



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE
Telephone: 01353 665555

MEETING: **OPERATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**
TIME: 4.30pm
DATE: 13th September 2021
VENUE: Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely
ENQUIRIES REGARDING THIS AGENDA: Adrian Scaites-Stokes
DIRECT DIAL: (01353) 665555 EMAIL: adrian.scaites-stokes@eastcamb.gov.uk

Membership:

Conservative Members

Cllr David Ambrose Smith
(Chairman)
Cllr Julia Huffer
(Vice Chairman)
Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith
Cllr Lis Every
Cllr Joshua Schumann
Cllr Jo Webber

Liberal Democrat Members

Cllr Mark Inskip
(Lead Member)
Cllr John Trapp
Cllr Christine Whelan
Vacancy

Independent Member

Cllr Paola Trimarco
(Lead Member)

Substitutes:

Cllr Anna Bailey
Cllr Dan Schumann
Cllr Lisa Stubbs

Substitutes:

Cllr Matthew Downey
Cllr Simon Harries
Cllr Alison Whelan

Substitute:

Cllr Sue Austen

Lead Officers:

Jo Brooks, Director Operations

Quorum: 5 Members

A G E N D A

- 1. Public Question Time**
The meeting will commence with up to 15 minutes public question time
- 2. Apologies and Substitutions**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
To receive declarations of interest from Members for any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.

- 4. Minutes**
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2021
- 5. Chairman's Announcements**
- 6. Parking Enforcement**
- 7. Presentation – Citizens Advice West Suffolk**
- 8. Presentation - Voluntary & Community Action East Cambridgeshire – Service Level Agreement Update**
- 9. Service Presentation – Communities & Partnerships**
- 10. Budget Monitoring Report**
- 11. Youth Action Plan Progress Update**
- 12. Outdoor Sports Facilities & Playing Pitch Strategy**
Due to the large size of the strategy documents (Appendices 1 & 2) they have only been provided in hardcopy form to the members of the Committee. Copies are available on the Council's website or by contacting Democratic Services.
- 13. Quarter 1, 2021/22 Performance for the Waste and Street Cleansing Services**
- 14. Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee Minutes**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2021
- 15. Forward Agenda Plan**

NOTES:

1.	Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. If you are visiting The Grange during normal working hours you should report to the main reception desk. If you come to an evening meeting please enter via the door in the glass atrium at the back of the building. Public Questions/Statements are welcomed on any topic related to the Committee's functions as long as there is no suspicion that it is improper (e.g. offensive, slanderous or might lead to disclosures of Exempt or Confidential information). Up to 15 minutes is allocated for this at the start of the meeting. Further details about the Public Question Time scheme are available at: https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/committees/public-question-time-scheme
2.	The Council has adopted a 'Purge on Plastics' strategy and is working towards the removal of all consumer single-use plastics in our workplace. Therefore, we do not provide disposable cups in our building or at our meetings and would ask members of the public to bring their own drink to the meeting if required.
3.	Fire instructions for meetings: If the fire alarm sounds please make your way out of the building by the nearest available exit i.e. the back staircase or the fire escape in the Chamber. Do not attempt to use the lifts. The fire assembly point is in the front staff car park by the exit barrier. The building has an auto-call system to the fire services so there is no need for anyone to call the fire services. The Committee Officer will sweep the area to ensure that everyone is out.
4.	Reports are attached for each agenda item unless marked "oral".
5.	If required all items on the agenda can be provided in different formats (e.g. large type, Braille or audio tape, or translated into other languages), on request, by calling Main Reception on (01353) 665555 or e-mail: translate@eastcambs.gov.uk
6.	If the Committee wishes to exclude the public and press from the meeting, a resolution in the following terms will need to be passed: "That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no(s). X because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category X of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."

BRECKLAND COUNCIL
EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL
FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL
WEST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

ANGLIA REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

**Held on Tuesday, 22 June 2021 at 11.00 am in the
Carnegie Rooms, Cage Lane, Thetford. IP24 2EA**

PRESENT

Cllr Philip Cowen	Cllr Maurice Cook
Cllr David Ambrose-Smith	Cllr David Connor (Substitute Member)
Cllr Sarah Broughton	

In Attendance

Paul Corney	- Head of ARP
Sam Anthony	- Head of HR & OD (Fenland)
Alison Chubbock	- Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)
Lorraine King	- Operations Manager (Benefits & Billing) ARP
Rachael Mann	- Assistant Director (Resources & Performance) (West Suffolk)
Brian Mew	- Chief Finance Officer & S151 Officer (East Suffolk)
Adrian Mills	- Strategic Manager (Billing & Benefits) ARP
Ian Smith	- Finance Manager & S151 Officer (East Cambs)
Julie Britton	- Democratic Services Officer

Chairman's Opening Remarks

The outgoing Chairman, Councillor Cowen thanked everyone within the ARP Partnership for dealing with all the challenges in what had been an incredibly difficult year, yet so much had still been achieved which he felt had been a great success.

14/21 CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR (AGENDA ITEM 1)

After being duly proposed and seconded and with no other nominations being made it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor David Ambrose-Smith (East Cambridgeshire DC) be appointed as Chairman for the ensuing year.

After being duly proposed and seconded and with no other nominations being made it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Jan French (Fenland DC) be appointed as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

Councillor David Ambrose-Smith in the Chair.

Action By

Action By**15/21 TREASURER (AGENDA ITEM 2)**

After being duly proposed and seconded and with no other nominations being made it was **RESOLVED** that:

Breckland Council be appointed as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

16/21 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

17/21 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 4)

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Jan French. Cllr David Connor was in attendance as substitute.

18/21 URGENT BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEM 5)

None.

19/21 DECLARATIONS (AGENDA ITEM 6)

None.

20/21 ANGLIA REVENUES PARTNERSHIP SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN AND RISK REGISTER (AGENDA ITEM 7)

Paul Corney, Head of ARP presented the Service Delivery Plan and Risk Register.

The pandemic had significantly impacted the services but was continuing to lessen and considerable progress had been made on the Service Delivery Plan.

An error on the Service Plan was highlighted, Members were informed that on the appendix under Maximising Taxbase NNDR, the last three boxes in that row should read as follows, and had been replaced:

Planning, external services such as analyse local and ARP	Data to be shared so that taxbase is maximised and relief to be reviewed regularly	A data matching exercise will take place to identify cases where SBRR is incorrectly claimed because there is more than one business in the Company. A timetable for review of all cases will be prepared with a view to starting the review next financial year once Covid releases resource.
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Also, under this section the timetable, mentioned above, had already been produced to enable periodic review of reliefs and exemptions and progress thus far had been quite pleasing. The assistance provided to customers and the partnership working between teams across all councils and the ARP teams had been a great piece of work by all.

The Chairman, Councill Ambrose-Smith referred to paragraph 3.10 of the

Action By

report in respect of the appeal from Hospitals for business rate relief that had been withdrawn and reminded Members that this could have ended up being a huge cost to the Partnership.

The Service Delivery Plan and Risk Register was otherwise noted.

21/21 PERFORMANCE REPORTS (STANDING ITEM) (AGENDA ITEM 8)

Adrian Mills, Strategic Manager (Billing & Benefits) presented the reports.

He was pleased to report that all partner authorities combined for 2020/2021 were on target; however, the Council Tax collection rates for Breckland, East Suffolk and Fenland DCs were behind target, due to the magistrate's courts not being open at the time and therefore reducing the amount that could have been collected.

The Enforcement Team had also recently taken on the collection of parking fines for East and West Suffolk Council's and were due to receive its first cases shortly.

With effect from March 2020, all recovery actions were temporarily suspended until the summer and therefore the amount collected through these actions had been less than in the last financial year. Income of £680K in total had been received this financial year compared to £1.37M last year.

The 3 March 2021 budget, the Government announced that retail, hospitality and leisure relief would be extended into the 2021/22 financial year but from 1 July 2021 would be reduced to 66%. Revised bills would be issued in June 2021 to reduce the rate relief to 66%.

For Council Tax, the Team had completed 17.5% more documents this year compared to last year yet outstanding work had been below the highest levels it reached the previous year.

The Council Tax Support Hardship Fund awards were issued to every qualifying working age customer by the end of July 2020 and have continued to award a payment to every entitled new working age Council Tax Support customer who made a claim throughout the year. Expenditure had been closely monitored to ensure the fund for each Council had not been overspent.

Targets had been achieved for both Council Tax Support and Benefits performance, despite the increased demand attributed to COVID-19.

Throughout the year the Team had seen significant increases in claims and had increased by approximately a third on 2019/2020. In April 2020, the Local Council Tax Support schemes changed for all partners to include a 'tolerance rule' which was applied to monthly Universal Credit Data Share (UCDS) records from DWP.

