. The majority of primary schools also have some playing fields, although most do not mark them out as permanent formal pitches.

5.71 There is fairly extensive use of school playing fields, with some large clubs based at school grounds. Schools are hiring out both AGPs and grass pitches and using a variety of arrangements to do so. The following schools are currently particularly important to community use for football;

- North Leamington School
- Aylesford School
- Kenilworth Castle Sixth Form College
- Kingsley School,
- Sydenham Primary School.

5.72 It is clear however that there has been a significant reduction in community use of schools since the previous PPS, with Champion School no longer hiring out facilities due to security concerns and poor condition of changing accommodation (and no confirmation that community use will return after building works) and primary schools previously used no longer requested.

5.73 It is understood that Whitnash Primary School is also used as an overspill facility by Whitnash Town in some instances, although there was no clear regular use of the venue during the data collection phase of this assessment.

5.74 For those schools that do permit community use, while curricular use impacts on the overall ability to sustain community play, school use of grass pitches has limited impact on peak time demand and the availability of pitches, as this largely takes place midweek. Where pitches are used heavily at weekends however, this must be carefully managed in order to maintain quality for curricular requirements.

5.75 Almost all secondary schools in the district participate in interschool competitions, as well as hosting PE lessons. School sites are therefore able to sustain fewer community games per week on average than facilities owned and managed by other providers to protect against quality deterioration.

#### **Casual Demand**

5.76 Many playing fields in Warwick District also function as public recreation areas and consultation revealed this to be one of the key influences on pitch quality, with dog fouling and litter the main reasons for complaint. While site visits did not identify this as one of the key concerns, the amount of comments made during the consultation for both this assessment and strategy (2018) and the previous PPS (2013) mean that it is an issue that must be considered.

5.77 Although this recreational use is not necessarily extensive enough to reduce the capacity of pitches, particularly during the winter months, it impacts upon the player experience on occasion and also renders pitches which frequently suffer unpopular.

#### **Adequacy of Pitch Provision – Assessing Supply and Demand information and Views**

5.78 The Sport England Methodology enables evaluation of the adequacy of provision, taking into account both the quality and number of pitches provided. Adequacy is measured both over the course of a week and at peak time using the concept of match equivalents. There

is a strong interrelationship between the quality of a pitch and the amount of matches that it can sustain.

### **Weekly Capacity**

- 5.79 The quality of the pitch has a greater influence on weekly capacity - this directly impacts the number of matches that can be sustained. Table 5.6 summarises the guidelines used with regards pitch capacity (extracted from Sport England Guidance on the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy, prepared by the FA).

**Table 5.6: Capacity based upon Pitch Quality**

Agreed pitch quality rating	Adult Football	Youth Football	Mini Soccer
Number of match equivalent sessions a week			
Good	3	4	6
Standard	2	2	4
Poor	1	1	2

- 5.80 Site visits reveal all sites in Warwick DC (except grass pitches at Warwick University) to be assessed as standard and capacity has therefore been calculated as such. It should however be noted that drainage significantly impacts many of these pitches and is the cause of multiple cancellations. If the level of compaction is not addressed (which exacerbates drainage) and / or underlying drainage issues continue, longer term the capacity of some of these pitches may be reduced. The impact of this will be considered later in this section.
- 5.81 It should also be noted that at some sites, pitch provision changes weekly to ensure that supply is matched with demand that weekend. This is particularly relevant at club sites. Pitch totals and associated capacity ratings are therefore indicative only, but represent the predominate pitch markings and usage.

### **Peak Time Demand**

- 5.82 Peak time demand is determined by evaluating the number of match equivalents at peak time and comparing it to the number of pitches available. Peak time is deemed to be the period in which the most play on that pitch type takes place.
- 5.83 Pitches can only be considered to have spare capacity at peak time when they are not already utilised to their full capacity over the course of a week. An adult pitch that is not used on a Sunday morning (district wide peak time), but is used more than three times per week at other times (Saturday morning, Sunday afternoon and midweek for example) would not be considered able to sustain additional play either at peak time, or at other times, even though no one would be using the facility then, as this would be detrimental to the quality of the pitch.
- 5.84 In general, the junior league has much greater flexibility than adult leagues with regards kick off times, with matches able to be staggered to ensure that all games can be accommodated.
- 5.85 As in 2013, it is evident that play is well spread across the weekend, with different age groups requiring pitches in different time slots. Patterns of play remain similar to those identified in 2013, specifically;



- Sat AM peak time for 5v5 (91%) and 7v7 (70%)
- Sun AM peak time 9v9 (52%) and adult (56%)
- Sun PM peak time for youth teams (55%)

5.86 Even though it is possible to identify peak times, even within each form of the game, there is a reasonable distribution of play, with pitches required Saturday and Sunday in most age groups. 9v9 and youth play in particular is particularly spread across different time periods.

5.87 The spread of play across the week means that many pitches must accommodate play on both a Saturday and a Sunday. This places greater emphasis on the quality of facilities and the need to sustain high levels of play across the week. It does however mean that the number of pitches required to meet peak time demand is lower than it may otherwise be, as the number of teams wishing to use a pitch at any one time is reduced due to the spread of play.

### **Measuring Demand on AGPs**

5.88 The majority of matches take place on grass pitches, with AGPs used as an overspill on the whole, rather than as a key part of the infrastructure for accommodating competitive matches. It seems that there is still a preference for the use of grass pitches amongst the majority of the football playing community with little evidence of use of 3g pitches for matches amongst the majority of teams at peak time (although this will also clearly be influenced by the lack of pitches).

5.89 The inclusion of both Cryfield Pavilion and Meadow Community Sports Centre on the FA register means that these pitches can be used for match play. The pitch at John Atkinson Sports Centre is not approved for match play and can therefore only be used to accommodate training need only. The pitch at Cryfield Pavilion is known to receive regular usage for competitive fixtures (however this is primarily university students and staff use rather than community use) however there is only ad hoc use of the pitch at Meadows Community Sports Centre.

5.90 To ensure the full context is understood, the use of AGPs will therefore be considered separately, but evaluated within the context of grass pitch provision and the role that these sites do (and could) play in meeting competitive fixture requirements will be determined.

5.91 Primarily to take evaluate capacity and take up, the methodology indicates that the adequacy of AGPs is measured through;

- the amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 18:00 to 21:00; Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00;
- the amount of play that takes place (measured in hours);
- whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
- any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.

### **Grass Pitches - Situation at Individual Sites**

- 5.92 Table 5.7 provides detail of the activity that takes place at each active site offering community use in Warwick. It sets out the current supply and demand and outlines whether the pitch is being overplayed, played to the appropriate level or is able to sustain additional fixtures. Any other issues arising with the site, including key quality concerns, are also briefly summarised. Table 5.7 also highlights those sites that are unsecured for community use.
- 5.93 As outlined, quality ratings are derived from a combination of site visits and consultation. Site visit scores do not necessarily correlate directly with the rating given, as club and provider feedback, as well as the overall impression at the time of the site visit is also taken into account to produce a final rating. Site visit scores for example may be influenced by a good (and therefore highly scoring) maintenance programme, but if this is ineffective due to underlying issues, quality is reduced.
- 5.94 Issues will be explored by pitch type, however the key issues emerging from site overviews are as follows;
- There is limited spare capacity across the week as a whole, with many sites at or approaching capacity. This suggests that pitches are heavily used and that there is little room for more play at the existing pitches;
  - Reflecting the low levels of spare capacity, there is evidence of overplay on numerous sites and many more sites unable to sustain further activity. Sites where at least one pitch is overplayed include; Alvis Sports, Acre Close, Aylesford School, Castle Farm Recreation Ground, Kenilworth School Castle Sixth Form Centre, Coventry Sporting, Harbury Lane, Newbold Comyn, North Leamington School and Sydenham Primary School
  - It is clear that on the whole, overplay is generated by the number of teams wishing to use pitches at any one site for competitive activity. In most instances, it is caused by large clubs who are seeking to fit all games on one site where they possibly can (this also accords with site visits, which indicate that most sites are very tightly packed with pitches of a variety of sizes). The exceptions to this are Sydenham Primary School and Acre Close, where training exacerbates the overall position and places increased pressures on the grass pitches
  - While overplay does not necessarily generate poor quality pitches, it places greater pressure on the quality of facility and may contribute towards long term quality deterioration if maintenance is not of an appropriate standard to retain quality. It is notable that there are several examples of pitches with compaction across the district – and this is often caused by heavy usage. Compaction can then go on to exacerbate drainage issues. Pitch quality and levels of use are therefore intrinsically linked
  - Correlating with the high number of pitches that are overplayed, there are relatively few sites with significant spare capacity. The majority of spare capacity is at more rural sites (e.g. Bishops Tachbrook, Bubbenhall) or at school sites where there is no existing use (in particular Kenilworth School and Myton School, where there are formal agreements for the indoor facilities and AGPs but more informal arrangements direct with the school for grass pitches). There is also scope to increase the amount of play at Warwick University;
  - Even at sites where there is scope for additional activity overall, there are some individual pitches that can sustain no further play. Such sites include Aylesford School,

Stonehouse Close, Kenilworth School, North Leamington School, Kingsley School, Philips 55 Stadium and Sydenham Primary School

- 5.95 There are very few sites that are available to the community that have limited use. Reflecting the pressures on pitches to meet demand across the week, despite demand being well spread, it is evident that there is also limited remaining spare capacity during the peak period for each pitch type. There are 57 pitches with no remaining spare capacity at all, which represents more than a third of the total pitches in the district. Across all pitch types, there are just 50 match equivalents available at peak time. These available slots are generally focused on the pitches that have no or limited community use. Further review demonstrates that many pitches without capacity at peak time are also those that are heavily used across the week. It is clear however that peak time capacity is particularly constrained at sites accommodating large clubs. There is very limited remaining peak time capacity (or none at all) at Acre Close Recreation Ground, Alvis Sports, Aylesford School, Coventry Sporting, Leek Wootton Sports Club, North Leamington School and Philips Stadium amongst other smaller sites.
- 5.96 It is clear therefore that supply is very tightly balanced with demand and that there is little spare capacity within the stock of football pitches that are currently available for use in Warwick District.
- 5.97 It should be noted, that where Table 5.7 indicates that there is capacity across the week, this refers to the week as a whole i.e. there is scope to accommodate additional play (this may be at peak time or outside). It does not seek to suggest that a site is floodlit and can therefore accommodate play in an evening.

Table 5.7: Site Specific Usage at each site (community sites that are available regardless of whether they are used or not)

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision (All Activity (match equivalents))	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
Acre Close Recreation Ground	Secured	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	2		2	-2	0	Overplayed	Site is undulating and uneven, with weeds on the pitch. There is a lack of storage and pitches are poorly marked. Pitches used for training as well as matches and this generates overplay across the week. There is also no spare capacity available at peak time. It should also be noted that the youth pitch is particularly small and in reality therefore, much of the play takes place on the senior pitch. It is believed that there is a further area for a pitch on site, but this is not currently used for football (rugby league).
		Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	1		1.5	-0.5	0	Overplayed	
Ajax Park	Secured	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	0.5			1.5	1	Capacity to sustain further play	Large club-based site. Ongoing improvements to fencing and gates. All pitches have sufficient

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
		9v9	1	Standard	2	1			1	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	capacity across the week and the 7v 7 pitches are the only pitches without availability at peak time (and fixtures could be staggered if necessary, for these teams). Club however indicate that more pitches are required to facilitate club growth. Extension required to changing pavillion to ensure that that there are sufficient facilities available for the number of teams and to ensure that female activity could be accommodated.
		5v5	1	Standard	4	0.5			3.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	
		7v7	2	Standard	8	2			6	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
		Youth 11v11	2	Standard	4	3.5			0.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	
Avis Sports	Secured	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	1		0.5	0.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	Club based site including barriered pitch for higher level teams. Pitches demonstrate some evidence of compaction and weeds and this is compounded by high levels of play. There is overplay across the week on all pitches except the adult pitch and a lack of availability at peak time. Requires improvement to changing accommodation
		Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	4			-2	0	Overplayed	
		9v9	1	Standard	2	2.5			-0.5	0	Overplayed	
		7v7	1	Standard	4	5.5			-1.5	0	Overplayed	

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
												for officials and home team if club are to continue to meet requirements. Drainage also identified as key concern.
Aylesford School	Unsecured	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	0.5	1		0.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	Facilities are available on an unsecured basis and are in reasonable condition for the time of the season.
		Youth 11v11	2	Standard	4	5	2		-3	0	Overplayed	Some evidence of compaction and weeds, but even taking into account community use,
		9v9	1	Standard	2	1	1		0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain	there is spare capacity on the adult and 9v9 pitches, but youth pitches are overplayed. At peak time, there is limited spare capacity, with only the adult pitches able to sustain further play.
Baginton, Millennium Fields	Secured	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	1			1	0	Capacity to sustain further play	Pitches in tidy condition although some evidence of damp conditions, undulation and compaction. Pitches rated standard in terms of quality

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
		7v7	1	Standard	4	1.5			2.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play	but site scores suggest that there is a risk that they will become poor over the course of the season.
		5v5	1	Standard	4	1			3	0	Capacity to sustain further play	Changing accommodation and storage facilities are poor. Level of pitch provision is adequate to meet demand currently across the week although there are pressures on pitch provision at peak time, with no remaining spare capacity (although games could be staggered if required). The site is also used for community events which could cause damage to pitch provision and may also require rescheduling on occasion.
Bishops Tachbrook Sports and Social Club	Secured	7v7	2	Standard	8	0	2	1.5	4.5	2	Capacity to sustain further play	Basic pitches which are used primarily for training (3.5 match equivalents). Adequate capacity across the week and at peak time to meet demand currently.

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
Bubbenhall Village Hall	Secured	7v7	1		2	0		1	1	1	Capacity to sustain further play	Pitch in rural location which has previously been used for competitive play, but now appears to accommodate only training activity. No markings evident at the time of site visit, but capacity available at peak time due to lack of current use for competitive fixtures.
Campion School Academy	Unsecured	Youth 11v11	1		2	0.5	1		0.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play	Pitch on school site currently used for competitive activity. Site however will no longer be available for community use this season due to the condition of facilities and the perceived challenges in opening school venues for use by the local community.
Castle Farm Recreation Ground	Secured	7v7	2	Standard	8	1			7	1	Capacity to sustain further play	Large public facility. Posts are showing signs of rust (although still safe) but are square and should be



Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
		Youth 11v11	2	Standard	4	4.5			-0.5	0	Overplayed	replaced at the earliest opportunity for round. Some skids on pitches and clear evidence of heavy use. Regular users also highlight concerns with drainage. While there is an opportunity to increase the amount of use across the week on 7v7, 9v9 and adult pitches, youth pitches are overplayed. There is also limited availability at peak time, although all size pitches are able to accommodate extra play with the exception of the youth pitch. There is a lack of adequate changing accommodation on site.
		9v9	2	Standard	4	1			3	2	Capacity to sustain further play	
		Adult 11v11	2	Standard	4	1			3	1.5	Capacity to sustain further play	
		5v5	1		4	0			4	1	Capacity to sustain further play	
Kenilworth School Castle Sixth Form Centre	Unsecured	Adult 11v11	3 (2 not currently marked out)	1 standard, 2 unusable	2	2		1	-1	0	Overplayed	School venue offering unsecured access to pitches. Pitches of standard quality. Overplay evident when taking into account student use.
Cov entry Sporting (formerly	Secured	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	4	1			3	2	Capacity to sustain further play	Club venue recently taken over by new club. Pitches very tightly fit in within the available space and some

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
Westwood United)		Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	3			-1	0	Overplayed	overmarking in place to enable all age groups to be accommodated. While clearly well maintained, there is evidence of compaction that will need attention imminently. Club would benefit from improvement to facilities including the pavilion. Facilities well used with some overplay on the youth pitch and very limited spare capacity remaining. Only the adult play has capacity at peak time, but this is a barriered pitch for higher level play and in reality is therefore used on a Saturday instead.
		7v7	1	Standard	4	2			2	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
		5v5	1	Standard	4	2.5			1.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
Stonehouse Close, Cubbington	Secured	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	2			0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain	Rural facility of limited quality. Burnt pitch markings and overmarking evident. Field is also damp and there are skid marks and the grass was too long at the time of the site visit. Pitches played to the level that the site can sustain but site quality scores suggest that there is scope for the facility to

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
												become poor, which would reduce capacity and may generate overplay.
Harbury Lane	Secured	Adult 11v11	3	Standard	6	1.5			4.5	1.5	Capacity to sustain further play	Large public facility with signs of weed issues (fairy ring / meadow grass) as well as compaction on some facilities. Line markings poor in parts and some skid marks also evident. As with some other public facilities, there is a need to replace square goal posts for round. Site is well used although there is capacity to accommodate additional play across the week. At peak time, provision is much more compromised but there remains a small amount of spare capacity outside of the youth and 5v5 pitches.
		7v7	1	Standard	4	0			4	1	Capacity to sustain further play	
		5v5	1	Standard	4	1.5		0.5	2	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
		Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	1			1	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
		9v9	2	Standard	4	1			3	2	Capacity to sustain further play	

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
John Atkinson Sports Centre	Unsecured	9v9	1	Standard	2	0	1		1	1	Capacity to sustain further play	Sports centre attached to a school facility that includes an AGP. Pitches of standard condition with some compaction but in reasonable condition for the time of the season. Leisure centre building includes changing accommodation. There is capacity to accommodate more play both across the week and at peak time.
		Youth 11v11	1	Standard	3	0	1		2	1	Capacity to sustain further play	
		Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	0	1		1	1	Capacity to sustain further play	
Kenilworth FC	Secured	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	0			2	1	Capacity to sustain further play	Football pitch that contained barriered pitch and stadium at time of site visit. Site buildings have since been demolished and pitch is now being reinstated with a view to being available again from season 2019. Site is therefore unused this season (and is now unavailable) but will have potential to accommodate

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
												activity both across the week and at peak time next season. It has been included in calculations as it was still in existence at the time of data collation.
Kenilworth School and Meadow Community Sports Centre	Unsecured	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	0	1		1	1	Capacity to sustain further play	Youth football pitches at leisure centre attached to school site. Pitches of standard quality but no clear community use currently although rented out informally by school. Scope to increase play both across the week and at peak time. Quality scores are however at the lower end of the standard range, suggesting that there is potential for facilities to become poor by the end of the season.
		9v9	1	Standard	2	0	1		1	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
Kenilworth Wardens Football Club (Ken Wardens CC)	Secured	7v7	2	Standard	8	1			7	2	Capacity to sustain further play	Club facility with large clubhouse. Pitch quality ranges but is standard overall. Some pitches require urgent decompaction and there is also evidence of tyre treads on some pitches. Site
		9v9	1	Standard	2	1.5			0.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play	

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision (All Activity (match equivalents))	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
		Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	1			1	0	Capacity to sustain further play	includes one adult pitch with dugouts. Pitches are able to sustain additional play across the week but there is more limited spare capacity at peak time, with both the 9v9 and adult pitches unable to sustain additional play at peak time.
		5v5	1	Standard	4	1			3	1	Capacity to sustain further play	
Leek Wootton Sports Club	Secured	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	0.5			1.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	Pitches of standard quality, but scores achieved are relatively low in the standard range, indicating that there is a risk that they may become poor (and subsequently reduce in capacity) as the season progresses. Pitches are located on the cricket outfield and users have access to a pavilion, although this requires investment in the changing room and kitchen). There is capacity across the week to sustain further play, but more limited availability at

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
		9v9	1	Standard	2	1.5			0.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play	peak time, with no further capacity at peak time on 7v7 and 5v5 pitches (and games already staggered). There are 0.5 match equivalents available on each of the adult and 9v9 pitches.
		7v7	1	Standard	4	2.5			1.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
		5v5	1	Standard	4	1			3	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
Mid Warwickshire Police HQ Leek Wootton	Secured	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	0.5			1.5	0	No capacity to sustain further play due to nature of site	Pitch located on former police HQ site which has since been demolished. Pitch continues to be used by police team but doesn't represent spare capacity for any other teams in the area as it is a police venue only. The future of this facility is also unclear, with the associated buildings having already been demolished.
	Secured	7v7	1	Standard	4	5			-1	0	Overplayed	Large public site which is heavily used. Quality is

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
Newbold Comyn		5v5	3	Standard	12	1.5			10.5	1.5	Capacity to sustain further play	however compromised in places with evidence of poor drainage and lots of scuffing, compaction and skid marks. Weeds are evident on site and grass was also too long in parts. There is evidence of overplay on the 7v7 and youth pitches, but scope to accommodate more activity on 5v5 and adult pitches. The 9v9 pitch is played to the level that the site can sustain. Pavilion would benefit from internal refurbishment
		Youth 11v11	2	Standard	4	6.5			-2.5	0	Overplayed	
		Adult 11v11	7	Standard	14	5.5		1	7.5	2	Capacity to sustain further play	
		9v9	2	Standard	4	2			2	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
Newburgh School	Unsecured	7v7	1	Standard	4	0.5			2.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	Primary school which accommodates a small amount of activity on an unsecured basis. Even taking into account curricular activity, there is scope to accommodate further play in the week and at peak time.



Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
North Leamington School	Secured	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	2	1		-1	0	Overplayed	School venue offering unsecured access to pitches. Site is an important venue for large club. Pitches of standard quality but are heavily used, they also suffer from mole damage and are poorly marked. Taking into account community activity and school use, both the youth and 9v9 pitches are overplayed. There is also very limited availability at peak time, with only the 7v7 and 5v5 pitches able to sustain more play. There is no access to changing accommodation for younger teams. The sand based AGP on site is also an important venue for football training.
		Adult 11v11	1		2	1	1		0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain	
		9v9	2		4	4	2.5		-2.5	0	Overplayed	
		7v7	4		16	3	4.5		8.5	1	Capacity to sustain further play	
		5v5	3		12	1.5	3.5		7	1.5	Capacity to sustain further play	
Norton Lindsey	Secured	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	0.5			1.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	Pitches in rural location located on cricket outfield of standard quality. There is capacity to sustain further

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
Recreation Ground		7v7	1	Standard	4	1.5			2.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	play both at peak time and across the week.
Kingsley School Playing Fields	Unsecured	9v9	1		2	1	1		0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain	Pitches in rural location let out by school. Pitches in general played to the level that can be sustained taking into account the curricular use that pitches are also subjected to.
		5v5	1		4	1	1		2	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
Philips Stadium 55	Secured	9v9	1	Standard	2	0.5		1	0.5	0	Played to level pitch can sustain	Stadium site with adjacent grass pitch. Pitches in good condition overall. Spare capacity to accommodate further play, including at peak time. Site does not however represent true spare capacity at peak time, as it is reserved for high level club play.
		Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	2			0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain	

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
Radford Semele Sports and Social Club	Secured	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	1			1	0	Capacity to sustain further play	Single pitch rural site with scope to accommodate additional play across the week, although at capacity at peak time.
St Georges Field, Barford	Secured	9v9	1	Standard	2	0.5			1.5	1	Capacity to sustain further play	Small rural site of limited quality accommodating small amount of play. Capacity to accommodate additional activity both at peak time and across the week
		5v5	1	Standard	4	1			3	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
St Mays Lands	Secured	Youth 11v11	1	standard	2	1			1	0	Capacity to sustain further play	Pitches of lower standard quality, requiring fertiliser and grass cutting and also displaying many weeds in the grass sward. There is scope to accommodate further play on all pitches across the week. Capacity is more limited at peak time, with the youth and 7v7 pitches already heavily used and the remaining pitches able to sustain only 0.5 further match equivalents
		9v9	1	Standard	2	1.5			0.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	
		5v5	1	Standard	4	0.5			3.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	
		7v7	1	Standard	4	1			3	0	Capacity to sustain further play	

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
Warwick Racing FC	Secured	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	1.5			0.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	Adult football pitch in stadium setting. Pitch is in good condition and home to club playing at high standard within pyramid as well as reserve and age group teams. Scope to accommodate a small amount of additional play both across the week and at peak time (although since calculations were undertaken, a new academy has been established which will mean that there is no further spare capacity remaining). Pavilion would benefit from investment and improvement.
St Nicholas Park	Secured	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	4	2			2	0	Capacity to sustain further play	Two pitches located on leisure centre site, one of which was in better condition than the other. Both pitches require additional fertiliser and demonstrated evidence of compaction. There is no remaining capacity at peak time, although pitches could

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
												accommodate further play across the week if required.
St Peters Celtic	Secured	7v7	1	Standard	4	0.5			3.5	1	Capacity to sustain further play	Club base requiring improvement and updating, in particular maintenance and drainage. Ancillary facilities appear poor and pitches are compacted, with messy and muddy goals. There also problems with the posts, with one in particular dangerous and leaning and warning signs placed on the facility. Assuming that pitch quality remains in the standard range (scores are towards the lower end of this range), there is capacity to accommodate additional play both across the week and at peak time. The only pitch that is not able to accommodate
		Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	0			2	1	Capacity to sustain further play	
		9v9	1	Standard	2	1			1	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
		5v5	1	Standard	4	1			3	1	Capacity to sustain further play	

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
												further activity is the 9v9 pitch.
Stoneleigh Village Hall	Secured	Adult 11v11	1	Standard	2	0.5			1.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play	Small rural site of limited quality, with site scores approaching poor. Pitch posts are leaning and showing rust and pitch is compacted with weeds, bare patches and uneven goals. Pavilion and separate changing/pavilion poor and looks derelict. There is currently capacity to accommodate further play both at peak time and across the week, but this is dependent upon pitch quality remaining standard and not declining further into the poor range.
Sydenham Primary School	Unsecured	7v7	1	Standard	4	2	1	1.5	-0.5	0	Overplayed	Primary school site offering access on an unsecured basis to local club. Used for both training and matches, which intensifies the level of activity. Pitches are compacted with mud and
		5v5	1	Standard	4	1	1	1	1	0	Capacity to sustain further play	

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
		9v9	1	Standard	2	0.5	1	0.5	0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain	scuffing and there is heavy use across the week particularly of the 7v 7 pitch. none of the pitches have scope for additional play at peak time unless games are staggered.
		Youth 11v 11	1	Standard	2	0	1	1.5	-0.5	0	Overplayed	
University of Warwick (Cryfield)	Unsecured	Adult 11v 11	5	Good	15	4			11	5	Capacity to sustain further play	Pitches are in good condition and well maintained. Marked flexibly with facilities for other sports. There is no clear existing community use of these facilities but pitches are used by university teams (represented by match equivalents) and are believed to be available for public use at weekends. There is scope to increase the level of community activity on these pitches.
Warwick Sports Club	Secured	7V7	2	Standard	8	2.5			5.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play	Pitches on cricket outfield demonstrating evidence of compaction. Matches are played consecutively and there is no remaining capacity at peak time, although further activity

Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision All Activity (match equivalents)	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
												could be accommodated across the week.
Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground	Secured	9v9	2	Standard	4	2			2	1.5	Capacity to sustain further play	Pitches on cricket outfield, muddy goals and some undulations and weeds but overall in standard condition. Site is important venue for club, but there is capacity to accommodate additional play over the course of the week on both pitches. Capacity at peak time is more limited however for 5v5 football although there is scope to accommodate additional play on the 9v9 pitch. Teams wishing to play 7v7 football are displaced to alternative sites.
		5v5	1	Standard	4	1.5			2.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play	
Woodloes School	Unsecured	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	0			1	1	Capacity to sustain further play	School available on an unsecured basis and accommodating relatively limited community activity. Even taking into account curricular requirements, there is scope for additional



Site Name	Level of Access	Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Rating	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents (match play only)	Match Equivalents (other activity)	Match Equivalents (Training only)	Adequacy of Provision (All Activity (match equivalents))	Peak Time Capacity	Position	Site Summary
												play both at peak time and across the week

## Current Picture

- 5.98 The site overviews set out in Table 5.7 provide an understanding of the issues regarding the adequacy of pitch provision across Warwick and the situation at individual sites. Table 5.8 summarises this further, providing an overview of spare capacity across the week (taking into account all activity) and at peak time. It reveals that there are many sites where there is very little or no spare capacity.
- 5.99 The key used in this table is set out below. Security of community use is also highlighted, with unsecured sites coloured in red.

	<b>Pitch overplayed in this age group</b>
	<b>Played to level it can sustain in this age group</b>
	<b>Pitch has potential to accommodate more play but is not currently used</b>
	<b>Potential to accommodate more play - and used already for play</b>
X	<b>No available capacity at peak time</b>

**Table 5.8: Summary of Site and Pitch Availability at Peak Time**

Site Name	Adult	Youth	9v9	7v7	5v5	Unsecure Use
Acre Close recreation Ground	X	X				
Ajax Park				X		
Alvis Sports		X	X	X		
Aylesford School		X	X			
Baginton, millenium fields		X		X	X	
Bishops Tachbrook Sports and Social Club						
Bubbenhall village hall						
Campion School Academy		X				
Castle Farm Rec		X				
Kenilworth School Castle Sixth Form Centre	X					
Coventry Sporting (formerly Westwood United FC)		X		X	X	
Stonehouse Close, Cubbington	X					
Harbury Lane		X			X	
John Atkinson Sports Centre						
Kenilworth FC						
Kenilworth School and Meadow community sports centre						

Site Name	Adult	Youth	9v9	7v7	5v5	Unsecure Use
Kenilworth Wardens Football club (Ken Wardens CC)	x		x			
Leek Wootton Sports Club			x	X	x	
Mid Warwickshire Police HQ Leek Wootton	x					
Newbold Comyn		x	x	X		
Newburgh School						
North Leamington School	x	x	x			
Norton Lindsey Recreation Ground						
Kingsley School Playing Fields			x		x	
Philips 55 stadium	x					
Radford Semele Sports and Social Club	x					
St Georges field, Barford				X		
St Marys Lands		x		X		
Warwick Racing FC						
St Nicholas Park	x					
St Peters Celtic			x			
Stoneleigh Village Hall						
Sydenham Primary School		x	x	X	x	
University of Warwick (Cryfield)						
Warwick Sports Club (cricket)				X		
Warwickshire County Council Sports ground					x	
Woodloes School						

5.100 In addition to the pitches above, it is also believed that Whitnash Primary School is used and is available on occasion as overspill. It was not known to be used at the time of data collection for this assessment and is therefore not included as a currently active site.

5.101 The key issues arising by pitch type are summarised in the sections that follow and the overarching issues identified are pulled together in a summary table.

5.102 In line with PPS guidance, analysis is undertaken considering both all available community facilities and taking into account just those that are secured for community use.

#### Adult Football Pitches (11v11)

5.103 Table 5.9 overleaf summarises the usage at full size grass football pitches. Peak time spare capacity, which is the key issue across Warwick District, is highlighted in the table for ease of reference.

5.104 Table 5.10 summarises the data set out in Table 5.9 and summarises the current position for adult football pitches in Warwick District.

**Table 5.9: Full Sized Football Pitches**

Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Match Equivalents (Competitive)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision (Competitive Only)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision (Competitive and Other Activity)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision Including Training	Peak Time Availability	Current Position
Acre Close recreation Ground	Secured	1	2	1	1	1	-0.5	0	Overplayed
Ajax Park	Secured	1	2	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Alvis Sports	Secured	1	2	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
Aylesford School	Unsecured	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
Castle Farm Rec	Secured	2	4	1	3	3	3	1.5	Capacity to sustain further play
Kenilworth School Castle Sixth Form Centre	Secured	1 (and 2 disused)	2	2	0	-1	-1	0	Overplayed

Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Match Equivalents (Competitive)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision (Competitive Only)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision (Competitive and Other Activity)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision Including Training	Peak Time Availability	Current Position
Coventry Sporting (formerly Westwood United)	Secured	2	4	1	3	3	3	2	Capacity to sustain further play
Stonehouse Close, Cubbington	Secured	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain
Harbury Lane	Secured	3	6	1.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1.5	Capacity to sustain further play
John Atkinson Sports Centre	Secured	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Kenilworth FC	Secured	1	2	0	2	2	2	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Kenilworth Wardens Football club (Ken Wardens CC)	Secured	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	Capacity to sustain further play

Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Match Equivalents (Competitive)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision (Competitive Only)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision (Competitive and Other Activity)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision Including Training	Peak Time Availability	Current Position
Leek Wootton Sports Club	Secured	1	2	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
Mid Warwickshire Police HQ Leek Wootton	Secured	1	2	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Newbold Comyn	Secured	7	14	5.5	8.5	8.5	7.5	2	Capacity to sustain further play
North Leamington School	Unsecured	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain
Philips 55 stadium	Secured	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain
Radford Semele Sports and Social Club	Secured	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	Capacity to sustain further play

Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Match Equivalents (Competitive)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision (Competitive Only)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision (Competitive and Other Activity)	Adequacy of Pitch Provision Including Training	Peak Time Availability	Current Position
Warwick Racing FC	Secured	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
St Nicholas Park	Secured	2	4	2	2	2	2	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Stoneleigh Village Hall	Secured	1	2	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
University of Warwick (Cryfield)	Unsecured	5	15	4	11	11	11	5	Capacity to sustain further play

5.105 Table 5.9 reveals that there is some spare capacity in the existing stock of adult pitches across the district. The key issues arising from the Table are;

- Considering competitive activity and school use, there are 45 match equivalents available on adult pitches (this reduces to 42 when including training). Peak time capacity is however much more restricted, although there remain 17.5 match equivalents available. This suggests that pitch provision for adults is sufficient and there is a reasonable amount of strategic reserve. This represents a similar picture to that presented in 2014, where there were also 18.5 match equivalents available at peak time (although capacity was slightly greater across the week (55 match equivalents));
- There are two adult football pitches experiencing overplay, at Acre Close and Kenilworth Sixth Form. Acre Close only experiences overplay when training is also taken into account, suggesting that if additional training facilities were provided in the district, this would be avoided. Kenilworth Sixth Form is overplayed due to heavy use by youth teams, as well as curricular activity. There are two further pitches available on this site that are disused due to quality and therefore currently offer no capacity. Reinstatement would alleviate the overplay that is evident;
- Across the week, most sites have a degree of spare capacity. The highest levels of spare capacity are at Warwick University, where pitches are of a good standard and are therefore able to sustain high quantities of play each week. Almost a quarter of the weekly spare capacity is at Warwick university. The only other sites with more than 4 match equivalents available across the week are Newbold Comyn and Harbury Lane. These are both busy and popular venues but are primarily used at peak time
- Peak time capacity is much more limited and there are nine sites (ten pitches) that do not have any remaining availability. These are Acre Close Recreation Ground, Kenilworth Castle Sixth Form, Stonehouse Close, Cubbington, Kenilworth Wardens Football club, North Leamington School, Radford Semele Sports and Social Club and St Nicholas Park. The Phillips Stadium and Mid Warwickshire Police HQ are also considered not to offer additional capacity, due to the nature of the facilities and the restrictions on those that can use them
- The highest levels of spare capacity at peak time are at Coventry Sporting (2 match equivalents), Newbold Comyn (2 match equivalents) and University of Warwick (5 match equivalents). Almost a third of spare capacity is at University of Warwick.

5.106 It is therefore clear that for adult pitches, when taking into account all facilities available, there are sufficient facilities to meet demand. Many sites are however well used and have little room to sustain additional activity. The high amount of play that takes place at peak time means that the quality of facilities has a lower impact than it may otherwise do, as activity on pitches (particularly those on Council sites serving single team clubs) is primarily focused on one day.

5.107 Supplementing the availability of grass pitches, there are two AGPs on the FA register that can be used for competitive football fixtures. There is limited use of these pitches for competitive adult football currently (primarily midweek at Cryfield Pavilion by Warwick University), but there is an opportunity to increase match play on these sites. At peak time, adult football teams would however need to compete with 9v9 teams (where there are more facility pressures). This, alongside the fact that it makes better use of space to accommodate 9v9 games on AGPs than senior football (2 games can be played simultaneously, as well as greater scope for consecutive and staggered fixtures) means that the current stock of AGPs do not represent a viable alternative to grass pitches at peak time for adult football.



5.108 While there are sufficient pitches for adult football (and that there is some availability for additional play) it is important that this is considered in the context of the findings for other size pitches, where facility availability is more constrained, and not in isolation.

### Impact of none secured community use

5.109 Table 5.9 includes several sites that are unsecured containing adult pitches. In total, these currently account for 6.5 match equivalents availability at peak time and 11.5 match equivalents (including all activity and training and taking into account overplay) across the week. This means that excluding unsecured sites, there are enough pitches although available capacity drops to 11 match equivalents at peak time and 30.5 match equivalents across the week. This suggests that even if these facilities were no longer available, provision would remain sufficient.

5.110 These sites do however currently accommodate 7.5 match equivalents and these would need to be displaced to other sites if these facilities were no longer available. This means that overall, if unsecured sites were no longer available, peak time capacity would reduce to 4, while across the week there would be 23 pitches available.

5.111 This suggests that for adult football, the unsecured status of these sites is not currently critical, given the already high levels of spare capacity and the minimal displacement that would take place if these sites were no longer available. Pitches at North Leamington School and Aylesford School are however particularly valuable to community use, while facilities at Warwick University serve only their own teams at the present time.

5.112 Table 5.10 therefore summarises the current position for adult football pitches across the District.

**Table 5.10 – Summary of Current Position for Adult Football Pitches**

	Adult Football	
	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity
2014	55	18.5
2018 (All sites with Community Use)	42 including all activity (and training).	17.5,
2018 (Secured Sites Only)	23	4
Sites where capacity is limited	Overplay on Acre Close, Kenilworth Sixth Form. More limited spare capacity at peak time on most sites. Some quality improvements required	

### Youth Football

5.113 In reality, some sites are used by both adult teams and youth teams and there is little difference in terms of the size of pitches. The usage of smaller youth pitches is however summarised in Table 5.11. It indicates that spare capacity is much more limited than for adult pitches. Peak time spare capacity, which is the key issue across Warwick District, is highlighted in the table for ease of reference.

Table 5.11: Use of Youth Football Pitches

Site Name		Ownership / Management	Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match Play only	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Spare Capacity at Peak time	Position
Acre Recreation Ground	Close Parish			1	2	2		2	0	0	-2	0	Overplayed
Ajax Park	Club			2	4	3.5			0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
Alvis Sports	Club			1	2	4			-2	-2	-2	0	Overplayed
Aylesford School	School (unsecured)			2	4	5	2		-1	-3	-3	0	Overplayed
Baginton, Millenium Fields	Parish			1	2	1			1	1	1	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Campion School Academy	School (unsecured)			1	2	0.5	1		1.5	0.5	0.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Castle Farm Rec	WDC			2	4	4.5			-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	0	Overplayed
Coventry Sporting (formerly Westwood United)	Club			1	2	3			-1	-1	-1	0	Overplayed

Site Name	Ownership / Management	Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match Play only	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Spare Capacity at Peak time	Position
Harbury Lane	WDC	Secure	1	2	1			1	1	1	0	Capacity to sustain further play
John Atkinson Sports Centre	School (unsecured)	Unsecured	1	3	0	1		3	2	2	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Kenilworth School and Meadow Community Sports Centre	School (unsecured)	Unsecured	1	2	0	1		2	1	1	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Newbold Comyn	WDC	Secure	2	4	6.5			-2.5	-2.5	-2.5	0	Overplayed
North Leamington School	School (unsecured)	Unsecure	1	2	2	1		0	-1	-1	0	Overplayed
Norton Lindsey Recreation Ground	Parish	Secure	1	2	0.5			1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
St Marys Lands	WDC	Secure	1	2	1			1	1	1	0	Capacity to sustain further play
St Peters Celtic	Club	Secure	1	2	0			2	2	2	1	Capacity to sustain further play

Site Name	Ownership / Management	Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match Play only	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Spare Capacity at Peak time	Position
Sydenham Primary School	School (unsecured)	Unsecured	1	2	0	1	1.5	2	1	-0.5	0	Overplayed
Woodloes School	School (unsecured)	Unsecured	1	2	0	1		2	1	1	1	Capacity to sustain further play

- 5.114 Table 5.11 reveals that supply and demand for youth pitches is much more balanced than for adult pitches. Across the week, there is little capacity for additional play (10.5 accounting for overplay). When considering all activity and taking into account existing overplay however, there is a shortfall of 1 match equivalent. This suggests that there is not enough capacity overall.
- 5.115 Overplay is evident at Acre Close, Alvis Sports, Castle Farm Recreation Ground, Coventry Sporting, Newbold Comyn, Sydenham Primary School and Aylesford School, all of which accommodate large clubs. At Acre Close and Sydenham Primary School, this is caused by training on grass pitches and this overplay would be alleviated if training was moved onto AGPs.
- 5.116 While there is a degree of capacity for further play, this is relatively limited and Myton School, Norton Lindsey Recreation Ground and St Peters Celtic are the only sites able to sustain more than 1.5 match equivalents extra per week.
- 5.117 There is a similarly restricted level of capacity at peak time, with 12 sites (15 pitches) not able to accommodate any more play. There are only 6 sites with any spare capacity, equating to 5 match equivalents.
- 5.118 It is clear therefore that overall, there are insufficient pitches for youth play and that most sites are not able to accommodate more activity. This is particularly the case for sites accommodating large clubs.
- 5.119 With peak time for youth football being different to that for adult teams, there may be opportunities for some youth pitches to be overmarked on adult pitches, to add further capacity. It is clear however that at most sites where the youth football pitches are heavily used, there is also little remaining capacity on the adult pitches and therefore this strategy offers only limited scope to improve the situation. Where this does occur, it places greater pressures on the quality of the grass pitches as they will be required to sustain games in multiple time frames. Potential opportunities may include Castle Farm Recreation Ground, Coventry Sporting and Newbold Comyn. Improvements to the quality of these sites would ensure that the additional games could be sustained without detrimental impact upon the pitches.

### **Unsecured Pitches**

- 5.120 Table 5.11 reveals that there are 8 sites containing unsecured youth pitches. Of these, only three have any spare capacity at peak time and the others are all well used by community teams. The already existing low levels of availability mean that the amount of unsecured sites and the reliance on them by community teams is a concern.
- 5.121 Excluding unsecured sites, there is no spare capacity across the week (-1 taking into account all activity and overplay) and just 2 match equivalents at peak time). There are 7.5 match equivalents associated with the community playing on youth pitches at unsecured sites and these would need to be relocated, meaning that there would be insufficient pitches to meet demand (with unmet demand at peak time rising to up to -6.5 and unmet demand across the week equating to -8.5) Several clubs would also be displaced from their home.
- 5.122 This suggests there are insufficient pitches for youth teams across Warwick District. Added to this, the reliance on unsecured facilities means that the infrastructure for this age group is even more fragile than may first appear.
- 5.123 Table 5.12 therefore summarises the current position for youth football pitches.

**Table 5.12 – Current Position – Youth Football Pitches**

Youth Football		
	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity
2014	12.5	6
2018 (All sites with Community Use)	-1	5
2018 (Secured Sites Only)	-8.5	-6.5
Sites where capacity is limited	Acre Close, Alvis Sports, Castle Farm Recreation Ground, Coventry Sporting, Newbold Comyn, Sydenham Primary School, Aylesford School all overplayed. No remaining capacity at peak time on almost all sites.	

### 9 v 9 Pitches

- 5.124 Table 5.13 summarises the use of 9 v 9 football pitches. Peak time spare capacity, which is the key issue across Warwick District, is highlighted in the table for ease of reference.
- 5.125 It reveals that across the week, spare capacity equates to 23.5 match equivalents (14.5 when taking into account all activity and overplay as well as training)). Pitch provision is however more constrained at peak time however, with only 8.5 match equivalents available.
- 5.126 Alvis Sports is the only site to experience overplay in all scenarios, but there is also overplay at North Leamington School once curricular activity is taken into account. Most other sites have capacity across the week for further play (although Castle Farm and Harbury Lane are the only sites where more than 3 match equivalents could be sustained).
- 5.127 Provision at peak time is much more limited and Castle Farm and Harbury Lane are the only sites able to sustain two more match equivalents per week. Alvis Sports, Aylesford School, Kenilworth School and Meadow Community Sports Centre, Kenilworth Wardens Football club, Leek Wootton Sports Club, Newbold Comyn, North Leamington School, Kingsley School Playing Fields, St Peters Celtic and Sydenham Primary School have no remaining capacity for additional play at peak time.
- 5.128 With peak time for 9v9 football being different to youth play, there may be opportunities for some youth pitches to overmarked on youth pitches, to add further capacity. The existing pressures on youth pitches are however likely to preclude this from happening at almost all sites.