The new rule meant that changes in Universal Credit of under £15.00 per week were ignored by the software system and were automatically processed. An average of just under 4000 UCDS records had been received weekly from the DWP and 53% of these had been fully automated. The introduction of the 'tolerance' rule had reduced the number of Council Tax Support re-assessments resulting from DWP UCDS records by 32%, which

Action By

was in line with the results of modelling undertaken for the consultation. This in turn had reduced the number of Council Tax adjustment notices, contact and refund requests and allowed customers more flexibility to manage their own payments.

The COVID 19 Track & Trace Self Isolation payment scheme had been extended by 3 months to 30 June 2021.

For 2021/22 all targets combined for all partner councils were on target except for Council Tax collections for Breckland and Business Rates collections for East Cambridgeshire DC.

For enforcement, £426K had been collected in April compared to £304k at the same point last year.

The Government had announced that they would fund further discretionary rate relief to businesses, further guidance was awaited.

In respect of benefits, performance had been achieved despite the increased demand attributed to Covid-19.

The Chairman referred to the Better Customer Journeys Programme in respect of who had set the complaint response timeframes from 28 to 21 calendar days. Members were informed that this was a 21day target that had been set by the Customer Strategy Team. More emphasis would be put on customer self-service sign-up which would have a quicker outcome.

Councillor Broughton asked if on-line forms were immediately uploaded onto the system. The Strategic Manager (Billing & benefits) explained that once the forms had been validated, they were then dealt with in the 'back office' system for those staff to pick up. The customer was in control of their data, but improvements were being made to this system.

The performance reports were otherwise noted.

22/21 WELFARE REFORM UPDATE (STANDING ITEM) (AGENDA ITEM 9)

Adrian Mills, Strategic Manager (Billing & Benefits) presented the report and updated Members with the following information.

At paragraph 2.18 - DWP were yet to publish a review of the CAB Help to Claim service but had confirmed that the CAB arrangement would continue into the 2021-2022 year, with a review underway for provision from 2022.

At paragraph 2.19 Members were informed that the Harrogate pilot had recommenced, the Pensioner Benefit would remain until at least 2025 and the £20 per week uplift for Universal Credit had been extended until September 2021.

Councillor Cowen raised concerns about the Help to Claim Service in respect of Breckland and South Norfolk's CAB service having been reduced and ultimately a real challenge for its customers.

The Strategic Manager (Billing & Benefits) was aware of some of the difficulties, but he hoped that DWP would take a wider look at the contracts in 2022. This matter would be discussed further.

Action By

Councillor Cowen also asked if the partnership would be looking at doing something itself rather than it being between DWP and the CAB.

Members were informed that until ARP had scope of the project itself and the terms nothing could be considered.

Councillor Cowen stated that all ARP Members could use their MPs but a briefing note would be helpful.

It was agreed that a briefing note would be prepared for Members to use when contacting their MPs.

AM

The Welfare Reform update was otherwise noted.

23/21 Q4 ARP FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2020-21 (AGENDA ITEM 10)

Alison Chubbock, the Assistant Director of Finance & S151 Officer (BDC) presented the report.

Each of the partner Councils provided full year financial information against budget for the ARP. The information had been collated to provide an overall financial performance report, to provide information to Joint Committee on the out-turn against budget.

The final out-turn for 2021 had increased slightly with an overspend against budget of £551K – further information relating to this overspend could be found at Appendix A

Councillor Broughton was aware that the overspend was mainly due to the delay to enforcement work but asked how long it would take the Partnership to get back on track.

Members were informed that an update would be provided in the quarterly financial reports for the current year.

Councillor Cowen felt that this was due to the impact of the pandemic that everyone faced but the Partnership was in a much better place than many other authorities and hopefully all would be back to normal in the next 12 months.

In response to a question, it was explained that the Joint Committee Agreement set out the variation in shares between each authority which could also be seen on the table under paragraph 1.4 of the report. The percentage shares for this area were based on the enforcement caseloads and number of properties as per the Agreement.

Councillor Cook hoped that this would be the only time that Members would see a deficit.

RESOLVED that:

1. the report and appendix be noted; and
2. the final full year variance as at 31 March 2021 be shared between the partner authorities in the approved shares.

24/21 FORTHCOMING ISSUES (STANDING ITEM) (AGENDA ITEM 11)

Members were informed that ARP had successfully appointed to the post of Jo Andrews who retired earlier in the year. The new post holder was from Harrogate and would commence employment early in September 2021.

25/21 NEXT MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 12)

The arrangements for the next meeting on Tuesday, 21 September 2021 at 11am were noted. Venue would be confirmed near the time.

Action By

The meeting closed at 11.40 am

CHAIRMAN

Minutes of a meeting of the Operational Services Committee
held in the Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on
Monday 14th June 2021 at 4:30pm

P R E S E N T

Cllr David Ambrose Smith (Chairman)
Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith
Cllr Victoria Charlesworth
Cllr Matthew Downey (As a Substitute)
Cllr Lis Every
Cllr Julia Huffer
Cllr Mark Inskip
Cllr Joshua Schumann
Cllr Paola Trimarco
Cllr Jo Webber
Cllr Christine Whelan

OFFICERS

Lewis Bage – Communities & Partnerships Manager
Jo Brooks – Director Operations
Maggie Camp – Legal Services Manager
Caroline Evans – Democratic Services Officer (Committees)
Richard Kay – Strategic Planning Manager
James Khan – Head of Street Scene
Liz Knox – Environmental Services Manager
Angela Parmenter – Housing & Community Safety Manager
Shona McKenzie – Community Safety Officer
Adrian Scaites-Stokes – Democratic Services Officer

OTHERS PRESENT

Nigel Ankers – Finance Officer, East Cambs Street Scene
Granville Hawkes - Voluntary Community Action East
Cambridgeshire

The Chairman welcomed Councillors Joshua Schumann and John Trapp as new Members of the Committee.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

4. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Trapp and Councillor Matthew Downey substituted for him for this meeting.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were made.

6. MINUTES

In reference to the minutes of 22nd March, under minute 74 third paragraph, it was agreed to amend the wording to read “The Director of East Cambs Street Scene” instead of “The Director Operations”.

In reference to the minutes of 29th April, under minute 2, it was agreed to amend the minutes to state that Councillor Christine Whelan nominated Councillor Mark Inskip as Vice Chairman, seconded by Councillor John Trapp.

It was resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 22nd March 2021 and 29th April 2021, as amended, be confirmed as correct records and be signed by the Chairman.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcement:

The Cambridgeshire Energy on Action Partnership had awarded £1million to East Cambridgeshire. This would provide funding to improve the energy efficiency to 50 park homes, 10 private properties and 46 Sanctuary properties for East Cambridgeshire. In addition to this the Council were working with the Greater South East Energy Hub with regard to further funding LAD2, that would enable the installation of efficiency measures to 22 more properties.

8. VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY ACTION EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation by Mr Granville Hawkes, of Voluntary Community Action East Cambridgeshire (VCAEC).

The Communities & Partnerships Manager reminded the Committee that it had agreed, in November 2020, to a Service Level Agreement for 2021/22 with VCAEC. It had also agreed that VCAEC would attend this Committee three times per year to give updates on how the services were progressing. Mr Hawkes was then introduced.

Mr Hawkes explained that he was the Product and Development Manager for VCAEC and was in his ninth year working for that organisation. VCAEC had originally been the Council’s voluntary service and the Ely Volunteer Centre, which had amalgamated. During a normal year, VCAEC would deal with between 20,000 and 25,000 volunteers’ hours, which gave opportunities to support the community. Last year was different due to the COVID pandemic. The COVID impacts accounted for some costs not being incurred and some extra sources of income.

The Volunteer Centre looked for opportunities to fill gaps in other services and attracted volunteers, who were interviewed so they could be matched to the appropriate organisations. Current projects included the East Cambs Car Sharing scheme, which had 25 volunteer drivers covering around 125,000 miles

per year, and the Gardening Team. Other community support was given to help with fund raising, financial advice and administration help. This resulted in approximately £300,000 going back into the community, but that would be limited without the support of this Council.

Looking forward, VCAEC wished to build on the work of other organisations and build on their legacy. Currently a new website was under construction, where other groups could advertise and encourage others to come forward. An East Cambs Community Support group would be set up. A target would be set to attract 100 people within East Cambridgeshire to volunteer, to put themselves forward when needed in case VCAEC was stuck for volunteers if anything COVID-like hit again. A few volunteers had already shown interest and social media would be used to attract more.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr Hawkes stated that VCAEC also communicated via letters and press releases and had other ways to get messages out. The Car Sharing scheme had 900 users. A database was kept of other groups and charity shops in Ely were visited to see if they wanted help. Once the website was up and running it would be used for ongoing communication. Parish Councils were a key link in the chain and could be used to co-ordinate and support events, such as for the Ely Litter Group.

9. SERVICE PRESENTATION – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Committee received a presentation by the Environmental Services Manager on the work of the Council's Environmental Services.

The Environmental Health Officers covered a wide remit of jobs and had experience, enthusiasm and adaptability. This was significant due to changing legislation and public expectations. The Department consisted of four different teams, Domestic, Commercial, Care and Repair, Licensing.

Domestic Team

They had responsibility for investigations and enforcement in a domestic setting. Nuisance was a tricky subject due to people's perception, so the team had to prove it was a statutory nuisance relating to noise, light and smell issues. Noise issues could be monitored, by residents where required, before action could be taken.

The team also had to undertaken inspections of Houses in Multiple Occupation, as there were 23 such licensed premises. These were regularly inspected so that steps could be taken to ensure they were up to standard. Other inspections include the 10 caravan sites in the district, which were checked annually. Inspections were also triggered if the Council received a complaint from a tenant. This was made more challenging due to COVID issues, so tenants were asked to supply any photographs of the problems.

Other work covered by the team included air quality testing, dealing with contaminated land, stray dogs, boarding establishments and fly tipping. During the COVID pandemic there had been a significant increase in fly tipping and 5 fixed penalty notices had been issued with 2 cases being looked at.

Commercial Team

The district had 880 registered food premises and this team had to inspect them to ensure food safety standards were maintained. The processes used by these premises were also checked to help maintain health standards, supported by Health and Safety inspections. As well as the usual routine inspections, other inspections were carried out in reaction to any reported incidents. Any priority based projects were dealt with alongside the Health and Safety Executive. The team had a good working relationship with Public Health.

Care & Repair

This service provided grants to residents to assist with adapting their homes or moving to a more suitable premises. Top up loans were also given for work costing over £30,000, and these mostly related to adaptations for children. The service had a good relationship with Sanctuary, who provided 40% of the funds when adapting any of their properties.

Miscellaneous Matters

The Department provided advice through the Safety Advisory Group, looked to help provide an integrated health advice service so people could be directed to relevant medical and health care services. It was also involved with the Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough waste partnership.

Impact of COVID

New regulations and guidance had been issued, mainly for licensed premises and the retail sector, as a consequence of the pandemic. This meant that, for track-and-trace purposes, the Department had to do door-knocking to gain information to create a list of relevant premises' contacts. There had been a small number of workplace outbreaks of the virus, though this was more the result of people's social life rather than at work, as most workplaces had adhered to the guidance. Some inspections had been targeted at certain places, to ensure they kept to the guidance and to keep control. Good communication had also help keep transmissions low.

During the COVID period the number of complaints had increased. Because people had been in lockdown, at home, this had led to a lot of complaints relating to dogs. It was anticipated that there would be more issues once life got back to something like normal.

In response to Members' queries, it was revealed that a survey had just been run to see how the pandemic had affected young people in the district. The information from that would be passed to the Health Partnership and fed into the relevant groups.

The Committee thanked the Environmental Services Manager for all the hard work of her teams and appreciated that only about half of what they actually did had been covered in the presentation.

10. ECDC ENVIRONMENT PLAN AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (JUNE 2021 EDITION)

The Committee considered a report, W28 previously circulated, which reviewed the fully refreshed Environment Plan.

The Strategic Planning Manager advised the Committee that the purpose of the report was to look back at the last twelve months to see what had been achieved and to look forward to actions for the next twelve months and beyond.

Solid progress had been made, with the most important aspect being the momentum generated. The Council was now in a position to push forward and take more steps. New targets were proposed, which were evidence based, had reasons set out for their inclusion and explained how they could be achieved. A new set of top twenty actions had been listed for the next twelve months and were even more comprehensive and ambitious than last year.

Tackling emissions would be a team effort and everyone had to do their bit. Officers had to contribute, as this was a key to building momentum. To aid this, more direct staff resource would be needed, hence the recommendation for a new staff member.

In response to Members' queries, the higher level of emissions in this district compared to the national average could be due to the level of commuter travel. In terms of the Council's own emissions, these were dominated by the Council's waste collection vehicles, though the use of alternative vehicles was being investigated to reduce their carbon footprint. Although a target of 2030-35 had been set for alternative vehicles, if this could be achieved earlier then it would be.

A Member explained that Cambridgeshire had a difficult rural/urban split, meaning to some degree it had less of a carbon impact as industry within the area was not carbon heavy. By far the most significant contributor to the county's significant carbon footprint related to traffic. This was a complex issue to resolve.

In terms of installing new electric vehicle charging points, the intention was not to limit electric vehicle charging points to one car park so other locations were being looked at. However, this issue was not as easy as previously thought. The relevant infrastructure had to be in place, there were technical reasons, such as power supplies, why some car parks would be difficult to use and retro-fitting was much harder than including them when new car parks were built.

It was acknowledged that, when calculating the Council's carbon footprint, getting businesses in the supply chain to provide emissions data for their products was problematical, and such emissions were largely outside the scope of the Council's control but hopefully, over time, supply chain information would become more readily available and this would then enable such emissions to be fed into the Council's carbon footprint calculation.

The additional staff resource was recommended initially as a part-time post, temporary basis, so its impact and value could be monitored. This extra resource should help achieve the proposed top twenty actions and, if proved adding real value, the post could be extended.

A handful of parish councils were interested in preparing their own Action Plans. Burwell Parish Council was a good example and could be used as a template for other parishes. Much would also depend on what resources the parish councils had. This could be put as a priority at the next Parish Forum.

Training, web-based by the Open University, had been targeted at staff and Members. It was module-based training and people could take a pick-and-mix approach.

The Sub-Committee thought the report had taken a considered approach, had not over-promised and should deliver on its targets. It would take time to achieve its goals but should aim to reduce carbon emissions as soon as possible. The whole of East Cambridgeshire had to be involved to maintain that momentum. The information from the Ideas Forum showed how, for some aspects, the public were unsure what it could or should do, so further education and advice would be helpful.

The Strategy and Action Plan had to be kept live and people engaged to meet the ambitious targets, which would be hard to attain. The Interim Targets were appreciated, as it showed the route that needed to be taken. The report included a lot of good things but more would need to be done each year to try and reach its net zero targets by 2040.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the Council's second Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (as attached at Appendix A), be approved;
- (ii) That the actions taken and proposed by management, as set out in the Agenda Report at paragraph 3.22, which will strengthen the resource available and the skills base of staff to help implement the Action Plan, specifically endorsing the addition of a new Climate Change and Natural Environment Senior Officer to the establishment on a part-time, temporary basis of such a post be endorsed;
- (iii) That the publication of the Interim Recommendations of the Cambridgeshire-Peterborough Climate Change Commission be welcomed, and agree to work with partners to help take forward those recommendations wherever practical and viable to do so.

11. **SUB-REGIONAL LETTINGS POLICY REVIEW**

The Committee considered a report, W29 previously circulated, which included consultation feedback and the subsequent revisions to the letting policy.

The Housing & Community Safety Manager advised the Committee that the Home-Link Management Board, which included all the local authorities in the Sub-Region, had agreed the final draft policy. Appendix 2 to the report showed a good amount of feedback from the consultation and 79.99% of responders agreed with the objectives suggested. As a result of the feedback, there had been three significant changes to the draft policy. The first related to ex-partners having the same priority as the partners. The second related to changes to the

work area with people working in the district being regarded as having a local connection. Thirdly, applicants could be eligible for the housing register if they were in a preference group.

The housing register looked at applicants and the available lettings. It was a fluid register, as it was constantly being updated. During the COVID pandemic it had still operated and since January 2021 over 1000 properties had been available to let.

In reply to the Members' questions, it was revealed that there was a huge demand from 16 to 17-year-olds and, if they approached the Council, their circumstances were considered. A programme of sessions in schools explaining the consequences of becoming homeless had been carried out, to explain its hard realities. If this was not done then it could result in problems later on, so working with youngsters would continue. A recent change to legislation now allowed the Council to assist carers with their council tax payments. The Council could interpret the circumstances around anyone working on a zero-hours contract, to give some flexibility over the eligibility of their being on the register. The Sub-Committee asked that the relevant figures be sent out to Members and agreed with Councillor Mark Inskip's proposal just to 'note' the subsequent revisions to the letting policy.

It was resolved:

That the outcome of the allocations review, including the consultation feedback and subsequent revisions to the lettings policy, be noted.

12. **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH AGAINST SCAMS PARTNERSHIP**

The Committee considered a report, W30 previously circulated, which looked at the Council becoming an official supporter of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams (CAPASP) and individual Member sign-up.

The Community Safety Officer advised the Committee that CAPASP was a county-wide organisation consisting of public, private and voluntary organisations and included a number of parish councils. A supporter of this partnership would be passed relevant information to prevent scams and would have access to new resources. Any individual Member signing up would also receive relevant information, regular newsletters and also have access to resources. If the Council signed up it would be the first district council to do so.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the benefits of the Council becoming a CAPASP Supporter be noted;
- (ii) That the benefits of Members becoming a CAPASP supporter and details of how to sign up individually be noted;

(iii) That the Council agrees to become an official supporter of CAPASP.