Table 5.13: 9 v 9 Football Pitches

Site Name	Management and Access	Number of Pitches		Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match Play only	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Peak Time Capacity	Position
			Site Capacity								
Ajax Park	Club	1	2	1			1	1	1	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
Alvis Sports	Club	1	2	2.5			-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	0	Over played
Aylesford School	School (unsecured)	1	2	1	1		1	0	0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain
Castle Farm Rec	WDC	2	4	1			3	3	3	2	Capacity to sustain further play
Harbury Lane	WDC	2	4	1			3	3	3	2	Capacity to sustain further play
John Atkinson Sports Centre	School (unsecured)	1	2	0	1		2	1	1	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Kenilworth School and Meadow community sports centre	School (unsecured)	1	2	0	1		2	1	1	0	Capacity to sustain further play

Site Name	Management and Access	Number of Pitches		Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match Play only	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Peak Time Capacity	Position
		1	2								
Kenilworth Wardens Football Club (Ken Wardens CC)	Club	1	2	1.5			0.5	0.5	0.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Leek Wootton Sports Club	Parish	1	2	1.5			0.5	0.5	0.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Newbold Comyn	WDC	2	4	2			2	2	2	0	Capacity to sustain further play
North Leamington School	School (unsecured)	2	4	4	2.5		0	-2.5	-2.5	0	Overplayed
Kingsley School Playing Fields	School (unsecured)	1	2	1	1		1	0	0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain
Philips 55 Stadium	Club	1	2	0.5		1	1.5	1.5	0.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play
St Georges Field, Barford	Parish	1	2	0.5			1.5	1.5	1.5	1	Capacity to sustain further play



Site Name	Management and Access	Number of Pitches		Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match Play only	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Peak Time Capacity	Position
		1	2								
St Marys Lands	WDC	1	2	1.5			0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
St Peters Celtic	Club	1	2	1			1	1	1	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Sydenham Primary School	School (unsecured)	1	2	0.5	1	0.5	1.5	0.5	0	0	Played to level pitch can sustain
Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground	County Council	2	4	2			2	2	2	1.5	Capacity to sustain further play

## Impact of Unsecured Pitches

- 5.129 There are 5 sites with unsecured pitches for 9v9 football. In total these venues account for 6.5 match equivalents of community competitive use. Aylesford School and North Leamington School are particularly important venues and Myton School is the only site where the 9v9 pitch is not used by the community.
- 5.130 When excluding the unsecured community use venues, availability at peak time equates to only 7.5 match equivalents across the district. There would also be a need to relocate the 6.5 match equivalents currently using unsecured venues, meaning that there would be almost no remaining further capacity (only 1 match equivalent available).
- 5.131 Across the week, supply would also be constrained, with adequacy of provision equating to 16 (taking into account all activity and overplay), but a need to relocate the 6.5 match equivalents, leaving only 9.5 spare capacity remaining.
- 5.132 There is therefore already limited capacity to sustain and grow 9v9 football (without overmarking pitches on other sizes) in the District, particularly if access to unsecured venues is lost.
- 5.133 Table 5.14 summarises the position for 9v9 football across Warwick District.

**Table 5.14 – Summary of Current Position – 9v9 Football Pitches**

9v9 Football		
	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity
2014	9	7.5
2018 (All sites with Community Use)	14.5	8.5
2018 (Secured Sites Only)	9.5	1
Sites where capacity is limited	Alvis Sports and North Leamington School overplayed. Limited capacity at peak time, with only Castle Farm and Harbury Lane able to sustain additional play. Alvis Sports, Aylesford School, Kenilworth School, Meadow Community Centre, Kenilworth Wardens Football, Leek Wootton Sports Club, Newbold Comyn, Kingsley School Playing Fields, St Peters Celtic and Sydenham Primary School all have no remaining capacity at peak time	

## 7 v 7 Pitches

- 5.134 Table 5.15 summarises the use at 7 v 7 football pitches. Peak time spare capacity, which is the key issue across Warwick District, is highlighted in the table for ease of reference.
- 5.135 It indicates that across the week, reflecting the high capacity of 7v7 pitches, there are 62 match equivalents available, and 58 taking into account all activity (including training). Peak time supply is however much more reduced, with only 10 match equivalents available.
- 5.136 Alvis Sports, Newbold Comyn and Sydenham Primary School are the only sites where overplay is experienced and all other sites can accommodate further play across the week.

Adequacy of provision at Sydenham Primary School is particularly influenced by the use of the grass pitches for training.

- 5.137 There are nine sites with no further capacity at peak time (unless matches are staggered) and these include Ajax Park, Alvis Sports and Social Club, Baginton Playing Fields, Coventry Sporting, Leek Wootton Sports Club, Newbold Comyn, St Marys Lands, Sydenham Primary School and Warwick Sports Club. Most of these sites are currently accommodating large clubs with several teams. There is however scope to accommodate games successively if this was supported by the league.
- 5.138 Bishops Tachbrook and Kenilworth Wardens are the only pitches able to sustain two more match equivalents at peak time.
- 5.139 This suggests that on the whole there is good availability of 7v7 pitches across the week but that there are some constraints at peak time on sites where larger clubs are based.

Table 5.15: Use at 7 v 7 Football Pitches

Site Name	Ownership and Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match Play only	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Peak Time Capacity	Position
Ajax Park	Club - Secure	2	8	2			6	6	6	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Alvis Sports	Club - Secure	1	4	5.5			-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	0	Overplayed
Baginton, Millennium Fields	Parish - Secure	1	4	1.5			2.5	2.5	2.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Bishops Tachbrook Sports and Social Club	Club - Secure	2	8	0	2	1.5	8	6	4.5	2	Capacity to sustain further play
Bubbenhall Village Hall	Parish - Secure	1	2	0		1	2	2	1	1	Capacity to sustain further play.

Site Name	Ownership and Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match Play only	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Peak Time Capacity	Position
Castle Farm Rec	WDC - Secure	2	8	1			7	7	7	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Coventry Sporting (formerly Westwood united)	Club - Secure	1	4	2			2	2	2	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Harbury Lane	WDC - Secure	1	4	0			4	4	4	1	Capacity to sustain further play

Site Name	Ownership and Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match Play only	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Peak Time Capacity	Position
Kenilworth Wardens Football Club (Ken Wardens CC)	Club - Secure	2	8	1			7	7	7	2	Capacity to sustain further play
Leek Wootton Sports Club	Parish - Secure	1	4	2.5			1.5	1.5	1.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Newbold Comyn	WDC - Secure	1	4	5			-1	-1	-1	0	Overplayed
Norton Lindsey Recreation Ground	Parish - Secure	1	4	1.5			2.5	2.5	2.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play

Site Name	Ownership and Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match Play only	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Peak Time Capacity	Position
St Marys Lands	WDC – Secure	1	4	1			3	3	3	0	Capacity to sustain further play
St Peters Celtic	Club - Secure	1	4	0.5			3.5	3.5	3.5	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Warwick Sports Club (cricket)	Club - Secure	2	8	2.5			5.5	5.5	5.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Newburgh School	) School (unsecured)	1	4	0.5	1		3.5	2.5	2.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
North Leamington School	) School (unsecured)	4	16	3	4.5		13	8.5	8.5	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Sydenham primary school	) School (unsecured)	1	4	2	1	1.5	2	1	-0.5	0	Overplayed

## Unsecured Pitches

- 5.140 There are three sites with unsecured access and 5.5 match equivalents take place on these sites, primarily at North Leamington School and Sydenham Primary School.
- 5.141 Excluding unsecured sites, there are 8.5 match equivalents available at peak time. If access to unsecured sites was withdrawn, there would be a need to relocate 5.5 match equivalents, suggesting that supply would be very closely matched with demand (although it would be possible to stagger fixtures). There would remain enough capacity across the week to accommodate the relocated teams (42.5).
- 5.142 Pitch provision is therefore particularly closely matched with demand when excluding unsecured sites, although it should be noted that games could be scheduled consecutively with limited overall impact if this was considered necessary.
- 5.143 Table 5.16 therefore summarises the current position for 7v7 football pitches across Warwick District.

**Table 5.16 – Summary of Current Position for 7v7 Pitches across Warwick District**

7v7 Football		
	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity
2014	51.5 across the week, 12.5 match equivalents at peak time	
2018 (All sites with Community Use)	58	10
2018 (Secured Sites Only)	42.5	8.5
Sites where capacity is limited	Alv is Sports, Newbold Comyn and Sydenham Primary School are the only sites where overplay is experienced and all other sites can accommodate further play across the week.	

## 5 v 5 pitches

- 5.144 Table 5.17 outlines the spare capacity that is available at 5 v 5 pitches. Peak time spare capacity, which is the key issue across Warwick District, is highlighted in the table for ease of reference.
- 5.145 It reveals that like at 7v7 pitches, there is good availability across the week (54, 52.5 when taking into account training). At peak time however as with other forms of the game, capacity is more limited (7 match equivalents) although there is scope for further play, particularly if matches are accommodated consecutively.
- 5.146 There is no overplay evident and only Baginton Playing Fields, Coventry Sporting, Harbury Lane, Leek Wootton Sports Club, Kingsley School Playing Field and St Georges Field Barford do not have capacity for further play without staggering fixtures.



### **Unsecured pitches**

- 5.147 There are three sites with unsecured access and 3.5 match equivalents take place on these sites. North Leamington School is the only of the three venues with any spare capacity at peak time.
- 5.148 Excluding unsecured sites, there are 5.5 match equivalents available at peak time. If access to unsecured sites was withdrawn, there would be a need to relocate 3.5 match equivalents, suggesting that supply would be very closely matched with demand (with spare capacity equivalent to 2 although it would be possible to stagger fixtures). There would remain sufficient capacity across the week to accommodate the relocated teams (39 match equivalents).
- 5.149 There is therefore sufficient capacity for play across the week, but capacity is very constrained, particularly if unsecured venues were lost.

Table 5.13: 5 v 5 Pitches

Site Name	Type and Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match only	Adequacy of Provision Match and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Peak Time Availability	Position
Ajax Park	Club - Secure	1	4	0.5			3.5	3.5	3.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
Baginton, millenium fields	Parish - - Secure	1	4	1			3	3	3	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Castle Farm Rec	WDC - Secure	1	4	0			4	4	4	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Coventry Sporting (formerly Westwood united)	Club - Secure	1	4	2.5			1.5	1.5	1.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Harbury Lane	WDC - Secure	1	4	1.5		0.5	2.5	2.5	2	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Kenilworth Wardens Football club (Ken Wardens CC)	Club - Secure	1	4	1			3	3	3	1	Capacity to sustain further play

Site Name	Type and Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match only	Adequacy of Provision Match and Play Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Peak Time Availability	Position
Leek Wootton sportsclub	Parish- Secure	1	4	1			3	3	3	0	Capacity to sustain further play
Newbold Comyn	WDC- Secure	3	12	1.5			10.5	10.5	10.5	1.5	Capacity to sustain further play
St Georges field, Barford	Parish- Secure	1	4	1			3	3	3	0	Capacity to sustain further play
St Mays Lands	WDC- Secure	1	4	0.5			3.5	3.5	3.5	0.5	Capacity to sustain further play
St Peters Celtic	Club- Secure	1	4	1			3	3	3	1	Capacity to sustain further play
Warwickshire County Council Sports ground	Council- Secure	1	4	1.5			2.5	2.5	2.5	0	Capacity to sustain further play
North Leamington School	School (unsecured)	3	12	1.5	3.5		10.5	7	7	1.5	Capacity to sustain further play
Kingsley School Playing Fields	School (unsecured)	1	4	1	1		3	2	2	0	Capacity to sustain further play

Site Name	Type and Access	Number of Pitches	Site Capacity	Total Match Equivalents	Other activity	Total Training Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision Match only	Adequacy of Provision Match and Play and Other Activity	Adequacy of Provision Match Play and Training	Peak Time Availability	Position
Sydenham primary school	School (unsecured)	1	4	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	Capacity to sustain further play

5.150 Table 5.18 summarises the current position for 5v5 football pitches across Warwick District.

**Table 5.18 – Summary of Current Position for 5v5 Pitches across Warwick District**

5 v 5 Football		
	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity
2014	51.5 across the week, 12.5 match equivalents at peak time	
2018 (All sites with Community Use)	52.5	7
2018 (Secured Sites Only)	39	2
Sites where capacity is limited	Alv is Sports, Newbold Comyn and Sydenham Primary School are the only sites where overplay is experienced and all other sites can accommodate further play across the week.	

#### Adequacy of Provision for Pyramid Clubs

5.151 As outlined earlier in this section, there are five clubs that are playing within the National League pyramid and that therefore have specific requirements to adhere to with regards facilities. The adequacy of provision for these clubs is summarised in Table 5.14.

5.152 Table 5.19 reveals that all clubs currently meet baseline specifications although there are some aspirations and improvements that clubs are seeking to achieve.

**Table 5.19: Adequacy of Facilities for Pyramid Clubs**

Club	Grade	Venue	Comments
Central Ajax	Step 7 Minimum Grading	Ajax Park	Meets league requirements. Planning for changing facility extension soon as club require more facilities to accommodate all teams and pitch capacity is also constrained. No specific improvements required for main pitch however.
Leamington FC	Grading B	Philipps 66 Community Stadium	Meets league requirements but quality limited. Poor drainage of site and club working to deliver 3g stadium pitch for use for matches and training to be developed as part of a ground relocation.
Racing Club Warwick	Grade G / H	Racing Club Warwick FC	Senior pitch adequate and meets league requirements, but junior pitches suffer from frequent flooding. Club also highlight a lack of training facilities which places greater pressures on pitches. Club have recently developed a small sized 3G MUGA on site but have aspirations to develop a full size pitch (longer term).

Leamington Hibernian	Step 7 Minimum Grading	Stonehouse Close	Pitch meeting league requirements. Facilities at Stonehouse Close adequate, but pitches at Newbold Comyn deemed poor by clubs, with issues surrounding drainage particularly problematic.
Alvis Sports FC	Step 7 Minimum Grading	Alvis Sports and Social Club	Pitch meets basic league requirements, but improvements are needed at the end of the season to ensure that this remains the case. Pitch requires drainage improvements and perimeter fencing also needs enhancing. The club also require improvements to the changing rooms for officials and the home team to stay in the league. Pitch is believed to suffer from overuse.

5.153 There are no other clubs known to be seeking to progress onto leagues in the football pyramid.

5.154 In addition to the above adult teams who play on the football pyramid, there are also several junior teams playing in leagues requiring facilities meeting certain specifications (Junior Premier and Midlands Junior Premier League). No concerns were raised with regards facilities meeting the needs of these leagues, but the following sites currently accommodate these sides;

- Ajax Park
- Aylesford School
- Westwood United

### Overall Spatial Picture

5.155 Table 5.20 summarises the overall picture across Warwick District in terms of supply and demand for pitches and provides a comparison of the picture in 2013. It demonstrates that the situation remains very similar, but supply continues to closely match demand and indeed, spare capacity has reduced for some pitch types. There remain particular pressures on junior pitches, with limited spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5 at peak time unless games are played consecutively. There is also little scope for additional 9v9 play.

5.156 There is quite significant overplay at some key sites in the district and it is evident that the majority of instances of overplay / pitches approaching capacity are associated with larger clubs, while the spare capacity is located at pitches in more rural areas, Warwick University and school sites where there are no clubs playing (Myton School) and informal access arrangements only.

5.157 While there is capacity for further play across the week for adult, 7v7 and 5v5 football, peak time availability is much more constrained for all age groups but particularly for youth and smaller sided football. Total availability at peak time is much lower than the amount of additional play that could be accommodated across the week. There are 56 pitches (almost half of the total pitch stock) that have no remaining capacity on their respective peak times (although peak time demand is spread across the weekend). Many of the pitches without capacity are on the same site (and are associated with club bases).

5.158 Reflecting high levels of use, quality issues are evident on sites across the district with compaction (and associated issues with drainage) being one of the key issues. These issues

are exacerbated by the heavy levels of play as well as the limited maintenance regimes that are apparent. This is particularly important as pitch quality dictates capacity. Reflecting this, consultation revealed that many clubs believe that they are overplaying their pitches and that this is directly impacting on the quality.

- 5.159 Training was also identified as a key concern for many of the clubs in the district and it is clear that a lack of AGPs (or a lack of accessible facilities) causes some clubs to use their grass pitches. This is something that the FA are seeking to avoid. If training was moved onto AGPs, overplay could be avoided at a small number of sites.
- 5.160 The role of unsecured pitches is also particularly evident and this represents a key threat to the district in future years. Much of the spare capacity is currently provided by school sites (and the university) and the loss of access to these facilities would see supply precariously balanced with demand, particularly for youth (where there would be a deficit of provision), 9v9 and smaller pitches. Several clubs are also reliant upon these sites as their home base and North Leamington School and Aylesford School are particularly important in this respect. Recent issues have been experienced with school facilities being withdrawn from community use and there is therefore a high risk that this will practice will continue if issues of security of access are not addressed.
- 5.161 The current quantitative picture with regards spare capacity is summarised in Table 5.15 overleaf. It illustrates the number of spare match equivalent sessions for age group when taking into account all activity that is currently on the pitches (matches / training / curricular use).

Table 5.20: Summary of Pitch Availability (Match Equivalents)

	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9 Football		7v7 Football		5v5 Football	
	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity
2014	55	18.5	12.5	6	9	7.5	51.5 across the week. 12 match equivalents at peak time			
2018 (All sites with Community Use)	42 including all activity (and training).	17.5	-1	5	14.5	8.5	58	10	52.5	7
2018 (Secured Sites Only)	23	4	-8.5	-6.5	9.5	1	42.5	8.5	39	2



<p>Sites where capacity is limited</p>	<p>Overplay on Acre Close, Kenilworth Sixth Form. More limited spare capacity at peak time on most sites. Some quality improvements required</p>	<p>Acre Close, Alvis Sports, Castle Farm Recreation Ground, Coventry Sporting, Newbold Comyn, Sydenham Primary School, Aylesford School all overplayed. No remaining capacity at peak time on almost all sites.</p>	<p>Alvis Sports and North Leamington School overplayed. Limited capacity at peak time, with only Castle Farm and Harbury Lane able to sustain additional play. Alvis Sports, Aylesford School, Kenilworth School, Meadow Community Centre, Kenilworth Wardens Football, Leek Wootton Sports Club, Newbold Comyn, Kingsley School Playing Fields, St Peters Celtic and Sydenham Primary School all have no remaining capacity at peak time</p>	<p>Alvis Sports, Newbold Comyn and Sydenham Primary School are the only sites where overplay is experienced and all other sites can accommodate further play across the week.</p>	<p>No evidence of overplay, only Baginton Playing Fields, Coventry Sporting, Harbury Lane, Leek Wootton Sports Club, Kingsley School Playing Field and St Georges Field Barford do not have capacity for further play without staggering fixtures.</p>
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5.162 Supporting the quantitative issues above, Table 5.21 builds upon this, providing an overall site-specific summary of the issues identified including the sites where there are capacity pressures and the quality issues that have been identified.

**Table 5.21: Summary of Issues Identified**

Site Capacity Issues	Quality Issues	Other Concerns
Overplay at Acre Close (exacerbated by use for training)	Acre Close – requires levelling and enhanced maintenance, poor marking. New community building due to be installed which may require pitches to relocate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of security of community use, in particular to North Leamington School and Aylesford School which are important home bases for clubs</li> </ul>
Alvis Sports – heavy overplay and teams displaced to alternative venues. Club looking to acquire additional land	Ajax Park – requirement for extension to changing provision to ensure that there are sufficient facilities for all pitches (and scope to accommodate female games). Drainage also poor and club believe main pitch would benefit from floodlights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pitch at Myton School (John Atkinson Sports Centre) available on an ad hoc basis through the school, although indoor facilities etc are managed through the leisure centre. There is a lack of use and potential to increase this through management of the leisure centre. The same issues exist with Kenilworth School</li> </ul>
Ajax Park – limited remaining spare capacity at peak times	Alvis Sports – main pitch (perimeter fence) and changing facilities require improvement to meet with league regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of grass facilities for training and / or clubs commuting outside of the district to reach AGPs</li> </ul>
Baginton Playing Field – no remaining capacity at peak time	Baginton Playing Field – poor storage and changing, damp conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3g AGP at John Atkinson Leisure Centre insufficient quality to be listed on the FA register. Pitch is in need of resurfacing</li> </ul>
Coventry Sporting – some overplay and evidence of pitches being tightly packed	Castle Farm Recreation Ground – posts requiring immediate replacement, clear evidence of heavy use (require decompaction) and addressing of drainage issues on site. Lack of adequate changing accommodation on site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kenilworth FC – pitch currently laying unused, although this has since been purchased and is now in the process of being reinstated</li> </ul>
Harbury Lane – pitches approaching capacity and heavy usage impacting on quality	Kenilworth School Castle Farm Sixth Form – existing pitch overplayed due to remaining two pitches being out of use as a result of poor quality.	
Kenilworth Wardens – limited remaining capacity for teams requiring larger pitches, in particular youth teams	North Leamington School – pitches of standard quality, would benefit from investment into maintenance, pitches also small sized. Pitches suffer from mole damage and are poorly marked	
Leek Wootton Sports Club – limited remaining capacity at peak time		
Newbold Comyn – overplay experienced particularly on youth pitches		
North Leamington School – very limited remaining capacity at peak time		

Site Capacity Issues	Quality Issues	Other Concerns
<p>Racing Club Warwick / St Marys Lands – heavy usage and limited capacity for further activity at peak time.</p> <p>Sydenham Primary School – pitches overplayed as a result of sustaining training activity as well as competitive fixtures.</p>	<p>out. No access to changing accommodation for younger teams.</p> <p>Stonehouse Close – pitch close to becoming poor, overmarking and burnt pitch markings.</p> <p>Harbury Lane – need to replace goal posts, evidence of heavy usage. Would benefit from increased maintenance (alleviate weeds etc) and drainage.</p> <p>Kenilworth Wardens – pitches requiring urgent decompaction.</p> <p>Leek Wootton FC – pitches require maintenance improvements, pavilion requires investment in changing rooms and kitchen. Some concerns with dog fouling.</p> <p>Newbold Comyn – requires drainage improvements and decompaction. Maintenance improvements. Changing facilities would benefit from internal refurbishment.</p> <p>Racing Club Warwick – pitches require enhanced maintenance.</p> <p>St Nicholas Park – require enhanced maintenance (fertiliser and decompaction). Some issues with drainage also raised.</p> <p>Warwickshire County Council sports club – decompaction and levelling required. Drainage currently poor.</p>	

Site Capacity Issues	Quality Issues	Other Concerns
	St Peters Celtic – maintenance and drainage improvements. Facilities also require urgent improvement.	

## FA Demand Modelling

- 5.163 AGPs are becoming increasingly important for football.
- 5.164 The FA vision (November 2014) which is the result of extensive analysis on the facilities used for football (including grass roots) placed greater emphasis on the benefits of 3g pitches and their importance for the future delivery of football. This is also reflected in the FA National Game Strategy 2015 - 2019 which seeks to provide better training and playing facilities. In particular, the FA cite the additional capacity that AGPs offer compared to grass and their ability to sustain play during periods of inclement weather, resulting in a reduced number of cancellations.
- 5.165 The national game strategy seeks to improve training and playing facilities through £48m of FA investment to;
- create 100 new football turf pitches and improve 2,000 grass pitches;
  - invest in and roll out a new sustainable model for grassroots facilities in 30 cities through football hubs owned and operated by local communities; and
  - ensure half of mini-soccer and youth matches are played on high quality artificial grass pitches.
- 5.166 The importance of these facilities was also clear in consultation, with the lack of AGPs for both training and matches being one of the key concerns raised by clubs. This issue has also become more apparent since 2013, reflecting the growing importance of these facilities for football.
- 5.167 It is therefore important to evaluate the potential demand for 3g pitches and to determine the role that they could play in the provision of facilities for football in the District.
- 5.168 FA data modelling evaluates the baseline requirement for 3g pitches taking into account the training requirements of clubs. It assumes that one 3g pitch is required per 38 teams and that based on FA policy, all football training should take place on 3g pitches (as opposed to sand).
- 5.169 Assuming that there is a baseline total of 274 teams this would mean that there is a requirement for at least 7.2 full size AGPs.
- 5.170 There are currently three full size pitches in the district at John Atkinson Sports Centre, Meadow Community Sports Centre and Cryfield Pavilion (University of Warwick).
- 5.171 This would therefore suggest that in broad terms, there is a theoretical requirement for a further three to four pitches across the district. Given that the pitch at Warwick University is heavily used for student requirements and is also priced almost 50% higher than the other two pitches, it is likely that a further four pitches would be needed to adequately address the training requirements of clubs as this pitch cannot be considered to adequately meet community needs.
- 5.172 While this presents a theoretical perspective, it is however important to look at the use of facilities on the ground to determine the need for further AGP provision, particularly given the issues that were raised through consultation.

## The Local Situation

5.173 Football demand for AGPs can be categorised into three areas;

- matchplay (requires use of a 3g pitch that is included on the FA register) – this links with the requirement for grass pitches and it was outlined that the 3g AGPs are becoming increasingly important;
- informal / recreational use – pay and play or leagues; and
- training (The FA would like to see all clubs having access to a 3g pitch – they discourage the use of sand-based facilities).

### *Competitive use*

5.174 There is limited competitive play on pitches in the district. The pitch at Warwick University is used (by students and staff), while there is only ad hoc use of the pitch at Meadows Community Sports Centre. The facility at John Atkinson Sports Centre cannot be used for competitive activity as it is not included on the FA register.

5.175 Increasing the use of these facilities would start to reduce the pressures that are evident on the grass pitches across the district.

### *Informal Leagues*

5.176 There are informal leagues on both the 3g pitches and some sand based facilities, specifically;

- Aylesford School – Monday and Tuesday Leisure Leagues
- Power Play Myton School 3g – Thursday
- Student 5 v 5 – Warwick University

5.177 The use of the pitches for informal leagues reduces the opportunities for clubs to access the facility for training but does provide an important opportunity to participate in recreational football, which is increasing in popularity across the country and is becoming of increasing importance to sustaining football as a game.

### *Training*

5.178 Analysis demonstrates that there is extensive use of the 3g pitches in the District, but there are also numerous clubs using the sand based facilities designed for hockey (particularly at North Leamington School and Aylesford School).

5.179 Numerous clubs highlight challenges with accessing appropriate 3g pitches and there is a general consensus that more facilities are needed. Clubs believe that there are insufficient pitches in the district (no time slots available / no local facilities) but also highlight the need to ensure that these facilities are affordable, particularly for junior clubs.

5.180 This is further evidenced by the clear reliance on sand-based facilities for training by football clubs. As many football clubs train on sand based pitches as do 3g pitches currently and indeed, some clubs travel outside of the district to use sand based pitches in other authorities. This suggests a clear shortage of accessible 3g pitches local to their home bases.

5.181 Local research indicates that there is no regular availability on AGPs between 6pm and 8pm, which are the most desirable time slots for clubs in the district and there is limited opportunity for clubs to book regular training slots during the winter months.

5.182 The creation of AGPs that are designed to reach the appropriate quality standards (and are therefore suitable for listing on the FA AGP register) provides an opportunity to increase capacity for match play (and consequently to reduce the pressures that are evident on grass pitches) as well as to address the training requirements.

5.183 In terms of both theoretical position and reality on the ground there therefore appears the need for additional 3g pitches and several expressions of interest from potential providers have been received as part of the data collection process.

### The Potential Role of AGPs - Scenario Testing

5.184 The FA has a long term intention to relocate 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 football onto AGPs. Several games can be sustained at any one time and this therefore reduces the need for grass pitches and ensures a consistently better quality of surface which supports skill development. It is also intended that every club in the country will have access to at least a 1hour training slot on an AGP each week.

5.185 Peak time football in Warwick is relatively well spread, specifically;

- Saturday morning for 5v5 and 7v7
- Sunday morning for 9v9 and adult
- Sunday afternoon for youth.

5.186 While grass pitches have a finite capacity and therefore struggle to accommodate multiple staggered fixtures, there is greater scope to do this on an AGP as pitches do not suffer from deterioration in the same way. The spread of games in Warwick District means that AGPs are a particularly effective way of meeting demand in this area.

5.187 Table 5.22 therefore illustrates the number of pitches that are required to accommodate all football at peak time for 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 football. It considers firstly the amount of AGPs that would be needed to accommodate all activity (including those currently on school sites) and secondly, just those on Council pitches.

**Table 5.22: Potential Role of 3g Pitches**

Scenario	Format of the game	Number of teams	Fixture Equivalents	Matches per full size AGP	Number of match sessions	Duration of session (inc. changeover)	Hours of play on 3G AGP	Programme Hours Available	Pitches Required
All Teams	5v5	36	18	4	4.5	1	4.5	4	8.2
	7v7	59	29.5	2	14.75	1	14.75	4	
	9v9	46	23	2	11.5	1.5	17.25	4	5.8
	Youth	76	38	1	38	2	76	2	19
Just those on	5v5	10	5	4	1.25	1	1.25	4	2.1
	7v7	14	7	2	3.5	1	3.5	4	

Scenario	Format of the game	Number of teams	Fixture Equivalents	Matches per full size AGP	Number of match sessions	Duration of session (inc. changeover)	Hours of play on 3G AGP	Programme Hours Available	Pitches Required
Council pitches	9v9	15	7.5	2	3.75	1.5	5.625	4	1.9
	Youth	26	13	1	13	2	26	2	6.5

5.188 Table 5.22 therefore reveals that to accommodate all 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 games, 8 - 9 pitches listed on the FA register would be required. This would enable 5v5 and 7v7 play to take place at the same time and the same pitches to be used again for 9v9 play. To accommodate all junior fixtures, a significant number of additional pitches would be required.

5.189 If considering accommodating just those teams that are currently playing on pitches managed by Warwick DC, this would reduce significantly, with circa 2 pitches adequate to meet demand.

5.190 This suggests that if matches were to be relocated onto AGPS for the younger teams, 5 – 6 additional pitches would be needed. This is just higher than the amount of pitches that would be needed to accommodate training (4 additional pitches) based on FA team: pitch ratios.

#### Future Picture of Provision

5.191 The future requirement for playing pitches will be impacted by several factors, including;

- population growth or change to the demographic profile of the population;
- changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played;
- club specific development plans and aspirations; and
- amendments to the current facility stock.

5.192 These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand for playing pitches.

#### Trends Based Population Change

5.193 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are used to project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth.

5.194 Table 5.23 summarises the current TGRs for football and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected trends-based population change on demand for football in Warwick District. It reveals that;

- the number of adult football teams is likely to remain static;
- there will be a small increase in the number of youth teams (2) and 9v9 teams (1) placing extra pressures on the pitch stock; and
- the number of 7v7 and 5v5 teams is likely to remain static.

**Table 5.23: TGRs for Football in Warwick District Council**



Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future Population by 2029	Potential Change in Population	Potential Change in Team Numbers
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	50	28337	567	28254	-83	-0.1
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	6	28337	4723	28254	-83	0.0
Football Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	71	2930	41	3019	89	2.2
Football Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	5	2930	586	3019	89	0.2
Football 9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	41	1584	39	1625	41	1.1
Football 9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	5	1584	317	1625	41	0.1
7V7 (8 – 9 years)	59	3277	56	3278	1	0.0
5v5 (6 – 7 years)	36	3279	91	3298	19	0.2

5.195 These changes would therefore have relatively limited impact on the adequacy of provision within the district, specifically;

- there would remain sufficient capacity for adult football, with supply and demand remaining consistent with the current provision
- pressures would increase on youth pitches. At peak time, spare capacity may reduce to 4.5 match equivalents, while across the week spare capacity, taking into account all activity, would be -4. The shortages would increase further if unsecured sites were excluded;
- spare capacity on 9v9 pitches would also remain closely balanced, with available capacity at peak time reducing to 8 match equivalents; and
- availability on 7v7 and 5 v 5 pitches and pitch provision would remain consistent.

5.196 Overall therefore, population change based upon demographic trends is likely to see generate limited issues.

5.197 The impact of the new population that will be generated by the additional housing growth will be considered later in this section.

#### **Impact of Proposed Housing Growth Across Warwick District (New Development Calculator)**

4.77 Table 5.24 summarises the findings of the New Development Calculator to summarise the overall impact of the projected housing growth (cumulative across the District) on demand for football at the peak period.

4.78 It considers both the overall impact of all proposed houses across the district (highlighted in bold) but also details the specific impact of the larger strategic housing sites.

4.79 It should be noted that peak periods have been taken to be the same as those that currently exist, and assumed that the same proportion of teams in each age group may choose to play in the peak period. The spread of play across the weekend in each age group means that this may be a conservative estimate, as some teams are forced to play in other timeslots due to a lack of availability at the time that they wish to use pitches.

**Table 5.24 – Impact of New Development on Demand for Football Across Warwick District**

Sport	Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions) Adult Football	Youth Football	Mini Soccer
<b>District Wide</b>			
<b>District Wide</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>6.05</b>	<b>6.98</b>
<b>Specific Impact of Strategic Sites</b>			
Land West of Europa Way (1210 dwellings)	0.34	0.69	0.79
Land South of Harbury Lane (1605 dwellings)	0.46	0.91	1.05
Gallows Hill (630 dwellings)	0.18	0.36	0.41
Whitnash East (500 dwellings)	0.14	0.28	0.33
The Asps (900 dwellings)	0.26	0.51	0.59
East of Kenilworth Thickthorn (760 dwellings)	0.22	0.43	0.50
East of Kenilworth (policy ds12) (640 dwellings)	0.18	0.36	0.42
Kings Hill (1800 dwellings)	0.51	10.2	1.18

4.80 Table 5.24 therefore reveals that overall, the proposed housing growth will result in an overall increase in demand across the district. While at each individual housing development the impact is relatively minimal (although on some sites demand for one or more pitches will be generated), across the district as a whole, demand is generated for an additional;

- 3 adult match equivalents
- 6 youth match equivalents
- 7 mini match equivalents.

4.81 While (depending upon achievement of increased participation goals), additional demand for 3 adult match equivalent sessions at peak time can be met within existing infrastructure, the requirement for 6 further match equivalent sessions for youth / 9v9 pitches would need to be met by additional provision. The supply and demand balance

for 5v5 and 7v7 pitches is also limited and further provision is therefore likely to be required.

4.82 The new development calculator also suggests that (based on TGRs) an additional 49 football teams will be created – this will generate demand for one additional AGP for training. Between 7 and 8 AGPs (in total) may therefore be required in the district by 2029. This should be treated as indicative only however, as some developments may take longer to come to fruition and go beyond the initial local plan period.

### **Aspirations of Clubs**

5.198 Added to the impact of population growth, it is also necessary to consider the potential for participation increases. While some clubs in the district are seeking growth, on the whole, the current aspiration of the FA is to sustain and stabilise existing participation levels.

5.199 The stated growth aspirations of clubs in Warwick District total;

- 18 new senior teams (8 ladies so outside of peak time)
- 41 youth and 9v9 boys and 22 youth and 9v9 girls
- 38 mini soccer teams.

5.200 Taking into account the additional demand generated by the population growth, the impact of the additional club-based aspirations would be;

- The additional 9 match equivalents senior teams could be accommodated, both at peak time and across the week. Spare capacity would reduce extensively however and supply would equal demand if pitches that are currently unsecured were lost to community use;
- There would be even greater deficiencies in the provision of youth pitches. Assuming that 50% of growth was in youth teams (32 teams – 16 match equivalents) this additional demand could not be met. With the projected position taking into account population trends, this would increase to -22 at peak time
- Supply and demand on 9v9 pitches would become insufficient (equivalent to – 13.5 at peak time; and
- There would be capacity to accommodate the additional growth for mini soccer across the week, although a small number of games may need to be staggered at peak time, which would need to be agreed with the respective clubs and leagues.

5.201 This therefore clearly demonstrates that if club growth aspirations are achieved, the current situation is further magnified, and there will not be enough junior and 9v9 pitches. New pitches (or equivalent capacity through the provision of AGPs) are therefore required.

5.202 Added to this, it is likely that growth will be seen at key clubs who are developmentally focused. Table 5.25 gives consideration as to whether this growth can be accommodated on their existing sites and highlights that on the whole that it is at these key club bases where capacity is also constrained (and concerns were raised about overlap by local leagues).

### **Table 5.25: Growth Potential**

Club	Existing Site	Approximate Aspirations	Comments
Central Ajax	Ajax Park	5 youth boys, 3 girls, 3 mini soccer	Insufficient capacity to accommodate youth teams (although some potential for further use of senior pitch, although this is reserved for pyramid team). Growth of this scale may see a requirement for up to 3 pitches equivalents at peak time for 9v9 and youth. Growth in mini participation can be accommodated.
Coventry Alvis / Alvis Junior	Alvis Sports and Social	2 senior, 2 youth, 2 mini soccer	Club already displaced over several venues and pitches are overplayed. Club seeking additional land. Capacity to accommodate circa 5 match equivalents may be required.
Coventry Sky Blues		4 youth boys, 2 youth girls, 2 mini soccer	There is already a lack of youth provision and the additional teams would exacerbate this. Growth of this scale may see a potential requirement for 2 - 3 additional pitches, but ideally this demand would be met in Coventry City.
Kenilworth Town	Castle Farm	5 mini teams	Although there is heavy use of youth pitches, there is capacity to accommodate the proposed additional growth in mini teams.
Khalsa Juniors	Sydenham Primary School and other venues	2 adult teams, 8 mini soccer	There is heavy existing use of pitches and clubs spread across multiple venues. Existing site overplayed and increases in play could not be met at this venue.
Kenilworth Wardens	Kenilworth Wardens / Castle Farm	2 Adult, 2 junior, 2 mini	There is capacity across the week to accommodate the additional play, but if teams wished to play at peak time this would be challenging to accommodate. Relocation to new ground will see additional provision that will ensure that these aspirations can be accommodated.
Leamington Brakes	Newbold Comyn	1 youth, 2 mini	Site particularly busy at peak time. Youth pitches overplayed and no further capacity for 9v9 games. 7v7

Club	Existing Site	Approximate Aspirations	Comments
			pitches are already at capacity also.
Leamington FC	Philips Community Stadium (alongside numerous satellite venues).	1 more adult and 6 youth	Adult team could be accommodated within the existing set up at the Stadium. Youth teams would be accommodated at satellite venues as they currently are. There is however very limited capacity for additional teams.
Leamington Hibernian	Newbold Comyn	1 adult and 2 mini teams	Scope to accommodate additional senior team on site, but there is a lack of capacity for further mini teams.
Leek Wootton	Leek Wootton Sports Club	2 more youth and 5 mini	No remaining capacity at peak time and very limited across the week. Youth teams would need to play on adult pitches. There would be capacity for further mini teams to play in the week but no remaining availability up to peak time.
Lillington Juniors	North Leamington School	Ongoing increases – up to 10 youth boys and 6 girls. 3 mini soccer	With the school already at capacity on youth and 9v9 pitches, further pitches would be required to accommodate this level of growth. The mini teams could however be adopted within the existing infrastructure.
Racing Club Warwick	Racing Club Warwick / St Mary's Land	1 female adult, 2 youth boys, 2 youth girls	Small amount of spare capacity remains but this could not be accommodated if pitches were required at peak time. There would be insufficient capacity to accommodate all youth teams.
St Peters Celtic	St Peters Celtic	2 youth teams 1 mini team	There would be sufficient capacity to accommodate this growth.
Warwick Juniors	Aylesford School	1 adult, 1 female, 3 youth boy teams, 5 youth girls team, 10 mini teams	There is already no remaining spare capacity at peak time and evidence of overplay on existing facilities. Additional pitches would be required to meet the demand associated with this level of growth.

## Summary – Capacity of Pitches in All Scenarios

- 4.83 Table 5.26 summarises the adequacy of the existing pitch stock to meet current and projected future demand.
- 4.84 It considers the adequacy of provision at peak periods, as well as across the week as a whole and sets out;
- The current position (including unsecured sites)
  - The current position assuming unsecured sites are lost
  - The projected adequacy of current provision to meet future demand assuming all planned housing growth is delivered.
- 4.85 It indicates that additional provision is required to meet future demand (excluding club growth aspirations), in particular;
- Capacity for up to 7 youth match equivalents
  - Up to 2.5 9v9 match equivalents
  - Up to 2.5 5v5 match equivalents.
- 4.86 This does not take into account the growth aspirations of clubs, and analysis demonstrates that these could generate a requirement for further capacity. Many of the clubs looking for further growth are those that are already with no space for further growth.
- 4.87 Analysis demonstrates that shortages could increase to up to 22 match equivalents at peak time for youth teams, and -13.5 for 9v9 pitches if all aspirations were achieved. Even if unsecured venues were secured for long term use, high deficiencies would remain (-10 and -6 respectively).
- 4.88 The strategy document will therefore need to address these shortfalls, through a variety of means including securing access to sites that are not currently available long term, improving the quality of existing facilities and providing new pitches (grass or AGP).
- 4.89 It is at peak time where demand is at its highest and where participation is most constrained, but improvements to the quality would have limited impact on the ability of the pitch stock to accommodate this, as many sites are already fully booked at peak time. The only sites where quality improvements would create additional capacity at peak time (circa 5.5 match equivalents in total) are;
- Acre Close Recreation Ground
  - Alvis Sports
  - Aylesford School
  - Castle Farm Recreation Ground,
  - Newbold Comyn
  - North Leamington School

- Sydenham Primary School.
- 4.90 Qualitative improvements at some of these sites would also enable the same pitches to be used for adult and youth games (assuming overmarking).
- 4.91 The appropriate solutions will be considered in the preparation of the strategy document.

Table 5.21 – Summary of Current and Projected Future Demand for Football (Match Equivalents)

SCENARIO	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9 Football		7v7 Football		5v5 Football	
	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity
2018 (All sites with Community Use)	42	17.5	-1	5	14.5	8.5	58	10	52.5	7
2018 (Secured Sites Only)	23	4	-8.5	-6.5	9.5	1	42.5	8.5	39	2
Future Population Growth all sites / secured only	39/20	14.5/1	-7/-14.5	1.5/-11	11/6	5/-2.5	55/39.5	7/5.5	48/35	2.5/-2.5
Future population growth (including club aspirations) all sites / secured only	30/11	11.5/-2	-23/-30.5	-10/-22	-5/-22	-6/-13.5	45.5/30	0/-1.5	39.5/25.5	-4.5/-10
Summary Projected Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing provision able to accommodate projected growth in demand in adult football, although supply will be closely matched with demand.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 11 match equivalents required at peak time to meet additional demand. This could increase to 22 if club aspirations are met.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 2.5 match equivalents required to meet projected future demand. Significant club aspirations could see deficiencies increase to 13.5 match equivalents</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing provision able to accommodate projected growth in demand. Becomes insufficient if club aspirations are included.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 2.5 match equivalents required to meet projected future demand. This increases to 10 if future projections are taken into account</li> </ul>	



### Potential changes to the stock of football pitches

5.203 There are several potential changes to the stock of football pitches across the district and these are documented and commented upon below;

- Relocation of Kenilworth School and Castle Sixth Form – shortage of pitches in the district means that existing facilities will as a minimum need to be replaced. There would also be benefit in ensuring community use as part of any scheme. The existing 3g pitch was funded by the Football Foundation in 2012 and therefore a new AGP will need to be provided on this site as part of the relocation. Existing shortages of pitch provision in the district as a whole mean that any opportunities to increase the number of grass pitches available at the site should be taken. New developments in Kenilworth will see demand for at least another 1 of each type of pitch and this will also need to be met. It is clear that pitch provision in Kenilworth is already stretched and additional provision is required
- Kenilworth Wardens will relocate to Castle Farm following the sale of their land for development. It is intended that the move will improve the clubs provision of grass pitches and will include a new 3g pitch and clubhouse. The strategy document will outline the number of pitches required to meet demand at this site.
- Leamington FC are relocating as part of a project to develop a community stadium. The site will include a range of facilities including physiotherapy, podiatry as well as office space, conferencing and gym and catering provision. The AGP will offer wider community use, although the level that this club play at means that there are likely to be restrictions on the usage that created by the surface (20 hours usage per week). This facility is now going ahead and will be developed to the north of Gallows Hill to the South of Leamington Spa. There may be a need to replace the grass pitch at the previous site if there is no clear need (Sport England policy exception E5) for the new stadia pitch
- Alvis FC, Warwick JFC, Kenilworth Town Junior FC, Khalsa JFC, Lillington Junior FC and Leamington Brakes have all expressed aspirations for the creation of additional capacity to meet their own individual needs
- Coventry Sporting have now taken over the former Kenilworth FC ground. Buildings have been demolished and work has begun to reinstate the pitch. It is hoped that these facilities will be available in the next season but this will not result in any change in stock based on the calculations in this report which already include this site
- Racing Club Warwick have recently developed a 3G MUGA to support their training activity but are looking longer term to create a full sized 3G stadia AGP
- Opportunities to provide a 3G AGP at Newbold Comyn have been explored.