13. **QUARTER 4, 2020/2021 PERFORMANCE FOR THE WASTE AND STREET CLEANSING SERVICES**

The Committee considered a report, W31 previously circulated, which provided Quarter 4 performance information for the delivery of the waste and street cleansing services by East Cambs Street Scene Ltd (ECSS).

Councillor Joshua Schumann reminded the Committee that he was the Council's Observer on the ECSS Board.

The Head of Street Scene advised the Committee that the report covered the final quarter of the year. All collections had been completed satisfactorily with minimum disruptions. Services had been sustained and safely delivered during the COVID pandemic. It was also noted that there had been an increase in bulky waste collections.

Different methods of communicating with the public had been used, with advances in social media, and these would continue to be used. Two or three consultations had been released, which had sparked in-depth discussions. Work was also ongoing with Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) to ensure there was a consistent approach to waste and recycling matters across the county.

The table under paragraph 4.1 of the report showed a high level of performance throughout the services, highlighting that all services had over-achieved. The table under paragraph 6.1 summarised the tonnage collected, which was heavily affected by the amount of garden waste being recycled at various times during the year.

The Finance Officer ECSS, presented the year-end accounts and explained that the work of the audit was still ongoing, so the figures might be subject to review. He highlighted that staffing costs were higher than expected, the replacement vehicle costs were due to an accident, but overall ECSS had made a small profit.

Following the Members' queries, it was explained that recycling rates for January had been affected by the delay in the wheelie bin stock delivery. An order had been placed early enough but the supplier had encountered problems, causing the delay. This was an isolated issue and procedures had been adjusted to ensure ECSS had sufficient stock.

There was no correlation between the peaks in staff absences and requests received in October, as it was just a coincidence. Absences had been seen during the winter and summer months but the staff absences did not increase just because the workload increased. All employees had 'dug deep' and worked hard to keep services going, as demonstrated by the performance figures shown.

All offensive graffiti was cleaned off in all cases and non-offensive graffiti on Council owned property only. If non-offensive instances were found on private land it was the responsibility of the landlord to clean it. ECSS did offer a service to clean it for them for a fee.

Receipts from an insurance claim for a replacement vehicle had not been included in the year-end figures due to the complications with it. This was more to do with the third party insurers, but it was hoped to recover those costs. It was a substantial case which was ongoing and there was no guarantee that the costs would be recovered, so it had not been included in the accounts.

During a normal year the employees would have used up their holiday entitlement. However, because of COVID the employees could hold over their holiday entitlement over the next couple of years. This had built up substantially over the year, so needed to be accounted for.

£77.6k of the £91k extra provided by the District Council had been used due to the additional costs associated with COVID, and the excess would be returned to the Council. The amount provided by the District Council was specifically for any COVID related issues, so the small profit was not included as it had come from elsewhere. Although extra revenue had also been received from additional recycling credits, this again was not related to the COVID issue.

The Sub-Committee acknowledged the good work being done with the community, for example working with the successful 'litter picks', and for the services' prompt responses to issues brought up. It was good to see that the service promoted its education programme and expected them to attend the Careers Fair to promote its services and jobs.

The results of the consultations could be shared with Members, but this would be after 4th July when the latest consultation ended.

The overall recycling rate of 56% was a missed target and was based on the dry recycling materials and garden waste collected. Between October and March there had been a massive reduction in garden waste, though during the first six months the target rate had been achieved or over-achieved. To address that situation education was key, to help reduce non-recyclable waste. So, there would be a big focus on reducing household waste. The waste analysis conducted previously showed that some recyclable materials were being put in the household waste, so people needed to be educated to correct that issue.

It was resolved

That the performance of service delivery, for the fourth quarter, be noted.

14. **ANNUAL REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee considered a report, W32 previously circulated, which set out the annual reports of Council representatives on Outside Bodies within the Operational Services Committee remit and sought to appoint a new representative to the Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee.

The Democratic Services Officer (Committees) advised the Committee that the report summarised the Council's representations with Appendix 1 showing the representatives appointed to the Outside Bodies and Appendix 2 showing their annual reports and further information about each organisation.

Councillor Lis Every was nominated, by Councillor David Ambrose Smith and seconded by Councillor Julia Huffer, to be the new Council representative on the Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee.

Councillor Mark Inskip was then nominated, by Councillor Matthew Downey and seconded by Councillor Christine Whelan, to be the new Council representative on the Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee.

The Committee agreed to decide the matter by a show of hands and when put to the vote Councillor Lis Every was duly appointed.

It was resolved:

- (i) That Councillor Lis Every be appointed as a Council Representative on the Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee;
- (ii) That the annual reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies within the responsibility of the Operation Services Committee be noted (Appendix 2).

15. **ANGLIA REVENUES JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership (ARP) Joint Committee of 8th December 2020.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the minutes were presented so that the Committee were aware of what was happening at ARP.

16. **FORWARD AGENDA PLAN**

The Committee received its forward agenda plan.

The Chairman advised the Committee that due to a change in responsibility this Committee now had leisure services under its remit.

The Director, Operations advised the Committee that the report author for the report on Playing Pitches had requested an extension, so the report had been put back to September. The Review of the Housing and Community Advice Service would give details of the changes to that service.

In response to Members' questions, it was explained that the review of services had been not been completed, as the Management Team considered the Service Review and Appraisals would be too onerous for the services due to the extra work required because of the COVID pandemic. The intention was to re-introduce them as appropriate. The Director, Operations would inform the Chairman when they could be expected.

The meeting concluded at 6:45pm.

Chairman _____ Dated: 13 September 2021

TITLE: PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Committee: Operational Services Committee

Date: 13 September 2021

Author: Director, Operations

[W63]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 Proposals to reduce anti-social parking across the district.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are requested to:

- i) support the pilot scheme to integrate community-based enforcement of speeding, anti-social and illegal parking as detailed in paragraph 4.3 under Section 38 of the Police and Crime Act 2017.
- ii) review the outcome of the pilot scheme and make further recommendations (if appropriate) by October 2022.
- iii) support the proposals by Cambridgeshire Police to target identified 'hot spots' in the District with more effective on street enforcement in 2021/22.
- iv) review the effectiveness of the activity outlined in 2.1 (iii) by April 2022.
- v) not to implement CSAS in East Cambridgeshire (subject to a further review by October 2022).

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council on 22 October 2020 (Agenda Item 7(i)) agreed a motion in relation to parking enforcement. (See Background Papers).

In summary. The Council agreed to:

- Endorse a commitment to free car parking in its off street town centre car parks.
- Instruct officers to engage with the Police on the provision of a dedicated car parking enforcement resource for the District and/or effective implementation of CSAS (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme).
- Report back to Finance and Assets Committee (January 2021).

3.2 Finance and Assets Committee on 25 January, 2021 (ref. Agenda Item 3) received a further report by the Director, Operations which recommended to Operational Services Committee the implementation of CSAS subject to agreement by the Chief Constable, (See Background Papers) and agreed to engage with the Chief Constable on the implementation under Section 38 of the Police and Crime Act 2017. It is important to note that whilst the Council's Operational Services Committee is

responsible for car parking enforcement issues the Council does not have any on street car parking enforcement powers. Those powers rest with the Police.

4.0 ARGUMENT/OPTIONS

4.1 Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) is a scheme administered by the Police enabling the Chief Constable to bestow some Police powers to accredited individuals to deal with a range of issues, crucially not car parking enforcement. Although case studies in other areas have shown the value of CSAS especially the adoption of the 'Four E's approach – Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce', it is not recommended to proceed with CSAS at this time.

4.2 Section 38 of the Police and Crime Act 2017 permits the Constabulary to bestow powers to volunteers acting on the Police Service Volunteers' (PSV) behalf, including the power to issue car parking enforcement Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs).

Although Finance and Assets Committee were advised (based on the best information from the Constabulary at the time) on 25 January 2021 that these powers could be bestowed on Council employees, subsequent legal clarification has shown this not to be the case because of the potential conflict of interest. Although this potentially reduces the scope of the use of these powers nevertheless this remains the most effective way of improving on street enforcement across the district.

4.3 There is an opportunity, supported in principle by the Chief Constable, to develop and implement a District wide pilot scheme to create a new PSV role of Road Safety Volunteers integrating current community-based activities such as Speed Watch into a formal arrangement supported by training (based on the Four E's) to include enforcement of on street car parking as well as speeding. In practical terms, this would give the new Road Safety Volunteers new powers for speeding, rather than just the letter through the post as per the Speed Watch system. This pilot would also allow the Road Safety volunteers to be conferred with powers by the Chief Constable to deal with anti-social/dangerous or illegal parking where other avenues such as driver education messaging has failed. This pilot would last for 12 months and would be reviewed by the Operational Services Committee in consultation with partners at the appropriate time.

4.4 The Council has consistently expressed their support for the employment of dedicated resources for on street car parking enforcement. This is not supported by the Chief Constable given the proposed reduction in PCSO numbers and the requirement for him to deploy these resources according to operational priority.

Nevertheless, the Leader of the Council through the Police and Crime Commissioner's officer has continued to lobby for targeted activity in the 'hot spots' for anti-social car parking. The Police have proposed to provide some ongoing resources to underpin and support the new volunteer enforcement arrangements using current legislation to target 'hot spots' supported by extensive publicity to deter and reduce future infringements. The location and regularity of these operations will be determined by the Police but in consultation with the Director, Operations. This Committee will review the effectiveness of these operations by April 2022.

4.5 The initiatives detailed above provides a complete approach to tackling illegal on street parking, speeding and breaches of car parking restrictions. The Police will

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provide ongoing resources during the year to tackle illegal parking “hot spots” (e.g. obstruction, staying over time) through their own powers. In addition to that Cambridgeshire Constabulary will develop an East Cambs pilot of the new Road Safety Volunteer post, training and equipping them to deal with a range of road safety issues and support them with training and equipment which will empower and enable the trained volunteers to collect evidence of vehicle abuse for the Police to enforce.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/Carbon Impact Assessment

5.1 Approx. £250 per trained volunteer to include training, uniform etc.

5.2 The Police will submit a bid to the Road Safety Partnership to fund the home office approved, legally enforceable machines to capture illegal activity

5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

5.4 A Carbon Impact Assessment is not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 None

Background Documents	Location	Contact Officer
Council 22 October 2020 (Agenda Item 7(ii)) Finance & Assets Committee 28 January 2021 (Agenda Item 7)	Room 101B The Grange Ely	Jo Brooks Director, Operations (01353) 665555 E-mail: jo.brooks@eastcambs.gov.uk

TITLE: BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Committee: Operational Services Committee

Date: 13th September 2021

Author: Finance Manager

[W64]

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 This report provides Members with details of the financial position for services under the Operational Services Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION (S)

- 2.1 Members are requested to note that this Committee is not currently projecting an end the year revenue variance, when compared to its planned budget of £5,800,107.
- 2.2 Members are further requested to note that the Committee has a projected capital programme outturn of £4,167,244. This is in line with its revised budget.

3. BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

- 3.1 Under Financial Regulations each policy committee is required to consider projections of financial performance against both its revenue and capital budget on a quarterly basis.
- 3.2 This is the first quarter report for the 2021/22 financial year and details actual expenditure incurred and income received as at 30th June 2021 and current projections as to the year-end position.

Revenue

- 3.3 The revenue budget for each service that falls under the stewardship of this Committee has been reviewed with appendix 1 detailing the current variance and forecast outturn for each service line.
- 3.4 The significant variances of actual spend compared to profiled budgeted spend at the end of June, where no variance is forecast for yearend, are detailed in the table on the next page:

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Service	Variance £	Explanation
Building Regulations	(£13,348)	Increase in income over the period due to the relaxation of the pandemic rules
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	(£1,241,950)	CIL transactions are treated as a revenue income or expense, but any balance on the account at yearend will be transferred to reserve
Community Projects & Grants	£47,948	Expenditure in relation to Section 106 projects will be provided with match funding at the end of the financial year
Community Safety	(£72,681)	Rolled forward income from 2020/21 (PCC & Community Safety) will be used to pay for these activities in 2021/22
Planning	(£106,932)	We continue to receive an increased number of applications, some of which are higher fee earners, potentially as a result of Covid restriction relaxations. However, the department has remained extremely busy throughout the Covid period and continues to receive applications in numbers higher than experienced in recent years. We will look at forecasting a yearend position when things have settled down at the end of quarter 2
Public Relations	(£15,671)	Invoice paid in July 2021.
Refuse Recycling	£18,793	Quarterly recharge to ECSS to be actioned in July

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

- 3.5 The net revenue expenditure for this Committee at yearend is forecast to be £5,800,107. This reflects a forecast £0 variance when compared to the approved budget. However, within this there are two forecast variations on service lines, as detailed in the table below.

Service	Forecast Outturn Variance £	Explanation
Homelessness	(£10,000)	The current month end variance is the result of the roll forward of unspent Government grant from 2020/21. The yearend variance however, is the result of savings on hotel and hostel costs
Travellers	£10,000	Reduction in the rent received in quarter 1, plus additional work carried out on fencing at both sites are expected to led to an overspend at yearend, although every effort will be made to recover the situation

Capital

- 3.6 The revised capital budget for Operational Services Committee stands at £4,167,244; including £398,101 of slippage brought forward from 2020/21 and additional Disability Facilities Grant (DFG) of £81,894. The latter two amounts are included on this report for information, but are subject to formal approval by Finance and Assets Committee at their next meeting.
- 3.7 There are no yearend forecast variances from the revised budget at this point in the year.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY AND CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- 4.1 The current forecast is that the Committee's net revenue expenditure will come in on budget at yearend.
- 4.2 An equality Impact Assessment (INRA) is not required.
- 4.3 A carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) is not required.

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Revenue budget monitoring report – 30th June 2021.
- 5.2 Appendix 2 – Capital budget monitoring report – 30th June 2021

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Background Documents

Budget Monitoring Report
Preparation Documents

Location

Room 104
The Grange
Ely

Contact Officer

Ian Smith
Finance Manager
Tel: (01353) 616470
E-mail: ian.smith@eastcambs.gov.uk

OPERATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - JUNE 2021

Revenue	Total Budget 2021-22	Profiled Budget to 30 June 2021	Actual to 30 June 2021	Variance	Projected Outturn	Variance between Total Budget & Projected Outturn
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Regulations	17,696	3,711	(10,137)	(13,848)	17,696	
CIL	--	--	(1,241,950)	(1,241,950)	--	
Civic Amenities Act	11,671	2,293	2,279	(14)	11,671	
Climate Change	100,000		5,979		100,000	
Community Projects & Grants	179,585	36,949	84,897	47,948	179,585	
Community Safety	57,002	16,433	(56,248)	(72,681)	57,002	
Cons.Area & Listed Buildings	60,967	15,241	16,038	797	60,967	
Customer Services	460,037	118,005	110,606	(7,399)	460,037	
Dog Warden Scheme	34,443	8,798	7,559	(1,239)	34,443	
Ely Markets	--	--	--	--	--	
Emergency Planning	28,374	2,033	8,173	6,140	28,374	
Environmental Issues	91,486	20,773	20,627	(146)	91,486	
Health - Admin. & Misc.	410,201	99,405	104,245	4,840	410,201	
Homelessness	343,080	(439,978)	(734,390)	(294,412)	333,080	(10,000)
IT	801,664	334,491	324,561	(9,930)	801,664	
Licencing	2,499	357	(4,359)	(4,716)	2,499	
Marketing & Grants	70,094	48,438	40,136	(8,302)	70,094	
National Practitioner Support Programme	--	--	--	--	--	
Neighbourhood Panels	1,500	375	--	(375)	1,500	
Nuisance Investigation	75,315	18,829	20,247	1,418	75,315	
Performance Management	10,400	2,600	--	(2,600)	10,400	
Pest Control	9,341	2,335	2,256	(79)	9,341	
Planning	6,808	1,285	(105,647)	(106,932)	6,808	
Public Relations	75,917	18,979	3,308	(15,671)	75,917	
Refuge Recycling	1,006,700	251,675	270,468	18,793	1,006,700	
Refuse Collection	1,201,511	300,378	299,748	(630)	1,201,511	
Renovation Grants	--	--	--	--	--	
Street Cleansing	703,258	175,815	175,815	--	703,258	
Street Naming & Numbering	6,841	1,710	2,289	579	6,841	
Travellers Sites	(22,000)	(13,528)	8,810	22,338	(12,000)	10,000
Tree Preservation	55,717	13,882	6,260	(7,622)	55,717	
Revenue Total	5,800,107	1,041,284	(638,430)	(1,685,693)	5,800,107	--

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22

Capital	Published Budget 2021-22 £	Slippage from 2020-21 £	Approved Additions £	Revised Budget 2021-22 £	Actual at 30th June 2021 £	Forecast Outturn £	Variance between Revised Budget & Forecast Outturn £
<u>OPERATIONAL SERVICES</u>							
Conservation Area Schemes - 2nd round		27,506		27,506		27,506	0
Refuse & Cleansing Vehicles	2,000,000			2,000,000		2,000,000	0
Waste - Wheelied Bins	40,000			40,000	13,396	40,000	0
Depot	845,950			845,950		845,950	0
Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants	697,299	370,595	81,894	1,149,788	(262,978)	1,149,788	0
Empty Properties, Discretionary DFGs, Minor Works, Home Repair Asst.	75,000			75,000	(31,179)	75,000	0
Vehicle Etc. Replacements	29,000			29,000	7,750	29,000	0
Leisure Centre				0	(188,038)	0	0
Total	3,687,249	398,101	81,894	4,167,244	-461,049	4,167,244	0