5.204 The strategy will need to identify where priorities lie and ensure that change impacts positively on the supply and demand position for football.

### Summary

5.205 The key issues for football in Warwick DC are summarised in Section 10.

## Introduction

6.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for rugby union. It provides;

- An overview of the supply and demand for pitches
- An understanding of activity at individual sites
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision to meet current and projected future demand.

## Overview – Supply and Demand

### Pitch Supply

6.2 There are 41 full sized rugby pitches identified across Warwick District, which represents a slight decline from 2013. There remains no provision owned or managed by the District Council – all facilities are owned and managed by clubs and / or schools. Table 6.1 summarises the distribution of grass pitches and outlines the level of access that is currently available.

**Table 6.1: Existing Rugby Union Pitches across Warwick DC**

Site	Senior Pitch		Number of Floodlit Pitches	Level of Community Use
		Midi Pitches		
Kenilworth Rugby Club (Glasshouse Lane / Cowpatch)	4	0	1	Secured (although site will soon be relocated due to allocation in Warwick District Local Plan)
Kenilworth Rugby Club (Rocky Lane – main ground)	1	0	1	Secured (although site will soon be relocated due to allocation in Warwick District Local Plan)
Leamington RUFC	3	1	1.5	Secured
Old Leamingtonians	5	3	1.5	Secured
Trinity Guild RUFC	2		0.5	Secured (although site will soon be relocated due to allocation in Warwick District Local Plan). Since the assessment this site has now closed.
North Leamington School	2	0	0	Unsecured
University of Warwick Cryfield Pavilion	3	0	0	Unsecured
Warwick School Sports Centre	12	0	0	Not available for community use

Site	Senior Pitch		Number of Floodlit Pitches	Level of Community Use
		Midi Pitches		
John Atkinson Sports Centre (Myton School)	2	0	0	Not available for community use
Campion School (Sydenham Sports Centre)	1	0	0	Not available for community use
Trinity Catholic School	1	0	0	Unsecured
Kenilworth School (Meadows Sports Centre)	4	0		Not available for community use
Aylesford High School	1			Unsecured

6.3 Table 6.1 indicates that;

- less than half of all rugby union pitches are secured for community use. Many school sites offer some degree of access to the general public, but as academies, almost all of this access is on an unsecured basis and some schools do not currently permit use of their grass pitches. Warwick School is a key example of this, as with 12 pitches they offer significant quantities of facilities, but these are currently to serve school needs only;
- 18 senior pitches are managed by local clubs, with the largest site being Old Leamingtonians. While there are strong club bases, it is notable that two (Kenilworth RFC and Trinity Guild RFC) are subject to relocation due to allocation within the Warwick District Local Plan (Adopted September 2017);
- the amount of pitches containing floodlights is minimal - there are just 5.5 pitches in total. This means that opportunities for training are limited. All clubs do however have access to at least 0.5 floodlit pitches. The limited number of facilities for training may however suggest that these pitches are subjected to heavy wear and tear and this will be returned to later in this section.

6.4 In addition to the grass pitch stock listed in Table 6.1, the new 3g pitch (built 2017) at Warwick University, Cryfield Pavilion, has a rugby compatible surface and is used regularly for rugby. There is little regular community use on this pitch however due to the demands of the staff and student teams on site.

6.5 While total pitch provision remains relatively stable since 2013, this hides several key changes that have taken place, specifically;

- the loss of Warwickians Sports Ground – this site previously hosted a club but the club folded and the site is no longer used for rugby;
- the pitch at the Police HQ is no longer used. The Police HQ has been closed and while the playing pitch remains, it is now only used for football and is not marked out for rugby; and
- there is a reduction in the number of school pitches that are available for community use.

6.6 Since the research was undertaken for this assessment, a World Rugby compliant 3G AGP has also been developed at Warwick School. It is believed that this facility is now open to the community although existing usage is unknown.

### **Pitch Quality**

6.7 Table 6.2 explores the pitches that are available for community use in more detail. It highlights the pitches that are provided at each site, and the key issues relating to site quality that were identified through both site visits and club and key stakeholder consultation.

6.8 Assessments of pitch quality for rugby are based on guidance produced by the RFU and Sport England (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>). As well as recording key characteristics of the site, including pitch condition and available ancillary facilities, the assessment also evaluates the frequency and type of maintenance, and the drainage that is installed on the site.

6.9 Table 6.2 reveals that the key issues for quality in relation to club-based pitches in Warwick DC are;

- The maintenance regime on most of the sites varies and while first team pitches are well maintained, the lower level pitches receive much more limited attention. While this is largely financially driven, increasing maintenance on these other pitches would increase capacity overall. Pitch quality is deemed to be steadily increasing and this is primarily attributed to tailored maintenance. It is clear that maintenance has improved significantly since 2013 with pitch capacities having steadily increased. Opportunities for further improvement however remain one of the key issues for rugby
- There is only limited floodlighting on key sites and pitches at most clubs demonstrated high levels of compaction, suggesting heavy usage which may lead to potential drainage issues. Again, this was an issue highlighted in 2013 and things have improved since this position. Some clubs now have more than one floodlit pitch but the level of training activity means that these pitches are still required to sustain very high levels of activity
- There remain issues with drainage on some sites and pitch quality is compromised as a result. Drainage and waterlogging is also the primary reason for match cancellations.

Table 6.2: Quality of Sites available for community use in Warwick DC

Site	Senior Pitches	Maintenance Rating	Quality Issues identified
Kenilworth Rugby Club (Rocky Lane and Glasshouse Lane / Cowpatch)	5	M1/D2 first team pitch, M1 /D3 Second pitch. M1 D1 third pitch. Remaining pitches at Cowpatch M0/D1.	Pitch quality static, with the club investing a lot of time and money in pitch care and management. Outside snow and ice, most cancellations occur due to waterlogging or wet pitches. Maintenance on main pitch is higher than other pitches and the maintenance regime is most limited on Cowpatch pitches 3 and 4. Pitch quality overall is rated good, with few issues identified. Drainage is D2 on main pitch and full two tier drainage system is available on second pitch. Remaining pitches have more limited drainage. Site visits reveal grass coverage to be acceptable and pitches to be well cut and maintained. Changing facilities are considered to be of standard quality, although there are insufficient pitches to meet the needs of all of the teams at peak times. All facilities are located at the main club base (containing just one pitch) and the Cowpatch site has only toilets and some storage containers. The age of the changing facilities also means that maintenance is costly.
Leamington RUFC	3	M1/D1	Pitch quality is inconsistent with two pitches significantly better quality than the other two pitches. Pitch one is considered to be good with no issues although the posts demonstrate evidence of rust. Pitch 2 is standard quality, although there are some issues with dog fouling, litter and tracks. The remaining two pitches are of much poorer quality, primarily due to the impact that training has (heavy usage) and compaction has been identified in particular on these two pitches. The club highlight the need for ongoing improvements to the maintenance programme in order to ensure that the pitches can accommodate the required levels of play. Drainage is also considered to be inadequate in parts. Changing facilities are of standard quality (6 ensuite and 2 communal) but showers are poor. The clubhouse is shared with other clubs but is good.
Old Leamingtonians	5	M1/D3 (for 3 pitches) and M1/D1 for remaining pitches.	Pitch quality is perceived to be improving due to an increasing focus on maintenance and the club raise ongoing maintenance improvements (particularly for the lower field) as a key priority. The club consider quality to be good overall and there were no clear concerns raised during the site visits, although the grass was too long at the time of the visit. Drainage is good on three pitches, with drainage installed and the remaining pitches also have natural adequate drainage.
Trinity Guild RUFC	2	M0/D1	The maintenance programme is very limited on this site, primarily because the club are aware that they will be relocated and therefore do not wish to heavily invest in the facilities. pitch quality is standard overall although there is some evidence of compaction and there are rabbit holes on the second pitch. The grass is sometimes too short on the first pitch due to sandy soil. The site currently contains six changing rooms of standard quality. These are

Site	Senior Pitches	Maintenance Rating	Quality Issues identified
			however relatively basic and none are en suite. Since the assessment, the site has closed and the club has been temporarily relocated (March 2019)
North Leamington School	2		Pitches are relatively poorly drained and line marking is poor. Playing surface is adequate although site does suffer with some issues from litter.
University of Warwick Cryfield Pavilion	3 (and one 3g pitch suitable for rugby).		Pitch quality good with no issues identified. Strong maintenance regime ensures that pitch surface is good and able to cope with the level of use to which they are subjected.
Trinity Catholic School	1		Basic facilities only, pitches are of relatively limited quality.
Aylesford High School	1		Well drained but pitch maintenance regime is very basic and the site frequently suffers from litter problems.

## Demand

- 6.10 The 2013 identified six rugby clubs within the Warwick District area. As already identified, Warwickians Rugby Club (who had 2 senior male teams and 1 youth team) have since folded, meaning that there are five clubs remaining within the District.
- 6.11 Despite the loss of one club, participation has remained relatively static, with 61 teams identified across the age groups in 2013 and 59 teams now. It is believed that the majority of players from the club that folded have joined other teams and as a result, there has been an increase in players in many of the other clubs although there is now no base for rugby in Warwick town.
- 6.12 Table 6.3 summarises the key changes since the 2013 PPS in broad terms, while Table 6.4 presents details of club specific participation and recent trends. With the growth of a youth section at Trinity Guild RFC, all clubs now offer progression from youth to adult teams, meaning that there are strong foundations for the development of rugby across the district.

**Table 6.3: Participation Trends in Rugby 2013 - 2018**

	Adult	Colt	Youth	Midi
Now	19	3	16	21
Previous PPS	20	3	18	20

- 6.13 Table 6.4 overleaf summarises the clubs and provides a breakdown of teams that they are running as well as their recent participation trends.

**Table 6.4: Club Overview**

Club	Adult	Colts	Youth	Midi	Trends	Venue
Kenilworth RFC	3 male, 2 female	1	4	6	Static in all age groups in terms of number of teams, however the number of players in each team is declining. The club recently ran Return to Rugby sessions but this was unsuccessful.	Kenilworth RFC – Rocky Lane and Cowpatch

Club	Adult	Colts	Youth	Midi	Trends	Venue
Leamington RUFC	3	1	4	6	Static senior and colts teams, while the number of youth and mini rugby teams are increasing. There has been greater publicity for the club and more general recruitment by volunteers	Leamington RUFC
Old Leamingtonians RUFC	3 male, 1 female	1	4	6	Static in all age groups	Old Leamingtonians RUFC
Trinity Guild RUFC	1		1	3	Static senior teams, but increasing youth and mini teams due to the recent promotion of the club within local schools.	Trinity Guild RUFC
Warwick University	5 male, 1 female				Number of teams static	Cryfield Pavilion, Warwick University

### Training Needs

- 6.14 As is common with rugby clubs nationwide, all training takes place at the club bases. Most clubs train predominantly on their floodlit grass pitches. Training for Warwick University teams takes place primarily on the 3g pitch.
- 6.15 The use of grass pitches at the club base for training has a significant impact on the overall capacity of pitches for match play. The RFU indicate that two teams training on one pitch on one evening is equivalent to one match and this clearly places additional wear and tear on pitches. The impact of training on each pitch site is therefore summarised in brief below.



6.16 Club training requirements are as follows;

- Kenilworth RFC – there are two floodlit pitches, one at each site and training is spread across both of these facilities relatively equally. Most teams train twice, with some midi teams training only once. Teams train across both facilities, with most teams having one training session on each of the pitches. In total, training represents 8.5 match equivalents;
- At Leamington RUFC, all training activity is focused on the floodlit pitch and the additional floodlit area. Training is equivalent to 4.5 match equivalents overall;
- Old Leamingtonians RFC – training is equivalent to 5 match equivalents. The youth and midi sections all train and play on a Sunday morning and activity is therefore considered within the matchplay calculations. Training takes place on the floodlit pitch on the main site;
- Training at Trinity Guild RFC is equivalent to two senior team training sessions and youth team training on a Wednesday evening. This equates to 1.5 match equivalents in total;
- Training at Warwick University takes place primarily on the 3g pitch.

6.17 Training is highlighted by clubs as one of the greatest pressures that they face.

#### ***Educational Demand***

6.18 Reflecting the good club structure, participation in rugby union within the education sector is good.

6.19 As in 2013, participation in rugby is particularly popular in Kenilworth and primary schools participate in regular tag rugby festivals. Rugby is also popular at a secondary school level, with the following schools affiliated to and participating in competitions run by the Warwickshire Schools RFU:

- Aylesford High School, Warwick.
- Champion High School, Leamington Spa.
- Kenilworth School, Kenilworth.
- Myton Academy, Warwick.
- North Leamington Federation of Schools, Leamington Spa.
- Warwick School, Warwick.

6.20 There are also good relationships between some clubs and nearby schools. Trinity Guild RFC in particular highlight the benefits that they have recently experienced from the creation of relationships with schools, which has helped them to develop a youth section. Leamington RUFC also indicate that they have a schools programme underway with a view to increasing participation and club membership. This has been running for several years (and was also evident at the time of the 2013 strategy).

6.21 These close links mean that there continue to be strong foundations in place for the development of rugby union in the district.

6.22 As all clubs have their own rugby pitches, with the exception of ad hoc matches played off site, current educational participation in rugby does not have an impact on demand for pitch provision at the club base, but participation in schools is likely to continue to drive

young people towards clubs and the strong participation levels in schools ensure that there are clear pathways for the development of the sport.

### Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

6.23 The adequacy of pitch provision for rugby union is measured through the use of match equivalents. The ability of the pitch stock to service both training needs and competitive requirements is taken into account. To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both;

- the adequacy of pitch provision over the course of a week; and
- capacity of a site to meet additional demand at peak time.

6.24 For rugby union, this analysis is based upon the following principles;

#### *Capacity over the course of a week*

6.25 The RFU sets a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their current quality (pitch carrying capacity). This is based upon the drainage system installed at the site and the maintenance programme used to prepare the pitches. The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 6.5.

**Table 6.5: Theoretical Pitch Capacity Ratings (RFU)**

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

6.26 Demand from each rugby club is converted into match equivalent sessions. This takes into account of both the requirement of pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures, and also the impact that training sessions will have on the capacity of pitches.

#### *Peak Time Demand*

6.27 To identify spare capacity at peak time, the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time is measured against the number of match equivalent sessions available.

- Senior men's rugby union - Saturday PM;
- Youth rugby union - Sunday AM;
- Mini/midi rugby union - Sunday AM; and
- U18-U19 yrs 'Colts' rugby union –Saturday PM (male) and Sunday PM (female).

- 6.28 Table 6.6 therefore provides a summary of activity at each site that is secured for community use and the adequacy of provision to meet demand.
- 6.29 The text that follows then explores the issues identified in more detail, highlighting the areas of key concern based upon the calculations undertaken.

Table 6.6: Site Overview

Site	Maintenance / Capacity Rating	Senior Pitches	Midi	Floodlit Pitches	Spare Capacity (Match Play)	Spare Capacity Midi Pitches	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (Adult Play)	Spare Capacity Peak Time (Youth Play)	Spare Capacity Including Training	Training Capacity only (floodlit pitch capacity)	Overview
Kenilworth RFC Main Pitch	m1/d2	1		1	0.5		0	0	-3.5	-1	<p>Club activity is spread across two sites. Training is also spread equally across the two sites on the two floodlit pitches. Maintenance varies across the different pitches, with the Rocky Lane site receiving much greater levels of attention than the pitches at Cowpatch. This directly impacts on pitch capacity. When taking into account just match play, there is adequate provision, with 4 match equivalents spread across the two sites. The high levels of training that must also be accommodated however generate overplay both in terms of the number of games on each site, but also more specifically on the two pitches that are floodlit. With only two sets of floodlights available, all training is focused on these pitches and they must also accommodate match play. Two pitches is insufficient to accommodate the level of training activity that the club currently runs and addressing this is a key priority of the club (linked with the proposed relocation). Supply is also closely matched with demand at peak time, particularly on a Sunday morning where there is very limited remaining capacity for additional play.</p>
Kenilworth RFC Cowpatch	M1/D3 - top level. M1/D1 second pitch. M0/D1 on other pitches. The maintenance programme is cut back on the other pitches	4		1	4		3	1	-0.5	-2.5	

Site	Maintenance / Capacity Rating	Senior Pitches	Midi	Floodlit Pitches	Spare Capacity (Match Play)	Spare Capacity Midi Pitches	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (Adult Play)	Spare Capacity Peak Time (Youth Play)	Spare Capacity Including Training	Training Capacity only (floodlit pitch capacity)	Overview
Leamington RUFC	D1/M1 Note 2 pitches could be considered D1/M0 for more limited aeration... Would change multiplier to 1.5	3	1	1.5	1.5	-1	1	1.5	-1	-1.5	Maintenance is relatively basic, and there is slight variation in the quality of pitches, with pitches 3 and 4 of lower quality than pitch 1 and 2 (compaction). Taking into account just match play, capacity is sufficient to accommodate the required levels of play although midi pitches are busy (with slight overplay). There is also a small amount of spare capacity at peak time although pitches are particularly busy on a Sunday morning with limited remaining spare capacity. The site also hosts circa 10 matches per season representative Warwickshire County activity, which places greater pressure on the existing pitches. Training equates to a further 4.5 match equivalents and this cannot be accommodated within the existing pitch capacity, with overplay equivalent to -1 across the site as a whole. There are however only 1.5 floodlit pitches. With 4.5 match equivalents, these pitches are overplayed just taking into account training. As these pitches also host matches, it is clear to see that they are significantly overplayed and it is likely that heavy use is directly responsible for some of the compaction that is evident on pitches. The club believe that further pitches are required in order to sustain all club activity and achieve growth.

Site	Maintenance / Capacity Rating	Senior Pitches	Midi	Floodlit Pitches	Spare Capacity (Match Play)	Spare Capacity Midi Pitches	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (Adult Play)	Spare Capacity Peak Time (Youth Play)	Spare Capacity Including Training	Training Capacity only (floodlit pitch capacity)	Overview
Old Leamingtonians RUFC	M1/D3 for 3 pitches, M1 / D1 for 2 pitches. Midi pitches M1/D1	5	3	1	8.25	4.8	3	3.5	9.25	-2.4	Pitch layout varies but capacity for at least 5 pitches on site. Pitch quality varies, with strong drainage on three pitches and adequate natural drainage on other pitches. Although quality of maintenance has improved, this could still be enhanced further to increase capacity. Taking into account just match play, capacity is sufficient to accommodate the required levels of play and there is also good availability at peak time. There is also enough capacity overall to accommodate the required levels of training however with just one training pitch, this pitch is overplayed. A second set of floodlights would address these issues.
Trinity Guild - Rowley Road Baginton	M0/D1	2	1	0.5	2	0	1.5	1	2	-0.75	Despite limited maintenance regimes currently, the site is able to accommodate all match play both at peak time and across the week. Space for up to two pitches available. Although there is only a small amount of training, the single half pitch area containing the floodlights is overplayed. While there is evidence of compaction and other quality issues, the club have reduced maintenance levels due to the impending sale and this is therefore unlikely to improve until relocation has taken place.

Site	Maintenance / Capacity Rating	Senior Pitches	Midi	Floodlit Pitches	Spare Capacity (Match Play)	Spare Capacity Midi Pitches	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (Adult Play)	Spare Capacity Peak Time (Youth Play)	Spare Capacity Including Training	Training Capacity only (floodlit pitch capacity)	Overview
Cryfield Pavilion	D1/M1	3		0	1.5	0	1.5	1	1.5	0	School site no existing community use for rugby
John Atkinson Sports Centre	M0/D1	2		0	2	0	2	1	2	0	School site no existing community use for rugby
Kenilworth School Meadow Sports Centre	M0/D1	1		0	1	0	1	1	1	0	School site no existing community use for rugby
Campion School	M0/D1	1		0	1	0	1	1	1	0	School site no existing community use for rugby
Myton School	M0/D1	2		0	2	0	2	1	2	0	School site no existing community use for rugby
Aylesford School and Sixth Form College	M0/D1	1		0	1	0	1.5	1	1	0	School site no existing community use for rugby

Site	Maintenance / Capacity Rating	Senior Pitches	Midi	Floodlit Pitches	Spare Capacity (Match Play)	Spare Capacity Midi Pitches	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (Adult Play)	Spare Capacity Peak Time (Youth Play)	Spare Capacity Including Training	Training Capacity only (floodlit pitch capacity)	Overview
Warwick School	M0/D1	11		0	11	0	11	1	11	0	School site no existing community use for rugby
North Leamington School	M0/D1	2		0	2	0	2	1	2	0	School site no existing community use for rugby
Trinity Catholic School	M0/D1	1		0	1	0	1	1	1	0	School site no existing community use for rugby



## Current Picture of Provision - Secured sites

- 6.30 The 2013 PPS revealed that while Leamington RFC were at capacity, the remainder of clubs had sufficient facilities to accommodate their activity. The quality of pitches however detrimentally affected capacity (and the consequential adequacy of provision) on most sites, but at Leamington RFC in particular.
- 6.31 Table 6.6 demonstrates that while maintenance has improved, pitch capacity continues to be compromised at Leamington RFC and there are also increased pressures at Kenilworth RFC due to higher levels of training.
- 6.32 The key messages arising from the site specific analysis therefore include;
- As in 2013, there is minimal use of any of the school sites by rugby clubs, with no regular use evident. School sites therefore accommodate curricular use only (although it is believed that some representative rugby also takes place at Warwick School). This means that there are 4 rugby pitches in the district that are available but not used and a further 14 pitches that are not currently available (including 12 at Warwick School). The capacity of school sites that are currently available is however limited, with the maintenance programme at all sites (where known) fairly restricted (M0) meaning that maximum site capacity is 1.5. Given that these pitches must also sustain curricular use, this restricts the amount of club based activity that they could accommodate. In total at school sites, there is scope to accommodate 4 match equivalents either across the week or at peak time. On the whole however, the limited maintenance that takes place at these sites restricts opportunities for community use, as pitches are only capable of sustaining curricular activity.
  - There are capacity issues at several club bases, with Kenilworth RFC and Leamington RFC both experiencing pressures when taking into account training. Floodlit pitches in particular are heavily overplayed due to the high levels of training that take place and the number of pitches that have lights and can therefore be used for training;
    - At Kenilworth RFC, match play is spread equally across two sites and training is also spread across both venues, taking place on the two floodlit pitches. Maintenance varies across the different pitches, with the Rocky Lane site receiving much greater levels of attention than the pitches at Cowpatch, which directly impacts on pitch capacity. When taking into account just match play, there is adequate provision, with 4 match equivalents spread across the two sites. The high levels of training that must also be accommodated however generate overplay both in terms of the number of games on each site, but also more specifically on the two pitches that are floodlit. With only two sets of floodlights available, all training is focused on these pitches and they must also accommodate match play. Two pitches is insufficient to accommodate the level of training activity that the club currently runs and addressing this is a key priority of the club (linked with the proposed relocation). Supply is also closely matched with demand at peak time, particularly on a Sunday morning where there is very limited remaining capacity for additional play. The proposed relocation will seek to address some of these issues as well as to future proof the club facilities;
    - At Leamington RUFC, maintenance is relatively basic, and there is slight variation in the quality of pitches, with pitches 3 and 4 of lower quality than pitch one and 2 (due to compaction). This reduces capacity. Taking into account just match play, capacity is sufficient to accommodate the required levels of play although midi pitches are busy (with slight overplay). Pitches are however particularly busy at peak time, with limited remaining

spare capacity. Training equates to a further 4.5 match equivalents and this cannot be accommodated within the existing pitch capacity, with overplay equivalent to -1 across the site as a whole. There are however only 1.5 floodlit pitches. With 4.5 match equivalents, these pitches are overplayed just taking into account training. As these pitches also host matches, it is clear to see that they are significantly overplayed and it is likely that heavy use is directly responsible for some of the compaction that is evident. The club believe that further pitches are required in order to sustain all club activity and to achieve growth.

- Similar to the other sites in the District, pitch quality at Old Leamingtonians varies, with strong drainage on three pitches and adequate natural drainage on other pitches. Although quality of maintenance has improved, this could still be enhanced further to increase capacity. As with other pitch sites in the district, taking into account just match play, capacity is sufficient to accommodate the required levels of play and there is also good availability at peak time. Unlike other club bases however, there is also sufficient capacity overall to accommodate the required levels of training but with just one training pitch, this pitch is overplayed. A second set of floodlights would address these issues.
- Trinity Guild RUFC are also subject to relocation but despite limited maintenance regimes currently, the site is able to accommodate all match play both at peak time and across the week. Although there is only a small amount of training, the single half pitch area containing the floodlights is overplayed. While there is evidence of compaction and other quality issues, the club have reduced maintenance levels due to the impending sale and this is therefore unlikely to improve until relocation has taken place. The pitches that are provided are however sufficient if the maintenance programme was improved. Since this assessment was undertaken, the site has closed (March 2019) and the club temporarily relocated.

6.33 It is therefore clear that supply and demand for rugby pitches within Warwick District at club bases is closely matched and are at capacity and there is limited scope for further growth within the constraints of the existing facilities.

6.34 Although there are unused facilities at school sites, there are no existing floodlights at any of the school sites, meaning that they cannot be used for training. In addition, clubs tend to prefer to focus all of their activity at the club base in order to foster a club atmosphere. School facilities remain central to the development of rugby however, and significant investment has been made through the RFU's All Schools Programme which has supported over 700 schools to develop rugby.

6.35 A new World Rugby Compliant 3g AGP has recently been built at Warwick School. This pitch is believed to be available for community use and may therefore offer a resource to support club training.

#### ***Displaced and Latent Demand***

6.36 There are no examples of displaced demand at the current time for Rugby Union in Warwick with all clubs playing at their preferred sites. There is however a belief that facilities are restricting club growth and this is reflected in the supply and demand calculations above.

6.37 Several clubs have aspirations for the creation of further facilities (some linked with required relocation plans and others independently with a view to growing the club).

6.38 In particular, Trinity Guild RFC have now been temporarily located to Finham School in Coventry for a period of up to five years while a new site is created for them within Warwick District Boundaries.

6.39 Requirements for club relocations will be considered later in this section.

### Future Picture

6.40 The future requirement for rugby pitches will be impacted upon by changes to the population profile, as well as club specific aspirations and changing participation trends. These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

### Trends Based Population Change

6.41 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. The application of TGRs to population projections enables the projection of the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from trends based population growth and provides an understanding of future demand.

6.42 Table 6.7 summarises the current TGRs for rugby and projects the impact of population growth. It indicates that;

- there will be an overall decline in the number of people playing adult rugby union, but this will be insufficient to see the loss of a team; and
- similarly, increases in people falling into the younger ages will be insufficient to see an overall impact upon the number of rugby union teams in the district.

6.43 **It should be noted that Table 6.7 considers only the impact of trends based population growth. The impact of the large scale housing development is considered in Table 6.9.**

**Table 6.7: Impact of Changes to the Population Profile**

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group	Current TGR	Future Population (2029)	Change in Population	Potential Change in Team Numbers
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	15	26225	1748	26182	-43	0.0
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	4	26225	6556	26182	-43	0.0
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	19	4284	225	4316	32	0.1
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	0	4284	0	4316	32	0
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	21	9575	456	9750	175	0.4

6.44 Trends based population growth alone is therefore unlikely to have significant impact upon the demand for rugby union within Warwick DC. The impact of planned housing growth will be considered later in this section.

## Changes in Participation Trends and club development plans

6.45 While TGRs provide an indication of the potential impact of club growth directly attributable to increases in the population, the RFU believe that this is less indicative of the likely growth as a whole for rugby. The RFU are working with individual clubs through the implementation of development plans to drive increases in participation, supported by RFU development officers. Aspirations of clubs within Warwick District are as follows;

- Kenilworth RFC – no specific growth
- Leamington RUFC – creation of female team along with female youth section comprising U13 / U15 and U18. The RFU are also supporting the club to retain the colts team and aid the transition through to adult age groups;
- Old Leamingtonians – RFU targeting increase of one additional male team, along with growth in the numbers of other sections
- Trinity Guild RUFC – club seeking to further grow the new junior section and longer term, to become a multi sports club.

6.46 Table 6.8 therefore draws upon the aspired levels of growth at each club to evaluate the degree to which existing pitches at the club bases are able to accommodate the projected increase in demand, and the issues that would need to be addressed to ensure that growth can be accommodated. It should be noted however that growth plans are over a shorter term than the strategy period and should therefore be reconsidered as part of the monitoring process.

6.47 It should also be noted that there has been significant growth in girls rugby in recent times, with both Old Leamingtonians and Kenilworth a focus for girls growth by the local development team.

**Table 6.8: Adequacy of Existing Provision to Meet Projected Future Demand**

Club	Current Position and Issues	Potential Growth	Issues to Address
Kenilworth RFC	Assuming standard levels of maintenance and drainage 2, match play can be accommodated within 2 – 3 pitches. There are a further 8.5 match equivalents for training.	No specific aspirations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement for relocation</li> <li>• 8.5 match equivalents training – at least 3 floodlit pitches. Club considering AGP</li> <li>• Match play requires at least 3 pitches across the week, but would benefit from 4 at peak time to enable scheduling. This represents the baseline level of provision required to meet demand. Additional facilities would enable the growth of the club and future proof</li> </ul>
Leamington RUFC	Spare capacity match play 1.5 (senior) although midi pitch heavily used (-1). Sufficient pitches to accommodate peak time demand. Floodlit training facilities heavily used (-1).	Female senior team, also seeking creation of U13 / U15 and U18 female teams. RFU also seeking to sustain colts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement to maintenance</li> <li>• Overplay of training facilities</li> <li>• Club seeking additional capacity for future use.</li> <li>• Improvements required to changing accommodation if</li> </ul>

Club	Current Position and Issues	Potential Growth	Issues to Address
			aspirations for female teams are to be met.
Old Leamingtonians RFC	Spare capacity on adult and midi pitches (8.25 and 4.8) match play only. Capacity remains sufficient when considering training (9.25 total). Floodlit pitches overplayed (2.4). Capacity sufficient at peak time.	Club do not highlight any growth aspirations, but RFU indicate that one additional adult male team is targeted, along with growth of numbers in other sections. Potential impact – 0.5 match equivalents (competitive play) and 1 match equivalent training. Potential aspirations for facility development at this site will be considered later in this section.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overplay on training facilities</li> <li>• Retention of strong drainage on main pitches, scope to improve maintenance and consequently capacity on lower pitches</li> <li>• Upgrade to changing accommodation.</li> </ul>
Trinity Guild RFC	Spare capacity at peak time and across the week (2). Training capacity limited (0.5 floodlights, capacity 0.75).	Club looking to develop junior section and become multi sports club – significant potential growth (junior section would create 1.5 match equivalents, midi 1.5 match equivalents) plus training requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement for relocation of site</li> <li>• New site to include enhanced maintenance procedures including compaction.</li> </ul>

### Impact of Proposed Housing Growth Across Warwick District (New Development Calculator)

- 6.48 As outlined above, while trend based population growth will have little impact on the demand for rugby, the significant housing growth that is planned in the area will have a much greater impact.
- 6.49 Table 6.9 therefore summarises the findings of the New Development Calculator to summarise the overall impact of the projected housing growth (cumulative across the District) on demand for rugby in the peak period.
- 6.50 It considers both the overall impact of all proposed houses across the district (highlighted in bold) but also details the specific impact of the larger strategic housing sites.
- 6.51 It should be noted that peak periods have been taken to be the same as those that currently exist, and assumed that the same proportion of teams in each age group may choose to play in the peak period. The spread of play across the weekend in each age group means that this may be a conservative estimate, as some teams are forced to play in other timeslots due to a lack of availability at the time that they wish to use pitches.

**Table 6.9 – Impact of New Development on Demand for Rugby Across Warwick District**

Area	Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions) Rugby	Potential Club Impact (based upon nearest club)
<b>District Wide</b>		
District Wide	3.90	All
<b>Impact of Strategic Housing Site</b>		
Land West of Europa Way (1210 dwellings)	0.44	Old Leamingtonians / Leamington RFC
Land South of Harbury Lane (1605 dwellings)	0.59	Old Leamingtonians / Leamington RFC
Gallows Hill (630 dwellings)	0.23	Old Leamingtonians / Leamington RFC
Whitnash East (500 dwellings)	0.18	Old Leamingtonians / Leamington
The Asps (900 dwellings)	0.33	Old Leamingtonians / Leamington
East of Kenilworth Thickthorn (760 dwellings)	0.28	Kenilworth RFC
East of Kenilworth (policy ds12) 640 dwellings	0.23	Kenilworth RFC
Kings Hill (1800 dwellings)	0.66	Kenilworth RFC

6.52 Table 6.9 therefore reveals that overall, the proposed housing growth will result in an increase in demand across the district. While at each individual housing development the impact is relatively minimal (although on some sites demand for one or more pitches will be generated), cumulatively demand will be generated for an additional 4 rugby pitches.

6.53 The impact of this will be felt across each of the clubs, but it is likely that demand for 1 – 2 additional pitches will be generated at Kenilworth RFC with the remainder split between Leamington RFC and Old Leamingtonians.

6.54 Analysis of the impact of this on the issues identified in Table 6.8 demonstrates that;

- The requirement for replacement pitches at Kenilworth RFC would increase to 5 pitches – this would ensure that the club would be future proofed
- Demand would be likely to increase at Leamington RFC, providing greater evidence that an additional pitch may be needed. Supply would be broadly equivalent to demand
- The growth in participation at Old Leamingtonians could be met, although further overplay would be evident on the training facilities.

#### **Forthcoming Changes to Supply**

There are several changes that are likely to take place to provision for rugby in the next five years. These will occur as a result of the allocation of both sites for Kenilworth RUFC in the Warwick District Local Plan for residential use as well as Trinity Guild RUFC for the Gateway South project.

### **Kenilworth RUFC**

- 6.55 With the relocation of Kenilworth RUFC, pitches being required by the development plan, there will be a need to directly replace facilities and to ensure that they are of equivalent or better quality. The relocation also offers an opportunity to ensure that the new facilities provided are tailored to the needs of the club and that provision is future proofed in years to come.
- 6.56 As outlined above, match play across the week can be accommodated in three pitches, but a minimum of four pitches is required to accommodate match play at peak time.
- 6.57 With a further 8.5 match equivalents for training, the current two pitches floodlit for training are insufficient. With a capacity of 2 match equivalents, up to 4 floodlit pitches may be required if pitches are not to be overplayed.
- 6.58 Added to this, population growth arising from proposed housing development will see a further 1 – 2 pitches required. This means that a minimum of 5 pitches will be needed at Kenilworth RFC.
- 6.59 The club are seeking to provide an AGP alongside a series of grass pitches believing that this would best meet club need. There are therefore several options for the future layout of the site as follows;
- a. **Option 1** – Grass pitches used for both matches and training. A minimum of 5 pitches are required at peak time. To sustain the required level of training (and assuming an overall capacity rating of 2.5, four pitches will need to be floodlit). With total match and training needs amounting to circa 17 match equivalents, a minimum of 6 pitches would be needed to ensure that the site was not overplayed (assuming capacity of 2.5). Further pitches would be required to ensure any additional growth aspirations could be met.
  - b. **Option 2** - 4 Grass pitches and AGP approved for rugby use – all match play (6.5 match equivalents total plus demand created by new housing (1 -2 match equivalents)) can be accommodated within four grass pitches as long as the AGP is also used for match play at peak time (Sunday morning). Training amounts to 8.5 match equivalents and this can be accommodated on the AGP midweek. With this level of use, there would remain some additional capacity for other community use.
- 6.60 The case for an AGP would need to be considered in the context of proposals for other AGPs (for football and hockey as well as rugby) to ensure that overall, pitches are strategically located across the district and all sites are sustainable long term. In particular, the potential for a new AGP at Castle Farm might impact on the potential football usage of any pitch at Kenilworth RFC. This might impact on the financial viability of the pitch.

### **Trinity Guild RUFC**

- 6.61 With two existing rugby pitches (and a further pitch used for football), the club currently has sufficient capacity, although this is restricted by the limited maintenance procedures that are undertaken. There are however significant aspirations for growth, with a junior section targeted.
- 6.62 With match play currently equating to 1 match equivalent (senior) and 1.5 (midi pitches), demand can be accommodated on 1 of each pitch type. With training however resulting in demand for a further 1.5 match equivalents, two senior pitches would be

required and the relocation would therefore need to include at least 2 senior pitches and an additional mini pitch.

- 6.63 It is anticipated that there may need to be an interim solution provided to temporarily meet the needs of the club while a full new pitch facility is developed due to the timescales involved in the Gateway Project.

### **Old Leamingtonians**

- 6.64 Old Leamingtonians are currently working alongside Wasps RUFC to explore opportunities for a partnership arrangement and the creation of new facilities. The move would see Wasps purchase additional land to take on two full size pitches for their exclusive use and the provision of a 3g AGP which would be used by Wasps players for training during the week, but would also provide access to Old Leamingtonians for their training needs.
- 6.65 This would leave Old Leamingtonians with access to 4 grass pitches (assuming that one pitch was lost in order to provide the AGP) as well as an AGP for training. It is also likely that the midi pitches would remain and it is believed that a further two midi pitches will be provided as part of the proposals. Actual sequencing of the proposals has however not yet been confirmed and there has been no formal confirmation that additional land is available for purchase.
- 6.66 Current match play activity at Old Leamingtonians equates to 4.75 matches (senior pitches) and 3 match equivalents on midi pitches. Across the week and assuming pitch capacity of 2.5, this level of play could be met by 3 senior grass pitches (depending on capacity) and 2 midi pitches. Four senior pitches would therefore be sufficient to accommodate demand across the week, with a degree of spare capacity remaining (3.25 if current maintenance regimes were maintained).
- 6.67 With the number of floodlit training pitches being the key issue for the club in the sites current form, the provision of an AGP would have a positive impact on the adequacy of provision, addressing the impact of the overplay on the training pitches. This could however also be addressed through the provision of floodlights.
- 6.68 The current partnership proposals at Old Leamingtonians therefore would, at face value, see pitch provision remain sufficient for Old Leamingtonians (ensuring that required levels of access to the AGP were secured) and there is potential that the integration with Wasps would bring new opportunities for the club and for rugby in the district as a whole.
- 6.69 If the AGP was however provided, improvements would however be needed to the changing facilities and the car parking in order to accommodate the increased demand that would be evident. There are already concerns in relation to the car parking on this site.
- 6.70 It would also be necessary to ensure that the current capacity of provision on site is maintained throughout the development of any Wasps training centre.
- 6.71 The new housing growth that will occur in Warwick District will however see potential increased additional play at Old Leamingtonians. The retention of four grass pitches would ensure that there is a degree of spare capacity at the site to accommodate this.
- 6.72 The strategy will therefore need to consider the opportunity in the context of other proposals across the district and it will be necessary to rerun the calculations in order to ensure that proposals continue to meet the need of Old Leamingtonians once details are finalised.

### **Rugby in Warwick**



- 6.73 Recent changes to the picture for rugby have seen clubs in Warwick town collapse, leaving no remaining opportunities to play rugby in the town. If demand became evident and a volunteer base emerged, there are aspirations for the short term development of an O2 touch programme and longer term creation of a rugby club within Warwick town. This may therefore generate facility needs in future years.
- 6.74 The recent creation of the 3G AGP at Warwick School may support these aspirations if the pitch is confirmed to be available for community use.

#### **Key Issues and Summary**

- 6.75 The key issues to address for rugby are summarised in Section 10.

## Introduction

- 7.1 This section assesses the adequacy of facilities for tennis by presenting an overview of supply (quantity, quality, accessibility and availability) and demand for outdoor courts. The key findings are then summarised, alongside the issues to be addressed.

## Supply

### Quantity

- 7.2 There are 119 active tennis courts with public /community access located at 23 sites. Of these, fifty courts are floodlit, which is a good proportion.
- 7.3 These courts are split between public (park) sites, schools and private clubs. Public facilities can be split further, between those that are accessed free of charge and those where a fee is due.
- 7.4 The split of facilities is summarised in Table 7.1 which indicates that 77% of facilities are located at club sites and schools. The majority of the remaining courts are located at public sites.
- 7.5 Most courts benefitting from floodlighting are located at club bases. There is very limited floodlit provision at school sites and there are no free of charge courts where floodlighting is provided. Floodlighting extends the capacity of a court by ensuring play can take place during the winter months, as well as later into the evenings in summer.

**Table 6.1: Location of Tennis Courts**

	Number of Sites	Number of Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Number of Courts Available for Community Use
Club	9	48	35	48
Private	1	2	0	2
Public (fee payable)	2	12	5	12
Public (free of charge)	2	8	0	8
School	9	44	10	3

- 7.6 The specific facilities provided at each site and the level of access available is set out in Table 7.2.

2)

Table 7.2: Tennis courts in Warwick District

Site Name	Facility Type	Total Courts		Number of Floodlit Courts	Surface	Pavilion
Kenilworth Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Club	9	Also has a mini tennis section	7	6 artificial grass, 3 acrylic covered tarmac	Yes
Leamington Lawn Tennis Club	Club	12		12	8 synthetic grass, 4 clay	Yes
Offchurch Recreation Ground	Club	2		2	Tarmac/ acrylic covered tarmac	Yes
Rowington Tennis Club	Club	2		0	Tarmac	Yes
Star Alvis	Club	2		2	Tarmac	Yes
Warwick Boat Club	Club	11		7	Artificial grass	Yes
Warwick Tennis Club	Club	6		5	3 artificial clay, 2 artificial grass	Yes
Warwickshire County Council Staff Tennis Club	Club	2		0	Acrylic covered	Yes
Whitnash Bowling Club and Tennis Club	Club	2		0	Acrylic covered	Yes
Wroxhall Abbey Estate	Private	2	One court not playable	0		Yes
St Nicholas Park, Warwick	Public – fees apply	2		0	Tarmac/ acrylic covered tarmac	No
Victoria Park	Public – fees apply	10		5		Yes
Abbey Fields, Kenilworth	Public – Free of Charge	5		0	Tarmac	Yes
Beauchamp Square, Leamington	Public – Free of Charge	3	Reduction of 1 - tree roots lifting have made one court unplayable	0	Tarmac	No
Meadow Sports Centre (Kenilworth School)	School – community use available	3	Reduction of 1 court - now very poorly marked and not used for tennis	0	Tarmac	Sports Centre
Campion School	School – No use	5 but space for 6		6	Tarmac	Sports Centre
Aylesford School	School – no use available	4		0	Tarmac	School use
Kings High School, Leamington Spa	School – no use available	2	Additional court identified	0		No
Kingsley School, Sandy Lane	School – no use available	6		0	Tarmac	Yes
Myton Academy	School – no use available	6		0	Tarmac	School use
North Leamington School, Sandy Lane	School – no use available	4		4	Acrylic covered	School use

Trinity Catholic School	School – no use available	4		0	Tarmac	School use
Warwick School	School – no use available	15		0		Yes

- 7.7 In addition to the above, there is also an unusable hard standing area at Roundoak School which is considered unsafe.
- 7.8 Table 7.2 reveals that while overall the number of courts provided at schools is high, community access to these facilities is low, with only courts at Meadows Sports Centre marketed actively as being available to the public. It should also be noted that at most schools, tennis courts are on the same area as other sports (netball / basketball etc) and not all of the area is always marked for tennis so potential users must compete with demand from other sports.
- 7.9 This is also the case at Alvis Sports and Social Club, where the netball courts are shared with the tennis courts and tennis nets are provided on wheels in order to facilitate use throughout the year by both sports.
- 7.10 There are no indoor tennis facilities currently located within Warwick District and no clubs have access to covered courts (although this is something that is desired by several, and this will be returned to later in this section).