SOURCES OF FINANCING	Published Budget 2021-22 £	Slippage from 2020-21 £	Approved Additions £	Revised Budget 2021-22 £	Variances £	Forecast Outturn £
Operational Services						
Grants / Contributions (DFG)	526,577		81,894	608,471	0	608,471
Capital Receipts	265,722	398,101		663,823	0	663,823
Borrowing	2,845,950	0		2,845,950	0	2,845,950
Section 106 / CIL	49,000			49,000	0	49,000
Capital Funding Total	3,687,249	398,101	81,894	4,167,244	0	4,167,244

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

TITLE: Youth Action Plan Progress Update

Committee: Operational Services Committee

Date: Monday 13th September 2021

Authors: Lewis Bage, Communities and Partnerships Manager; Liz Knox, Environmental Services Manager; Angela Parmenter, Housing and Community Advice Manager

[W65]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To note the progress made against the Key Performance Indicators and targets set out in the East Cambridgeshire Youth Action Plan 2021-24.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) Note progress made against the Key Performance Indicators and targets set out in the East Cambridgeshire Youth Action Plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council approved the East Cambridgeshire Youth Strategy and Action Plan in March 2021.

3.2 Members requested that progress made against the Action Plan be reported to Operational Services Committee every six months and that Key Performance Indicators be provided to measure progress against the areas of focus in the Action Plan, in advance of the first six monthly review. Members also agreed that consultation is to be carried out to assess the changes and the COVID impact on young people in East Cambridgeshire.

3.3 Implementation of the Action Plan commenced on 1st April 2021.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/OPTIONS

4.1 The Action Plan at Appendix 1 includes Key Performance Indicators as requested by Members and includes a column outlining progress made against targets set out in the Action Plan.

4.2 A consultation exercise is being developed to determine the impacts of COVID-19 on young people. The Council is aware of a recent survey undertaken by the East Cambs Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and is liaising with the YAB to ensure that any additional consultation undertaken by the Council aligns with and adds value to that carried out by the YAB.

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5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Members are requested to note the progress made against the Key Performance Indicators and targets set out in the East Cambridgeshire Youth Action Plan 2021-24
- 5.2 Progress update reports will be provided to Operational Services Committee every six months as agreed.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report's recommendations.
- 6.2 The EIA and CIA relating to the Youth Action Plan were agreed at March 2021's Operational Services Committee.

7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Youth Action Plan - Progress Update September 2021

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
	The Grange, Ely, CB7 4EE	Lewis Bage Communities and Partnerships Manager lewis.bage@eastcambs.gov.uk Liz Knox Environmental Services Manager Liz.knox@eastcambs.gov.uk Angela Parmenter Angela.parmenter@eastcambs.gov.uk 01353 665555

Appendix 1 – Youth Action Plan - Progress Update September 2021

Area of Focus	ECDC Action	How	Timescales	Lead	Progress
Engagement	Seek continued feedback from young people on youth engagement platforms to ensure methods used by the Council are appropriate and fit for purpose KPI: Consult with a minimum of 50 young people to obtain feedback on engagement methods by July 2021	Youth Advisory Board (YAB)	October 2021 then ongoing	C+P	Consultation on engagement methods launched in July 2021 and will end in October 2021. Questions and approach informed following YAB feedback. As of 1 st September 2021, 60 responses have been received
	Promote the Community Engagement Toolkit to ECDC officers that contains information on how to effectively engage with young people	Youth Officer Champion	January 2022	C+P	The Council's Community Engagement Toolkit has been updated following engagement with the YAB to ensure that it contains the most appropriate information and advice on how to effectively engage with local young people
	Invite local youth engagement networks to join the Council's Register of Consultees KPI: YAB signed up as a member of the Council's Register of Consultees	YAB Promote Register of Consultees on ECDC Youth webpages	July 2021 and promote on webpages from January 2022	C+P	YAB invited to join ECDC Register of Consultees in June 2021
	Engage with young people when developing promotional materials and platforms aimed at them KPI: Consult with a minimum of 250 young people to determine the impacts of COVID-19 by March 2022	YAB Development of ECDC youth webpages District wide consultation to be conducted	July 2021 then ongoing March 2022	C+P C+P	YAB asked if happy to work with ECDC in the development of promotional materials and YAB advised that they are A consultation exercise is being developed to determine the impacts of COVID-19 on young people. The Council is aware of a recent survey

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

					undertaken by the East Cambs Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and is liaising with the YAB to ensure that any additional consultation undertaken by the Council aligns with and adds value to that carried out by the YAB
	Encourage local youth engagement platforms to engage with relevant partnerships, networks and organisations to ensure that the voice of young people is represented	YAB	April 2021 then ongoing	C+P, All	YAB invited to join the East Cambs Climate Change Partnership.
	Appoint an East Cambs Youth Officer Champion to work alongside young people in order to ensure that their voice is heard and represented	Appoint using resources within existing communities and partnerships team	June 2021	C+P East Cambs Youth Officer Champions	Two ECDC Youth Officer Champions appointed from Communities and Partnerships team and Housing and Community Advice team
	Where relevant, devise engagement plans, initiatives and campaigns in partnership with other organisations (both voluntary and statutory) to maximise effective engagement with young people and seek feedback on action taken	Introduction of officer project group to meet twice a year	Officer project group first meeting to be held in August 2021 and twice annual meetings	All	YAB consulted during development of consultation exercises e.g. consultation on engagement methods
	Create a young person's webpage on the ECDC website that contains information and links to matters identified via the Youth Strategy consultation and any future emerging matters identified as well as	New webpages with input from young people e.g. YAB	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P Customer services	Website content being compiled

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting local youth engagement platforms • Providing links to consultations and surveys encouraging feedback • Provide a space for young people to engage with relevant partners, networks and organisations and to carry out consultations and surveys of their own 				
	Map local youth engagement platforms for ongoing engagement and signposting purposes	Youth Officer Champion to carry out mapping exercise with partners	January 2022	C+P	Mapping completed and can be added to if new information becomes available
	Promote the fact that the Council will be there to signpost and raise awareness of youth services to young people and stakeholders through the implementation of communication plans, webpages and via established networks	ECDC website Youth Officer Champion to promote to YAB and partners	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P Customer services	Website content being compiled
	Make the strategy available to young people by promoting it on the ECDC website and new youth webpages on the ECDC website and share strategy with relevant partners	ECDC website ECDC youth webpages Send to partner agencies	May 2021 on ECDC website January 2022 on new webpages August 2021	C+P to include on new webpages As above	Youth Strategy live on ECDC website and shared with partners in May 2021

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Safety	Ensure that the voice of young people is represented on matters concerning local safety and there is a clear path for them to escalate any issues and offer their ideas and views	Engagement with CSP, YAB and any other relevant youth platforms or groups Promote pathways via ECDC website	April 2021	C+P Youth Officer Champion to attend Delivery Group YAB to engage with Delivery Group Engagement with YAB on safety related matters	
	Support Community Safety Partnership initiatives where appropriate to ensure that young people are and feel safe in their community e.g. delivery of Eyes and Ears training to schools	Communities and Partnerships officers	April 2021 then ongoing	C+P	Eyes and Ears training available to schools via Healthy Schools website
	Promote safeguarding reporting processes to all ECDC officers KPI: 100% of ECDC officers to complete safeguarding training	Housing and Community Advice Manager to promote to ECDC officers	April 2021 then delivered at all staff inductions	Safeguarding Officer	
	Input into partner strategies addressing prevention related matters affecting young people	Officer project group to input	August 2021 then ongoing	All	
	Promote the location of safe routes being identified by other agencies	Promote via ECDC websites e.g. youth webpages	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P	Website content being compiled

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

Spaces and Activities	Ensure that local youth engagement networks are aware of how and where to submit their suggestions about spaces needed and advise them to proactively engage with parish councils about matters affecting young people	Promote via ECDC websites e.g. youth webpages	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P	Website content being compiled
	Provide advice and/or support to projects seeking to develop facilities and areas for young people to use and play	Provide feedback on feasibility studies for local projects	April 2021 then ongoing	C+P Connect YAB and Future Parks contact	Support provided to local groups aiming to develop local spaces Funding advice and signposting provided as and when enquiries are received YAB provided with details of Future Parks project with offer of follow up engagement
	Promote local youth clubs via the new young people's webpages	ECDC websites e.g. youth webpages	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P to carry out mapping exercise and provide web team with material	Mapping exercise completed in July 2021 and webpage content now being developed
	KPI: Map existing youth provision throughout the district by September 2021	Conduct mapping exercise	September 2021	C+P	Mapping exercise of local youth provision was carried out in consultation with parish councils and was completed in July 2021
	Promote funding available for youth clubs and groups to access via new young people's webpages and communication channels	ECDC websites e.g. youth webpages	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P to carry out mapping exercise and provide web team with material	Mapping completed and can be added to if new information becomes available