### Quality

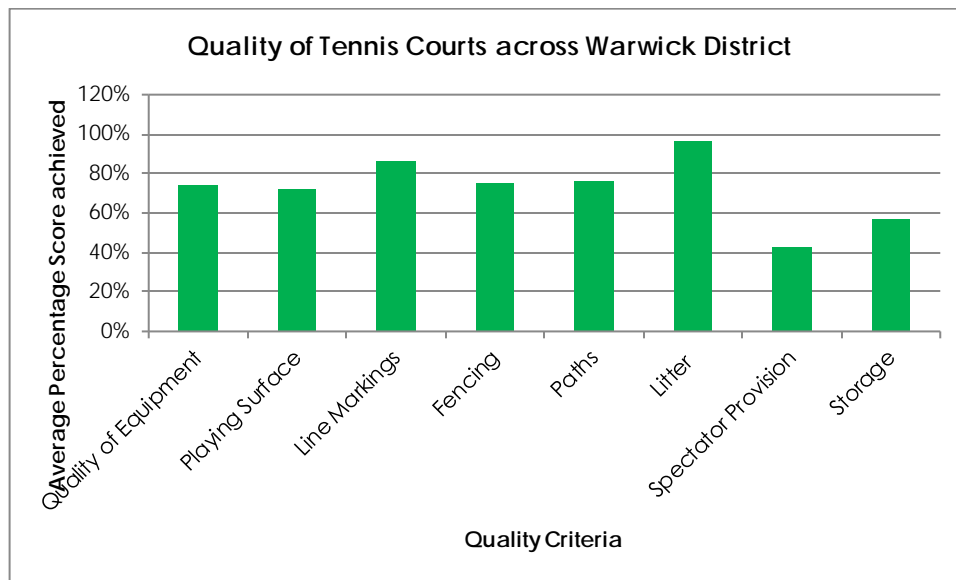
- 7.11 Site visits to tennis courts were undertaken during the summer and feedback was also gathered from providers and users.
- 7.12 The average quality score achieved across all sites was 68%, suggesting that most facilities are fit for purpose, but that there remains scope for improvement. Indeed, there are many courts that are good quality - 47% of courts were considered good overall, while only 7% were awarded a rating of poor. It was noted however that several facilities are clearly declining and may become poor in future years if investment is not forthcoming.
- 7.13 Site visits reveal a hierarchy in the quality of provision, with club-based facilities being of the highest quality, followed by schools and parks courts. This is exhibited in Table 7.2.
- 7.14 In general, the facilities provided at club sites in Warwick District are vastly superior to the quality of other courts. The average score is significantly higher and the proportion of courts achieving a rating of good is significantly greater.
- 7.15 There is one poor quality public site (Beauchamp Square) as well as one school with facilities that are of poor quality. There are however several more school and park sites that are considered close to a poor rating, indicating that improvement is required if these facilities are to remain fit for purpose in the medium term. It is clear that the average quality scores achieved by school and public courts is skewed by some very high quality sites (for example Warwick School) and to some extent disguises the vast difference in quality between club and other facilities. School sites exhibit the highest qualitative score range.
- 7.16 While there is a clear difference in quality, it should be noted that club bases generally serve different requirements and different target markets to schools and public venues with clubs often attracting more serious players and parks courts being used for more informal play. The quality required for these sites to be fit for purpose is therefore varying.

**Table 7.2 – Average Quality Score by Provider**

	Average	Good	Standard	Poor
Club	78%	31	6	0
Public	60%	0	17	3
School	60%	15	29	5

7.17 Chart 7.1 breaks down the scores achieved for each of the key quality components of tennis courts across the district. It indicates that spectator seating and storage are the poorest scoring criteria (these are not necessarily appropriate on all sites however). There is also a need to improve the playing surface at several venues, with many sites exhibiting cracks, weeds and uneven patches. The nets and fencing also require some investment on some sites.

**Chart 6.1: Quality of Tennis Courts across Warwick District**



7.18 Site visits undertaken in 2018 are not directly comparable with visits from the previous strategy document as a different matrix was used. It is however clear that many of the same issues remain, with storage being a key issue and the playing surface requiring improvement at many sites.

7.19 Similar patterns with regards the type of facilities were also recorded, with club bases ranked vastly superior to school and public sites, and the biggest range of scores being evident at school sites.

7.20 Table 7.3 sets out the individual quality scores achieved for each site and identifies the key areas for improvement. It also notes the comments made in relation to these sites by the provider / user. It reinforces the perception that club facilities are clearly of higher calibre and indeed there are some facilities of very high standard within the district.

7.21 Again, it also demonstrates the significant variation in quality between different school and public sites, with some major repair works required on some facilities. The condition of some of the poorer facilities is perhaps the biggest change from the previous document, with this clearly having worsened in the interim years. While all sites were described as functional in 2013, there are now several examples of sites starting to deteriorate or where immediate works are required.

**Table 7.3: Quality of Tennis Courts across Warwick District**

Site Name	Facility Type	Total Courts	Site Visit Score	Site Visit Comment	Club / Provider Comments	Rating
Abbey Fields, Kenilworth	Public – Free of Charge	5	53%	Basic courts in public park setting. Court markings clear but overmarked with netball. Fencing adequate and site is served by pay and display parking	Poor quality courts overall that require refurbishment if they are to attract regular usage	Standard - Poor
Alvis Sports Club	Club	2	79%	Courts good but overmarked with netball. Clear dual use with tennis nets on wheels and netball being played on site at time of visit. Line markings clear and equipment good	Facilities at club used by both tennis and netball and hence equipment is portable and designed to be flexible.	Good
Aylesford School	School – no use available	4		tarmac in poor condition and would require resurfacing if high quality netball / tennis was to be played	Courts considered to be of average quality	Standard
Beauchamp Square, Leamington	Public – Free of Charge	3	53%	Surface poor, with tree roots lifting tarmac on one court and evidence of undulations on other courts. Benches for spectators do not face courts. Poor overall. No dedicated parking - accessed by roadside pay and display.	Courts being disturbed by tree roots. Use of court for netball also seems to encourage misuse and surface is very poor.	Poor
Campion School	School – No use	5 but space for 6	41%	Courts in poor condition, no equipment on site and litter evident	Changing facilities very poor and tennis courts poor and of very limited value to school.	Poor
Kenilworth School / Meadow Sports Centre (Kenilworth School)	School – community use available	3	65%	Some scuffing of tarmac surface. Equipment on site but not in situ, courts average to poor.	Courts considered to be good overall. Community use available as part of dual use agreement. Improvement to facilities for tennis and netball listed as one of the key priorities for the school.	Standard
Kenilworth Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Club	9	88%	Well maintained courts and pavilion, all recently refurbished. Clear line markings and in good condition. Storage etc good overall	Good playing surfaces, 6 courts have recently had new synthetic grass surfaces. Clubhouse is acceptable and has recently been subjected to refurbishments, particularly in the bar area. Changing facilities remain poor.	Good

Site Name	Facility Type	Total Courts	Site Visit Score	Site Visit Comment	Club / Provider Comments	Rating
Kings High School, Leamington Spa	School – no use available	2		courts located in between buildings, marked for netball as well as tennis. Standard at best	Courts of good quality. School also in partnership with Warwick School.	Standard
Kingsley School, Sandy Lane	School – no use available	6	68%	Courts in reasonable condition on school playing field site circa 1 mile from school. Includes brick pavilion although not adjacent to courts.	No comments received	Standard
Leamington Lawn Tennis Club	Club	12	91%	Well-appointed pavilion currently being extended. Courts in good condition, although line markings on clay courts are faint. On street parking only	Court quality good, with clear line markings and strong surfaces. Clubhouse is currently undergoing improvements, including the ladies changing rooms, kitchen and bar facilities. There is a lack of storage and car parking is poor. The club also require covers for the courts during the winter months.	Good
Myton Academy	School – no use available	6	65%	Courts in standard condition with average surface and equipment	Courts considered to be of average standard.	Standard
North Leamington School, Sandy Lane	School – no use available	4	50%	courts overmarked with netball. Limited quality and surface	Courts overmarked for netball and used for both sports. Average quality	Standard
Offchurch Recreation Ground	Club	2	59%	Courts in rural location with pavilion. Evidence of weeds around the fencing and courts of limited quality. Appear derelict	No comments received from club	Standard - Poor
Rowington Tennis Club	Club	2	82%	Well kept and very tidy, with good surface and line markings. Small pavilion and good parking	Court surface and overall quality good. Maintenance procedures acceptable. Changing facilities and clubhouse are poor and there is an overall lack of storage. Facilities have been improved in recent years by the removal of some vegetation and clubs now benefit from moss treatment annually.	Good

Site Name	Facility Type	Total Courts	Site Visit Score	Site Visit Comment	Club / Provider Comments	Rating
St Nicholas Park, Warwick	Public – fees apply	2	71%	Busy park site, surface and equipment adequate and clear line markings. Some litter evident	For public courts, facilities are in good condition and are heavily used.	Standard
Trinity Catholic School	School – no use available	4		Courts primarily for netball. Tennis markings poor quality	School consider courts to be of good quality	Standard
Victoria Park	Public – fees apply	10	65%	busy park site, surface and equipment adequate and clear line markings. Limited spectator facilities	Some variation in court quality but facilities are standard to good overall. Will require refurbishment over strategy period.	Standard
Warwick Boat Club	Club	11	100%	Courts and pavilion in excellent condition. Heavily used at time of visit	Courts in excellent condition having received two professional cleans in the last three years. Floodlights also well maintained. While courts themselves are good, parking and changing facilities are standard and the club parking is highlighted as a key issue. There is also a lack of storage at the clubhouse and disabled access can be limited.	Good
Warwick School	School – no use available	15	74%	New courts in good condition	Existing facilities in good condition. School looking at expanding existing tennis provision further to include covered courts in partnership with Warwick Boat Club	Good
Warwick Tennis Club	Club	6	82%	Courts in good condition and equipment is renewed on a five year programme. Lack of facilities for spectators	Courts are in general good, with changing facilities and parking also adequate. Sand in clay courts has been replaced in last three years and floodlighting has also been improved. General storage has been increased. There is however now evidence of subsidence on one of the Clay courts there has had to be some repairs to the foundations - the carpet has therefore had to be cut in places. Club looking to replace this court (Ct 3) as soon as possible and are also looking to upgrade the surface to a carpet surface on the tarmac court and to install lights on it as well.	Standard - Good



Site Name	Facility Type	Total Courts	Site Visit Score	Site Visit Comment	Club / Provider Comments	Rating
Warwickshire County Council Staff Tennis Club	Club	2		No access at time of visit	Courts in standard condition, with no real issues identified. Car parking is good and site is clean and tidy. Facilities have not been improved in recent years but the club does not identify any clear priorities for improvement at the moment.	Standard
Whitnash Bowling Club and Tennis Club	Club	2	59%	Equipment and surface standard, part of wider sports club. Tennis courts not currently used for tennis, no spectator seating	Tennis section of club is not currently active, however the sports club are actively looking to reinvigorate the sport and to attract new users to the facility. Courts considered to be of appropriate quality for club-based tennis.	Standard
Wroxhall Abbey Estate	Private	2	53%	Tennis courts in hotel ground. Standard to poor condition, Nets thrown to side and slippy surface. Appear uncared for and derelict	None in relation to quality of facilities. Indicate that facilities are for members only.	Standard

7.22 In summary of the issues raised in Table 7.3, consultation with clubs as part of the preparation of this strategy highlights the following key issues in relation to quality;

- The Playing surface and court equipment generally reported as good
- Changing facilities / clubhouses perceived to be of lower quality and requiring improvement
- Clubs in the district are constantly improving and updating their facilities – significant investment goes into the delivery of tennis
- Despite the high quality of existing club bases, several clubs still believe that quality issues experienced do inhibit their ability to meet demand. Quality of facilities is believed to be key to the attraction of members, and the availability of indoor / covered courts (which all clubs are currently lacking) is also believed to be key to the success of the club
- While club infrastructure is considered to be strong, concern is raised by several clubs in relation to the more limited public tennis infrastructure and the poor quality of these courts. This is perceived to be the foundation / entry level to tennis and there is a view that tennis development will be restricted if these courts are not improved.

#### **Accessibility**

7.23 LTA insight demonstrates that people are typically willing to travel 3km to play tennis. This increases up to 5km if the courts are floodlit or at a hub site.

7.24 Analysis of the stock of tennis facilities using these catchment areas indicates that;

- Residents in all of the major settlements are able to access club bases within the target drivetimes
- Residents in some of the smaller settlements also have direct access to club bases, although these are generally smaller and of slightly lower quality than the facilities in the key centres
- There are few residents out of the district outside of the catchment of any tennis courts
- The distribution of public tennis courts is much more limited. Again however, these facilities are accessible to those living in the major settlements, with two facilities in Kenilworth (9 courts in total), two in Leamington Spa (14 courts) and one facility in Warwick providing two courts

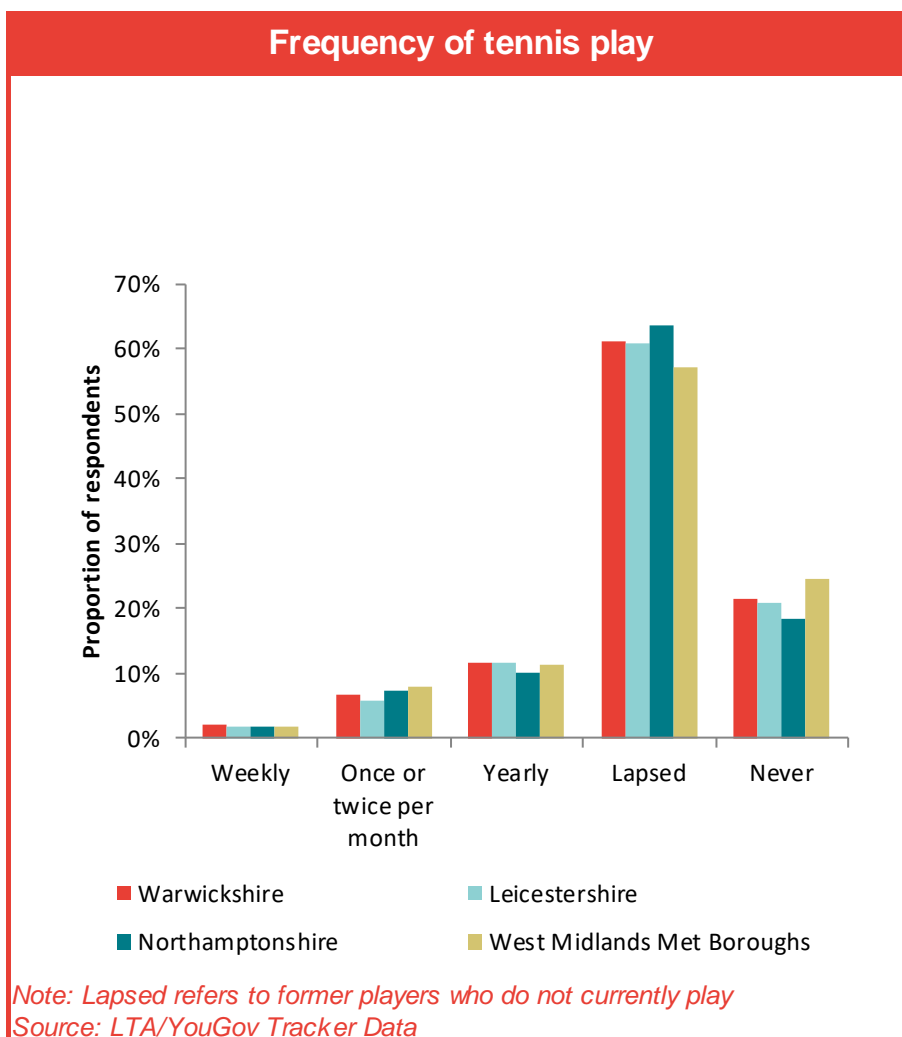
## Demand

7.25 The LTA annual national tennis review indicates that progress was made in 2017 towards the end goal of getting people to play more often. In particular;

- There was a 14% year on year increase in players participating in programmes in focus parks
- A 5% increase in club membership was recorded
- There was a 7% year on year rise in the participation in the summer months
- There were 20,000 new British Tennis members
- 15.8% growth in female participation.

7.26 More locally within Warwickshire, the LTA local insight tool indicates that participation in the county in tennis is relatively strong. This is illustrated below in figure 7.2

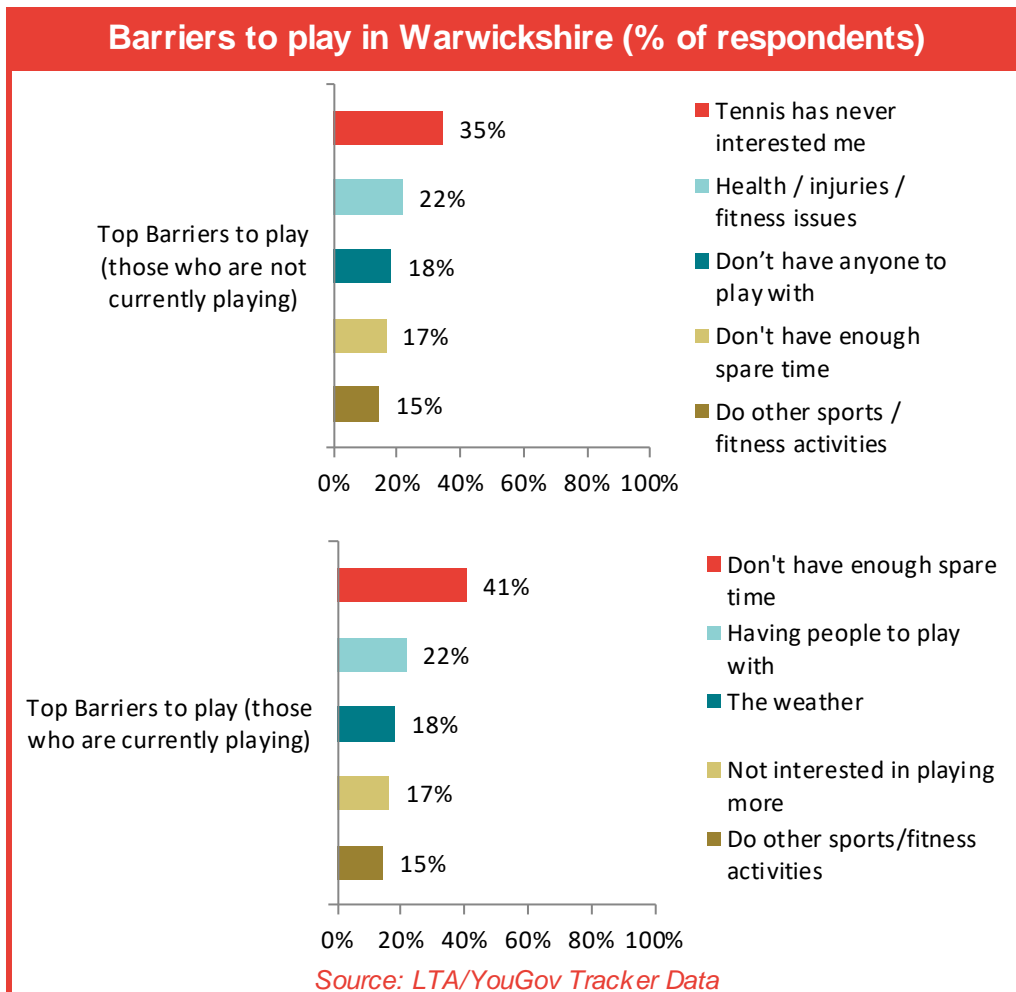
Figure 7.2 – Frequency of Tennis Play (extracted directly from LTA Insight Tool)



7.27 The LTA insight tool also provides an indication of the potential barriers to play within Warwickshire. As illustrated in Figure 7.3, a lack of interest in tennis is the most common reason for not playing, and there are other similar barriers listed, including greater interest

in other sports / activities, health / fitness issues and lack of spare time. A lack of partner to play with is also raised as a key barrier

Figure 7.3 – Barriers to Play in Warwickshire

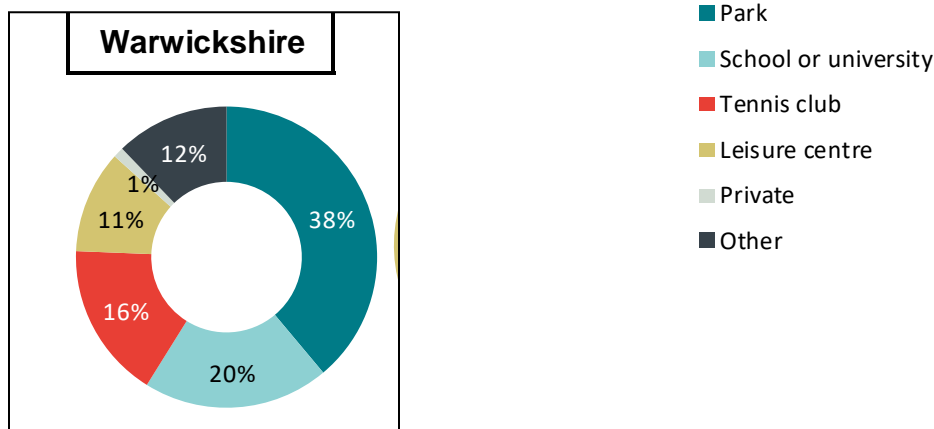


7.28 Insight prepared by the LTA (based upon Sport England Market Segmentation) indicates that the total current demand for tennis in Warwick District is 5629 people. This is made up of 2756 current players and latent demand of 2873 players. The current demand is believed to be dominated by graduate and professional males aged 18 – 55.

**Existing participation in Warwick District**

7.29 LTA insight indicates that participation in Warwickshire is spread across a variety of venue forms as set out in Figure 7.4 below. 38% of activity in the county is believed to take place in parks, while 16% of participants are based at clubs.

Figure 7.4 - Location of Tennis Play in Warwick District (extracted directly from LTA Insight)



7.30 More locally within Warwick District, activity takes place in the following forms;

- formal club membership
- pay and play activity at school facilities; and
- more informal play at public park sites.

7.31 Participation and Demand for each form of the game is reviewed in the sections that follow.

#### **Informal Play at Public Parks**

7.32 The condition of the facilities at public tennis courts was highlighted as one of the key concerns in relation to the quality of provision. Courts are available at;

- Abbeyfields – Kenilworth (free of charge)
- Beauchamp Square – Leamington Spa (free of charge)
- St Nicholas Park – Warwick (fee)
- Victoria Park – Leamington Spa (fee)

7.33 Facilities at Meadow Sports Centre (Kenilworth School) are also run as a public facility.

7.34 Tennis courts at Abbey Fields, Meadows Sports Centre and Beauchamp Square Gardens are available free of charge, while there are charges for both St Nicholas Park (£8.55 per hour) and Victoria Park (staffed by VP Tennis Club).

7.35 LTA national Insight research demonstrates that public courts are a key part of the provision hierarchy, with up to 50% of play taking place at such facilities and these sites being instrumental in grass roots tennis. In particular, research suggests that these are likely to attract a higher proportion of younger people (aged 14 - 29) while older players will gravitate towards clubs. Figure 7.4 highlights the importance of public courts across Warwickshire, with 36% of all activity believed to take places on these sites.

7.36 No monitoring takes place of the current usage of the free of charge public tennis courts and total usage cannot be therefore accurately quantified. Warwick District Council are now in discussion with the LTA with regards to implementing monitoring systems in order

to more accurately understand levels of activity and consequently opportunities for improvement. With regards current levels of use, it is known that;

- There is strong usage of facilities at Victoria Park – in part this is due to the use of these facilities by the VP Tennis Club, however casual access is also available at certain times.
- Courts at St Nicholas Park are managed by Everyone Active and have recently been refurbished. There are good levels of usage of these facilities over the summer months in particular but scope to increase further
- Abbeyfields – this is unmonitored, but the site is known to have some adhoc usage. It is believed that there is scope to increase the levels of activity that are undertaken and it is hoped that this will result from plans to refurbish the courts as part of developments in Kenilworth.
- Beauchamp Gardens – this is unmonitored, although there is thought to be relatively limited formal use of the facility. Court quality is starting to deteriorate and this is likely to impact upon the desirability of the facility. Ongoing misuse of the courts was evident at the time of site visits.

7.37 If LTA insight across Warwickshire as a whole is considered to directly represent participation in Warwick District, this would indicate that 2139 people currently use public venues each year (36% of total demand). Feedback suggests that existing usage is nowhere near this level, indicating that there is scope to increase the role that public facilities play.

7.38 Linking with their new strategy, the LTA see increasing participation in public parks as a key priority. Work is underway across the country focusing on introducing organised activity at public parks, such as Introductory tennis courses and coaching. Victoria Park in Warwick is a Beacon site and offers free play sessions three times a week for non members, however these schemes have not yet been introduced into any other sites within Warwick. There is however believed to be a significant opportunity to enhance the tennis playing population through greater targeted use of the public facilities.

7.39 LTA research demonstrates that enabling the booking of public facilities can enhance usage and the LTA are therefore seeking to work with providers to promote online booking / key pads etc. This enables usage to be accurately tracked, while a strong online presence can increase the awareness of the availability of courts. It is this that Warwick District Council are currently seeking to implement.

7.40 The quality of public courts is also deemed to be essential if they are to be effective in developing grass roots tennis. As highlighted, quality of these courts is currently a key issue, with both Abbeyfields and Beauchamp Gardens requiring significant investment. In addition to capital investment required to bring the facilities back to an appropriate standard, LTA guidance estimates that circa £1200 per annum per court should be put into a sinking fund to enable repair works. Refurbishment works will also be required to Victoria Park over the strategy period.

#### **Pay and Play Access at School sites**

7.41 Analysis of facilities at school sites suggests that there is some limited access to tennis courts at secondary schools although it is clear that there is very little promotion of the opportunities available and / or the fees charged. With the exception of Meadow Community Sports Centre (considered under public venues), there are no formal agreements for the public use of school facilities and usage is ad hoc at best. Aylesford School and Kings High Independent School both indicate that they offer informal access to tennis courts but this is not recorded and participants are very low in numbers.

- 7.42 There is no existing known club use of tennis courts at school sites. Warwick Boat Club and Warwick School are however considering a partnership arrangement that will involve the creation of new indoor courts to benefit both the club and the school.
- 7.43 Facilities at school sites therefore remain a largely unused resource (by the community at this time) and consequently offer significant potential to enhance the tennis infrastructure across the district.

### **Club Membership**

- 7.44 The club infrastructure for tennis in Warwick District is very strong and there are currently eight active tennis clubs. This represents a decline since 2013. Whitnash Tennis Club has recently folded (although the associated sports club looking for support to reinvigorate activity) and Alvis Tennis Club have also stopped registering with the LTA.
- 7.45 Despite this, the number of people playing tennis at club bases within Warwick is high. Analysis of current membership numbers indicates that despite the loss of two clubs, participation across the district as a whole remains relatively static compared with the previous PPS with LTA registration figures indicating that there are 2369 players (compared to 2381 in the 2013 PPS). Data collated as part of this assessment indicates that this has increased further since the most recent collation of affiliation data.
- 7.46 Existing clubs and their membership trends are therefore summarised in Table 7.4. It clearly demonstrates that several of the very large clubs have expanded further in recent years, while smaller clubs have seen either static membership or a slight decline in the number of people using their site. Both clubs that have folded were also smaller clubs. This may suggest a tendency for members to travel to reach better facilities, which is something that clubs believe to be the case.
- 7.47 There are a few consistent trends common to all clubs, with the key barriers to growth raised as;
- Facility restrictions relating to court numbers, particularly a lack of covered courts
  - Limited quality changing facilities
  - Capacity restrictions at peak time.
- 7.48 LTA insight (2014) demonstrates that 1 in 4 current players would consider joining a club but standard of play, year-round tennis and associated fees are off-putting.
- 7.49 While this may be the case, the limited stock of good quality public courts in Warwick District, as well as the limited practical use of courts on school sites means that participation on club sites is of significant importance in the local tennis scene.

**Table 7.4: Tennis clubs in Warwick District**

Site Name	Current Membership where known	Membership Trends	Activities	Issues impacting participation
Kenilworth Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	445	Static / Decline	Summer and winter league teams, casual and social play, coaching. Club has 2 full time and 1 part time coaches, plus assistants. They run rusty racquets as well as adult and junior sessions, holiday camps etc. Coaching for disabled players also available on request	Capacity of club restricted at peak times. Can limit teams and coaching squads and there is no real capacity to extend membership of these groups although scope to increase the casual play. Club have annual event to promote to new members. Club seeking covers for courts in order to enable year round tennis and continue to improve opportunities for members.
Leamington Lawn Tennis Club	779	Significant increase -	11 teams competitive play, also have coaching and mini tennis, as well as activities for disabled players	Lack of covered courts means that the club lose out on better players who prefer to travel further to clubs with these facilities. Club seeking to address this by covering some of the courts on their site. Club has sought to attract young people from less well off areas of the district but with little success. Amount and quality of public courts seen as key barrier to participation growth.
Rowington Tennis Club	43	Static / Slight decline	Casual play only	Looking for new members. Advertising in local magazine and local schools. Key barrier to recruitment is lack of interested residents / children within village
Offchurch Tennis Club	51	Unknown	No feedback received. Small club, online booking available	None
Victoria Park	136	Increasing	Competitive activity for both adults and juniors, coaching. Free pay and play sessions available three times per week. Community club seeking to offer coaching and social to team tennis.	
Warwick Boat Club	854	Increased	Summer and winter competitive opportunities. Private casual bookings available all day and organised mix in times	Growth achieved through promotion of opportunities and initiatives to improve playing experience. Club running multiple open days per year as well as



Current Membership where known		Activities		Issues impacting participation
Site Name		Membership Trends		
			arranged most days. Team of self-employed qualified coaches and courses of all levels are available. Club also provide coaching for schools (Warwick School / Kings High / Myton School), holiday camps. Cardio tennis currently offered although take up is variable.	outreach activities to junior strategy. Seeking to enhance performance players. Club require more courts and indoor facilities to continue increase, particularly if greater members are to be accommodated during peak time.
Warwick Tennis Club	241	Static	Summer and winter competitive activities, casual social sessions organised, mini tennis and one cardio tennis session.	Club running open days and advertising in schools in order to increase membership
Warwickshire County Council Staff Tennis Club	44	Decline	Competitive teams and some casual play available. No coaching currently offered	Retiring members, loss of players to other sports
Whitnash Bowling Club and Tennis Club	0	Decline	No activity in tennis section currently	Tennis section has folded in recent months.
Star Alvis Tennis Club		Decline	Club no longer register with the LTA	Section considered to be folded as club no longer register with the LTA

### ***NGB priorities and Intelligence***

#### **British Tennis Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018**

7.50 The mission of the LTA Strategic Plan is to get more people playing tennis more often. Linking with the three types of facilities that are found, this will be delivered through three strands;

- **Delivering service to clubs**, including providing support for clubs of all sizes by sharing best practice learning, applying focus on clubs seeking to grow the game and their community and helping clubs to achieve management excellence
- **Participation focus** - building partnerships in the community through the delivery of strong local parks and community tennis venues to deliver inclusive access, investment in people delivering strong experiences in parks and targeted investment in welcoming park facilities for people to socialise and play
- **Enhancing the tennis offer in education**, including strengthening the schools offer while introducing a new secondary school programme, providing support to develop more effective links between schools and other places where tennis is played and maximising playing opportunities to help build a future workforce in colleges and universities.

- 7.51 Strategic Whole Sport Plan facilities investment will support and facilitate the delivery of the above programmes. It will be largely focused in the priority areas to address gaps or improve provision where critical to park or community programmes.
- 7.52 Building on this, The LTA have recently launched a new investment initiative called 'Transforming British Tennis Together'. The aim of this ten-year initiative is to make tennis more accessible and more useable and to ensure that rain and darkness no longer inhibit play.
- 7.53 To deliver this, the LTA has committed to investing £125 million to improve community tennis facilities across the country and it is hoped that this will help bring tennis to a wider audience and overcome key barriers. The LTA notes that currently, over a third of possible playing hours are lost nationally due to rain (only 7% of Britain's 23,000 courts are covered), whilst only 1 in 7 park courts have floodlights.
- 7.54 With key partners, the LTA therefore seeks to;
- increase the number of covered and floodlit courts by 50% to boost available playing hours when it's raining and when the sun has gone down;
  - use technological solutions to enhance the tennis experience, such as installing online booking and entry systems so everyone can book a tennis court easily from their mobile phone, computer or tablet; and enhancing gate access;
  - refurbish courts, clubhouses and other social spaces to ensure players have a great experience every time they visit; and
  - support other innovative and creative ideas that meet local demand.
- 7.55 Ensuring the sustainability of community tennis provision remains a key focus for the LTA and the NGB has set out suggested sinking fund guidelines for clubs and Local Authorities to work towards, to ensure that quality tennis provision can be maintained for future generations.
- 7.56 Informing potential areas for growth, LTA national insight work demonstrates that the greatest opportunity for additional growth is amongst 20 - 39 year olds and 40 - 49 year olds. This means that both park courts and club based facilities will be important in driving this participation. It also demonstrated that infrequent park players need and want a range of things to play more often and identify key barriers specifically;
- the existing profile of tennis players is restricted - players are more likely to be male (particularly aged 14 - 39) and in the ABC1 demographic. Not having someone to play with is identified as a key barrier (27%);
  - the poor quality of facilities;
  - the need to effectively market and promote opportunities for tennis, including a centralised court booking process; and
  - a lack of online presence.
- 7.57 It also reveals that men may like group based coaching and fun tournaments, while women enjoy turn up and play formats with a facilitator.
- 7.58 This assessment has demonstrated that many of the above issues exist in the district. It is therefore thought, despite the very strong club infrastructure, there remains opportunity to significantly ignite participation in tennis in Warwick District. This is particularly true given that the population of profile of the District demonstrates a slightly higher than

average proportion of people falling within age groups that demonstrate the greatest opportunity for growth in participation.

### ***Adequacy of provision***

- 7.59 As outlined earlier in this section, LTA insight (derived from Sport England Market Segmentation) revealed that 2756 people currently participate in tennis however a further 2873 people would like to play. This suggests that there is an overall potential tennis playing population of 5629.
- 7.60 With club membership of 2593, based on these figures, this would suggest that just 163 players currently play tennis outside of the club base. This represents less than 5% of the overall tennis playing population. LTA insight demonstrates that up to 40 – 50% of tennis activity in an area may take place at public venues, and indeed Figure 4 indicates that 36% of play in Warwickshire as a whole county is at public venues. This suggests that there is significant opportunity to increase play at public venues (or that the LTA insight information is under estimating participation in this area).
- 7.61 LTA viability modelling assumes that 3% of the population would look to play tennis each month. In Warwick District, this represents 3296 people, a figure lower than the potential (latent demand) figure calculated using the Active People / Market Segmentation research, but potentially realistic given the low levels of participation that the baseline figures would suggest take place at public tennis venues.
- 7.62 If the latent demand identified by Sport England Active People / Market Segmentation work were to be achieved, participation would increase to almost 11% of the population. This demonstrates the significant opportunity that exists if the infrastructure is appropriately tailored to meet demand.
- 7.63 The existing and potential participation can be used to calculate the adequacy of existing facilities and the amount of facilities required. Although there are no formal standards for the number of tennis courts needed in an area, the LTA have derived a means of analysing demand for tennis and determining when facilities are at or approaching capacity. Parameters used (LTA 2017) are as follows;
- 40 members per non floodlit, outdoor court
  - 60 members per floodlit outdoor court
  - 200 members per indoor tennis court.
- 7.64 Using these figures, it can be concluded that the current stock of facilities that are formally available for community use can accommodate 3640 players.
- 7.65 These figures can be used to determine the adequacy of provision to meet **current** demand as set out in Table 7.5.

Table 7.5 – Adequacy of Provision to meet demand in quantitative terms

Scenario				
Demand				
Current Demand	Baseline Participants	3% Participation Level	Including Demand	Latent
Club Membership	2593	2593	2593	
Other Participants	163	1660	2593	
Total	2756	4253	5629	
Current Supply				
Accessible Floodlit Courts	31 – capacity 40 per court			
Accessible Non-Floodlit Courts	40 – capacity 60 per court			
Total Capacity of Courts	3640 Players	3640 Players	3640 Players	
Adequacy of Provision				
Supply / Demand Balance	Provision sufficient. Total number of players 2756 of which majority are at club bases. Low level of participation at public courts suggest that participation is either inhibited by the condition / availability of these facilities or is underestimated in this scenario.	Courts insufficient. 613 players not accommodated. Requirement for up to 15 new courts (non floodlit)	Courts insufficient. 1989 players not accommodated. Requirement for up to 49 new courts (non floodlit)	

- 7.66 It is clear therefore, that based upon current levels of participation, there are sufficient facilities to accommodate demand overall (although there may be locational shortfalls and this will be returned to later) but if either aspirational growth scenarios were to be achieved, there would be insufficient tennis courts in the district.
- 7.67 LTA insight however demonstrates that club members generally play more frequently than those using park courts and it is therefore possible to adjust the number of people that park courts serve from 40 to 80 people (non-floodlit) and to 120 (floodlit).
- 7.68 With 20 public courts in Warwick District, this would increase the amount of players that the existing stock of facilities serves by 800 people. This would result in the conclusion that the existing facility stock could accommodate the target of 3% total participation. The existing facilities would however remain inadequate if the full latent demand was realised.
- 7.69 It is clear therefore that while courts are on the whole well used, there is scope to maximise the use of existing facilities before new courts are required. In particular, the high club membership and relatively low assumed public participation suggests that there are significant opportunities to increase the usage of these facilities.
- 7.70 If wider participation growth is achieved however (ie latent demand is realised), community use of existing school sites and / or the provision of new tennis courts would be required.
- 7.71 Market segmentation undertaken as part of the LTA research work indicates that the key opportunities to address latent demand for tennis are by increasing demand in the following target groups;
- Family Tennis: 'Tennis Troupers' - Families (both mums and dads aged 18+) mainly with children.
  - Tennis Health & Fitness/Wimbledon Warriors/ Seasonal Spinners: Male graduates or professionals (18-55) interested in social sport, health and fitness.
  - Social Butterflies: Men under 30, beginners, play in parks in summer to socialize with friends.
  - Wimbledon Warriors/Senior Stalwarts: Professional males aged 26-55 who love sport.
  - Tennis Titans: Men and women of all ages, members of tennis clubs.
- 7.72 While overall there are enough courts to meet current demand (although new facilities will be required if participation targets are achieved) it should be noted that this takes into account outdoor facilities only. There are no indoor tennis venues within Warwick District and this represents a particular gap in the market. Several clubs highlight the need for indoor facilities and / or covered courts in order to grow their membership and adequately accommodate the needs of the existing user base.

### ***Capacity of Club Bases***

- 7.73 While overall there is sufficient provision, individual clubs highlight pressures in meeting demand and several clubs believe that the provision of covered tennis courts would enable them to significantly enhance their offer to club members. There are no indoor facilities at all in the district and this therefore represents a key gap in the stock of facilities.

7.74 The capacity of the club bases can be accurately measured using the LTA parameters – this is set out in Table 7.5.

7.75 It reveals that while most clubs are able to accommodate the current number of members that they have and have scope for new members, the number of people playing at Leamington Lawn Tennis Club and Warwick Boat Club is above the capacity of the courts. There is also only scope for an increase of 55 members at Kenilworth Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, and this club highlight challenges meeting demand at peak time.

7.76 All of the clubs where capacity issues were identified are currently seeking indoor and / or covered courts. As well as improving the player experience, this would also enhance the capacity of the clubs ensuring that there is room to accommodate participation increases as and when they occur. The evidence of demand for facilities at specific club sites is considered in Table 7.5.

**Table 7.5: Capacity of each club**

Site Name	Current Membership where known	Floodlit Courts	Non Floodlit Courts	Total Capacity	Capacity for additional Members	Comments
Kenilworth Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	445	7	2	500	55	Limited remaining capacity for club members. Club believe that they can accommodate further casual play, but that they will struggle to provide further competitive and coaching opportunities. Club seeking cover for courts to enable year round tennis. Large quantities of members mean that there would be significant benefits to this, and capacity for additional play would be beneficial in enabling the club to accommodate further activity. While significant renovations have taken place to the clubhouse, changing facilities remain poor.
Leamington Lawn Tennis Club	779	12	0	720	-59	Lack of capacity for existing members. While club do not highlight concerns about the number of facilities, they are currently looking to cover some courts in order to improve the playing experience and ensure that tennis can continue to be played in the winter months. Although clubhouse is currently undergoing improvements, parking remains poor.

Site Name	Current Membership where known	Floodlit Courts	Non Floodlit Courts	Total Capacity	Capacity for additional Members	Comments
Rowington Tennis Club	43	0	2	80	37	Capacity within existing facility stock although club do not have floodlit courts therefore overall use of facilities is restricted. Ongoing investment into quality required, facilities are currently good following extensive vegetation removal and moss treatment.
Offchurch Tennis Club		2	0	120	69	Courts in poor condition which is likely to impact on desirability for members.
Victoria Park	136	5	5	500	364	Public courts used by club for a variety of activities. Scope to increase club members, but courts are also available for pay and play activity.
Warwick Boat Club	854	7	4	580	-274	Number of members exceeds number of courts that are available, high quality facility overall but Club highlight insufficient courts as a key concern and believe that this is inhibiting club growth. Club seeking partnership development with Warwick School which would see the creation of additional courts which would be covered. The level of activity at the club base suggests that these proposals are justified and would help to ensure that existing facilities are not overplayed, as well as to provide additional capacity district wide to meet increasing levels of demand as the population grows and latent demand is realised. Changing facilities and parking also highlighted as inhibiting growth longer term.
Warwick Tennis Club	241	5	1	340	99	Club have significant potential to increase membership and are proactively seeking new members. The courts are currently however experiencing some quality issues, which will need to be addressed if capacity is not impacted as courts may become unusable.

Site Name	Current Membership where known	Floodlit Courts	Non Floodlit Courts	Total Capacity	Capacity for additional Members	Comments
Warwickshire County Council Staff Tennis Club	44	0	2	80	36	Club have significant potential to increase membership. Membership has recently declined. Facilities are in standard condition with no clear issues identified that may inhibit participation.
Whitnash Bowling Club and Tennis Club	0	0	2	80	80	Lack of use of courts for tennis currently means that there is significant capacity to reinvigorate the sport in this area the district.
Alvis Sports Club Tennis Section	0	2	0	120	120	Club no longer registers with the LTA and there is therefore scope to reinvigorate the use of these courts which offer significant capacity.

7.77 Modelling and wider consultation work therefore indicates that;

- the stock of existing facilities in numerical terms is broadly sufficient to meet current demand based on existing club membership and assumed pay and play statistics
- there are however locational pressures at key club sites, where the number of members is very closely matching the capacity of the site. There is relatively limited room for growth at some of the key club bases;
- while club facilities are well used, there is significant scope to increase the amount of usage of public facilities. This is however to a degree impacted upon by the poorer quality of these facilities – with some courts rated as poor, they are less desirable than other facilities and do not attract new users to the sport
- if the target of 3% participation was achieved, provision would however be insufficient, with 15 – 20 courts required. Changes to the parameters of public courts (where it is assumed that these facilities can accommodate a greater number of players due to reduced frequency of use) would however lead to the conclusion that the existing facilities are just sufficient;
- if latent demand at the levels identified by Sport England Market Segmentation is achieved however, existing levels of provision will be insufficient and further provision is needed to supplement the existing facilities. The number of players per court would be too high and there would be a need to create additional courts (or negotiate access to courts that are not currently available for community use.

7.78 It should also be noted the site visit and consultation programme reveal further issues with the existing infrastructure, specifically;

- The lack of good quality public facilities means that there are few opportunities for grass roots tennis
- There is a lack of understanding of the exact usage patterns of current public facilities. Research indicates that the introduction of programmes on public sites



(such as coaching / introduction to tennis etc) may increase the use of these facilities and support the transition into clubs;

- Providers are not currently capitalising upon solutions that are available to enhance the player experience (such as online booking tools)
- there is a lack of use of school sites (although some are informally available)
- promotion of opportunities is restricted.

7.79 Analysis therefore demonstrates that to meet current demand, priority should be given to the ongoing improvement and maintenance of club based facilities (including the provision of new facilities at key club bases) alongside investment into the public facility stock (in terms of both facility quality and the activities provided). There are opportunities to make better use of the facilities that are currently provided.

### **Adequacy of Provision to meet Future Population Growth**

#### **Impact of trends-based population growth**

- 7.80 The wider range of participants in tennis means that population growth may have a greater impact than for other sports.
- 7.81 The Sub National Population Projections indicate that up to 2029, there will be a small increase in the population of the district, from 141,770 residents in 2019 to 150,113 in 2029.
- 7.82 Using LTA parameters that up to 3% of the population may play tennis, the projected increase of 8343 people between 2018 and 2029 will generate a further 250 tennis players. Even if assuming high levels of occupancy on public courts, these additional 250 players could not be accommodated without access to further facilities (circa 2 additional courts would be required). The additional players would generate a need for up to 6 courts if public courts are assumed to accommodate the same number of participants as club based facilities.
- 7.83 While current priorities therefore focus upon qualitative improvements to the public facilities as well as the enhancement of key club bases, longer term, it is clear that additional facilities will be required. This will be particularly the case if latent demand identified within the Sport England Market Segmentation is translated into actual participation.
- 7.84 Added to the above trends-based population growth, the Warwick Local Plan will see significant additional new housing developed, leading to further population growth of in the region of 20,000 new residents.

#### **Impact of New Housing Development**

- 7.85 The New Development Calculator does not cover tennis. However it is possible to estimate the total impact of the new housing growth using the target of 3% participation which is the baseline used in LTA viability modelling.
- 7.86 With a total additional population of 25,629, if 3% of the population were to play tennis, this would result in an extra 768 players. Assuming that courts are not floodlit, 19 additional courts would be required to accommodate these new participants.
- 7.87 Given that the existing stock of available courts is already insufficient to accommodate activity at this level (unless the capacity of public courts is increased, in which case facilities are just sufficient), these new facilities would be required as extra provision.

## Summary and Key issues

7.88 The key issues for tennis are summarised in Section 10.

### Introduction

8.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for cricket and provides:

- An overview of the supply and demand for cricket pitches
- An understanding of activity at individual sites in the district;
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision; and
- The future picture of provision for cricket.

### Pitch Supply

8.2 There are 19 sites containing facilities for cricket in Warwick District. These provide a total of 21 grass pitches, as well as 11 non-turf wickets. Leamington Cricket Club, Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club and Cryfield Pavillion (University of Warwick) are the only sites with more than one grass pitch.

8.3 Pitches available are summarised in Table 8.1, along with the level of community use that is offered.

**Table 8.1: Grass Cricket Pitches across Warwick District**

Site Name	Grass Cricket Pitches	Non Turf	Number of Wickets on Pitch	Access Arrangements	Security of Community Use
Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground	1	1	8	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Kenilworth Cricket Club	1	0	14	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Aylesford School	0	1	0	Available for community use	Unsecured community use
Alvis Sports and Social Club	1	0	8	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club	2	0	15 and 8	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Leamington Cricket Club	3	1	15 and 8 and 6	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Nelson Memorial Cricket Ground	1	0	10	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
North Lindsey Village Recreation Ground	1	0	14	Available for community use	Secured Community Use

Stoneleigh Cricket Club	1	0	9	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Warwick Cricket Club	1	0	12	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Warwick School Sports Centre	3	2	10 on each pitch	Private Use	n/a
Campion School Academy	0	1	0	Private use	n/a
University of Warwick (Cryfield Pavilion)	2	1	8 and 9	Available for community use	Unsecured community use
Leek Wootton Cricket Club	1	0	13	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Rowington Cricket Club	1	0	12	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Hunningham Cricket Club	1	0	9	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Offchurch Cricket Club	1	0	8	Available for community use	Secured Community Use
Kenilworth School (Meadow Community Sports Centre)	0	1		Available for community use	Unsecured Community Use
Myton School (John Atkinson Sports Centre)	0	1		Available for community use	Unsecured Community Use
Crackley Hall School		1	0	Private Use	N/a
North Leamington School	0	1		Available for community use	Unsecured Community Use

8.4 Table 8.1 reveals that;

- The majority of sites with grass cricket pitches are secured for community use. University of Warwick is the only site containing grass pitches that are not secured for community use (although these facilities are currently available for hire). There are also non-turf wickets at unsecured sites (Kenilworth School, Myton School, North Leamington School and Aylesford School).

- There are also three sites where no access is currently permitted to the cricket pitches. One of these is Warwick School, which is the only private site to contain grass pitches (3).
  - There are no cricket pitches owned or managed by Warwick District Council meaning that public sector involvement in cricket is relatively low. Almost all sites are owned and / or managed by clubs.
  - Schools that are accessible to the community provide only non turf facilities – although there is some unsecured access to these facilities there is little promotion evident of their availability and most are of limited quality.
- 8.5 The lack of public sector involvement represents a change since the previous PPS, with the District Council having actively taken the decision to cease the preparation of the grass cricket pitches just as the previous strategy document was being completed.
- 8.6 In addition to the pitches outlined in Table 4.1 above, there are several other sites known to have previously contained cricket pitches but to no longer do so. These include Castle Farm Recreation Centre, Harbury Lane, Victoria Park, Newbold Comyn, Bishop Tachbook Sport and Social Club.
- 8.7 Spatially, cricket pitches are well distributed across the district, with both club-based cricket pitches and school sites in all of the major settlements. Several small villages also offer cricket pitches, including Leek Wootton, Hunningham, Rowington.

### **Pitch Quality**

- 8.8 The quality of cricket pitches is a key component of pitch provision. It is so important that most of the leagues in which teams from Warwick District play require an assessment of the pitches after each match, ensuring that they are fit for purpose and that any issues with the overall pitch quality, the wicket, or the outfield are identified. If pitches and associated ancillary provision are not up to the required quality standards, this can lead to relegation from the league and / or loss of promotion. Clubs can reach a stage where they are unable to progress further due to the quality of their facilities, rather than their playing capabilities.
- 8.9 To evaluate the suitability of pitches for cricket, the quality of pitches was therefore assessed through a variety of sources, including;
- site visits undertaken using the non-technical assessment that accompanies the Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance note and prepared by the ECB;
  - analysis of local league pitch ratings; and
  - consultation.
- 8.10 The broad issues identified across Warwick District as a whole through each of these means are set out below. Site specific issues identified are summarised in Table 8.2.

### **Non-Technical Site Visits**

- 8.11 Non-technical assessments provide a basic overview of the facilities available and the quality of facilities on the site. They provide a view at a point in time, but to provide a full picture of quality, the findings need to be triangulated with other sources of evidence.

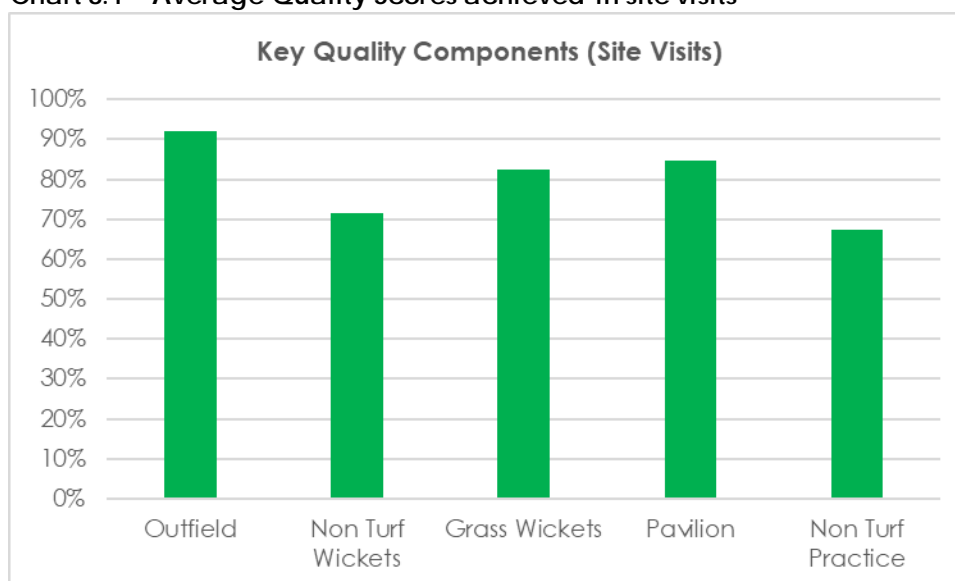
8.12 Assessments indicate that the overall, pitches that are accessible to the community in Warwick District are fit for purpose, but there is a range in the scale and scope of facilities provided, specifically;

- Site scores range from 69% (standard) to 94% (good) and there are no poor facilities. All of the sites that were considered poor in 2013 have since been taken out of action, meaning that overall, the quality of the infrastructure for cricket is higher than it was at that time;
- While many sites offer only basic facilities (grass pitch / small pavilion) others offer a wider range of facilities with training equipment and larger pavilions. More limited availability of training facilities (non-turf wickets / artificial nets) as well as issues with outfield / wicket quality are the key reasons for sites achieving lower scores;
- On the whole, the quality of squares is good, with relatively few issues identified and no facilities considered unplayable
- There is a greater variation in the quality of outfield. While some are even with good grass coverage, others have more limited grass and are undulating in parts. There is also evidence of weed infestation on some sites
- The availability of training facilities is also good, with several clubs having invested in improved facilities in recent years. Training facilities are important in promoting junior development, as well as in ensuring that teams are able to practice without impacting on the match squares. This is of particular significance as cricket clubs grow, as without off field practice facilities, there is a conflict between training requires and junior / development activity. There are however some sites where there are more minimal facilities evident, or where facilities would benefit from repair;
- The quality of facilities at school sites that are accessible to the community is minimal and in most cases limited to just a non turf wicket with no associated facilities
- All grass cricket pitches are served by pavilions. While some pavilions would benefit from improvement, all are functional and fit for the purpose that they were intended.

8.13 All of the above issues impact upon the functionality of the existing pitches and their suitability for hosting competitive games. The quality of the outfield was also raised as one of the key issues in 2013, suggesting that while pitch quality is thought to have improved overall, the opportunities for improvement remain similar.

8.14 Chart 8.1 reflects the points raised above, and summarises the scores achieved in the site visits. It demonstrates that the quality (and availability) of the training facilities is a one of the key concerns for cricket in Warwick District.

**Chart 8.1 - Average Quality Scores achieved in site visits**



### **Local League Pitch Rating and Consultations**

8.15 In order to promote quality cricket, some leagues require member clubs to play on pitches that reach certain standards. Pitch quality is measured each week by the umpire / away clubs and issues with pitch quality are addressed. This system is promoted and encouraged by the ECB as a means of improving overall pitch quality and is currently adopted in the following cricket leagues (with varying quality standards set) playing in the Warwick District area:

- Cotswold Hills Cricket League
- Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League
- Warwickshire Cricket League.

8.16 The key issues raised by these assessments are highlighted below;

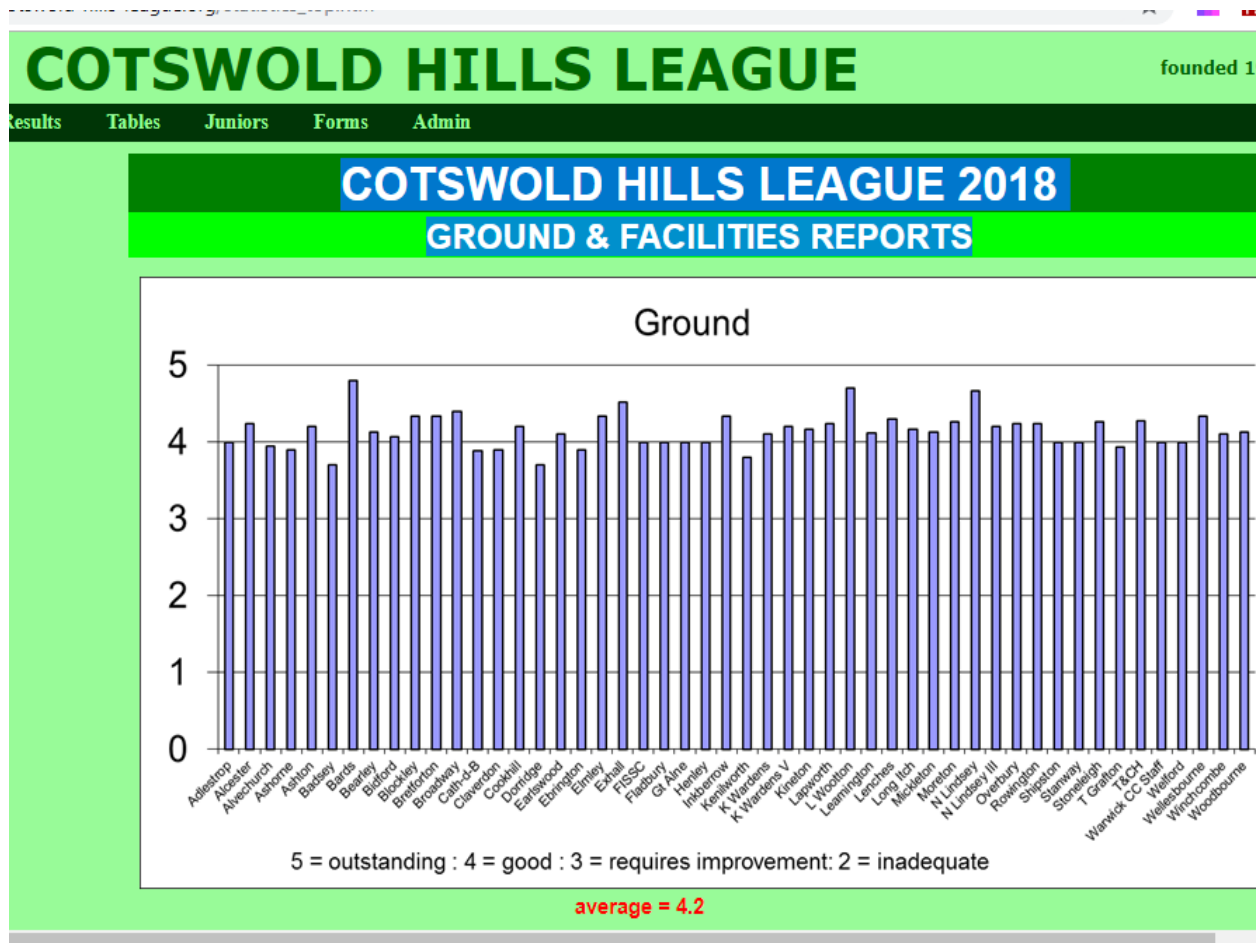
#### ***Cotswold Hills League -***

8.17 The Cotswold Hills League has less strict quality criteria than other leagues in the area, seeking to promote participation, but at the same time ensuring that games are played on facilities that are fit for purpose.

8.18 Sites are evaluated by teams following completion of a game and are assessed on grass cover, pitch in play, appearance of square and outfield, boundary markings, pitch markings and the provision of sight screens. Facilities are also evaluated for Showers, changing and toilets. Facility requirements are relatively basic and not unduly onerous, however are designed to ensure that a good level of cricket can be played.

8.19 Chart 8.2 (extracted directly from Cotswold Hills League website) reveals that all of the facilities in Warwick District achieve scores rating facilities as good, and indeed some are amongst the highest quality in the league.

Chart 8.2 – Scores achieved in Cotswold Hills Cricket League



8.20 On a site-specific basis; the following feedback specific to each club was evident;

- Warwick – pitch grass cover, square and outfield requiring improvement on several occasions and achieving low average score. Toilets also rated as requiring improvement once
- Kenilworth CC (playing at Harbury) – appearance of square / outfield and pitch in play rated as requiring improvement once
- Kenilworth Wardens – boundary markings required improvement once
- Kenilworth Wardens (at Offchurch) boundary markings required improvement once
- Lapworth CC– showers required improvement once
- Leamington CC– outfield required improvement once
- Leek Wootton CC– improvements to changing facilities (once)
- Norton Lindsey and Wolverton CC – no improvements identified
- Rowington CC – no improvements identified



- Stoneleigh CC – showers / changing and toilets identified as unsuitable on multiple occasions
- Warwick County Council staff CC – grass cover, square a, outfield and boundary markings identified as poor on one – two occasions

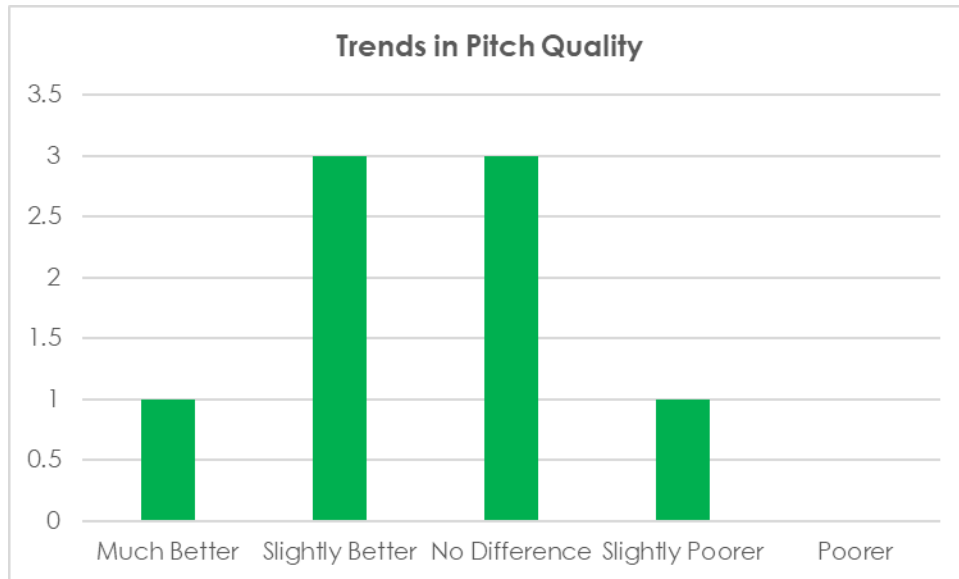
### **Birmingham and District Premier League**

- 8.21 The Birmingham and District Premier League includes Kenilworth Wardens and Leamington Cricket Club and is the highest standard league in the area. As a result, facility requirements are the most stringent of all the leagues in which local clubs participate.
- 8.22 Grounds are marked after each game, with consideration given to the outfield as well as the condition of the square. As the highest standard cricket within the area, grounds are expected to meet the highest quality criteria of all of the leagues.
- 8.23 Full details of site assessments are not provided online, but no known quality issues were raised with either club in respect to competing with this league.

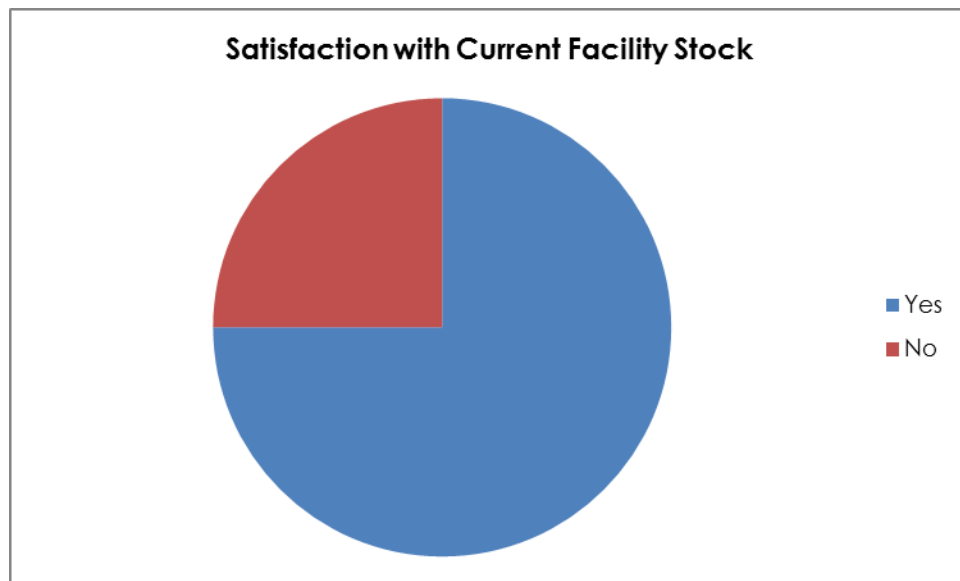
### **Club Consultation**

- 8.24 Consultation was carried out with all clubs playing league cricket within Warwick District. Quality issues were raised as issues by several clubs (and site specific issues are recorded in Table 8.2) but the key issues emerging with regards quality were;
- A greater number of clubs indicate that pitches have improved in quality than consider there to have been deterioration. Most improvement is attributed to specific, targeted investment by the provider while deterioration is considered to have arisen due to issues with maintenance / investment. The overall trends are illustrated in Chart 8.3;
  - Opinions are mixed with regards the overall quality of facilities, but reflecting the findings of site visits, vary between standard and good. The majority of clubs consider their facilities to be good;
  - the key concern raised relating to quality is the condition of the outfield with several clubs highlighting undulations and a need for levelling and this reflects the findings of site visits. There are also some sites suffering from the impact of dog fouling and informal use of the facilities;
  - while some clubs highlight the prohibitive costs of effective maintenance regimes, most clubs maintaining their own grounds felt that they had the knowledge and expertise to do so. There were however concerns raised about the reliance upon one or two club members for effective maintenance procedures (and therefore raising concerns about appropriate succession planning. Lack of funding was perceived to be a key barrier to pitch and facility improvement
  - it is clear that significant investment has taken place in the 3 years since the previous strategy, particularly in training facilities and improvements to maintenance equipment. Many clubs however identify ongoing investment needs, particularly around the pavilions and / or the need for larger pavilions to meet the needs of their growing clubs.
  - 75% of responding clubs are satisfied with the quality of the existing facility stock as demonstrated in Chart 8.3. Those that are not attribute this to concerns about the size of clubhouses and the amount of pitches.

**Chart 8.3: Perceived Trends in Pitch Quality**



**Chart 8.4: Satisfaction with Facility Stock**



- 8.25 Building upon the general findings, Table 8.2 summarises site specific quality issues identified. The information included is based upon the triangulation of evidence from clubs, provider, non-technical site visits and local league feedback.
- 8.26 The Cricket Board highlight the importance of all components of pitch quality, prioritising pitch maintenance, pitch quality and the provision of appropriate pavilions. Cricket Board research indicates that the components of sustainability are social / economic and environmental and that all elements are central to building a successful cricket club.

Site Name	Pitch Condition (Wickets and Outfield)	Pavilion	Non Turf Wicket	Nets	Maintenance
Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground	Outfield undulating with some patchy areas. Concerns about impact of proposed development in neighbouring fields - installation of cricket ball safety netting required. League ratings have also raised concerns about grass coverage, square and outfield.	Adequate	Requires complete refurbishment, surface is lifting, evidence of heavy wear.	None available	
Kenilworth Cricket Club	Some patchy areas of outfield. Would benefit from improvement of outfield and boundary, which is a key priority. Seeking to also install new boundary fencing from neighbouring fields which will be developed into housing. Concern re. ball netting and liability if ball is to travel into housing.	Some minor improvements required to pavilion, particularly around facilities in the bar and the provision of further chairs. Pavilion includes 3 changing facilities and a very small officials changing room.		To be refurbished this season	Club indicate that new mowers are required, car park also requires tarmacing and introduction of designated disabled bays.
Aylesford School	Grass pitch not provided.	No, although some changing facilities available within school	Surface worn in high traffic areas, but no rips or lifting of surface		
Alvis Sports and Social Club	Outfields and wickets in reasonable condition. Surface even and no clear issues identified, grass coverage and length good. Includes sightscreens, scoreboard and covers.	Large pavilion	No functioning facility would benefit from investment	None	

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club (to be relocated)	Outfield patchy, particularly impacted by preceding dry weather. Ground has had draining installed in last three years as clay surface drains poorly and causes waterlogging. Grass coverage only acceptable but surface is even. Clear evidence of rolling and maintenance on grass wickets, but outfield is laid with multi-sport grass which is not ideal for top level cricket. Limited maintenance and improvements done due to potential relocation	Pavilion on site with umpires provision, toilets and other basic facilities. 4 changing rooms available as well as officials room. Adequate car parking also available.	Surface uneven and evidence of rips and surface wear and tear.	1 mobile net evident on site, feel would also benefit from grass nets away from the square.	Equipment recently refreshed, particularly roller and all mowing equipment. Club purchased roll on covers for the second square and additional side sheets.
Leamington Cricket Club	Grass coverage acceptable, but even surface with good length. No issues identified with outfield or condition of squares. Club are looking to complete a new junior square on the main ground to put increased number of games on for juniors	On site pavilion but requires new showers and internal updates. There are 4 rooms as well as officials rooms but club feel that site would benefit from improvement	New non turf wicket on pitch 1. Old non turf wickets require refurbishment	3 new practice lanes provided as well as 2 mobile nets.	Heavy usage results in high maintenance requirement. New groundsman means that maintenance has recently improved. Financing of maintenance equipment can be challenging.
Nelson Memorial Cricket Ground	Some patchy grass with weeds evident. Coverage acceptable and although outfield has some uneven patches, wicket surface is adequate. Club however indicate that the square is not big enough for their competitive needs.	Acceptable quality with basic facilities. No heating. Club see improvements to the pavilion as a key priority. Existing facility does not have separate facilities for officials and club indicate that size of facility is now starting to inhibit potential growth in club facilities.	None available	Practice nets available but club indicate that an additional facility is required	Recent improvements to equipment have resulted in better quality ground conditions.

Norton Lindsey Village Recreation Ground	Patchy grass although acceptable, outfield shared with football. Even surface. Club indicate that dog fouling is a continuous problem. Drainage of the square is also a key concern.	Well presented with outdoor seating. Small room for officials and 2 separate changing rooms. Club indicate that away dressing room is too small and that existing changing accommodation is inadequate for juniors and mixed gender teams, but that they do not have available funding to address this.	None available	New 2 lane artificial practice nets on site in good condition. Mobile net is in need of replacement	Maintenance has improved through better grass germination in Autumn
Stoneleigh Cricket Club	Beautiful location, well maintained but appears tired. Outfield is undulating and rabbit droppings on the square at time of visit.	Small pavilion providing basic facilities. Not thought to include umpire area or heating. League ratings and assessments indicate that showers and toilets have been identified as unsuitable on multiple occasions. Would benefit from updating	Old base but no functioning non turf wicket	1 mobile net evident on site	
Warwick Cricket Club	Patchy outfield grass with weeds although coverage acceptable overall. Includes sightscreens and covers which are new. Club indicate that they experience issues with dog fouling. Poor water supply to the square means that club struggle to improve facilities. League ratings indicate that pitch grass cover / square and outfield have required improvement on several occasions and a low overall average score was achieved.	5 changing rooms and officials changing provided. Adequate car parking also available.	None available	Mobile net and artificial nets but wear evident. Club indicate that existing training facilities are sufficient	Club have recently invested in some new maintenance equipment

University of Warwick (Cryfield Pavilion)	Even pitches in good condition with strong grass coverage. No issues identified with wicket quality. Second pitch has some weeds in the outfield	Small pavilion with lots of outdoor seating. Pavilions would benefit from extension if site is to have a real role in community cricket.	No issues identified. Facilities even with no clear issues with wear and tear	3 artificial practice lanes available between two pitches, some rips in surface but in overall good condition	
Leek Wootton Cricket Club	Some weeds identified in outfield although grass coverage is acceptable. Square and wickets adequate.	Large pavilion includes outdoor seating. Contains 2 changing rooms and an official's room.	None	One artificial practice net with uneven surface. Evidence of wear and tear	Would benefit from greater expertise on maintenance, as there is a strong reliance on limited volunteer workforce. Maintenance has improved this year as a consequence of new equipment being bought.
Rowington Cricket Club	Patchy grass with weeds and some undulations on the outfield. Wicket strip being rolled at the time of site visit. Site suffers from dog fouling and unofficial use. Levelling of outfield is one of club priorities.	Wooden pavilion with lots of storage. Includes 2 changing rooms but no officials room.	None available	New nets required. Existing nets are poor and uneven, with rips in the surface lining. Club highlight new nets to ECB standards as a key priority.	
Hunningham Cricket Club				2 net lanes recently funded by ECB	
Offchurch Cricket Club	Acceptable grass cover but some undulations in outfield. Some wickets very uneven and lifting. Weeds in outfield and rabbit dropping on wicket.	Building of limited quality and would benefit from investment. Basic overall	None	No practice facilities available	
North Leamington School	No grass pitch	Some basic changing facilities available within school building	Non turf wicket of standard quality	None	

Kenilworth School (Meadow Community Sports Centre)	No grass pitch	Some basic changing facilities available within school building	Non turf wicket worn and unusable	5 artificial practice lanes overgrown and unusable	
Myton School (John Atkinson Sports Centre)	No grass pitch	School facilities available for community use through dual use management agreement	None turf wicket of adequate quality		

8.27 Bringing together both the findings of the site specific information presented in Table 4.3, as well as the key issues arising through consultation and triangulation of data, it is therefore clear that based upon the above components of pitch provision;

- Overall, the quality of cricket facilities is good, with all grass pitches functional and no poor quality facilities identified. It is clear that there has been significant investment in the quality of pitches and associated facilities in recent years;
- There do however exist some quality concerns, with issues relating to the condition of the outfield in particular evident on many pitches in the district (to a greater or lesser degree). Most clubs are however satisfied with their facilities and this is echoed through the league weekly assessments, which reveal no clear concerns on any site;
- the availability of outdoor facilities for training is reasonable, but there are some sites where new facilities are required. Alvis Sports and Social Club, Stoneleigh Cricket Club and Offchurch Cricket Club are the only cricket clubs where neither artificial training nets or a non turf wicket is required.
- The quality of pavilions is on the whole good, although improvements are required to ancillary facilities at Stoneleigh CC, Lapworth CC, Norton Lindsey CC and Leamington CC. In some instances, the facilities available within the changing pavilion are also perceived to be impacting on club development, ie a lack of changing rooms available to enable the club to accommodate junior play.

### **Security of Tenure**

8.28 Most sites in the district are owned and managed by clubs, or larger sports Trusts of which the cricket club is a part. Clubs therefore have strong control of the facilities that they use and most clubs are very proactive in the improvement that they make. This means that cricket continues to be self-sustaining.

8.29 Very few issues with lease arrangements and security of tenure are raised, however;

- Norton Lindsey CC only rent their facility, while Rowington CC have an annual license from the Rowington Cricket Trust. This may impact on the ability of these clubs to access funding;
- Kenilworth Cricket Club – concerned about the impact that neighbouring housing development will have on their site – existing plans will see housing developed in close proximity to the cricket club, with no clarity on how it will be ensured that the ball does not travel etc.
- Kenilworth Wardens CC will be required to relocate as part of allocated housing development that will take place on their existing site.

### **Demand**

8.30 There are 46 formal senior teams currently based in Warwick District and an additional 8 senior midweek teams. The vast majority of these teams are male teams, with just three senior ladies teams (at University of Warwick, Kenilworth Wardens and Leamington Spa Cricket Club). This represents a decline on the number of teams that were evident in 2013.

8.31 Teams primarily play in the Cotswold Hills League, the Warwickshire Cricket league and the Birmingham and District Cricket League. Many of the clubs also have teams in the Arden Sunday Cricket League.



- 8.32 There are a number of small midweek leagues including the Rugby and District League, Shirley Cricket league and the Coventry and District Midweek Cricket League.
- 8.33 In addition to the above teams, several teams run friendly sides. While some are included in the above totals, there are a further 6 teams playing ad hoc games (but less than 3 in total) during the season.
- 8.34 There are also 43 youth teams, ranging in age from U9 all the way up to U19. More than 50% of clubs in the district do have junior sections, with just Lapworth CC, Stoneleigh CC, Offchurch CC, Warwickshire County Council Staff CC and University of Warwick only accommodating adult teams. The number of junior teams is broadly similar to that identified in 2013, suggesting that the main decline has been in senior cricket. The balance between junior and senior cricket is therefore also now more even, with approaching 50% of cricket taking place being junior teams.
- 8.35 Most teams are accommodated at their home ground, however there is a small amount of displacement both within and outside of the district, specifically;
- One team from Kenilworth CC is displaced to Harbury (outside of the district)
  - One team from Kenilworth Wardens CC plays at Offchurch CC
  - Norton Lindsey CC – one team travels to Snitterfield (outside of the district)
  - Warwick Cricket Club – one team travels to Clavendon (outside of the district)
- 8.36 In an ideal scenario, the above teams would be accommodated in close proximity to their first team grounds.
- 8.37 Leamington Khalsa CC are also displaced outside of the district to Lighthorne Sports and Social Club. All teams play at this venue but the club are looking to relocate back within Warwick District boundaries. This was also the case in 2013.
- 8.38 Table 4.4 summarises the cricket clubs playing across Warwick District.

**Table 4.4: Cricket Teams in Warwick District**

Club	Participation Trends				
	Adult	Junior	Midweek	Main Home Ground	
Alvis Junior CC	1		2	Alvis Sport and Social Club	New male team but decline in junior activity
Hunningham Cricket Club	3	4	1	Hunningham Cricket Club	Decline in the number of junior teams run
Kenilworth Cricket Club	4	9		Kenilworth CC	Increase in junior activity. Senior play static in recent years but decline of one team since 2013
Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club	8	12	1	Kenilworth Wardens CC	Increase in all sections including the reinvigoration of the ladies section
Lapworth Cricket Club	3		1	Lapworth CC - Nelson Memorial Ground	Increasing senior play

Club	Participation Trends				Main Home Ground	
	Adult	Junior	Midweek			
Leamington Cricket Club	6	7	1		Leamington CC	The number of participants is continuing to increase in all sections of the club
Leamington Khalsa Cricket Club	2		3		Lighthorne Sports and Social Club	Significant decrease in club numbers since 2013
Leek Wootton Cricket Club	2	4			Memorial Ground - Leek Wootton	Increasing junior participation. Senior teams now static although decline since 2013.
Norton Lindsey Cricket Club	4	1	1		Norton Lindsey Recreation Ground	Increasing senior teams and creation of junior section
Offchurch Cricket Club	1				Offchurch Cricket Club	Decline of 1 team. Club has withdrawn from league play and now plays social cricket only
Rowington Cricket Club	2		0		Rowington CC	Participation static
Star Alvis CC	2		1		Alvis Sport and Social Club	Reduction of 1 team since 2013
Stoneleigh Cricket Club	2				Stoneleigh Cricket Club	Static
University of Warwick Cricket Club	6	1			University of Warwick, Cryfield Pavilion	Increase due to growth of female section
Warwick Cricket Club	4	3	1		The Pavilion, Hampton Road	Decline in number of adult teams, static youth section
Warwickshire County Council Cricket Club	2				Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground	Static
Leamington Lemmings CC	1		1		Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground	Static

### Trends in Participation

- 8.39 As evidenced in Table 4.4, participation in cricket in Warwick District as a whole is fairly static with an overall decline in senior play but some increases in junior play. There are no clear patterns for growth and decline, although it is evident that most of the clubs that are growing are larger clubs with more facilities.
- 8.40 Clubs that have experienced growth in general attribute this to targeting new markets, such as female cricket and increasing the number of youth teams. Several clubs reference initiatives such as All Stars as helping them to attract new players. Over 2000 new players have now engaged with the All Stars programme in Warwickshire and it is hoped that these players will transition through the age groups in the coming years.
- 8.41 At the time of the 2013 strategy, several clubs expressed a view that the facility infrastructure was starting to restrict club growth. This viewpoint was still evident during consultation undertaken as part of this strategy, with several clubs highlighting that they have teams that are displaced and others indicating that the size of their changing facilities prohibits them from running further activity.

### **Training Needs**

- 8.42 Clubs primarily use indoor training nets during the winter months. Facilities are available at Meadow Sports Centre (Kenilworth School) and Warwick University. There are also indoor cricket nets at Warwick School (although community use is limited). Finham Park 2 School in Coventry City is also used by some clubs.
- 8.43 In the summer months, all clubs train on their existing sites using a combination of the grass squares, training nets and non turf wickets.
- 8.44 The ECB emphasise the importance of clubs having access to appropriate training facilities – this is particularly important for clubs trying to develop junior sections, as juniors tend to gravitate towards high quality training facilities and a developmental environment. A lack of off field training facilities can also restrict the amount of development activities that can take place, as youth training / implementation of All Stars programmes etc starts to conflict with space required for training.

### **Last Man Stands**

- 8.45 There are no Last Man Stands leagues based within Warwick District itself although residents are able to compete in Last Man Stands Warwickshire, which currently plays out of Westwood Heath Sports Ground and Meridan Sports Ground. There are teams from Warwick District Playing in this league.
- 8.46 There are no known plans to establish a Last Man Stands franchise in the district itself and no clear evidence of demand.

### **Casual Demand**

- 8.47 With no facilities available on public recreation grounds, there is little evidence of casual cricket being played in the district. Public pitches that were available at the time of the previous PPS are now no longer available. Some clubs indicate that their pitches are hired on an ad hoc basis by work teams, but otherwise there is limited evidence of casual demand at the current time. Indeed the public pitches were withdrawn from use due to a perceived lack of demand.

### **Educational Demand**

- 8.48 Demand for formal cricket pitches is much less evident from the education sector than other sports and this is also echoed by the lack of cricket facilities that are located at school sites. Most of the secondary schools do however have access to a non turf wicket and there are facilities of excellent quality at Warwick School.
- 8.49 Cricket in schools is however strong and the Warwickshire Schools Cricket Association organises ten competitions for schools in Warwickshire. These range from U12 – U19 and there is also a hardball competition for primary schools. There is however little evidence of engagement from schools in Warwick District with the exception of Warwick School, who enter the majority of competitions.
- 8.50 The Chance to Shine Programme, which brings cricket back into primary schools and seeks to create strong links between schools and clubs has however been particularly successful.
- 8.51 Competitive cricket is also being organised at a secondary school level through the Chance to Compete however it is thought that pathways to clubs from schools are currently fragmented.

### Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 8.52 The adequacy of facilities for cricket is measured by comparing the amount of wickets available against the level of use of these wickets. This is considered firstly at a site-specific level and then compiled to present a district wide picture.
- 8.53 For cricket, unlike other pitch sports, the capacity of a pitch is measured on a seasonal basis (as opposed to weekly) and is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Play is rotated throughout the season across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair.
- 8.54 As a guide, the ECB suggests that a **good quality** wicket should be able to take;
- 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults);
  - 7 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors);
  - 60 matches per season per non-turf wicket (adults); and
  - 80 matches per season per non-turf wicket (juniors).
- 8.55 For sites where the condition of the wicket is poorer, the amount of games that can be sustained without impact on the condition of the facility is lower.
- 8.56 Demand is therefore measured in terms of the number of home games that each team will play per season.
- 8.57 Almost all competitive cricket in Warwick District currently takes place on grass wickets. There is limited opportunity to transfer this to non-turf wickets due to a lack of provision, and only a small number of examples of where junior games have taken place on a non turf wicket over the course of the 2018 season (Kenilworth Wardens CC).

### Demand at Peak Time

- 8.58 While use of the wicket across the season is important, a high proportion of adult demand is from teams playing in Saturday afternoon leagues and the availability of pitches at this time has therefore also been considered. Junior teams and friendly teams generally play across the week when pitches are available and so access to facilities on a specific day is less important. Higher numbers of junior teams can however restrict the use of facilities by midweek teams, therefore having a knock-on effect to the adult game.
- 8.59 Furthermore, the lack of off field practice facilities also pressurises activities at the cricket club base, with teams competing for training facilities with junior teams wishing to play competitive fixtures. The introduction of other schemes such as Chance to Shine adds further requirement for access to space.

### Situation at Individual Sites

- 8.60 Table 8.5 provides an overview of site specific activity for each of the pitches that offer community use in Warwick District. It also highlights other issues that have arisen in relation to each site and summarises the information relating to quality that was presented in previous tables. It clearly indicates that;
- all grass pitch sites are used at least once per week;

- there is very little spare capacity available on a peak time (Saturday PM), and there is evidence of displacement both within and outside the district
- most sites are able to accommodate a little more play based upon the capacity of existing squares. It is clear however that capacity is becoming tight at some of the larger clubs, both in terms of the use of the wicket but also in terms of programming the number of junior fixtures that are required. There are six sites that do not have sufficient capacity to accommodate an additional adult team across the season.
- as in 2013, there is very limited community use of any of the school facilities. The only site that is used at all is Kenilworth School, and it is thought that it is predominantly the indoor cricket nets that are used at this venue.

8.61 At a site-specific level;

- almost all sites can sustain a small amount of further play across the season, although the amount of additional play that can be sustained varies significantly. Pitches at Kenilworth CC (who will shortly relocate – this will be returned to later), Alvis Sports and Social and Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Clubs are however already overplayed.
- Warwickshire County Council Staff, Warwick Cricket Club and Hunningham Cricket Club have the smallest amounts of spare capacity across the season, with only Warwick Cricket Club having scope to accommodate an additional adult team. Spare capacity is highest at Rowington Cricket Club, Leek Wootton Cricket Club and Leamington Cricket Club;
- at almost all sites, training takes place on the grass pitches, meaning that spare capacity is in reality more restricted than may first appear. The introduction of non-turf wickets and / or training nets would reduce this usage and ensure that the wickets are maintained for competitive play;
- while across the season there is scope for additional play, capacity is much more restricted at peak time. The only remaining site with scope for use on a Saturday is Stoneleigh Cricket Club. Added to this, several teams from existing clubs within Warwick District already travel outside of the district to share facilities with clubs in neighbouring authorities;
- there is no formal use of any of the school sites for competitive activity.

8.62 The above picture is therefore very similar to that presented in 2013.

**Table 8.5: Site Specific Usage**

Site Name	Grass Cricket Pitches	Total Wickets	Adult Game Wicket Requirements	Youth Game Wicket Requirements	Total Wicket Requirement	Position (Current)	Peak Time	Position	Key Facility Gaps
Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground	1	8	6.6	0.0	6.6	1.4	0	Able to sustain more play	Quality of outfield and square. Poor non turf wicket
Kenilworth Cricket Club	1	14	12.6	4.6	17.2	-3.2	0	Overplayed and one Saturday team displaced.	Issues with boundary and new housing development, outfield. Minor improvement required to pavilion, new machinery
Alvis Sports and Social Club	1	8	7.8	1.3	9.1	-1.1	0	Overplayed	Training facilities - non turf or nets.
Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club	2	23	17.2	6.3	23.5	-0.5	0	Overplayed	Issues with drainage, poor non turf wicket and would benefit from other nets
Leamington Cricket Club	3	29	15.2	4.3	19.5	9.5	0	Able to sustain more play	Replacement of non turf wicket / provision of new. Improvement to pavilion
Nelson Memorial Cricket Ground	1	10	6.2	0.0	6.2	3.8	0	Able to sustain more play	Pavilion, training facilities. Drainage
North Lindsey Village Recreation Ground	1	14	6.6	0.9	7.5	6.5	0	Able to sustain more play	Increased pavilion size, drainage of square. Replacement mobile nets and new non turf wicket
Stoneleigh Cricket Club	1	9	2.8	0.0	2.8	6.2	0.5	Able to sustain more play	Pavilion, condition of outfield and square.

Site Name	Grass Cricket Pitches	Total Wickets	Adult Game Wicket Requirements	Youth Game Wicket Requirements	Total Wicket Requirement	Position (Current)	Peak Time	Position	Key Facility Gaps
									No functioning non turf wicket
Warwick Cricket Club	1	12	8	1.7	9.7	2.3	0	Able to sustain more play	Improved outfield / square and address water supply issues
University of Warwick (Cryfield Pavilion)	2	17	5	0.0	5.0	12.0	0		Increased size of pavilions
Leek Wootton Cricket Club	1	13	3.6	1.9	5.5	7.5	0	Able to sustain more play	Greater focus on maintenance
Rowington Cricket Club	1	12	3.8	0.0	3.8	8.2	0	Able to sustain more play	new nets, improvement to outfield (levelling)
Hunningham Cricket Club	1	9	5.4	2.9	8.3	0.7	0	Played to level pitch can sustain	
Offchurch Cricket Club	1	8	3	0.0	3.0	5.0	0	Able to sustain more play	Levelling, basic pavilion only. No training facilities

### Current Picture of Provision

8.63 The site overviews set out in Table 8.5 can be used to develop a picture of provision across Warwick District. This is set out in Table 8.6 and illustrated in Chart 8.5. It demonstrates that there is scope to accommodate 27 additional adult teams across the season if all available strips on all wickets were used. Much of this is however at Warwick University, and capacity at clubs is much more limited.