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

	Promote local community and voluntary sector support that is available to assist the establishment of new groups (this may include special interest youth groups)	ECDC websites e.g. youth webpages	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P	Website content being compiled
	Consult with and effectively engage with young people when developing spaces that they may use KPI: Consult with 50 users of Ely Country Park to seek feedback on the site and inform future priorities by November 2021	Promote opportunities for young people to have their say on via ECDC website e.g. youth webpages, Register of Consultees	August 2022 then ongoing	All, Open Spaces	Ely Country Park feedback surveys available on ECDC website
	Promote local volunteering initiatives to young people	YAB Officer Champion New webpage Officer project team	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P	Website content being compiled
Travel	Promote local community transport schemes to young people	ECDC websites e.g. youth webpages	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P	Website content being compiled
Health	Identify and promote health services available to young people in response to the survey findings e.g. mental health services and promote them to local young people such as via ECDC website and to local youth engagement networks	ECDC websites e.g. youth webpages	March 2022 then ongoing	LK	ECDC Youth webpages in development, with alternative signposting in place until webpages are live
Education and Careers	Identify and promote mentoring opportunities offered by local businesses to young people	New webpage Enterprise East YAB Housing and Community Advice	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P	Website content being compiled

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

Promote 'job ready' training for young people that includes interview skills and CV writing	ECDC websites e.g. youth webpages	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P AP to engage with Job Centre and other relevant contacts	Website content being compiled
Promote workshops for developing career skills to young people	ECDC websites e.g. youth webpages	March 2022 then ongoing	AP to engage with Job Centre and other relevant contacts	Website content being compiled
Identify and promote local volunteering reward programmes such as Time Banks to young people to encourage participation which could improve CVs and provide experience	ECDC websites e.g. youth webpages	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P to carry out mapping exercise and provide web team with material	Mapping of local volunteering reward programmes being conducted
Promote websites through the Council's youth webpage that list local job opportunities and apprenticeship programmes for young people	ECDC websites	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P AP to engage with Job Centre and other relevant contacts	Website content being compiled
Promote local apprenticeship opportunities to young people	ECDC websites	March 2022 then ongoing	HR	Website content being compiled
Identify and promote initiatives that are aimed at retaining local young people to the area	ECDC websites	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P AP to engage with Job Centre and other relevant contacts	Website content being compiled

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

	Promote information on financial support available for further education on emerging youth webpage on ECDC website	ECDC websites	March 2022 then ongoing	C+P	Website content being compiled
Working Together	Set up an ECDC officer project team to monitor and review performance of the strategy and action plan	ECDC officer project team	August 2021 and biannual meetings	All	Officer project team established and meetings taking place every 4 weeks
	Circulate the approved strategy and consultation findings to relevant organisations requesting them to develop their own internal plans to address identified issues, and seek feedback on progress	Send strategy and consultation findings to relevant organisations ECDC officer project team to monitor	August 2021 Bi-annual monitoring of externally led action plans	C+P	Sent to partners in May 2021 including schools, police, parish councils, health agencies such as PCNs and GP surgeries, children centres, County Council youth contacts, housing providers Responses and comments were received from some partners including Littleport & East Cambs Academy, Voluntary and Community Action East Cambs and Littleport Parish Council. Feedback includes details of what partners are doing in relation to the Youth Strategy areas of focus
	Support partners and multi-agency projects and initiatives that contribute towards achieving the aims of the East Cambs Youth Strategy and monitor progress via the officer project group	ECDC officer project team Youth officer champion	August 2021 – set up project group Biannual monitoring	All	Support offered to relevant agencies. To date no formal requests for specific support have been received

TITLE: Outdoor Sports Facilities & Playing Pitch Strategy

Committee: Operational Services Committee

Date: 13 September 2021

Author: Senior Leisure Services Officer

[W66]

1. ISSUE

- 1.1. To consider the adoption of the principles arising for the Outdoor Sports Facilities & Playing Pitch Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. Members are requests to note the
- i) Note the Outdoor Sports Facilities & Playing Pitch Strategy as outlined in Appendix 1 and 2; and
 - ii) Agree the use of the Outdoor Sports Facilities & Playing Pitch Strategies as an evidence base for securing provision, improvement and maintenance of outdoor sport and playing pitches across the district.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Members will be aware that, with the exception of the synthetic turf pitch at the Hive, ECDC is not itself a provider of outdoor sports facilities; they are owned and managed by the Parish Councils, sports clubs and educational trusts. As the Local Authority however, ECDC has a significant enabling role; supporting and working with providers, sports governing bodies and sports agencies to identify and address any gaps or opportunities.
- 3.2. In recent years, broader changes in the funding and planning environments have entailed an increasingly structured and strategic approach to sports provision. In order to support this and to create an objective evidence-base, Sport England has developed standardised procedures for needs assessment and planning, which helps to shape funding decisions. It also informs broader planning work, for example in relation to s.106 agreements accompanying larger housing developments, and provides a basis for the protection of amenities which may be threatened by built development.
- 3.3. Against this background, ECDC commissioned a review of indoor sports provision in 2014/15, and this work informed the development and funding of the Hive. To complement this indoor study Officers commissioned an Outdoor Sports Facilities & Playing Pitch Audit and development of a high level strategy.

4. OBJECTIVES

- 4.1. The objectives of the study were:
 - 4.1.1. To establish an up-to-date record of outdoor sports facilities across the District.
 - 4.1.2. To evaluate the fitness for purpose of the facility-stock, based on technical sports requirements and other relevant benchmarks.
 - 4.1.3. To anticipate future facility needs and priorities for development.
 - 4.1.4. To involve key partner organisations and local stakeholders in the process and support engagement with sport-specific development strategies.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1. In commissioning the study, several components needed to be addressed:
 - 5.1.1. Formal pitch provision- for team games such as cricket, football, hockey and rugby – is generally a core component, as these are often the key ‘building blocks’ in outdoor sports provision and the technical standards are well-established. Provision for these sports was assessed using the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy methodology.
 - 5.1.2. Small pitch or court provision – for bowls, netball, tennis, and multi-use games areas; and also provision for track and field athletics - was assessed using the Sport England Needs Assessment methodology, which adopts similar principles but with a slightly different framework.
 - 5.1.3. Opportunities for more informal ‘trail-based’ activities such as walking, running and cycling - for which there is no directly comparable methodology - were assessed by examining the proximity of facilities within each Parish, and the amount of open space in each village or town per 1,000 population. These are improvised measures, adopted for practicality and cost-effectiveness at this stage.
- 5.2. The full reports are attached as Appendices 1 (Playing Pitch Strategy) and 2 (Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy). A summary document is provided at Appendix 3.

6. LIMITATIONS

- 6.1. The audit provides a snapshot of provision at the time it was conducted; the picture can change as teams form or disband, or where usage arrangements change (in this respect outdoor facility usage is more fluid than that of indoor facilities). For this reason, the strategies will require regular review to ensure that they remain current.

- 6.2. For both technical and practical reasons, this work was led by formal sports provision. Although the opportunity was taken to conduct an outline review of opportunities for cycling, running and walking, further work would be needed to fully map provision for these activities. This is not to underestimate the importance of these informal activities, but a reflection of the methodological constraints.
- 6.3. The Sport England methodologies were developed to ensure consistency of approach and comparability of outcomes. This provides a fair degree of robustness, but leans more towards audit than to a finely granulated understanding of every local situation – particularly as the engagement of local stakeholders (sports clubs as the key users, and Parish Councils as the facility owners) was highly variable. Qualitative assessment therefore relied largely upon the site-observations of the consultants, with local input in some specific instances; and we may have to seek more information about the local context as and when any further facility proposals emerge. The county sports governing bodies, and Sport England, were actively involved in the process however, and this has helped to consolidate working relationships and provides a stronger platform for facility development.
- 6.4. Acknowledging these qualifications, officers are satisfied that the primary purpose of the work was achieved, the report findings are generally sound, and the inferences drawn are reasonable.