8.64 There is however only 0.5 match equivalents available on a Saturday afternoon.

8.65 Added to this, there are three teams displaced out of the district currently due to a lack of spare capacity on their own sites. Leamington Khalsa CC are also displaced in their entirety outside of the district and this will be returned to later in this section.

**Table 8.6: Cricket Pitch Provision - Capacity**

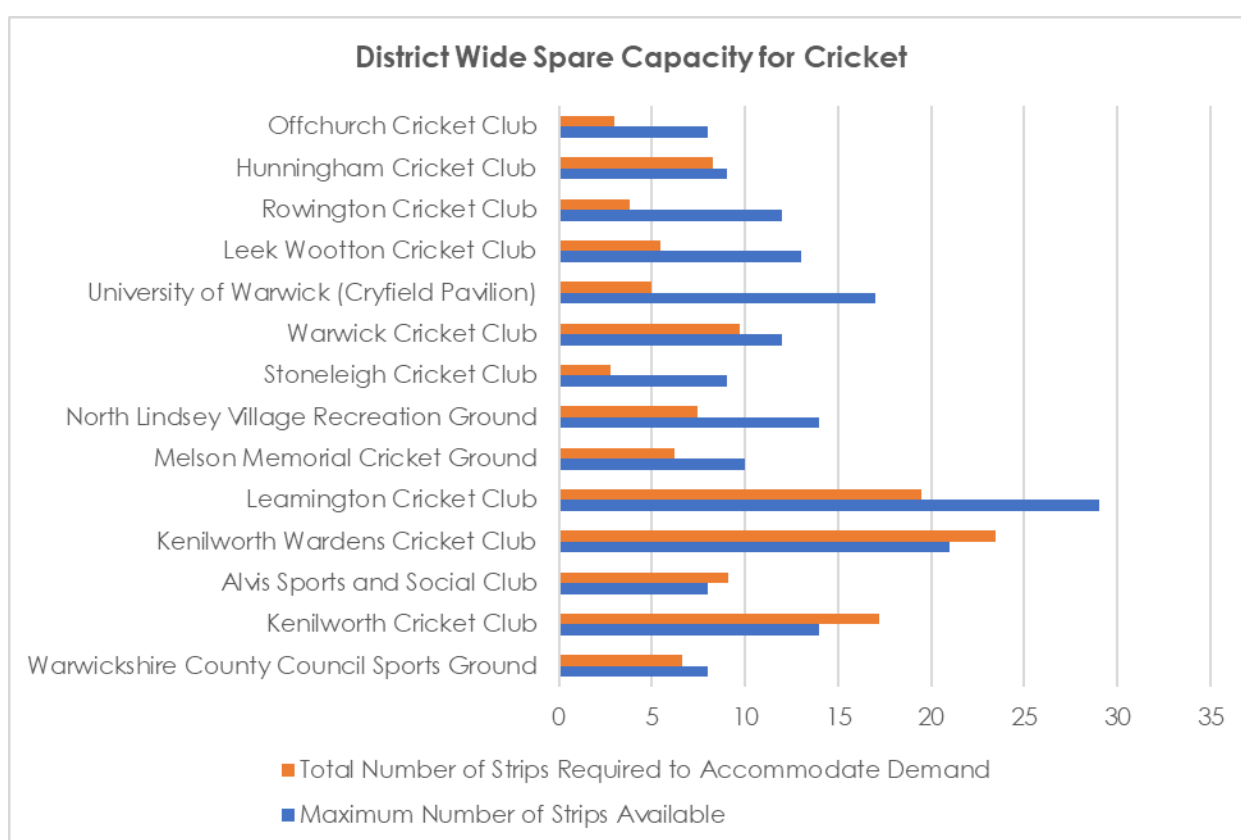
Site Name	Spare Capacity (Number of Strips)	Peak Time	Potential Number of adult teams	Potential Number of Junior Teams	Total Number of additional adult teams	Total Number of Additional Youth Teams	Total Availability at Peak Time
Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground	1.4	0	0	1.4			
Kenilworth Cricket Club	-3.17	0	0	0			
Alvis Sports and Social Club	-1.09	0	0	0			
Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club	-0.49	0	0	0			
Leamington Cricket Club	9.51	0	4	9			
Nelson Memorial Cricket Ground	3.8	0	1	3			
North Lindsey Village Recreation Ground	6.5	0	3	6	27	59	
Stoneleigh Cricket Club	6.2	0.5	3	6			
Warwick Cricket Club	2.29	0	1	2			
University of Warwick (Cryfield Pavilion)	12	0	6	12			
							0.5. Three teams at existing sites are also displaced



Leek Wootton Cricket Club	7.54	0	3	7
Rowington Cricket Club	8.2	0	4	8
Hunningham Cricket Club	0.74	0	0	0
Offchurch Cricket Club	5	0	2	5

\*Negative numbers indicate that the existing strips on the grass square are overplayed

**Chart 8.5: District Wide Spare Capacity**



8.66 Table 8.6 and Chart 8.5 therefore reinforce the message outlined earlier indicating that there is limited spare capacity across the season (with none available at some key clubs) and that there is almost no scope for additional play at peak time.

8.67 The pressures on the existing stock of cricket pitches were raised by several clubs and the lack of public venues was also highlighted as a key concern for clubs.

## Displaced / Unmet Demand

8.68 Leamington Khalsa CC are displaced outside of the district (in Lighthorne) and continue to seek a relocation to Leamington. There is insufficient spare capacity available at peak time to accommodate their existing teams and no venue that could clearly accommodate all of their needs across the week. As the club are currently actively seeking relocation, they should be considered displaced demand.

## Future Picture of Provision

8.69 While there is currently adequate provision in quantitative terms to meet the needs of teams currently playing in the district overall (although qualitative issues and some site by site pressures have been identified), there is no clear means of accommodating Leamington Khalsa CC, who are currently considered displaced demand.

8.70 Added to this, population growth will impact upon future demand, as will changes in participation trends. These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

## Population Change – Trends Based Population Projections

8.71 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.

8.72 Table 8.7 summarises the current TGRs for cricket and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected changes to the population profile on demand. This is based upon trends based population projections (additional growth in the population that will be delivered as part of the local plan will be considered separately later in this section). It reveals that population growth and changes to the population profile will result in;

- A decline in the number of people aged between 18 – 55, but insufficient to generate an overall reduction in teams
- A slight increase in the number of residents aged for junior cricket will see an additional team generated.

**Table 8.7: Impact of Changes to the Population Profile (trends based population projections)**

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area	Change in population	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number of Teams)
Cricket Open Age Mens (18-55yrs)	51	36704	720	36532	-172	-0.2
Cricket Open Age Womens (18-55yrs)	3	36704	12235	36532	-172	0.0
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	43	8361	194	8533	172	0.9

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area	Change in population	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number of Teams)
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	0	8361	#DIV/0!	8533	172	0

8.73 In terms of pitch requirements, this would result in;

- demand for senior cricket pitches remaining static; and
- a need to accommodate circa 7 junior matches per season.

8.74 Given that there is spare capacity within the current stock, the above levels of growth in participation can be accommodated across the district as a whole as there is no requirement for additional cricket at peak time (although there will be still no capacity to accommodate Leamington Khalsa CC within the existing stock).

8.75 There are however some clubs where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate an additional team.

#### Participation Trends and Growth Aspirations– Impact on Pitches

8.76 The Warwickshire Cricket Board is seeking to implement a sustainable approach to the development of cricket, retaining existing players and developing new players at both junior and adult level, in line with the new ECB Strategy Cricket Unleashed.

8.77 The strategy seeks to support sustainable increases in club membership and increased participation in cricket over the strategy period. The key priorities of this strategy are summarised in Table 8.8.

**Table 8.8: Key Objectives of Cricket Unleashed (ECB 2016)**

Objectives	Delivery Mechanisms	Outcomes
Making the game more accessible and inspiring the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing clubs and leagues (including investing in support roles and development tools to simplify club and league management</li> <li>• Kids - providing more opportunities for children to play through schools</li> <li>• Community - diversifying to ensure all sectors of the community embrace cricket</li> <li>• Casual - breaking down barriers and improving access.</li> </ul>	<p>Number of people playing cricket</p> <p>Number of U16 playing cricket.</p>

Objectives	Delivery Mechanisms	Outcomes
	This will include indoor cricket as well as informal and small sided formats of the game.	
Deliver winning teams that inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathway for talented players</li> <li>• Supporting talented teams</li> <li>• Working with elite teams</li> <li>• Focusing on clear plans for success in England teams</li> </ul>	<p>Performances in World Cups and International Test Series.</p> <p>Consistent and clearly defined county pathways.</p>
Create inspired fans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fan focused - improve fan experience and engage with club members to understand needs</li> <li>• New fans - attract a new audience</li> <li>• Global Stage - maximise opportunities from hosting global events</li> <li>• Broadcast and digital - seek to improve to attract new and enhance experience for existing fans.</li> </ul>	<p>The number of people who have an interest in cricket.</p> <p>The number of U16 who attend cricket matches.</p>
We will make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrity - promote and adopt best practice standards of governance</li> <li>• Community programmes - to make a positive difference</li> <li>• Environment - work to promote environmental sustainability</li> <li>• One plan - develop local strategies seeking to deliver the national plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Coordinated local plans.</p> <p>The number of people that benefit from community programmes.</p>
Strong finance and operations - Deliver winning teams that inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People - support and recognise the roles of volunteers and staff within the game</li> <li>• Revenue and reach - build stronger revenue streams and commercial partners</li> </ul>	<p>Financial sustainability of cricket.</p> <p>Investment in delivery of strategy.</p>

Objectives	Delivery Mechanisms	Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insight - invest in improving understanding of how people engage with cricket</li> <li>Operations - deliver efficient and response administration.</li> </ul>	

- 8.78 Achievement of the key goals of the national strategy are likely to have a positive impact on club membership and demand for cricket in Warwickshire. Local versions of new initiatives are already in place and several clubs are already running the All Stars Initiative, as well as activities designed to increase participation amongst women and girls. Success has already started to be seen in terms of club growth and several clubs indicate that they have seen an increase in the number of junior players as a direct consequence of the new initiatives launched.
- 8.79 Linking with the aspirations of the national strategy, many of the cricket clubs have aspirations for growth. Table 8.9 considers the known aspirations of each club and based upon the current situation, the impact of the achievement of these aspirations in terms of the adequacy of provision.
- 8.80 It indicates that growth aspirations will place further pressures on pitch provision across Warwick District.

Table 8.9: Adequacy of Provision to Meet Aspirations for growth.

Site Name	Position (Current)	Peak Time (Saturday afternoon)	Potential Number of adult teams	Potential Number of Junior Teams	Growth Aspirations	Ability to Accommodate Growth Aspirations
Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground	1.4	0	0	1.4	None recorded	Very limited ability to accommodate other growth
Kenilworth Cricket Club	-3.17143	0	0	0	Additional 4 adult / 5 youth teams	Unable to accommodate all growth aspirations.
Alvis Sports and Social Club	-1.08571	0	0	0	None recorded	No further opportunities for growth
Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club	-0.485	0	0	0	None recorded	No further opportunities for growth although club hoping to relocate within next few years which may

Site Name	Position (Current)	Peak Time (Saturday afternoon)	Potential Number of adult teams	Potential Number of Junior Teams	Growth Aspirations	Ability to Accommodate Growth Aspirations
						provide additional capacity
Leamington Cricket Club	9.514286	0	4	9	2 junior teams in the next three years	This level of growth can be accommodated
Nelson Memorial Cricket Ground	3.8	0	1	3	1 senior male 1 senior female	Able to sustain one but not two additional senior teams
North Lindsey Village Recreation Ground	6.542857	0	3	6	None recorded	Scope for growth in participation
Stoneleigh Cricket Club	6.2	0.5	3	6	None recorded	Scope for growth in participation
Warwick Cricket Club	2.285714	0	1	2	1 senior male team	Able to sustain additional team but club would

Site Name	Position (Current)	Peak Time (Saturday afternoon)	Potential Number of adult teams	Potential Number of Junior Teams	Growth Aspirations	Ability to Accommodate Growth Aspirations
						then be at capacity
University of Warwick (Cryfield Pavilion)	12	0	6	12	None recorded	Scope for growth in participation
Leek Wootton Cricket Club	7.542857	0	3	7	Extra age group each year	Capacity to accommodate up to 7 youth teams
Rowington Cricket Club	8.2	0	4	8	None recorded	Scope for growth in participation
Hunningham Cricket Club	0.742857	0	0	0	None recorded	No further opportunities for growth
Offchurch Cricket Club	5	0	2	5	None recorded	Scope for growth in participation



## Impact of Proposed Housing Growth Across Warwick District (New Development Calculator)

- 8.81 Building on the adequacy of provision to meet current demand and targeted population growth Table 8.10 summarises the findings of the New Development Calculator to summarise the overall impact of the projected housing growth (cumulative across the District) on demand for cricket across the season.
- 8.82 It considers both the overall impact of all proposed houses across the district (highlighted in bold) but also details the specific impact of the larger strategic housing sites.

**Table 8.10 – Impact of New Development on Demand for Cricket Across Warwick District**

Area	Increased Demand (Matches per season)	Likely Equivalent Pitch
<b>District Wide</b>		
District Wide	159	3.55
<b>Strategic Sites</b>		
Land West of Europa Way (1210 dwellings)	18.12	0 – 1
Land South of Harbury Lane (1605 dwellings)	24.03	0 – 1
Gallows Hill (630 dwellings)	9.43	0 – 1
Whitnash East (500 dwellings)	7.49	0 – 1
The Asps (900 dwellings)	13.48	0 – 1
East of Kenilworth Thickthorn (760 dwellings)	11.38	0 – 1
East of Kenilworth (policy ds12) 640 dwellings	9.58	0 – 1
Kings Hill (1800 dwellings)	26.95	0 – 1

- 8.83 Table 6.9 therefore reveals that overall, the proposed housing growth will result in an increase in demand across the district. While at each individual housing development the impact is relatively minimal (although on some sites demand for one or more pitches will be generated), cumulatively demand will be generated for an additional 3 – 4 cricket pitches. Much of this demand may be at peak time (Saturday PM) where there is currently only 0.5 match equivalents available.

### Forthcoming Changes to Supply

- 8.84 Kenilworth Wardens CC will be required to relocate as a result of allocations in the local plan and it is anticipated that the new facility will be required by 2022.
- 8.85 The club are a large club with a wide variety of teams and are experiencing overplay. Added to this, one of the senior male teams is displaced to Offchurch as there is a lack of pitches available at peak time on a Saturday.
- 8.86 In order to ensure that provision remains sufficient and that growth can be accommodated therefore, ideally capacity at the existing site should be as a minimum replicated, but ideally, increased. This would include;
- A minimum of two cricket grounds (to replicate current provision) but ideally three to eliminate the displacement and add the opportunity for further growth at peak time

- A minimum of 24 strips across two grounds to eliminate existing overplay. Larger squares would be of benefit in enabling growth in the number of teams
- Clubhouse and changing facilities with sufficient capacity to host simultaneous games.

### **Summary and Key Issues**

8.87 The key issues arising from analysis of the context and issues for this playing pitch assessment in Warwick District are summarised in Section 10.

### Introduction

- 9.1 Warwick District Council owns an 8-lane athletics track at Edmondscote. There is a potential opportunity to vacate the current site and potentially move to Europa Way, as part of a sports hub being developed alongside the new community stadium.
- 9.2 In November 2018 Warwick District Council agreed, in principle, to relocate the athletics track and ancillary facilities, currently located at a site off Edmondscote Road, to a new site as shown on the Masterplan for the Europa Way development. The next stage of work is to undertake a full feasibility study for the provision of the new athletics facility at Europa Way.
- 9.3 Should this project come to fruition, then the assessment of need for athletics track, is that the District requires one dedicated 400m x 8 lane athletics track facility, with full provision for throwing and jump events and associated supporting facilities, and there is not the need to retain the Edmondscote facility.
- 9.4 The major athletic clubs based at Edmondscote, support the development of the facility at Europa Way. They have commented that the need to provide facilities not available at Edmondscote, such as provision for strength and condition and a social area should be considered for the new facility.
- 9.5 Should the sports hub and track relocation not proceed at Europa Way the Council is committed to retention of the Edmondscote track and supporting facilities, with further investment to modernise the facility
- 9.6 This report provides an updated evidence base report to the Warwick District Council naa *Athletics Provision Needs Assessment Report December 2014* and is intended to inform the next stage of decision making for athletics provision in Warwick District.
- 9.7 The report utilises the tools available from Sport England to assess supply, demand, access and availability using the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities guidance.
- 9.8 The report also includes consultations with Warwick District Council, the local athletic clubs and England Athletics.

### Description of Edmondscote Track

- 9.9 Edmondscote track is a synthetic, 400m, 8-lanes, 10-lane straight track, located in Leamington Spa. The facility hosts events up to regional level. The track has an eight-lane circuit and a ten lane home straight, full floodlighting, PA system, changing and shower facilities.

## Warwick District Council: Modernisation Investment

9.10 Warwick District through its capital planned maintenance and improvement budget, made significant investment in the facilities at Edmondscote in 2018. This includes:

- Outdoor toilet block re-opened and refurbished - cost of works £10,000
- Replacement and upgrading of floodlighting system – cost of works £50,000
- Complete track clean – cost of works £5000
- Track repair and relining –cost of work £38,400
- Hammer cage netting and supports replaced – cost of works £5000

9.11 The District Council has undertaken works at a total cost of £108,400, all works have been completed.

9.12 Many of the past problems with the facility have been rectified and resolved by the Council's investment programme in 2018. The problems which remain are:

- **Access & parking** – the club use has consistently outstripped the supply of parking, especially during poor weather when parking on grass is problematic, the residential location and narrow access roads pose problems for peak numbers and coach access. The problems of limited car parking are shown clearly in the aerial photograph.
- **Limited club facilities / changing** – on club days there is insufficient changing, the club area is too small. The facility is unable to accommodate other clubs which also use the track with any accommodation, leading to requests for temporary changing arrangements.
- There is no covered straight for winter sprint training.

9.13 Overall the Council has modernised the Edmondscote facility to ensure it is fit for purpose and resolved many long standing problems. Further investment has to be cost effective and that is contingent on the decision as to the long term future of Edmondscote or development of the new athletics facility.

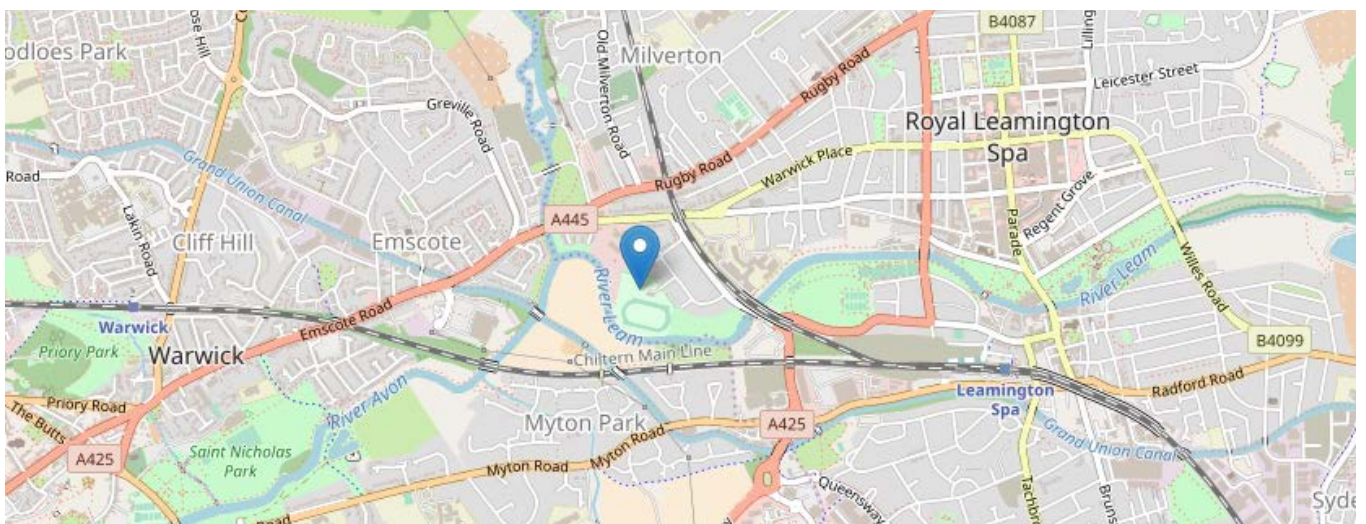
9.14 The Council through its facility management programme and site condition survey work, has identified the need to (1) modernise the main pavilion changing rooms (2) undertake works to repair lane 8 of the back straight which has subsided.

9.15 A decision on undertaking these major works is on hold, until a decision is made about whether to develop the athletics provision at Europa Way, or, retain and then further modernise the Edmondscote athletics facility.

9.16 The Council is committed to provision of an all-weather athletics facility with clubhouse and changing accommodation within Warwick District.



Map: 9.1 Location of Edmondscote Track, Leamington Spa



### Aerial Photo of the Edmondscote Track



9.17 The track is described in the UK Running Track Directory (copyright Tim Grose), though this was last updated in 2004 and so does not reflect the 2018 modernisation of the facility:

9.18 'The track was originally cinder and opened on 30th May 1964 and was upgraded to synthetic in 1987 with 7 lanes all round and an 8-lane home straight. It is set in a very pleasant location with trees surrounding most of the track. The two uncovered stands are quite old. The track surface is relatively smooth and considered by some to be in need of replacing. In 2003 the track was resurfaced and converted to 8 lanes all round with a 10 lane home straight. Further, the old LJ runways on the infield have been filled in, and a new double LJ runway has been built adjacent but outside the home straight.'

9.19 The track is the home base for Leamington Cycling and Athletics Club, Leamington Athletics Academy Kenilworth Runners and Spa Striders (road running clubs). The facility is also used on a regular basis by Warwick School, Kenilworth & District Primary Schools Association, St Peter's Catholic Primary School and other local schools.

9.20 Both the main athletic clubs make very extensive use of the facility, with a dedicated training and coaching programme, as well as participating in an extensive events programme.

9.21 Leamington Athletics Academy (LAA) established in September 2011 and affiliated to England Athletics in 2014, is a multi-event athletics club, training athletes from 6 years to 18 years old in all track and field disciplines.

9.22 Leamington Cycling & Athletics Club was formed in 1928 but previous to that there was the Leamington Cycling Club and the Leamington Athletic Club. The club provides for athletes of all abilities and level of interest in track and field, cross country and road running.

## **Supply and Demand Analysis**

### ***Quality***

9.23 The Sport England Active Places Power database suggests that the track was originally built in 1964, refurbished in 2003, and then the latest round of track and facility improvements and modernisation in 2018. The Council's modernisation works and clubs views on the current quality of the site are set out in the previous pages.

9.24 In short, the Council has made a major commitment to improve the track, upgrade and replace the floodlighting, improve the throwing event facilities and reinstate the outdoor toilets. The cost of the capital works completed by the Council in 2018 is £108,400.

9.25 The Council recognises the need to modernise the main pavilion changing rooms and undertake works to repair lane 8 of the back straight which has subsided in parts. These works are contingent on the decision to develop a new athletics facility at Europa Way, or, retain and further develop the Edmondscote facility.

### ***Quantity***

9.26 Edmondscote is the only existing athletics track in Warwick District. The all-weather tracks within a 30 minute drive time of the Edmondscote track are set out in Table 9.1.

**Table 9.1: All weather athletics tracks within a 30 minute drive time of Edmondscote athletics facility**

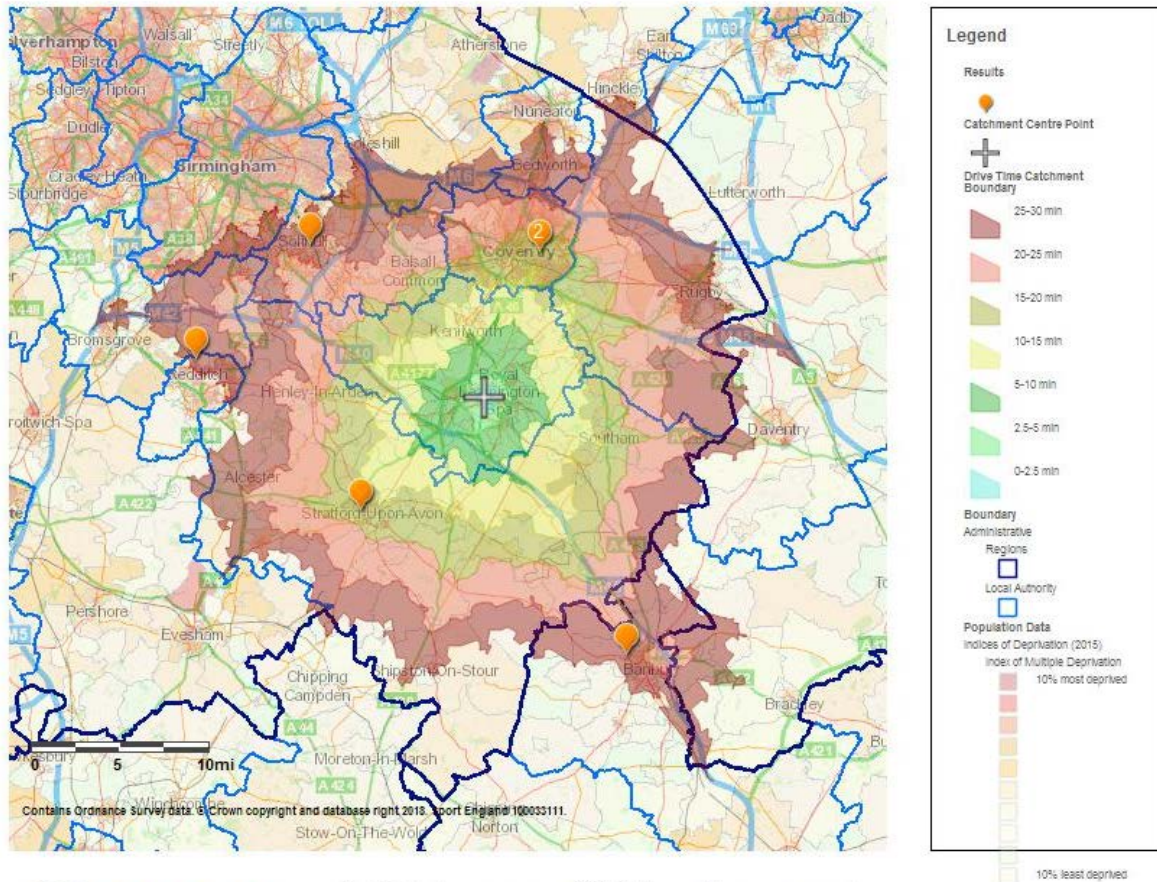
Site Name	Facility Type	Floodlit	Lanes	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurb	Local Authority Name
EDMONDSCOTE TRACK	Synthetic	Yes	8	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	1965	2003	Warwick
STRATFORD UPON AVON SCHOOL COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE	Synthetic	Yes	6	Pay and Play	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	2004	n/a	Stratford-on-Avon
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK (WESTWOOD CAMPUS)	Synthetic	Yes	8	Pay and Play	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/University (in house)	1971	2005	Coventry
WHITLEY ACADEMY	Synthetic	No	6	Private Use	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	2000	n/a	Coventry
LYNG HALL SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE	Synthetic	Yes	6	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	2006	n/a	Coventry
ABBEY STADIUM SPORTS CENTRE	Synthetic	Yes	8	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	1982	2006	Redditch
DRAYTON PAVILION	Synthetic	Yes	8	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	1998	2014	Cherwell

(Source Sport England Active Places Power database 2018)



The location of the tracks within the 30-minute drive time catchment area of Edmondscote are shown in Map 9.2.

**Map 9.2: Location of all-weather athletic tracks within 30 minutes' drive time of Edmondscote**



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply. 19/9/2018 08:51

(Source Sport England Active Places Power database 2018)

9.27 As the catchment area map shows, the Edmondscote track has a unique catchment within the 0 – 15 minutes' drive time of the track location. However, as table 9.2 shows, the total population in this unique catchment area, is only 17% of the total population within the 0 – 30 minutes' drive time catchment area of the Edmondscote track location.

**Table 9.2: Population profile within a 30 minute drive time catchment area of Edmondscote**

Catchment Area (drive time)	Total Population	% Population
0-2.5	8472	0.92
2.5-5	41007	4.47
5-10	56226	6.13
10-15	50832	5.54
15-20	211329	23.04
20-25	242281	26.41
25-30	307258	33.49
Total	917405	100%

9.28 The nearest synthetic athletic tracks to the Edmondscote track are within the 15 – 20 minutes travel band. The Stratford upon Avon School Community Sports Centre track, is a 6 lane floodlight track, with full jumps and throws provision, the track was opened in 2004. Whilst the data says the track surface has not been replaced, the web site illustrates a recent track surface. The track is the home to Stratford Athletics club and has full availability for access for local sports clubs and schools.

9.29 The other tracks in the 15 – 20 minute drive time of the Edmondscote track location, are the three tracks located in Coventry city area. According to the Active Places Power database, only the University of Warwick track which opened in 1971 has been resurfaced, in 2005. The other two tracks are both located on education sites and so do not have full access for club or public pay and train use. The Whitley Academy track opened in 2000 and the Lyng Hall School track in 2006.

9.30 The other track south of the Edmondscote track, is the Drayton Pavilion track in Banbury, Cherwell District, and it is in the 25– 30 minutes’ drive time travel band. It is a publicly owned and managed 8 lane floodlit track, with full throwing and jumps provision, it opened in 1998 and was last re-surfaced in 2014.

9.31 The final track in the catchment is in the 25 – 30 minutes’ drive time band of Edmondscote and is the publicly owned Abbey Stadium track in Redditch, opened in 1982 and last re-surfaced in 2006.

### **Accessibility**

9.32 In terms of relative supply the following table shows the available synthetic athletics facilities (excluding tracks only used privately) in lanes per 1000 population for the local authorities which have a track in the Edmondscote catchment area, also regional and national areas.

9.33 Local provision in Warwick is above the regional and national average, but this statistic is skewed by the fact that one track in a relatively small district tends to over-record as is also the case with Redditch. Three of the neighbouring authorities with a track(s) and

Warwickshire County have a lower level of provision, and Redditch has a higher level of provision.

9.34 Warwick would require a 6-lane track to meet regional and national average provision levels based on the Active Places Power data.

	Population	Tracks	Lanes	Lanes per 1000 Population
Warwick	140,615	1	8	0.057
Cherwell	146,673	1	8	0.054
Coventry	360,999	3	18	0.049
Redditch	84,971	1	8	0.094
Stratford uAvon	123,121	1	6	0.048
	210,898	2	16	0.76
Warwickshire	561,725	2	14	0.024
West Midlands	5,854,035	28	208	0.035
England	55,904,849	238	1683	0.030

(Source Sport England Active Places Power database 2018)

#### **Edmondscote Availability and Programme of Use**

9.35 The Edmondscote track availability is set out in Table 9.3, this is for 2018 but it has not changed from previous years. The track is not available for weekend afternoons in the winter on Saturday and previously clubs had commented this had limited their programmes. This does not appear to be an issue now and clubs and the track is available for events use, often clubs are participating in events away from Edmondscote at weekends.

**Table 9.3: Edmondscote track availability 2018**

Day	1 April - 30 September	1 October - 31 March
Monday	11.30am - 8.30pm	5.00pm - 8.30pm
Tuesday	11.30am - 8.30pm	5.00pm - 8.30pm
Wednesday	11.30am - 8.30pm	5.00pm - 8.30pm
Thursday	11.30am - 8.30pm	5.00pm - 8.30pm
Friday	12.00pm - 4.00pm	Track only 7.30am - 4.00pm
Saturday	9.15 am - 12.45pm	Closed
Sunday	10.00am - 1.00pm	10.00am - 1.00pm

#### **Edmondscote Programme of Use**

9.36 The Edmondscote programme of use for May 2018 is set out in table 9.4. This is a typical summer monthly programme of use and includes all user groups. The table is colour coded to identify the athletic clubs dedicated times and types of use. Leamington Cycling and Athletic Club (yellow) and Leamington Athletics Academy (pink) are the predominate users of the facility, with fewer sessions held by Leamington Spa Striders (blue). The collective use by schools are shown in white and in May 2018, some 5 individual schools booked use of the track.

9.37 There are opportunities for public pay and train use outside of the dedicated times for clubs and schools use.

9.38 Consultation with the clubs identified that the dedicated times for use by each club does work but inevitably there is the request for more track times, as the membership of the clubs expand and there is also the need for dedicated time for specialist coaching of both track, field and throwing activities. Other comments by clubs included, requests for equipment set up to be improved, for example coning off the inside lane round the complete track, also clearing of leaves off the track and cleaning/maintenance of the clubhouse could all be improved.

9.39 The monthly programme of use for all months in 2017 and 2018 is available.

**Table 9.4: Edmondscote Programme of Use May 2018**

Day	Date	Start	Finish	Club/Hirer	Event	Exclusive Use	Attendees
Tuesday	1st	2.30pm	3.45pm	Warwick School	Athletics Training		
Tuesday	1st	5.00pm	8.30pm	Leamington C&AC	Training	√	
Wednesday	2nd	1.30pm	2.30pm	Strafford Grammar	Girls		14
Wednesday	2nd	2.30pm	3.45pm	Warwick School	Athletics Training		
Wednesday	2nd	4.30pm	8pm	LAA Training			40-80
Wednesday	2nd	6.45pm	8.45pm	Kenilworth Runners	Track Training		
Thursday	3rd	2.30pm	3.45pm	Warwick School	Athletics Training		
Thursday	3rd	5.00pm	8.30pm	Leamington C&AC	Training		
Thursday	3rd	6.30pm	8pm	Spa Striders			25
Friday	4th						
Saturday	5th	10am	5.30pm	Daventry AAC	Heart of England Athletics Match	√	150
Sunday	6th	9.45am	5.45pm	Leamington C&AC	Seniors League Event	√	120+
Sunday	6th	10am	1pm	Leamington C&AC	Training		

Day	Date	Start	Finish	Club/Hirer	Event	Exclusive Use	Attendees
Monday	7th	4.30pm	8pm	LAA Training			40-80
Monday	7th						
Monday	7th						
Tuesday	8th	9.30am	6.30pm	White Line Services	Cleaning of Lane Lines	√	
Tuesday	8th	6.30pm	8.30pm	Leamington C&AC Training		√	
Wednesday	9th	8.30am	6.30pm	White Line Services	Cleaning of Lane Lines	√	
Wednesday	9th	6.30pm	8pm	LAA Training			40-80
Wednesday	9th	6.45pm	8.45pm	Kenilworth Runners	Track Training		
Thursday	10th	8.30am	6.30pm	White Line Services	Cleaning of Lane Lines	√	
Thursday	10th	6.30pm	8.30pm	Leamington C&AC Training			
Thursday	10th	6.30pm	8pm	Spa Striders			25
Friday	11th	8.30am	6.30pm	White Line Services	Cleaning of Lane Lines	√	
Saturday	12th	9.15am	12.45pm	LAA Training -	Cleaning of Lane Lines	√	40-80
Sunday	13th	10am	1pm	Leamington C&AC Training			
Monday	14th	7pm		Leamington C&AC	Committee Meeting	√	
Monday	14th	4.30pm	8pm	LAA Training			40-80
Monday	14th						
Tuesday	15th	1pm	4pm	Kenilworth School	Town Champs	√	150
Tuesday	15th	5.00pm	8.30pm	Leamington C&AC Training		√	
Wednesday	16th	2.30pm	3.45pm	Warwick School	Athletics Training		
Wednesday	16th	4.30pm	8pm	LAA Training			40-80
Wednesday	16th	6.45pm	8.45pm	Kenilworth Runners	Track Training		
Thursday	17th	1.50pm	3.15pm	St Peter's Catholic Primary School			
Thursday	17th	2.30pm	3.45pm	Warwick School	Athletics Training		
Thursday	17th	5.00pm	8.30pm	Leamington C&AC Training			
Thursday	17th	6.30pm	8pm	Spa Striders			25
Friday	18th						
Saturday	19th	9.15am	12.45pm	LAA Training			40-80
Sunday	20th	10am	1pm	Leamington C&AC Training			

Day	Date	Start	Finish	Club/Hirer	Event	Exclusive Use	Attendees
Monday	21st	4.30pm	8pm	LAA Training			40-80
Tuesday	22nd	5.00pm	8.30pm	Leamington C&AC Training		√	
Tuesday	22nd	2pm	4pm	CWSSP	Super 6's Secondary Schools Event	√	150
Wednesday	23rd	9am	2.15pm	Round Oak School	Sports Day	√	140
Wednesday	23rd	2.30pm	3.45pm	Warwick School	Athletics Training		
Wednesday	23rd	4.30pm	8pm	LAA Training			40-80
Wednesday	23rd	6.45pm	8.45pm	Kenilworth Runners	Track Training		0
Thursday	24th	1.50pm	3.15pm	St Peter's Catholic Primary School			
Thursday	24th	2.30pm	3.45pm	Warwick School	Athletics Training		
Thursday	24th	5.00pm	8.30pm	Leamington C&AC Training			
Thursday	24th	6.30pm	8pm	Spa Striders			25
Friday	25th						
Saturday	26th	9.15am	12.45pm	LAA Training			40-80
Sunday	27th	10am	1pm	Leamington C&AC Training			
Monday	28th			BANK HOLIDAY			
Tuesday	29th	5.00pm	8.30pm	Leamington C&AC Training		√	
Wednesday	30th	6.45pm	8.45pm	Kenilworth Runners	Track Training		
Thursday	31st	5.00pm	8.30pm	Leamington C&AC Training			
Thursday	31st	6.30pm	8pm	Spa Striders			25

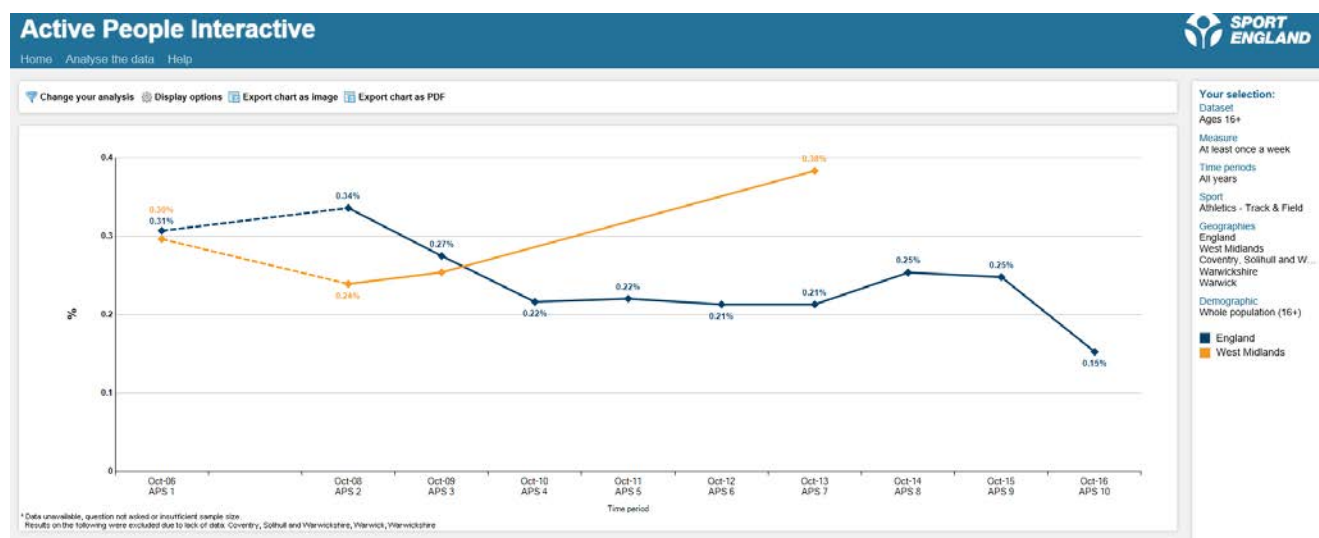
### Demand

9.40 The Sport England Active People survey ceased in 2016 and there were 10 annual surveys 2006 – 2016. It is possible to show trends in athletics participation at various geographical levels based on the APS data. The data for track and field athletics is only available for all AP surveys for England wide, for West Midlands Region it is available for 2005 – 06 to 2012 – 13.

9.41 The data shows the England wide at least once a week participation in track and field athletics, was 0.31% for the population aged 16+ in 2005 – 06 and 0.15% of the same age band population in 2015 – 16.

9.42 In West Midlands Region 0.30% of the adult population participated at least once a week in 2005 -06 and this increased to 0.38% in 2012 – 13.

Chart 9.1: Active People Surveys 2005 – 06 to 2015 – 16 Once a Week Participation in Track and Field Athletics



(Source Sport England Active People Surveys 2005 – 2016)

### Participation in all types of athletics

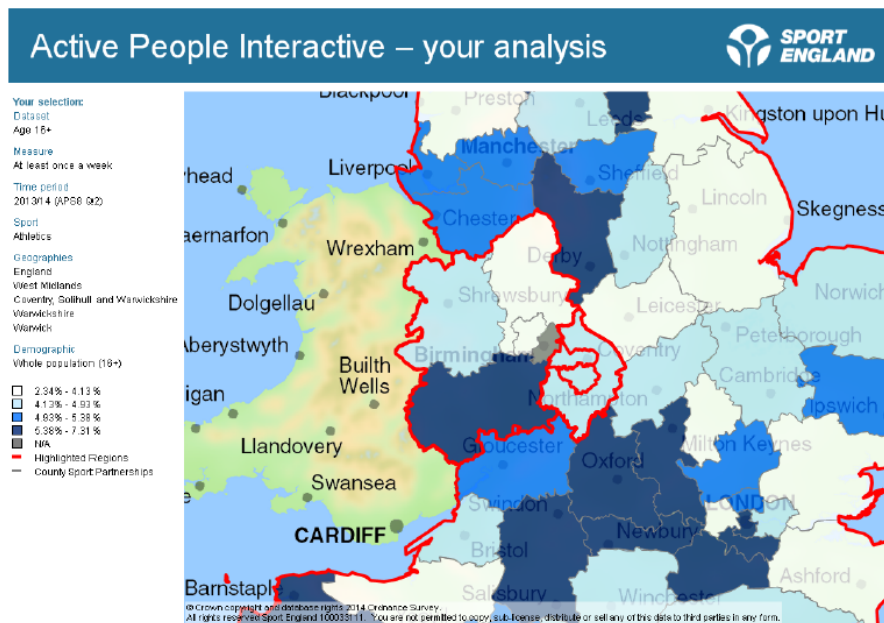
9.43 To try and get a more local understanding of participation in athletics it is important to consider rates of participation when the data includes ALL types of athletics and therefore road running Park Run, 'Couch to 5k' programmes etc and casual participation in road running are ALL included.. This data is set below in map 9.3 for 2012 – 13 and which is the final year when track and field athletics participation is available for West Midlands Region.

9.44 Trends in athletics participation across all areas are on an upward trend from 2.5-3.5% of the adult population in 2006 to 4.3-5.5% in 2012 13. The most local data available, for Warwickshire and the County Sports Partnership are below the national average, but are still increasing. In the absence of local data for Warwick District itself, it should not be assumed that participation rates in the district are still above the CSP average, as they were in 2006.

9.45 It is estimated that based on the county and CSP participation figures and the 16+ population of Warwick (109,600 in 2012 - 13), there are up to 5000 adults in the district taking part in ALL types of athletics. Reliance on the only data for the district in 2005 -06 would add a further 750-1000 to this figure.

9.46 The map below shows Warwick participation in the context of surrounding areas – higher than the areas to the north but lower to most LAs immediately to the south.

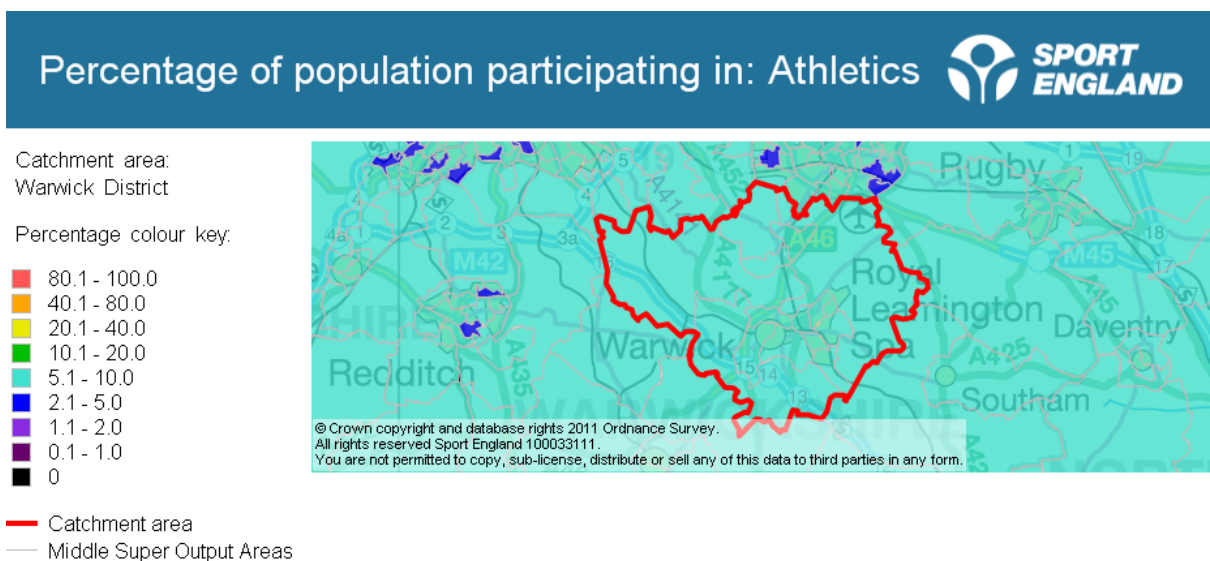
Map 9.3: Participation in all types of Athletics 2012 - 13



**Market Segmentation participation in athletics**

9.47 The Active People Market Segmentation (MS) data does provide a more local profile for participation in athletics. The age range is still adults 16+ but the measure in market segmentation is once a month participation, not the at least once a week measure used for Active people

9.48 The MS data suggest that between 5 and 10% of local adult residents might currently be participating in athletics (nearly 8000 individuals) in Warwick at least once a month. This figure is above the Active People at least once a week participation, set out above. As the map shows there is no variation in the rate of participation within the District.





9.49 In terms of the market segments who participate this is set out below in chart 9.1. Not surprisingly participation is highest in the younger age groups segments of 18 – 25, Ben (pink) and Chloe (purple). Participation is highest by Tim (yellow) aged 25 – 44. All these segments have above national average rates of sports and physical activity participation.

Chart 9.1: Warwick District participation in athletics for all market segments 2012 - 13

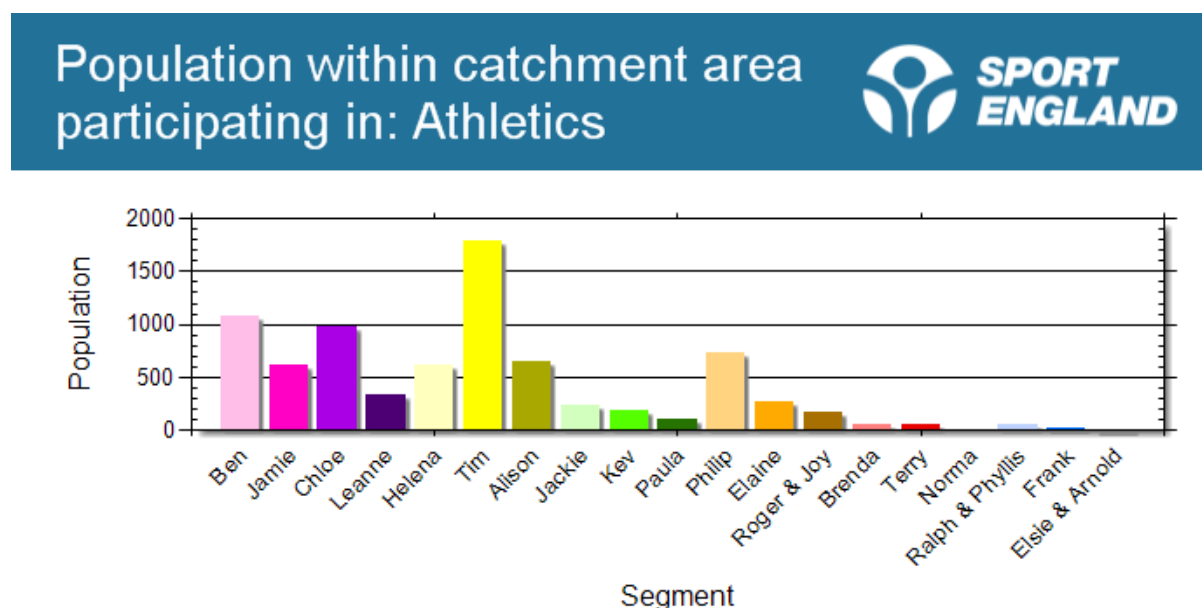
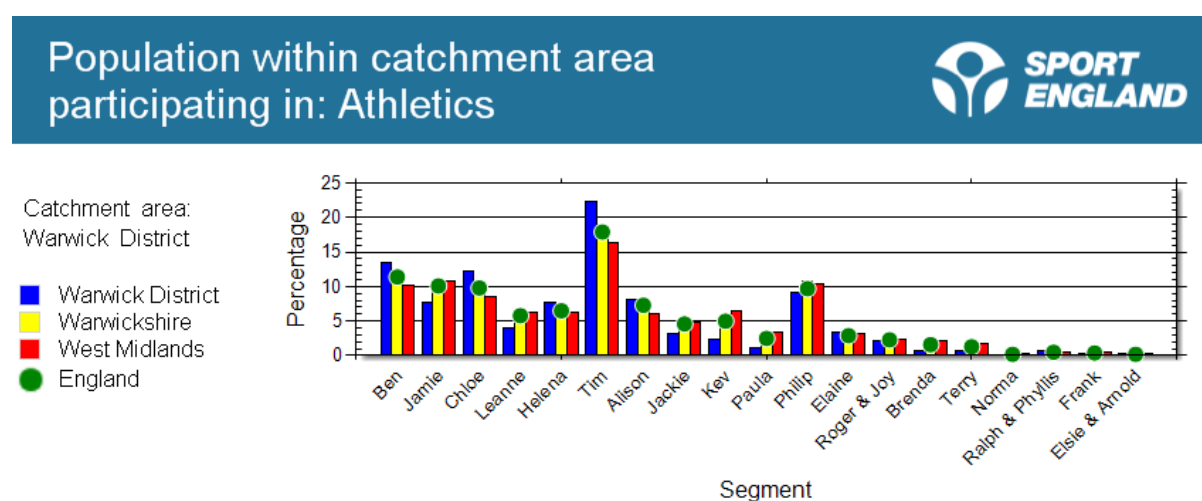


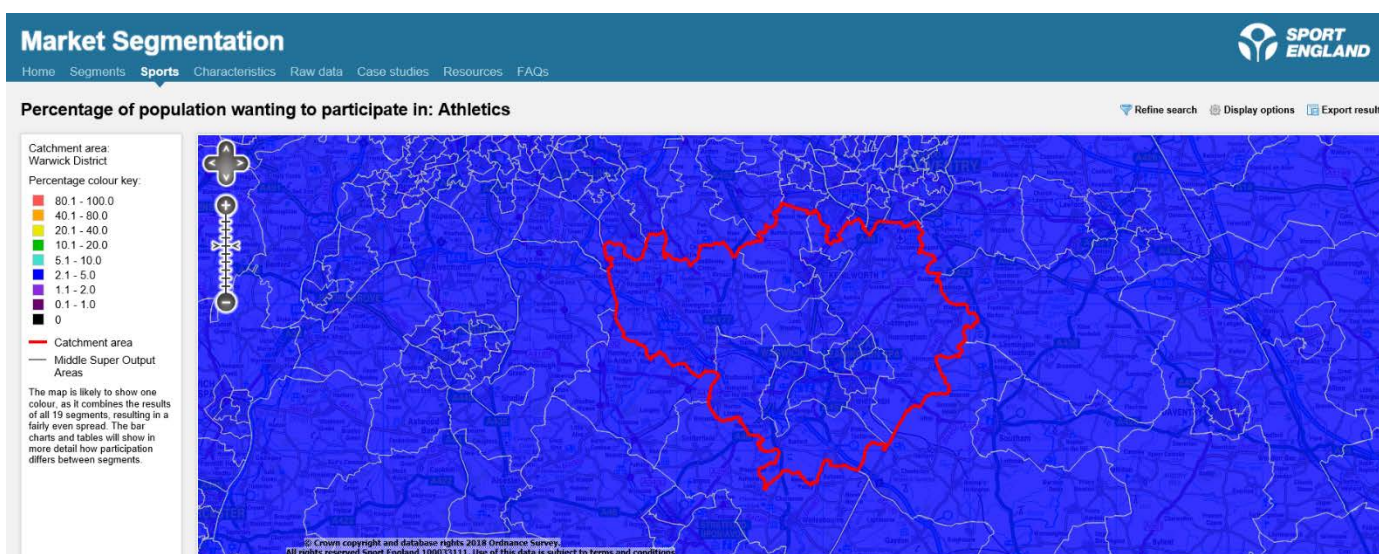
Chart 9.2: Percentage of population participating in athletics all areas 2012 - 13



9.50 Latent demand for participation in athletics can be measured through Market Segmentation and in terms of people who would like to participate, shown in map 9.4 below and for 2012-13.

9.51 The market segmentations findings suggest that there might be an additional 3,250 adults who might wish to take up athletics. There is therefore a potential future demand for an additional 40% increase in activity, based on the profile of the district and the aspirations of the population, though the caveat that this is once a month participation and for all types of athletics must still be considered

**Map 9.4: Warwick District percentage of the population who would like to participate in athletics 2012 - 13**



9.52 Overall demand for athletics can be assessed as buoyant, probably at or around the national average and increasing in line with other areas. Future demand will depend on population increase and development initiatives undertaken by clubs, local schools, the County Sports Partnership and England Athletics.

### Local Demand from Clubs

9.53 As part of the consultation took place with Leamington Cycling and Athletics Club, and Leamington Athletics Academy. Leamington Spa Striders and Kenilworth Runners did not respond to requests for consultation. Comments from the clubs are set out below.

### Leamington Cycling and Athletics Club

9.54 Previously in 2014, the Club prepared a comprehensive response to consultations and remain very keen to be included in discussions going forward. The most recent consultation with the club confirmed these same views. The club's previous comments were:

9.55 'Leamington C&AC welcomes the development of a multi-sports complex within Warwick District. We see it as a once in a generation opportunity to develop facilities expected by 21 century sports participants and looks forward to being an active partner in its development.

9.56 We favour a move from the Edmondscote track to a complex at Europa Way as this is located closer to the District's population concentration than Kenilworth.

9.57 With use of the track increasing we feel there is a good case for both indoor and outdoor athletics facilities being provided. It will be more cost effective to develop high quality clubhouse and other facilities at a multi-sport complex rather than channel funds into improving Edmondscote for athletics only.

9.58 We feel there is a compelling case for including a cycling circuit in the complex as the sport is highly popular and is not catered for in the District at present.

9.59 These developments would enable the Club to develop and expand to capitalise on both the increased interest in running, cycling and athletics that already exists in the area (as demonstrated by the success of the Parkrun initiative), and the increased demand that will arise from housing developments over the next ten years.'

9.60 The club's most recent comments are summarised as:

- The club recognises and is supportive of the recent capital works to modernise the facility, they are very much welcomed.
- The club recognises the continuing commitment by the District Council to provide an athletics facility in the District. The club wishes to be included in the discussions about further development of athletics facilities in the District.
- The track itself and the infield are generally well maintained. However, the caretaking of the track and general maintenance could be improved. For the six months of the year when an attendant is present during the day, use of the track is low. This is an inefficient use of resources.
- There are car parking problems in the surrounding streets and lack of car parking on site. These problems are long standing. Car parking is almost entirely on grass which for periods of the year is not usable because cars sink into it. There are five hard surface parking space, three of which are disabled spaces.
- Development/expansion of the club house facilities would allow the club to attract more athletes, provide off track services and operate as an even more effective modern athletics club.
- The track clean has improved the surface but there are the continuing problems with the lane 8 back straight but this is an events problems as other lanes can be used for training and coaching also falling leaves are not cleared off the track
- It is safer, more effective and a lot more comfortable for some athletes to train indoors during the winter. The club enters an indoor "Sportshall League" but cannot compete at home and travel to compete making it difficult to encourage schools to participate in indoor athletics during the winter.
- At Edmondscote the track is accessible but opportunities are limited for disabled athletes to use all the facilities.
- There are limited facilities for strength and conditioning work with basic facilities for the assessment and treatment of sports injuries – an upgrade of the club house could

provide these services and allow all clubs to develop further.

- Social facilities are limited and not capable of supporting the number of users at the track. This is a limitation in expanding the club and retaining athletes on site after training.

### **Leamington Athletics Academy**

9.61 Leamington Athletics Academy (LAA) was established<sup>1</sup> in 2011 it is an affiliated club of England Athletics and a multi-event athletics club, training athletes from 6 – 18 years old in all track and field events.

9.62 The club is a significant user of Edmondscote, it has over 400 members and over 350 participating on a regular basis at its dedicated sessions. The club is very supportive of the work Warwick District has done to provide, modernise and maintain all the facilities at Edmondscote. This has allowed the club to expand its membership, as the quality of the facility itself is much improved.

9.63 The club is supportive of the option to develop a new athletics facility at Europa Way but its preference is to retain and further develop at Edmondscote.

9.64 The club considers there is scope to further develop the clubhouse facilities and improve/upgrade the changing accommodation. The need to retain young athletes and develop the club around its base is very important, especially for a club with young people. There are minor maintenance and management problems to resolve, like better storage and maintenance of the Warwick District equipment, plus further equipment replacement. Each club does have its own container and area for its dedicated equipment. The cost of the club house hire is high and the car parking problems are well known and the need to increase car parking.

9.65 The club is totally focused on developing young people's participation and improvement in athletics. All its organisation, participation, development and coaching is focused on achieving this development. The club is supportive of Warwick District's moves to have greater involvement of the athletic clubs but the ownership and unique role of each club has to be recognised. Also the clubs are managed by volunteers and their focus is on development of athletes first and foremost. To repeat, they are very aware and appreciative of the commitment by Warwick District to the provision and improvements to the Edmondscote facility and which has helped in the expansion of the club.

### **Governing Body Guidance England Athletics Facility Strategy 2018 - 2025**

9.66 The England Athletics facilities strategy vision is 'to create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletics facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England.'

9.67 England Athletics estimate a figure of circa £60m would need to be invested to bring the present network of outdoor synthetic track and field facilities to a safe, secure and operationally fit-for-purpose state. England Athletics does not have any capital resources available to us and there is limited investment available for capital projects from key partners.

9.68 The strategy therefore sets out what the key priorities will be for England athletics us to achieve its ambition. There are three key facilities priorities:

- Ensure that the allocation of resources to new and existing track and field facilities is prioritised to those that have the greatest potential to impact positively on general participation, club membership growth and retention, and improved personal performance.
- Actively encourage athletics and running facilities to be used to their fullest possible extent by the sport and by all sections of the community in order to maximise viability.
- Encourage innovative approaches to the location and design of activities for individual components of the sport in order to increase reach and improve sustainability

### ***Hierarchy of facilities***

9.69 England Athletics has adopted UK Athletics' Hierarchy of Facilities:

- **Compact Athletics Facilities** A new generation of affordable and sustainable satellite athletics facilities that provide a stepping stone into Club Venues.
- **Club Venues** track and field facilities that have a strong anchor club membership and can provide appropriate training and competition opportunities.
- **Regional Competition Venues** UKA certified competition facilities with a strong anchor performance club, capable of hosting a high level of competition.
- **National Competition Venues** UKA/IAAF certified competition facilities capable of hosting the highest level of domestic competitions.
- **International Competition Venues** UKA/IAAF certified competition facilities capable of hosting world class competitions.

### **Extracts from the England Athletics strategy most relevant to Edmondscote**

#### ***Edmondscote track ranking***

9.70 The Edmondscote facility is ranked in the club venue category and the facility content is supportive of an extensive and expanding club network. It is capable of hosting track and field events up to county standard but the limitations of car parking and clubhouse facilities are recognised.

#### ***Investment in Athletic Facilities***

9.71 England Athletics recognises the maintenance, upgrading and resurfacing of outdoor athletics tracks is, arguably, the main challenge faced by operators and clubs. Not every track can be a Regional Competition Venue. The majority need to focus on the provision

of high quality training for the sport, provision for other forms of community access and use and offering a good standard of social amenities.

9.72 England Athletics recognises and is very supportive of the recent investment by the District Council in Edmondscote to improve the quality of the track facilities.

9.73 ACTION: England Athletics will encourage all tracks to seek

9.74 England Athletics recognises the operation of the majority of publicly owned tracks still necessitate some level of subsidy, but this subsidised operational model is no longer sustainable. In common with other aspects of public sector leisure stock, athletics tracks are under pressure to improve usage, generate more income and limit the net cost of operation. Proactive management will be required to achieve this without impacting negatively on the end user.

9.75 Some suggested approaches from England Athletics which apply to Edmondscote are:

- A clear, positive (not just cost-cutting based) business plan in place with associated usage and income targets and someone accountable for achieving these.
- A high level of actively programmed year-round use for club athletics and competitions, schools training and competitions, and non-athletics based sports and events.
- A positive working relationship (i.e. something more than simply charging for use of the facility) between owner/operator and the in situ club(s).
- Measurement and evaluation of take-up and usage levels is accurate and used to inform management practice.
- The net operating cost is reducing on an annual basis without adversely affecting programme quality, club effectiveness and track condition.

9.76 Many of these suggestions are already in place at Edmondscote between the District Council and the clubs. Furthermore the District is seeking greater involvement of the clubs in the future direction and operation of the clubs. The clubs are supportive of this engagement but it has to be recognised the clubs are all managed by volunteers and their focus is on development of athletes.

#### ***Access and provision for disabled athletes***

9.77 England Athletics will support facility operators and clubs to improve access for disabled athletes.

9.78 England Athletics would like to see track and field facilities to provide anchor points for seated throws and ensure complete compliance with requirements for access and movement within the facility environment for disabled athletes.

9.79 A comment from the clubs was about limited provision (mainly access) for disabled athletes and the England Athletics views could be considered if there are further improvements to Edmondscote.

9.80 : England Athletics will expect all new indoor

### ***Floodlighting***

9.81 England Athletics expects all community level tracks to achieve a lighting level of 200 lux over all the track and in field area. The recent replacement and upgrading of the track flood lighting does achieve these lighting levels over the track. However, clubs commented on lighting levels over the infield areas. Possibly this should be reviewed to establish if the infield areas does achieve these lighting levels.

### ***Clubhouse***

9.82 England Athletics recognises clubhouse buildings make an important contribution to the overall experience of club members. So it is important they are designed, operated and maintained well and based on Sport England guidance. Clubhouses should include clean well designed changing rooms and toilets, a multifunctional room in which people can gather for meetings or to socialise. This with convenient car parking, all help to sustain participation not just for athletes, but also volunteers.

9.83 The District Council has improved the outdoor toilet block and reinstated it. It is recognised by the District Council and the clubs, that an improved and expanded clubhouse would be the single biggest improvement at Edmondscote. It would allow the clubs to develop a club atmosphere, as well as provide services for athlete development.

### ***Consultation with England Athletics***

9.84 Consultation with Stephanie Cameron England Athletics, Club Support and Local Partnerships. Identified that England Athletics are very supportive of the Edmondscote facility, and the work and investment by the District Council. . It serves the needs of four affiliated clubs – track and field and road running clubs, which have a combined membership of nearly 1,000 athletes across casual participants through to elite club athletes. The clubs focus on development of athletes of all ages, plus retention of athletes who want to participate as a club member.

9.85 Edmondscote serves the Warwick District area and it is the only track and field athletics facility in this area. The nearest track facilities in Coventry and Stratford on Avon local authorities do not serve the Warwick District catchment area.

9.86 In the view of England Athletics a track and field athletics facility in Warwick District, at the club hierarchy level, must be retained to support a growing club membership and local schools participation in athletics.

## Key Issues

- The existing track at Edmondscote is well established, having been built in 1964, provided with a synthetic surface in 1987 and refurbished in 2003.
- The District Council capital investment in 2018 of £108,400 across five areas of work has very significantly improved the quality of the track, in field area, floodlighting and reinstated the outdoor toilet block.
- The Track and its environment is 'fit for purpose' as a club level track in the England Athletics track hierarchy.
- The Council through its facility management programme and survey work, has identified the need to (1) modernise the main pavilion changing rooms (2) undertake works to repair lane 8 of the back straight, which has subsided. These improvements are contingent on decisions as to the future for athletics provision in the District, either at the Europa Way option, or retention and further development at Edmondscote. The next stage of decision making on these options will take place in 2019.
- The District Council is committed to the provision of athletics facilities within the District.
- The nearest synthetic athletic tracks to the Edmondscote track are within the 15 – 20 minutes travel band. The Stratford upon Avon School Community Sports Centre track, is a 6 lane floodlight track, with full jumps and throws provision, the track was opened in 2004. The other tracks in the 15 – 20 minute drive time of the Edmondscote track location, are the three tracks located in Coventry Borough. According to the Active Places Power database, only the University of Warwick track which opened in 1971 has been resurfaced, in 2005. The other two tracks are both located on education sites and so do not have full access for club or public pay and train use. The Whitley Academy track opened in 2000 and the Lyng Hall School track in 2006.
- In the view of the local athletic clubs and England Athletics these venues do not provide a viable alternative to Edmondscote. A community club level track is needed in Warwick District, to serve the increasing participation of the local athletic clubs and meet the needs of local schools participation.
- Demand for athletics in Warwick from the data available is at or around the national average and probably on the rise in line with wider participation trends. It is understood that the local athletics clubs do have increasing memberships at all levels of ability and ages. This is reflected in the extensive programme of use at Edmondscote by clubs and local schools.
- Both the Leamington Cycling and Athletics Club and Leamington Athletics Academy are very supportive of the commitment and investment made by Warwick District in 2018 to improve the quality of the Edmondscote facility. This has helped both clubs to attract and retain membership of the clubs.
- Both the District Council and the clubs recognise further improvements are required at Edmondscote, if it is retained as the District's athletics facility, particularly in the clubhouse



accommodation and services for athletes.

- England Athletics classify the Edmondscote facility as meeting the requirements for a club level facility in its 2018 – 2025 Facilities Strategy hierarchy of athletics tracks.
- England Athletics consider retention and further development of Edmondscote is needed to support athletics in Warwick District. The alternative tracks in the 15 – 20 minute drive time catchment of Edmondscote do not provide viable alternatives for club and local schools participation in athletics. The Edmondscote facility is meeting the needs of nearly 1,000 members and providing for local schools participation in athletics.

## Options

9.87 Overall the case for retention of an athletics facility to serve Warwick District is established. Recent investment in Edmondscote by the District Council, has made Edmondscote a fit for purpose club-based level athletics facility.

9.88 We believe there is only a need for one purpose-built track to serve the District at either Edmondscote or Europa Way.

9.89 The future option to develop a new athletics facility at Europa Way as part of the Lichfield FC Stadium development, must contain all the requirements for a club level athletics facility. Based on the England Athletics track hierarchy for the track and field disciplines and for County standard events.

9.90 Any new athletics track will form part of the overall Stadium masterplan at Europa way, bringing management and wider sports development opportunities. There will also be a range of facilities in the stadium including NHS, physiotherapy and podiatry services, alongside office space for staff and mental health services, conferencing, gym and catering provision.

9.91 If the option to retain Edmondscote as the District's athletics facility is developed, then the priorities for development are to modernise the clubhouse and increase the athlete conditioning services.

9.92 A move from Edmondscote to Europa Way, is less advantageous in terms of current school use.

9.93 There may however be issues of long-term sustainability, providing more than one full-size track to serve the district, with little additional community use identified for a second track, to fund operations, maintenance and the necessary sinking fund.

9.94 Following discussions with the project team responsible for the relocation of Kenilworth School and Sixth Form, the Council are aware of their aspirations for a track facility at the new school. It is the view of the Council that the school give consideration to including a compact athletics facility [www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/other-design-guidance](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/other-design-guidance),. that would be accessible to all local schools, athletic clubs as well to individual athletes.

### Summary

- 10.1 This section seeks to draw together the key issues for each sport and summarise the key needs that the strategy will look to address. The key issues outlined are summarised in the tables that follow.

## 10: Summary

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Table 10.1 – Summary of Assessment Findings and Key Issues to Address – Hockey

## Summary - Assessment Findings

### Supply

- Hockey is now almost exclusively played on AGPs (Artificial Grass Pitches). England Hockey states that water based, sand dressed, and sand filled pitches are suitable for Hockey however 3G pitches are not. There are 8 AGPs in total within the Warwick District which is an increase of one from the 2013 strategy. 5 of the pitches are sand based and suitable for hockey with 3 pitches being a 3G surface so not suitable for competitive fixtures. Warwick School contains 2 sand filled pitches and is the only site to have more than one pitch.
- Spatially, sand-based pitches are concentrated in the settlements of Warwick and Leamington Spa.
- Overall the quality of the sand-based facilities is standard, but the age of the stock is starting to show, with quality issues starting to emerge and quality starting to approach poor. This issue was also evident in the 2013 PPS, but only pitches at Warwick School have since been refurbished. The pitch at St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre is in particular need of refurbishment in the next two years if it is to remain suitable for hockey. Clubs also identify issues with the quality of facilities at North Leamington School

### Demand

- There are four hockey clubs currently running a total of 25 adult teams and 2 junior sections. The same clubs therefore continue to operate as in 2013, however there has been a slight increase in the number of teams that are playing in the district (from 22 to 25 adult teams). Both Leamington Hockey Club and Warwick Hockey Club continue to run junior sections, offering progression through from a young age to senior hockey.
- 3 out of 4 clubs are based within Warwick District. With Shipston Ladies Hockey Club travelling to Warwick District from Stratford upon Avon District to use the pitch at St Nicholas Park. This team is considered displaced and they would rather play nearer to their home if facilities were available.
- Participation in hockey continues to increase across Warwick District, with all clubs experiencing growth in player numbers in at least one age group. The highest levels of usage occur at weekends when the AGPs accommodate competitive fixtures.
- Clubs raise issues with the quality and quantity of facilities, particularly in Leamington, where Leamington HC wish to see facilities of improved quality, and Khalsa HC are looking to provide their own pitch on the site of their clubhouse. Social facilities seen as key to developing a club atmosphere and increasing the number of members.
- Leamington HC also travel to Westwood to access the higher quality facilities at Warwick University. The facilities at Westwood Campus only just fall outside of the boundaries of Warwick District however, and the level of travel required is therefore not considered unreasonable.
- Warwick School is used as an important venue for Academy Centres and regional hockey activity. This site is therefore strategically important to hockey in the district and regionally due to the location of two pitches side by side.

<p><b>Adequacy of Provision</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The demand at peak time in Warwick District amounts to 11 match equivalents (3 pitches), with spare capacity at peak time totalling 8.5 match equivalents. Any further increase in adult participation will see this rise to 4 pitches. Indicating there is scope to increase the amount of play.</li> <li>• There is spare capacity at sites that are suitable for hockey across the week and at weekends although the majority of this (midweek) is taken up by football clubs. There is greater spare capacity at weekends around the hockey usage, primarily on a Sunday afternoon, with most teams wishing to play on either a Saturday or Sunday morning.</li> <li>• Similar to in 2013, there is sufficient capacity overall to meet demand, but concerns relating to the quality of facilities.</li> <li>• Teams from Leamington HC are currently travelling to Westwood Campus, in order to access facilities of appropriate quality for the league in which they participate. Changes to the England Hockey national league structure may see both Leamington HC and Khalsa HC become members in the short term, which would see stringent facility requirements and a need for either a new (or improved) facility in the district, or long term use of Westwood Campus</li> <li>• To address this, Khalsa HC are looking to develop their own ground to increase the number of teams run and to ensure that quality standards are met</li> <li>• Warwick HC and Leamington HC also both believe that there is existing latent demand and that the facility infrastructure is inhibiting club growth. Warwick HC are seeking to create an on site clubhouse, whilst Leamington HC believe that there is a need for improved facilities, as well as a need to address challenges in coach and volunteer recruitment.</li> <li>• The England Hockey Facilities Strategy (2017) provides a perspective on the facilities that the Governing Body perceive to be required for hockey. The vision of the document is for every club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players. The strategy seeks to protect the required number of facilities, ensuring that provision is of the right quality and in the right location to meet with club</li> <li>• Trends based population change would result in demands for pitches remaining static. England Hockey are however seeking to build participation in the sport, with a focus placed upon retention of existing players as well as an increase in the number of players aged 14+. By 2022, England Hockey aspire to double the number of players playing the sport through a 7% growth year on year. A 7% year on year growth in the number of adult hockey teams would generate a further 10 teams by 2022. Clubs in Warwick District share the aspirations of England Hockey, with Leamington HC seeking to create an additional female team and Khalsa HC targeting the establishment of a youth section. This would create an additional 0.5 match equivalent at peak time (Saturday) as well as circa 2 match equivalents on a Sunday morning. Growth in line with England Hockey targets may see a requirement for circa 4 – 5 match equivalents. This means that at least 4 hockey pitches are required to sustain activity</li> <li>• Growth in participation arising from new development is likely to generate an additional 3 match equivalents. This would see the requirement for facilities increase to 5</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Issues for Strategy to Address</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total requirement for 5 sand based AGPs to meet current and projected future demand up to 2029. Supply required to meet needs of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Warwick - Warwick HC – 5.5 match equivalents at peak time (2 pitches). Club currently have access to 3rd pitch for overspill at peak time but all fixtures could be accommodated within 2 pitches.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- In Leamington – 2 pitches for Leamington HC and Leamington Khalsa (6 match equivalents total at peak time) of which 2 may be at National League level in future years. There is potential for clubs to travel to Westwood Campus for pitch to meet national league requirements if decision is taken not to provide this in Leamington. There is scope for further growth of hockey in Leamington, with both clubs having aspirations for additional teams.
- It is likely that the existing facility stock will require some reconfiguration in order to best meet demand.
- The existing facility stock will also require refurbishment in order to ensure long term sustainability of hockey

**Table 10.2 – Summary of Assessment Findings and Key Issues to Address - Football**

### Summary - Assessment Findings

#### Supply

- There are 127 individual formal grass football pitches currently available for community use across Warwick District. This represents a slight increase on the pitch stock that was available in 2013, (125). The number of larger adult pitches has decreased and the number of smaller sized pitches, targeting younger ages, has increased. This suggests that pitch provision has become more tailored to demand.
- When compared to 2013 levels, some sites are now packed very tightly with pitches showcasing minimal run off and very little space for further pitches. There are also several schools that previously accommodated community use that now do not. That said, the majority of secondary schools are currently allowing access to their facilities. There remains unsecured access to North Leamington School and Aylesford School and pitches are also rented out to the local community by the University of Warwick.
- The FA now approves 3G AGPs for use in competitive fixtures providing that they appear on the FA 3G register. There are three 3g pitches in Warwick District, an increase of one pitch since the 2013 PPS. As in 2013, there are full sized pitches at John Atkinson Sports Centre and Meadow Community Sports Centre. An additional pitch has been provided at Cryfield Pavilion (Warwick University). The facilities at both Cryfield Sports Pavilion and Meadow Community Sports Centre have an overall quality rating of good are listed on the FA register, therefore approved to accommodate competitive play. The facility at John Atkinson Sports Centre has been tested but failed. The pitch at this site is ageing and approaching the end of its lifespan although it remains playable. The geographical spread of these facilities is uneven, with two pitches located in the north and one in the central area of the district. There are gaps in the central and south eastern areas.
- In terms of ownership and management, Warwick DC manages more pitches than any other provider, managing just over 30% of all pitches. The Council therefore have significant control over the range, type and quality of facilities provided. Almost 30% of pitches are owned and managed by clubs.
- 20% of pitches that are available to the community are located on school sites. This represents a significant risk to the pitch stock. An example of this risk was evident at Champion School who withdrew access to the facility due to the perceived poor quality of changing accommodation and security issues. This highlights the importance of securing long term access to the grass pitches on school sites to retain a steady supply of playing fields.
- Regarding satisfaction of the pitch stock across Warwick DC, it is revealed that more clubs are in fact dissatisfied with the provision than happy with the facilities provided. The key reasons for dissatisfaction include: the perceived poor quality of pitches, with drainage being marked as a concern, limited

## Demand

access to 3G pitches, poor quality of changing accommodation and the overall perception that with growing populations there is a need to invest in the facility stock to improve both quality and quantity of pitches. To ensure that pitches meet league requirements, pitch quality and changing room accommodation is therefore as important as the number of pitches.

- site visits categorised almost all visits as standard with a few pitches marked as very high quality. Pitches were deemed to be in relatively good condition for the time of year they were assessed. The average score achieved by pitches visited is 63%. Although pitches achieved standard classification, site visits reveal that there is significant evidence of compaction on many sites, large evidence of scuffing and skid marks and evidence of weed growth including Fairy Ring at Newbold Comyn and Harbury Lane and most sites were undulating and uneven.
- More clubs indicate that pitches are deteriorating than improving. With clubs playing on private pitches more likely to believe that pitch quality has improved than pitches owned by Warwick District Council, which are believed to be static or declining in quality. Drainage, dog fouling and litter are key areas for concern.
- Compared to the number of teams in the 2013 PPS, there has been a large reduction in the number of adult teams whilst all other forms of the game have seen increasing levels of demand. This suggests that there are greater pressures on pitches now than in 2013. 20% of teams in the District are senior teams, with the remainder being age group teams. Circa 30% of pitches are senior pitches suggesting that supply is reasonably tailored to demand. A high proportion of pitches accommodate age group teams.
- Consultation with local leagues shows steady increase in junior participation. This reflects the club consultation findings which showed junior club recording either static or increasing participation. However, the number of teams participating in adult leagues is declining, and this is the overriding concern raised by the leagues. The Leamington and District Sunday League has seen a net reduction of 10 teams in the past 5 years, a main challenge being the difficulty in fielding a team. Another key concern raised by the Sunday League was the lack of access to 3G AGPs, however overall the quality of pitches is not perceived to be a deterrent, with conditions being good overall. Other interests such as midweek football leagues and changing work patterns are perceived to impact football development.
- 5 clubs in the district play within the National League System meaning there are specific requirements that must be adhered to in relation to the home ground facilities.
- There is little evidence of displaced demand within the Warwick District with most football clubs playing at their preferred location.
- Regarding training needs, all 3 AGP's within the district are used however there is extensive use of the sand based pitches at Aylesford School, North Leamington School and St Nicholas Park. Sand is not an approved training surface for football clubs, so the use of these facilities needs to be addressed. This indicates a lack of supply of 3G pitches and this is further evidenced by the fact a number of clubs travel outside the district to access 3G pitches. A significantly greater proportion of clubs are dissatisfied with facilities for training than are satisfied. As well as a lack of 3G pitches, concerns included, the high cost of facilities and the high competition for pitches- all available slots are either too early (before 6) or too late.
- Many sites in Warwick District also function as public recreational areas and consultation showed that this impacts heavily on pitch quality, with dog fouling and litter the main reasons for complaint.

## Adequacy of Provision

- The majority of sites in Warwick DC were assessed as standard and capacity has therefore been calculated as such. However, drainage does impact many of these pitches and is the cause of multiple cancellations. If the drainage and compaction issues are not addressed then longer term the capacity of some pitches may reduce.
- Regarding the spread of play, there is a reasonable distribution across the weekend with different age groups requiring different time slots. This means that the number of pitches required to meet peak time demand is lower than it may otherwise be, as the number of teams wishing to use the pitch at any one time is reduced due to the spread of play.
- In terms of grass pitches, site visits revealed the following key issues; there is limited capacity across the week with many sites at or approaching capacity, there is evidence of overplay at multiple sites in the district and the majority of spare capacity is at rural sites e.g. Bishops Tachbrook and Bubbenhall. Also there are very few sites that are available to community that are actively maintained but have limited use.
- There are 57 pitches (over a third of the districts total pitches) with no remaining capacity at all and it is clear that supply is very tightly balanced with demand
- there is some spare capacity on the existing adult pitches. Considering competitive activity and school use, there are 45 match equivalents available on adult pitches (this reduces to 42 when including training). Peak time capacity is more restricted, although there remains 17.5 match equivalents available. The highest level of spare capacity is at Warwick University. This indicates that pitch provision for adults is sufficient and there is a reasonable amount of spare capacity. There are two adult pitches that experience overplay, at Acre Close and Kenilworth Sixth Form. Even when excluding unsecured sites, there remain sufficient sites to accommodate existing play.
- Supply and demand for youth pitches is much more balanced than for adult pitches. When considering all activity, including training, there are insufficient pitches for youth play and most sites have little opportunity to accommodate more activity. Overplay is evident at sites including; Acre Close, Alvis Sports and Castle Farm Recreation Ground. Added to this, there are 8 sites containing unsecured youth pitches. Of these, only three have any spare capacity at peak time and the others are all well used by community teams. The already existing low levels of availability mean that this is a particular concern. This suggests there are insufficient facilities for youth teams across Warwick District and the reliance of unsecured facilities means that the pitch stock is even more fragile than may first appear.
- Regarding 9 v 9 football pitches, across the week spare capacity equates to 23.5 match equivalents. Pitch provision is more constrained at peak time with only 8.5 match equivalents available. There are 5 sites with unsecured pitches for 9v9. In total these venues account for 6.5 match equivalents of community competitive use with Aylesford School and North Leamington School being particularly important venues. Myton School is the only site where the 9v9 pitch is not used by the community. When excluding the unsecured community use venues, availability at peak time equates to only 7.5 match equivalents across the district. There would also be a need to relocate the 6.5 match equivalents currently using unsecured venues, meaning that there would be almost no remaining further capacity.



- On 7 v 7 pitches, there are 62 match equivalents available, and 58 considering all activity (including training). Peak time supply is however much more reduced, with only 10 match equivalents available. There is good availability of 7v 7 pitches across the week but that there are some constraints at peak time on sites where larger clubs are based. It is worth noting that, pitch provision is particularly closely matched with demand if excluding unsecured sites.
- There is also good availability across the week in terms of 5 v 5 pitches, there is no overplay evident and only Baginton Playing Fields, Coventry Sporting, Harbury Lane, Leek Wootton Sports Club, Kingsley School Playing Field and St Georges Field Barford do not have capacity for further play without staggering fixtures. There is sufficient capacity for play across the week, but capacity is very constrained, particularly if unsecured venues were lost.
- The National Football Facility Strategy seeks to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3g pitches. The strategy seeks to deliver, 1,000 new 3G football turf pitches (FTPs): in a mix of sizes and settings, dependent upon local needs, 20,000 improved natural-turf pitches: to help address drop-off due to a poor playing experience, 1,000 new changing pavilions / clubhouses: all linked to priority sites and small-sided facilities: to grow the small-sided game for teams & leagues, recreational and informal play.
- Locally there is extensive use of 3g pitches but also numerous clubs using sand based facilities designed for hockey.
- The projected trends based population change would see the number of adult football teams likely to remain the same, but generate a small increase in the number of youth teams (2) and 9 v 9 teams (1) placing pressure on pitch stock while the number of 7 v 7 and 5 v 5 teams is likely to remain static. These changes would have limited impact on the adequacy of provision within the district and there would remain sufficient capacity for adult football.
- The stated growth aspirations of the clubs in Warwick District would however have significant impact on the adequacy of provision – with 18 new senior teams, 41 youth and 9 v 9 boys and 22 youth and 9 v 9 girls and 38 mini soccer teams created, it is likely that new pitches would be required, particularly at club bases where pitch provision is already compromised. Clubs where existing pitches cannot meet aspirations include Central Ajax, Coventry Alvis, Coventry Sky Blues, Leamington Brakes, Leamington Hibernian, Leek Wootton, Lillington Juniors FC, Racing Club Warwick and Warwick Juniors. The provision of new AGPs would however make significant inroads into this unmet demand if new facilities were to be provided, as calculations demonstrate that all match play for the younger age groups could be accommodated by providing 5 – 6 additional AGPs. National and local trends however suggest that fulfilment of these aspirations is unlikely and that increases in the amount of junior play may well be offset by ongoing decline in adult participation.
- The New Development Calculator would see further growth in the amount of pitches that are required, with the total population increase generating demand for; 3 adult pitches, 6 youth pitches and 7 mini pitches. While the requirement for adult pitches could be met within the existing facility stock, it is likely that additional provision would be required to meet the demand for the youth and mini pitches.
- There are several potential changes to the football pitch stock across the district which will also impact on the adequacy of provision. These include:
  - the relocation of Kenilworth School and Castle Sixth Form – the shortage of pitches in the district means that existing facilities will as a minimum need to be replaced. Kenilworth Wardens will also be relocating to Castle Farm following the sale of their land for development. The move will improve the clubs' provision of grass pitches and will include a new 3g and clubhouse.

Key Issues for Strategy to Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Leamington FC are seeking to relocate and provide a 3g stadia pitch for club need.</li> <li>o Alvis FC, Warwick JFC, Kenilworth Town Junior FC, Lillington Junior FC and Leamington Brakes have all expressed aspirations for the development of their own ground.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of existing grass pitch stock due to lack of appropriate provision. This is likely to include securing long-term formal access to grass pitches at school sites – key priorities include North Leamington and Aylesford Schools (key club bases) as well as Myton School and Kenilworth School as part of a review of management contracts</li> <li>• Address quality issues to ensure that standard capacity rating is retained and existing capacity is preserved. This should focus in particular on sites accommodating heavy usage. Priorities include Acre Close, Ajax Park, Alvis Sports, Castle Farm, North Leamington School, Harbury Lane, Leek Wootton, Newbold Comyn, Racing Club Warwick. There are also several smaller sites listed in Section 5 which would benefit from improvement.</li> <li>• Improvement to pyramid facilities – Racing Club Warwick, Leamington FC, Ajax Park, Leamington Hibernian, Alvis Sports.</li> <li>• Additional capacity required to sustain current and projected future demand. To meet current training need, 5 additional AGPs are required. If all games for 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 teams were to be played on AGPs this would increase to 6 additional AGPs. Population growth will see demand for an additional pitch by 2029</li> <li>• Additional demand for grass pitches depends upon the strategy relating to AGPs (for training use with added benefit of match play or relocating activity). Additional capacity equivalent to circa 8 youth and 8 9v9 pitches may be required (based upon peak time demand but dependent upon the delivery of AGPs). Additional grass pitches should be focused around the needs of existing clubs where possible and some demand will be offset by the creation of AGPs that are listed on the register.</li> </ul>

**Table 10.3 – Summary of Assessment and Key Issues to Address – Rugby Union**

## Summary – Assessment Findings

### Supply

- There are 41 full sized rugby pitches identified across Warwick District, a slight decline from 2013. All facilities are owned and managed by clubs and/or schools.
- Less than half of all pitches are secured for community use. Many school sites offer some degree of access to the public, however being academies almost all of this access is unsecured. Warwick School is an example of this as they have 12 pitches, but these currently serve school needs only. 18 pitches are managed by local clubs, the largest site being Old Leamingtonians. The 2 club sites of Kenilworth RFC and Trinity Guild RFC are subject to relocation due to allocation within the Warwickshire Development Plan.
- There are only 5.5 pitches in total that contain floodlights, meaning training opportunities are limited. There is a new 3g pitch, built in 2017, at Warwick University, Cryfield Pavilion. This has a rugby compatible surface and is used regularly for rugby.
- Since 2013 there have been several changes, specifically; the loss of Warwickians Sports Ground, the loss of the pitch at Police HQ and an overall reduction in school pitches available for community use.
- In terms of pitch quality, it is revealed that the first team pitches are well maintained however the lower level pitches receive much less attention. Increasing maintenance on these other pitches would increase capacity overall. Overall maintenance has however improved since 2013. Despite this, pitches at most clubs showed high level of compaction suggesting heavy usage which may lead to drainage issues. Drainage and waterlogging are the primary reason for match cancellations.

### Demand

- In 2013 there were six rugby clubs within the Warwick District area. Warwickians Rugby Club (who had 2 senior male teams and 1 youth team) have since folded, meaning that there are five clubs remaining within the District. Despite losing one club, participation has remained fairly static with 61 teams identified across age groups in 2013 and 59 teams identified now. All clubs now offer progression from youth to adult teams.
- All training takes place at club bases, mainly on their floodlit grass pitches. Training for Warwick University teams takes place primarily on the 3g pitch. The use of grass pitches at the club base for training has a significant impact on the overall capacity of pitches for match play. The RFU indicate that two teams training on one pitch on one evening is equivalent to one match and this places additional wear and tear on pitches. Training is highlighted by clubs as one of the greatest pressures they face. At Kenilworth RFC training represents 8.5 match equivalents and at Old Leamingtonians RFC training is equivalent to 5 match equivalents.
- Participation in rugby union within the education sector is good. Rugby is popular in Kenilworth and primary schools participate in regular tag rugby festivals. Rugby is also popular at secondary school level with schools including; Aylesford High School, Champion High School and Kenilworth High School, participating in competitions run by the Warwickshire Schools RFU. There are also close relationships with some clubs and nearby schools, meaning there are strong foundations in place for the development of rugby union in the district. Current educational participation in rugby does not have an impact on demand for pitch provision at the club base.

## Adequacy of Provision

- The 2013 PPS revealed that while Leamington RFC were at capacity, the remainder of clubs has sufficient facilities to accommodate their activity. The quality of pitches however detrimentally affected capacity on most sites, particularly at Leamington RUFC. Maintenance has since improved but pitch capacity continues to be compromised at Leamington RFC. There are also increased pressures at Kenilworth RFC due to higher levels of training.
- School sites accommodate curricular use only meaning there are 4 rugby pitches available but not used and a further 14 pitches that are not currently available (with 12 at Warwick School). In total at school sites, there is scope to accommodate 4 match equivalents either across the week or at peak time. On the whole however, the limited maintenance that takes place at these sites restricts opportunities for community use, as pitches are only capable of sustaining curricular activity.
- There are capacity issues at several club bases, with Kenilworth RFC and Leamington RFC both experiencing pressures when considering training. Floodlit pitches are in particular heavily overplayed. Supply and demand for rugby pitches within Warwick District at club bases is closely matched and are at capacity and there is limited scope for further growth within the constraints of the existing facilities.
- There are no examples of displaced demand with all clubs playing at their preferred sites. There is the belief however that facilities are restricting club growth.
- The impact of population growth is predicted to cause an overall decline in the number of people playing adult rugby, but this will be insufficient to see the loss of a team. Increased in people falling into the younger ages will be insufficient to impact the number of rugby union teams in the district. This means that trends based upon population growth alone is unlikely to have significant impact upon the demand for rugby within Warwick DC. While trends based population change will have limited impact, there will be a much greater implication arising from proposed housing development, with up to 4 further match equivalents generated at peak time. This will be spread across the clubs in the district.
- A selection of clubs have aspirations to grow their clubs, these include; Leamington RUFC who aim to create a female team along with female youth section, Old Leamingtonians who aim to add one additional male team and Trinity Guild RUFC who seek to grow the junior section.
- With the relocation of Kenilworth RUFC, pitches being required by the development plan, there will be a need to directly replace facilities and to ensure that they are of equivalent or better quality. The relocation also offers an opportunity to ensure that the new facilities provided are tailored to the needs of the club and that provision is future proofed in years to come.
- The RFU Council approved a strategy to invest in Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) which will see 100 artificial, floodlit pitches installed across the country over a four-year period. This strategy is however currently on hold and it is unknown if and when investment will start again.
- Recent changes to the picture for rugby in Warwick District have seen clubs in Warwick collapse, leaving no remaining opportunities to play Warwick in the town. There are aspirations for the short term development of an O2 touch programme and longer term creation of a rugby club within Warwick town. This may therefore generate facility needs in future years.

Key Issues for Strategy to Address

- Protection of existing quantity of rugby pitches.
- Kenilworth RFC – relocation to result in at least 6 grass pitches and /or 4 grass pitches and AGP that is approved for rugby use. Quality of pitches also requires improvement.
- Trinity Guild RFC – replacement facilities to include 2 – 3 grass pitches. Quality of pitches also requires improvement and at least one pitch will need floodlights to meet training needs.
- Old Leamingtonians – existing pitch provision sufficient in quantitative terms although quality improvements are needed and floodlights are required to spread training. Club are exploring opportunities for partnership with Wasps RUFC which would see club gain access to an AGP. Existing plans see retention of four grass pitches, which would ensure that there was spare capacity. Given that access to training pitches is the key issue identified on this site, the AGP would have a positive impact on the club, particularly if access was also enabled for Leamington FC (where shortages are also evident). If the AGP was however provided, improvements would however be needed to the changing facilities and the car parking in order to accommodate the increased demand that would be evident. There are already concerns in relation to the car parking on this site.
- Leamington RFC – seeking additional pitches, qualitative improvements also required (changing accommodation) and pitch maintenance.
- Potential longer-term aspirations for the reinvigoration of rugby union in Warwick

Table 10.4 – Summary of Assessment and Key Issues to Address - Tennis

## Supply

- There are 119 active tennis courts with public /community access located at 23 sites. Of these, fifty courts are floodlit, which is a good proportion.
- 77% of facilities are located at club sites and schools, with the majority of the remaining provision being at public sites. While overall the number of courts provided at schools is high, community access to these facilities is low, with only courts at Meadows Sports Centre marketed actively as being available to the public. Most courts benefitting from floodlighting are located at club bases.
- most facilities are fit for purpose, but that there remains scope for improvement. Indeed, there are many courts that are good quality - 47% of courts were considered good overall, while only 7% were awarded a rating of poor. Club facilities are the highest quality, followed by schools and parks courts.
- Spectator seating and storage are the poorest scoring criteria (these are not necessarily appropriate on all sites however). There is also a need to improve the playing surface at several venues, with many sites exhibiting cracks, weeds and uneven patches. The nets and fencing also require some investment on some sites.
- Consultation with clubs reveals the following key issues:
  - The Playing surface and court equipment is generally reported as good
  - Changing facilities / clubhouses perceived to be of lower quality and requiring improvement
  - Clubs in the district are constantly improving and updating their facilities – significant investment goes into the delivery of tennis
  - While facilities are of high quality, several clubs still believe that quality issues experienced do inhibit their ability to meet demand. Quality of facilities is believed to be key to the attraction of members, and the availability of indoor / covered courts is also believed to be key to the success of the club
  - While club infrastructure is considered to be strong, concern is raised by several clubs in relation to the more limited public tennis infrastructure and the poor quality of these courts. This is perceived to be the foundation / entry level to tennis and there is a view that tennis development will be restricted if these courts are not improved.
- Residents in all of the major settlements are able to access club bases within the target drivetimes. The distribution of public tennis courts is much more limited. Again however, these facilities are accessible to those living in the major settlements, with two facilities in Kenilworth (9 courts in total), two in Leamington Spa (14 courts) and one facility in Warwick providing two courts

## Demand

- The LTA annual national tennis review indicates that progress was made in 2017 towards the end goal of getting people to play more often. This included a 5% increase in club membership and a 14% increase in the number of players participating in programmes in focus parks. Locally, LTA insight also demonstrates that participation in tennis is strong.
- LTA insight reveals that in Warwickshire, a lack of interest in tennis is the most common reason for not playing, and there are other similar barriers listed, including greater interest in other sports / activities, health / fitness issues and lack of spare time. A lack of partner to play with is also raised as a key barrier

Adequacy of Provision

- No monitoring takes place of the current usage of the free of charge public tennis courts and total usage cannot be therefore accurately quantified. Warwick District Council are now in discussion with the LTA with regards to implementing monitoring systems in order to more accurately understand levels of activity and consequently opportunities for improvement. It is however known that there is strong usage of both Victoria Park and St Nicholas Park, but more limited use of the free of charge facilities.
  - If LTA insight across Warwickshire as a whole is considered to directly represent participation in Warwick District, this would indicate that 2139 people currently use public venues each year (36% of total demand). Feedback suggests that existing usage is nowhere near this level, indicating that there is scope to increase the role that public facilities play.
  - Linking with their new strategy, the LTA see increasing participation in public parks as a key priority. Work is underway across the country focusing on introducing organised activity at public parks, such as introductory tennis courses and coaching. Victoria Park in Warwick is a Beacon site and offers free play sessions three times a week for non members, however these schemes have not yet been introduced into any other sites within Warwick. There is however believed to be a significant opportunity to enhance the tennis playing population through greater targeted use of the public facilities.
  - Analysis of facilities at school sites suggests that there is some limited access to tennis courts at secondary schools although it is clear that there is very little promotion of the opportunities available and / or the fees charged. Facilities at school sites therefore remain a largely unused resource (by the community at this time) and consequently offer significant potential to enhance the tennis infrastructure across the district.
  - The number of people playing tennis at club bases within Warwick is high. Analysis of current membership numbers indicates that despite the loss of two clubs, participation across the district as a whole remains relatively static compared with the previous PPS with LTA registration figures indicating that there are 2369 players (compared to 2381 in the 2013 PPS). Data collated as part of this assessment indicates that this has increased further since the most recent collation of affiliation data. Analysis demonstrates that several of the very large clubs have expanded further in recent years, while smaller clubs have seen either static membership or a slight decline in the number of people using their site. Both clubs that have folded were also smaller clubs. This may suggest a tendency for members to travel to reach better facilities, which is something that clubs believe to be the case.
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- LTA insight (derived from Sport England Market Segmentation) revealed that 2756 people currently participate in tennis however a further 2873 people would like to play. This suggests that there is an overall potential tennis playing population of 5629.
  - With club membership of 2593, this suggests that just 163 players currently play tennis outside of the club base, which represents less than 5% of the overall tennis playing population. LTA insight demonstrates that up to 40 – 50% of tennis activity in an area may take place at public venues, and 36% of play in Warwickshire as a whole county is at public venues. This suggests that there is significant opportunity to increase play at public venues (or that the LTA insight information is under estimating participation in this area).
  - LTA viability modelling assumes that 3% of the population would look to play tennis each month. In Warwick District, this represents 3296 people, a figure lower than the potential (latent demand) figure calculated using the Active People / Market Segmentation research, but potentially realistic given the low levels of participation that the baseline figures would suggest take place at public tennis venues.
  - Use of LTA parameters (one floodlit court serves 60 members, one non floodlit court serves 40 members), concludes that the facilities that are currently available can serve 3640 players. Based upon the number of players at club bases, this suggests that the amount of existing facilities are sufficient. When considering the baseline LTA target (3% participation) and the maximum target including latent demand (5629 players) the current number of courts that are available would become insufficient. If the number of players that could be accommodated by public courts was increased to 80 however, the LTA baseline targets (3%) could be accommodated.



Key Issues for Strategy to Address

- There are no indoor tennis venues within Warwick District and this represents a particular gap in the market. Several clubs highlight the need for indoor facilities and / or covered courts in order to grow their membership and adequately accommodate the needs of the existing user base.
- while most clubs are able to accommodate the current number of members that they have and have scope for new members, the number of people playing at Leamington Lawn Tennis Club and Warwick Boat Club is above the capacity of the courts. There is also only scope for an increase of 55 members at Kenilworth Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, and this club highlight challenges meeting demand at peak time. All of the clubs where capacity issues were identified are currently seeking indoor and / or covered courts. As well as improving the player experience, this would also enhance the capacity of the clubs ensuring that there is room to accommodate participation increases as and when they occur.
- Using LTA parameters that up to 3% of the population may play tennis, the projected trends based increase of 8343 people between 2018 and 2029 will generate a further 250 tennis players. Even if assuming high levels of occupancy on public courts, these additional 250 players could not be accommodated without access to further facilities (circa 2 additional courts would be required). The additional players would generate a need for up to 6 courts if public courts are assumed to accommodate the same number of participants as club based facilities.
- Population growth arising from new housing development would see a further 768 players, meaning that provision would become further insufficient.
- Good distribution of tennis courts, with all major settlements offering access to both public and private facilities
- Quality is limited at some key public sites
- There is limited availability of facilities at school sites and the quality of courts at these venues ranges significantly. Added to this, there is almost no promotion and a general lack of awareness of facilities that are available.
- The quality of club bases is very high and it is clear that significant investment is channelled into these facilities annually. Despite this, there remain opportunities for improvement, with the quality of changing facilities particularly poor. Some clubs also highlight a need to improve the quality of their courts to address underlying issues and ensure that they can continue to attract the calibre of players that they are seeking;
- Overall, the number of club members in the district is relatively static, however it is clear that it is the larger clubs with higher quality facilities that have grown, and the smaller clubs with more limited opportunities that are static and / or declining. Clubs highlight a desire for higher quality facilities and indicate that a good player experience is essential if they are to continue to attract new participants and to retain existing;
- Modelling based on actual participation demonstrates that there are sufficient facilities and scope to increase usage (particularly public venues) to meet current demand. Viability modelling at target level participation of 3% however indicates that more facilities may be required and if higher levels of latent demand were to be realised, additional provision would definitely be necessary. In the short term however, the priority is to maximise the use of the existing network and to ensure that the facility stock is sustainable moving forwards.
- There are insufficient facilities at some key clubs, and Warwick Boat Club, Kenilworth Squash Club and Leamington Lawn Tennis Club would benefit from additional capacity (new courts / covering of courts)
- There are particular opportunities to improve the player journey. There is a lack of understanding of the exact usage patterns of current public facilities. Research indicates that the introduction of programmes on public sites (such as coaching / introduction to tennis etc) may increase the use of these facilities and support the transition into clubs;

- Providers are not currently capitalising upon solutions that are available to enhance the player experience (such as online booking tools)

**Table 10.5 – Summary of Assessment and Key Issues – Cricket**

### Summary - Assessment Findings

#### Supply

- There are 19 sites containing facilities for cricket in Warwick District. These provide a total of 21 grass pitches, as well as 11 non turf wickets. Leamington Cricket Club, Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club and Cryfield Pavilion (University of Warwick) are the only sites with more than one grass pitch.
- There are no cricket pitches owned or managed by Warwick District Council meaning that public sector involvement in cricket is relatively low. Almost all sites are owned and / or managed by clubs. The lack of public sector involvement represents a change since the previous PPS, with the District Council having actively taken the decision to cease the preparation of the grass cricket pitches just as the previous strategy document was being completed.
- Spatially, cricket pitches are well distributed across the district, with both club-based cricket pitches and school sites in all of the major settlements. Several small villages also offer cricket pitches, including Leek Wootton, Hunningham, Rowington.
- Overall, pitches that are accessible to the community in Warwick District are fit for purpose, but there is a range in the scale and scope of facilities provided. All of the sites that were considered poor in 2013 have since been taken out of action, meaning that overall, the quality of the infrastructure for cricket is higher than it was at that time.
- The Cotswold Hills League has less strict quality criteria than other leagues in the area, seeking to promote participation, but at the same time ensuring that games are played on facilities that are fit for purpose. All of the facilities in Warwick District achieve scores rating facilities as good, and indeed some are amongst the highest quality in the league. Facilities also meet the required quality standards for the Birmingham Premier Cricket League and the Warwickshire Cricket League where appropriate.
- Overall, the quality of cricket facilities is good, with all grass pitches functional and no poor quality facilities identified. It is clear that there has been significant investment in the quality of pitches and associated facilities in recent years;

## Demand

- There do however exist some quality concerns, with issues relating to the condition of the outfield in particular evident on many pitches in the district (to a greater or lesser degree). Most clubs are however satisfied with their facilities and this is echoed through the league weekly assessments, which reveal no clear concerns on any site;
- the availability of outdoor facilities for training is reasonable, but there are some sites where new facilities are required. Alvis Sports and Social Club, Stoneleigh Cricket Club and Offchurch Cricket Club are the only cricket clubs where neither artificial training nets or a non turf wicket is required.
- The quality of pavilions is on the whole good, although improvements are required to ancillary facilities at Stoneleigh CC, Lapworth CC, Norton Lindsey CC and Leamington CC. In some instances, the facilities available within the changing pavilion are also perceived to be impacting on club development, ie a lack of changing rooms available to enable the club to accommodate junior play.
- Most sites in the district are owned and managed by clubs, or larger sports Trusts of which the cricket club is a part. Clubs therefore have strong control of the facilities that they use and most clubs are very proactive in the improvement that they make. This means that cricket continues to be self-sustaining. Very few issues with lease arrangements and security of tenure are raised, however;
  - Norton Lindsey CC only rent their facility, while Rowington CC have an annual license from the Rowington Cricket Trust. This may impact on the ability of these clubs to access funding;
  - Kenilworth Cricket Club – concerned about the impact that neighbouring housing development will have on their site – existing plans will see housing developed in close proximity to the cricket club, with no clarity on how it will be ensured that the ball does not travel etc.
  - Kenilworth Wardens CC will be required to relocate as part of allocated housing development that will take place on their existing site.
- There are 46 formal senior teams currently based in Warwick District and an additional 8 senior midweek teams. The vast majority of these teams are male teams, with just three senior ladies teams (at University of Warwick, Kenilworth Wardens and Leamington Spa Cricket Club). This represents a decline on the number of teams that were evident in 2013.
- Teams primarily play in the Cotswold Hills League, the Warwickshire Cricket league and the Birmingham and District Cricket League. Many of the clubs also have teams in the Arden Sunday Cricket League. There are a number of small midweek leagues including the Rugby and District League, Shirley Cricket league and the Coventry and District midweek cricket league.
- There are also 43 youth teams, ranging in age from U9 all the way up to U19. More than 50% of clubs in the district do have junior sections, with just Lapworth CC, Stoneleigh CC, Offchurch CC, Warwickshire County Council Staff CC and University of Warwick only accommodating adult teams. The number of junior

teams is broadly similar to that identified in 2013, suggesting that the main decline has been in senior cricket. The balance between junior and senior cricket is therefore also now more even, with a approaching 50% of cricket taking place being junior teams.

- Most teams are accommodated at their home ground, however there is a small amount of displacement both within and outside of the district, specifically:
  - One team from Kenilworth CC is displaced to Harbury (outside of the district)
  - One team from Kenilworth Wardens CC plays at Offchurch CC
  - Norton Lindsey CC – one team travels to Snitterfield (outside of the district)
  - Warwick Cricket Club – one team travels to Clavendon
- Leamington Khalsa CC are also displaced outside of the district to Lighthorne Sports and Social Club. All teams play at this venue but the club are looking to relocate back within Warwick District boundaries. This was also the case in 2013.
- Clubs that have experienced growth in general attribute this to targeting new markets, such as female cricket and increasing the number of youth teams. Several clubs reference initiatives such as All Stars as helping them to attract new players. Over 2000 new players have now engaged with the All Stars programme in Warwickshire and it is hoped that these players will transition through the age groups in the coming years.
- At the time of the 2013 strategy, several clubs expressed a view that the facility infrastructure was starting to restrict club growth. This viewpoint was still evident during consultation undertaken as part of this strategy, with several clubs highlighting that they have teams that are displaced and others indicating that the size of their changing facilities prohibits them from running further activity.
- With no facilities available on public recreation grounds, there is little evidence of casual cricket being played in the district.

#### Adequacy of Provision

- almost all sites can sustain a small amount of further play across the season, although the amount of additional play that can be sustained varies significantly. Pitches at Kenilworth CC, Alvis Sports and Social and Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Clubs are however already overplayed. There is scope for 27 additional teams across the season, but most of this is at Warwick university. Warwickshire County Council Staff, Warwick Cricket Club and Hunningham Cricket Club have the smallest amounts of spare capacity across the season, with only Warwick Cricket Club having scope to accommodate an additional adult team. Spare capacity is highest at Rowington Cricket Club, Leek Wootton Cricket Club and Leamington Cricket Club;
- there is just 0.5 match equivalents available on a peak time (Saturday PM), and there is evidence of displacement both within and outside the district
- as in 2013, there is very limited community use of any of the school facilities. The only site that is used at all is Kenilworth School, and it is thought that it is predominantly the indoor cricket nets that are used at this venue.

Key Issues for Strategy to Address

- at almost all sites, training takes place on the grass pitches, meaning that spare capacity is in reality more restricted than may first appear. The introduction of non-turf wickets and / or training nets would reduce this usage and ensure that the wickets are maintained for competitive play;
- while across the season there is scope for additional play, capacity is much more restricted at peak time. The only remaining site with scope for use on a Saturday is Stoneleigh Cricket Club. Added to this, several teams from existing clubs within Warwick District already travel outside of the district to share facilities with clubs in neighbouring authorities;
- there is no formal use of any of the school sites for competitive activity.
- Added to this, there are two teams displaced out of the district currently due to a lack of spare capacity on their own sites. Leamington Khalsa CC are also displaced in their entirety outside of the district
- Trends based population growth will see a slight decline in the number of residents aged appropriately to play adult cricket (but insufficient to generate an overall reduction of teams) while there will be one additional team produced from increased residents in the junior age groups.
- There is a need to protect (and / or replace) existing sites - all pitches are well used and are required to sustain demand.
- Although there are quality concerns, with issues relating to the condition of the outfield in particular evident on many pitches in the district (to a greater or lesser degree). Most clubs are however satisfied with their facilities and this is echoed through the league weekly assessments, which reveal no clear concerns on any site;
- the availability of outdoor facilities for training is reasonable, but there are some sites where new facilities are required. Alvis Sports and Social Club, Stoneleigh Cricket Club and Offchurch Cricket Club are the only cricket clubs where neither artificial training nets or a non turf wicket are evident.
- The quality of pavilions is on the whole good, although improvements are required to ancillary facilities at Stoneleigh CC, Lapworth CC, Norton Lindsey CC and Leamington CC. In some instances, the facilities available within the changing pavilion are also perceived to be impacting on club development, ie a lack of changing rooms available to enable the club to accommodate junior play
- There is a need to address issues raised by Kenilworth CC about the impact that neighbouring development will have on the quality of their site
- While most teams are accommodated at their home ground, there is a degree of displacement with at least one team from Kenilworth CC, Kenilworth Wardens CC, Norton Lindsey CC and Warwick CC travelling to other venues. several clubs expressed a view that the facility infrastructure was starting to restrict club growth
- Added to this, Leamington Khalsa CC are displaced completely outside the district but are looking to play back within Warwick

- There is almost no spare capacity at peak time (with just 0.5 match equivalents available). This is in the context of the above displacement. The only site with spare capacity is Stoneleigh Cricket Club
- at almost all sites, training takes place on the grass pitches, meaning that spare capacity is in reality more restricted than may first appear. The introduction of non-turf wickets and / or training nets would reduce this usage and ensure that the wickets are maintained for competitive play;
- trends based population growth will see demand increase slightly (by one junior team).

- 10.2 The key issues identified are based upon the adequacy of current provision to meet demand and the projected future demand. This takes into account both current need, demographic based population trends, club aspirations and population growth arising as a result of housing development.
- 10.3 For reference purposes, the impact of the key strategic housing developments (and the total proposed 10,679 houses) is summarised in Table 10.6. It proves that new developments planned as part of the local plan process will place extra pressures on the pitch stock and reveals that each new site will generate demand for further pitches however it is the cumulative impact of the new development that will create greater demand.
- 10.4 The pressures on the existing facility stock (which are evident particularly at peak time) mean that while pitch quality improvements will help to improve the stock of facilities, new provision in terms of both AGPs and grass pitches will also be required.
- 10.5 It will be essential that contributions and / or new provision are secured where relevant in order to ensure that provision will be sufficient to meet future demand. This could be towards either new provision or the enhancement of existing facilities and this will be addressed within the strategy document.

## 10: Summary

Table 10.6: Impact of New Development on Demand for Sports Pitches

Sport		Europa Way (1200 dwellings)	Land South of Harbury Lane (1605 dwellings)	Gallows Hill (630 dwellings)	Whitnash East (500 dwellings)	The Asps (900 dwellings)	East of Kenilworth Thickthorn (760 dwellings)	East of Kenilworth (policy ds12) 640 dwellings	Kings Hill (1800 dwellings)
	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)	Estimated Increased Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)
Adult Football	3.03	0.34	0.46	0.18	0.14	0.26	0.22	0.18	0.51
Youth	6.05	0.69	0.91	0.36	0.28	0.51	0.43	0.36	1.02
Mini Soccer	6.98	0.79	1.05	0.41	0.33	0.59	0.50	0.42	1.18
Rugby Union	3.90	0.44	0.59	0.23	0.18	0.33	0.28	0.23	0.66
Hockey	2.98	0.34	0.45	0.18	0.14	0.25	0.21	0.18	0.50
Cricket	159.61 pitches)	(3.55 18.12	24.03	9.43	7.49	13.48	11.38	9.58	26.95



## 10: Summary

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- 10.6 Table 10.7 therefore brings together the information in Tables 9.1 – 9.6 and summarises the key facility needs for each sport, drawing upon the assessment and the findings of the new development calculator.
- 10.7 It briefly summarises the key issues and broadly outlines the potential issues that will need to be considered in the strategy document.
- 10.8 The strategy document will take these issues and expand upon them, using the evidence base to set out a clear and concise plan for the future provision of facilities for football, cricket, rugby, hockey and tennis in Warwick District.

**Table 10.7 – Priority Issues for Consideration in Strategy**

Sport	Facility Needs based upon current position	Impact of New Development Calculator and Additional Needs Generated	Priorities for Consideration in Strategy Document
<b>Football</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of existing grass pitch stock due to lack of appropriate provision. This is likely to include securing long-term formal access to grass pitches at school sites – key priorities include North Leamington and Aylesford Schools (key club bases) as well as Myton School and Kenilworth School as part of the site relocations</li> <li>Improvement to pyramid facilities – Racing Club Warwick, Leamington FC, Ajax Park, Leamington Hibernian, Alvis Sports</li> <li>Address quality issues to ensure that standard capacity rating is retained and existing capacity is preserved. This should focus in particular on sites accommodating heavy usage. Priorities include Acre Close, Ajax Park, Alvis Sports, Castle Farm, North Leamington School, Harbury Lane, Leek Wootton, Newbold Comyn, Racing Club Warwick. There are also several smaller sites listed in Section 5 which would benefit from improvement</li> <li>Additional capacity required to sustain current and projected future demand. To meet current training need, 5 additional AGPs are required. If all games for 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9 teams were to be played on AGPs this would increase to 5 – 6 additional AGPs</li> <li>Additional demand for grass pitches depends upon the strategy relating to AGPs (for training use with added benefit of match play or relocating all activity). Additional capacity equivalent to circa 8 youth and 8 9v9 pitches may be required (based upon peak time demand). Additional grass pitches should be focused around the existing club bases</li> </ul>	<p>Projected additional demand for 3 match equivalent sessions at peak time can be met within existing infrastructure. The requirement for 6 further match equivalent sessions for youth / 9v9 pitches would however need to be met by additional provision. The supply and demand balance for 5v5 and 7v7 pitches is also limited and further provision is therefore likely to be required</p> <p>New development calculator suggests an additional 49 football teams will be created – this will generate demand for one additional AGP for training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Site protection through local plan</b></li> <li><b>Secure existing capacity</b> - Negotiation of community use agreements at key school sites – North Leamington High School and Aylesford School are key priorities</li> <li><b>Qualitative improvements</b> – maintenance reviews, capital investment, new pavilions. Potentially focusing upon larger sites and club bases where greatest impact will be felt and prioritising site which are close to capacity. Priority should also be given to the creation of hubs – improved grass facilities and changing pavilions where AGPs are created. Key sites for pitch quality improvement include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Nicholas Park (linking with 3g hub)</li> <li>Newbold Comyn (linking with 3g hub)</li> <li>Castle Farm (linking with 3g Hub)</li> <li>St Marys Lane (Linking with potential 3g site)</li> <li>Harbury Lane</li> <li>Aylesford School</li> <li>Acre Close Fields</li> <li>North Leamington School</li> <li>Ajax Park</li> <li>Alvis Sports</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sport	Facility Needs based upon current position	Impact of New Development Calculator and Additional Needs Generated	Priorities for Consideration in Strategy Document
	<p>and some demand will be offset by the creation of AGPs that are listed on the register</p>		<p>Potential sites for changing pavilion improvements – Racing Club Warwick (refurb), Newbold Comyn (refurb linking with AGP), castle Farm (refurb linking with AGP), Ajax Park, Refurb, Leek Wootton Sports Club (refurb)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Creation of additional capacity</b> to meet unmet and latent demand, as well as address the additional requirements that will arise from growth. This should be in the form of both AGPs and grass pitches.</li> </ul> <p>Potential AGP strategy (to provide a minimum of 6 – 7 pitches five more AGPs are needed). A further one will be necessary by 2029 to take into account the impact of housing development</p> <p><b>Kenilworth;</b></p> <p>New Kenilworth School (replacing existing Meadows Facility).</p> <p>Castle Farm Recreation Ground (supporting growth at Kenilworth Wardens).</p> <p>It should also be noted that there are proposals for an AGP at Kenilworth RFC. There would be a need to ensure financial viability of this site. While it is anticipated that usage would be predominantly for rugby, the demand for football usage may be impacted by new provision at Castle Farm Recreation Ground above. This may have ramifications for the financial viability of the proposals.</p> <p>Retention of Cryfield Pavilion.</p> <p><b>Leamington</b></p> <p>Creation of hub at Newbold Comyn – to support existing network of grass pitches and address some issues of overuse. Will also require changing facility improvement</p> <p>Other opportunity - Potential pitch for Leamington FC – although the level that this club play at means that this is unlikely to be a community facility due to the restrictions on the usage that the</p>

Sport	Facility Needs based upon current position	Impact of New Development Calculator and Additional Needs Generated	Priorities for Consideration in Strategy Document
			<p>surface would create (20 hours usage per week). This is believed to currently be going ahead</p> <p><b>Warwick</b></p> <p>Retention of pitch at Myton School (to be resurfaced shortly)</p> <p>Resurface of pitch from sand to 3g at St Nicholas Park (assuming agreement of alternative strategy for hockey)</p> <p>Either potential second pitch at Myton School (would help to create a hub) or potential full-size pitch for Racing Club Warwick</p> <p><b>Outside main settlements</b></p> <p>Potential location of new AGP on new development site (ideally located at new school site). Kings Hill or Bishops Tachbrook new schools may offer options</p> <p>Additional AGP may be required longer term to meet needs. There is a potential opportunity at Alvis Sports and Social Club. This would help to address capacity issues at this club.</p> <p><b>New grass pitch provision</b> will also be required to meet growing needs as well as to address existing capacity issues. This will be negated to an extent by the provision of new AGPs but should focus on youth and 9v 9 pitches. Potentially up to 10 youth and 7 9v 9 pitches needed depending upon use of AGPs for league games – this would depend upon how effectively youth games could be scheduled on existing grass pitches. The strategy will seek to identify locations for this additional pitch provision.</p> <p>Key priorities:</p> <p>targeting clubs where there are clear capacity issues if not addressed by AGPs above. These may include – Alvis Sports (dependent on AGP), Lillington Juniors, Racing Club Warwick (dependent on AGP), Leamington Brakes (dependent on AGP), Khalsa JFC – potential new grounds or extensions.</p>

Sport	Facility Needs based upon current position	Impact of New Development Calculator and Additional Needs Generated	Priorities for Consideration in Strategy Document
			<p>Opportunities to increase provision through school relocations (Kenilworth School) and provision at the new school – Bishop Tachbrook</p> <p>Level of demand arising from new developments means that opportunities for new pitches at new development sites should also be considered. The Kings Hill site is the largest strategic site and could be used to establish a sports hub linked to AVIS Sports Club.</p>
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of existing quantity of rugby pitches</li> <li>• Kenilworth RFC – relocation to result in at least 6 grass pitches and /or 5 grass pitches alongside an AGP that is approved for rugby use (AGP would take training activity reducing need for grass). Quality of pitches also requires improvement</li> <li>• Trinity Guild RFC – replacement facilities to include 2 – 3 grass pitches. Quality of pitches also requires improvement and at least one pitch will need floodlights to meet training needs</li> <li>• Old Leamingtonians – existing pitch provision sufficient in quantitative terms although quality improvements are needed and floodlights are required to spread training. Club are considering AGP in partnership with Wasps. Alongside use of this facility for training, they would require at least three full sized grass pitches as well as midi pitches if existing match play was to be sustained (but all training activity put on AGP)</li> <li>• Leamington RFC – seeking access to additional pitches, qualitative improvements also required (changing accommodation) and pitch maintenance.</li> </ul>	<p>Additional demand for 4 pitches and / or equivalent capacity. Demand at each development insufficient to generate one pitch, suggesting that provision requirements will be spread across each of the key clubs (potentially 2 at Kenilworth and one at each Leamington Club).</p> <p>This additional growth would be better accommodated at the existing club sites (or within new sites where relocation is required) than at sites on the new developments. This is to ensure that the club ethos is retained.</p>	<p><b>Site protection through local plan.</b></p> <p><b>Address capacity issues;</b></p> <p>Achievement of club goals for Kenilworth RFC and Trinity Guild RFC through relocation. AGP for Kenilworth RFC to be considered in context of proposals to meet demand for football, which are likely to see the provision of alternative 3g AGPs in Kenilworth to meet the needs of football clubs. As a consequence, there is likely to be limited use of a facility from a football perspective, but there is justification to suggest that the rugby club would benefit.</p> <p>Consideration of potential AGP for Old Leamingtonians (would address issues at both Leamington RFC and Old Leamingtonians). Proposals for football AGPs would however mean that this would need to be financially viable with predominantly rugby users (including Wasps RFC).</p> <p><b>Improvement of maintenance procedures to retain and where possible improve capacity.</b></p>
Hockey	Protection of enough facilities to meet demand:	New housing growth and trends based demographic change result in demand	<b>Strategy should seek to provide four - five pitches of appropriate quality and in the right location. It is likely that the existing stock will need to be reconfigured in order to deliver this. Opportunities are discussed below. Four pitches are required immediately, the</b>

Sport	Facility Needs based upon current position	Impact of New Development Calculator and Additional Needs Generated	Priorities for Consideration in Strategy Document
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warwick (Warwick Hockey Club) – 5.5 match equivalents at peak time (2 pitches). Club currently have access to 3rd pitch for overflow at peak time but all fixtures could be accommodated within 2 pitches. Club also seeking to develop hockey</li> <li>Leamington (Leamington HC and Leamington Khalsa HC)– 2 pitches (6 match equivalents total at peak time) of which 2 may be at National League level in future years. Potential for clubs to travel to Westwood Campus for pitch to meet national league requirements if decision is taken not to provide this in Leamington. Scope for further growth of hockey in Leamington, with both clubs having aspirations for additional teams. Quality issues at existing sites will need to be addressed</li> </ul> <p><b>Ensure that facilities are of appropriate quality to meet demand</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two clubs (both Leamington) require access to facility that is potentially of national league standard</li> <li>Other existing facilities (Aylesford and North Leamington) reaching end of lifespan</li> <li>Clubs highlight requirement for on site club house (particularly Warwick HC)</li> </ul>	<p>for additional 3 match equivalents at peak time.</p> <p>Coupled with club aspirations for growth, this may suggest that <b>five sand based AGPs are required to meet long term need.</b></p>	<p><b>fifth is to ensure that increased participation arising from housing growth can be accommodated.</b></p> <p><b>Potential Opportunities for Delivery</b></p> <p>Warwick - Warwick School – strategically important regional site for hockey with 2 pitches. Club seeking on site clubhouse. Site to be protected</p> <p>Leamington – facilities required to meet needs of both Leamington HC and Leamington Khalsa HC, including potentially pitch of national league standard.</p> <p>Khalsa HC – seeking to develop own pitch on club site in Leamington. Creation of this pitch would offset requirement for other pitches at St Nicholas Park. A further pitch would however still be required in Leamington. It is questionable however whether this pitch is financially viable or whether access should instead be sought to Warwick University.</p> <p>North Leamington School – facility of standard – poor quality and requires refurbishment – site is currently a key site for hockey and is likely to represent a key part of the plan moving forwards whether or not new facility for Khalsa HC is provided.</p> <p>If a new facility for Khalsa is supported, this would see the strategy protect Warwick School x 2, North Leamington and new facility, as well as another (potentially Aylesford School) to future proof and provide opportunities for growth. If it is not supported, access will need to be sought to Westwood Campus.</p> <p>Warwick - St Nicholas Park - facility of standard quality with limited / no access to changing facilities. Will require refurbishment if long term use for hockey required however this site is identified as having potential to create a hub for football. If above is followed, this site may have no future role in hockey.</p> <p><b>Qualitative improvements</b></p> <p>Assuming strategy seeks to protect, Leamington School will require refurbishment and Aylesford School will also need</p>

Sport	Facility Needs based upon current position	Impact of New Development Calculator and Additional Needs Generated	Priorities for Consideration in Strategy Document
			<p>refurbishment as well as improved access to changing accommodation.</p> <p>Warwick HC seeking to create clubhouse</p> <p>The strategy will also need to consider other issues for hockey such as retention of pitch quality and the establishment of sinking funds.</p>
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality is limited at some key public sites</li> <li>opportunities for improvement at key club bases, including changing facilities and court surfaces</li> <li>There are insufficient facilities at some key clubs, and Warwick Boat Club, Kenilworth Squash Club and Leamington Lawn Tennis Club would benefit from additional capacity (new courts / covering of courts)</li> <li>Modelling based on actual participation demonstrates that there are sufficient facilities and scope to increase usage (particularly public venues) to meet current demand. Viability modelling at target level participation of 3% however indicates that more facilities may be required and if higher levels of latent demand were to be realised, additional provision would definitely be necessary. In the short term however, the priority is to maximise the use of the existing network and to ensure that the facility stock is sustainable moving forwards.</li> <li>There is an opportunity to increase the community use of school sites</li> <li>There are particular opportunities to improve the player journey. There is a lack of understanding of the exact usage patterns of current public facilities. Research indicates that the introduction of programmes on public sites (such as coaching / introduction to tennis etc) may</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The New Development Calculator does not cover tennis. However it is possible to estimate the total impact of the new housing growth using the target of 3% participation which is the baseline used in LTA viability modelling.</li> <li>With a total additional population of 25,629, if 3% of the population were to play tennis, this would result in an extra 768 players. Assuming that courts are not floodlit, 19 additional courts would be required to accommodate these new participants.</li> <li>Given that the existing stock of available courts is already insufficient to accommodate activity at this level, these new facilities would be required as extra provision.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Address capacity issues at key club bases;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kenilworth Squash Club – cover small number of courts</li> <li>Leamington Tennis Club – cover small number of courts</li> <li>Warwick Boat Club – project for new court development resulting in access to covered courts in partnership with Warwick School</li> </ul> <p><b>Improve usage of public courts by;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investing in quality of facilities (Beauchamp Square / Abbeyfields)</li> <li>Working with LTA to implement technological monitoring / booking and access systems</li> <li>Engaging with the local community and providing new participation schemes</li> </ul> <p><b>Increase usage of overall facility stock through;</b></p> <p><b>Working with key schools to increase access to tennis courts.</b> As well as securing long term agreements, this will need to include promotion and qualitative improvement. There is little use of existing courts but introduction of community use would address deficiencies and improve accessibility</p> <p><b>Seek to introduce community use to tennis courts on new school sites</b> developed as part of housing growth programme.</p>

Sport	Facility Needs based upon current position	Impact of New Development Calculator and Additional Needs Generated	Priorities for Consideration in Strategy Document
	<p>increase the use of these facilities and support the transition into clubs;</p>		
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a need to protect (and / or replace) existing sites - all pitches are well used and are required to sustain demand.</li> <li>Although there are quality concerns, with issues relating to the condition of the outfield in particular evident on many pitches in the district (to a greater or lesser degree). Most clubs are however satisfied with their facilities and this is echoed through the league weekly assessments, which reveal no clear concerns on any site;</li> <li>the availability of outdoor facilities for training is reasonable, but there are some sites where new facilities are required. Alvis Sports and Social Club, Stoneleigh Cricket Club and Offchurch Cricket Club are the only cricket clubs where neither artificial training nets or a non turf wicket is required.</li> <li>The quality of pavilions is on the whole good, although improvements are required to ancillary facilities at Stoneleigh CC, Lapworth CC, Norton Lindsey CC and Leamington CC. In some instances, the facilities available within the changing pavilion are also perceived to be impacting on club development, ie a lack of changing rooms available to enable the club to accommodate junior play</li> <li>There is a need to address issues raised by Kenilworth CC about the impact that</li> </ul>	<p>The proposed housing growth will result in an increase in demand across the district. While at each individual housing development the impact is relatively minimal (although on some sites demand for one or more pitches will be generated), cumulatively demand will be generated for an additional 3 – 4 cricket pitches. Much of this demand may be at peak time (Saturday PM) where there is currently only 0.5 match equivalents available.</p> <p>It is likely therefore that at least some of the additional demand will need to be met by new provision</p>	<p><b>Existing facilities to be protected.</b> This should include retention of resource for Kenilworth CC who are currently having issues with the boundary.</p> <p><b>Additional capacity to be generated through;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocation of Kenilworth Wardens – existing provision to be replicated as a minimum, but ideally capacity should be increased (ideally three cricket grounds with at least 24 strips)</li> <li>Relocation of Leamington Khalsa CC if appropriate ground can be identified</li> <li>Creation of additional capacity for cricket either through additional new ground (ideally at site where club is at capacity and / or displaced eg Warwick CC, Norton Lindsey CC, Kenilworth CC or provision of a satellite facility at school site (either new facility or opening up of existing through long term agreement)</li> </ul> <p><b>Support ongoing club development</b> (and ability to accommodate junior play and development activities) as well as capacity issues by maximising off field practice. All sites should have at least a non turf wicket and / or training nets. Alvis Sports and Social Club, Offchurch Cricket Club and Stoneleigh Cricket Club currently have neither</p> <p>Maintain and improve the quality of existing cricket grounds, addressing site specific problems identified as well as improving maintenance. Warwickshire County Council Sports Ground, Kenilworth Wardens, Kenilworth CC, Nelson Memorial Cricket Ground, Norton Lindsey Recreation Ground, Stoneleigh Cricket Club, Warwick Cricket Club, Rowington Cricket Club, Offchurch Cricket Club would also benefit from maintenance / pitch improvement works.</p> <p><b>Improve ancillary facilities</b>, including Stoneleigh CC, Lapworth CC, Norton Lindsey CC and Leamington CC. In some instances,</p>



Sport	Facility Needs based upon current position	Impact of New Development Calculator and Additional Needs Generated	Priorities for Consideration in Strategy Document
	<p>neighbouring development will have on the quality of their site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While most teams are accommodated at their home ground, there is a degree of displacement with at least one team from Kenilworth CC, Kenilworth Wardens CC, Norton Lindsey CC and Warwick CC travelling to other venues. several clubs expressed a view that the facility infrastructure was starting to restrict club growth</li> <li>• Added to this, Leamington Khalsa CC are displaced completely outside the district but are looking to play back within Warwick</li> <li>• There is almost no spare capacity at peak time (with just 0.5 match equivalents available). This is in the context of the above displacement. The only site with spare capacity is Stoneleigh Cricket Club</li> <li>• at almost all sites, training takes place on the grass pitches, meaning that spare capacity is in reality more restricted than may first appear. The introduction of non-turf wickets and / or training nets would reduce this usage and ensure that the wickets are maintained for competitive play;</li> <li>• trends based population growth will see demand increase slightly (by one junior team). New housing growth will see demand increase further (by 3 – 4 pitches).</li> </ul>		<p>the facilities available within the changing pavilion are also perceived to be impacting on club development, ie a lack of changing rooms available to enable the club to accommodate junior play. Improvements should be supported in these circumstances.</p>