7. SUMMARY FINDINGS

- 7.1. The need for the existing outdoor sports facilities is not in question – not only for the sports in question, but also as communal open spaces. In most of the villages at least, they are one and the same, and serve a multitude of functions, even if much of the usage is informal and difficult to measure.
- 7.2. Overall there is a reasonable balance of demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities; most people living in the District have a range of facilities of acceptable quality and within acceptable travel-distance. There are some qualifications to this, which are outlined below as emerging issues.
- 7.3. The dominant formal sport in terms of facilities and activity-levels is football, for which there are pitches and teams – of one kind or another - across most of the district. Hockey and Rugby are centred in Ely, but with strong clubs in Newmarket and Cambridge effectively serving the south of the District. Bowls, cricket, netball and tennis are played at various locations; though netball is largely focused around Ely, and tennis coaching and development are again centred on Ely or Newmarket. There are no athletics facilities in the District – the nearest for most people being in Cambridge - though running for fitness is reasonably strong.
- 7.4. Activity space provision varies markedly across the district. It broadly aligns with Fields in Trust (formerly NPFA) benchmark guidelines for space per 1,000 population, and (perhaps more loosely) with those relating to travel distance. There are again some qualifications to this general picture, although the issue was not directly raised in any consultation responses.

8. ISSUES EMERGING

- 8.1. There is a modest overall deficit in football pitch capacity, which tends to show up more acutely in localised deficits, where:
 - 8.1.1. Pitches are of poor playing quality, or particularly susceptible to weather conditions
 - 8.1.2. Support facilities (changing, parking) are inadequate
 - 8.1.3. Usage arrangements are insecure
 - 8.1.4. The facilities cannot support current or potential programme growth, particularly at junior - youth level, and among women and girls. This 'latent demand' is the most significant driver for facility development.
- 8.2. Such issues have caused the loss of some teams in the past, and if not addressed will probably continue to do so. Perversely, this can lead to a situation where a playing field is under-utilised and may therefore appear surplus to requirements.
- 8.3. There are specific qualitative weaknesses in some cricket facilities - generally in practice nets rather than main pitch areas - and some seasonal overlaps with football. Some clubs have identified lack of capacity as a constraint on development.
- 8.4. For hockey, netball, rugby and tennis the facility limitations are also primarily qualitative and technical, and the likely priority is to strengthen 'hub' sites for coaching and competition.
- 8.5. For athletics, the problem is slightly circular: there is insufficient structured activity to support a full specification facility, but without any facility it is difficult to develop the activity. Any development here will therefore be starting 'from scratch', and is likely to require a phased approach, potentially starting with a compact training facility which also serves other sports.
- 8.6. Bowls participation has been in retreat for some years and the issue emerging – in a sport dominated by membership-based clubs - is one of viability rather than capacity. The likely focus is therefore on developing the participation-base rather than facilities. There may also be qualitative weaknesses in some facilities, but these are unlikely to be the primary problem.
- 8.7. For all activities, population growth may create increased pressure on space over coming years, particularly in higher growth areas. This may be offset or compounded by a range of other factors so should not be taken in isolation, but needs to be considered alongside more localised pressures.

9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1. Some localised facility development is clearly required to remedy identified weaknesses; support the growth of clubs and programmes; and allow for future population growth. All such development will entail site-specific strategies in

collaboration with the clubs, governing bodies, facility-owners, and may be led by any or all of:

- 9.1.1. Locally driven initiatives, generally leading into external funding applications and project development.
 - 9.1.2. Housing development, generating a quantifiable need for significant additional facilities, which can be incorporated into the development or into a related off-site facility.
 - 9.1.3. Sport-specific development strategies, generally driven by sports governing bodies at national or regional level
- 9.2. Often these mechanisms will operate in concert, and part of the importance of this study is that it helps to draw these threads together into a coherent strategy for a site or locality.
- 9.3. The work carried out provides an updated evidence-base and a coherent rationale to support each of the mechanisms above, and therefore provides a platform for appropriate measures to protect, enhance and augment outdoor sports provision as required in each locality.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1. Members are asked to note the strategies and agree the use of these strategies as a principal basis for continuing work with partners and stakeholders to provide, improve and maintain outdoor sports provision across the district.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 11.1. The work was funded from existing budgets, and no new budgetary implications arise.
- 11.2. The proposals do not directly affect any particular participation group or protected characteristic. No new equalities implications therefore follow from these proposals.
- 11.3. There are no direct positive or negative carbon impact implications for ECDC. There may be very modest benefits from more efficient use of spaces, and improved local provision (so slightly fewer journeys outside of the village), but these would depend upon activity levels and cannot be quantified at this stage.

Background Documents

None

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**Ploszajski Lynch
Consulting Ltd.**



**East Cambridgeshire District
Council**

*Playing Pitch Strategy
'Stage D' Report*

May 2020

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) was commissioned by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) to produce an Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy for the district, comprising three distinct elements:

- Formal playing pitches for football, cricket, rugby and hockey.
- Formal outdoor sports facilities for bowls, netball, tennis and athletics.
- Informal outdoor provision for sport and physical activity, including multi-use games areas and walking, running and cycling trails.

1.2 Background

East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district. The District Council does not directly control any outdoor leisure facilities, apart from a small country park in Ely. All such facilities in the district are owned and managed by parish councils, schools, or free-standing local trusts or sports clubs. It is recognised, however, that in order to respond to local aspirations and emerging opportunities a coherent overview of provision and needs is increasingly necessary. The purpose of strategy is to facilitate this.

ECDC is currently building on its 2015 Local Plan, through the production of Supplementary Planning Guidance documents. The Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy will form part of the evidence base, will inform the Local Plan and provide a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor facilities between 2020 and 2036, in line with population projections. It will also be used to ensure that there is a good supply of high-quality provision to meet the sport and physical activity needs of local communities as far as possible. By providing valuable evidence and direction, it will be used to help provide significant benefits to a wide variety of interested parties.

1.3 The objectives of the strategy

The objectives of the strategy are as follows:

- To establish a comprehensive and up-to-date record of current facilities for outdoor sport and related leisure activities.
- To provide an objective evaluation of the quantity, quality, availability and use of all such facilities, taking account of relevant sports governing body or other technical benchmarks as appropriate.
- To identify and evaluate emerging and likely future influences on facility needs.

- To identify facility deficits and/or surplus provision, priorities for development and future provision, and opportunities for rationalisation, as appropriate, so as to guide planning and investment decisions for the period to 2036.
- To engage partner organisations and local stakeholders in the process and its outcomes.
- To support engagement with current or impending sport-specific development strategies.

1.4 Key outcomes

The strategy must provide two documents, covering respectively playing pitches and all other formal and informal outdoor sports facilities. Each document should include:

- A comprehensive record of outdoor sports facilities and resources in East Cambridgeshire.
- A comprehensive understanding of:
 - Usage patterns, including effective catchments.
 - The strengths and weaknesses of all current facilities, including accessibility, management and usage arrangements, and ancillary facilities, as well as the core facilities.
 - The relevant objective standards of provision and/or user expectations which frame recommendations for development.
- A robust and workable facility development strategy, identifying:
 - Priorities for development, with indicative financial implications (capital and revenue).
 - Opportunities for rationalisation or improved management arrangements.
 - Key policy approaches

1.5 Strategy format

This document comprises the playing pitch strategy. The structure of the document is as follows:

- Assessing playing pitch needs in East Cambridgeshire.
- The local context for pitch provision.
- Strategic influences on pitch provision.
- Football pitches.
- Cricket pitches.
- Rugby pitches.
- Hockey pitches.

- Policies and recommendations.
- Applying and reviewing the strategy.

2 ASSESSING PLAYING PITCH NEEDS

2.1 Introduction

This section comprises an assessment of playing pitch needs in East Cambridgeshire. It covers the need for formal pitches for:

- Football.
- Cricket.
- Rugby Union.
- Hockey.

2.2 Methodology

The methodology for the playing pitch elements of the study follows the '*Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*' (2013) approach to playing pitch assessments, developed by Sport England. The process involves five stages and ten steps as follows:

- **Stage A** - Prepare and tailor the approach (Step 1).
- **Stage B** - Gather information on the supply of and demand for provision (Steps 2 and 3).
- **Stage C** - Assess the supply and demand information and views (Steps 4, 5 and 6).
- **Stage D** - Develop the strategy (Steps 7 and 8).
- **Stage E** - Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date (Steps 9 and 10).

2.3 Assessing current needs

To assess whether the current provision is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site and how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate over an appropriate period of time without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent sessions' at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches and related facilities are being used during their respective peak periods.

- The key issues with and views on the provision at a site and its use.
- The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:
 - Being overplayed - where use exceeds the carrying capacity.
 - Being played to the level the site can sustain - where use matches the carrying capacity.
 - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play - where use falls below the carrying capacity.

The situation at individual sites can then be aggregated to identify the position at a wider geographical area, to identify the potential for excess demand at some sites to be accommodated by excess supply at others in the locality. Other factors can also be assessed such as:

- Any demand being accommodated on sites with unsecured community access.
- The impact of latent or displaced demand.
- The situation at priority sites.

This analysis then enables an assessment to be made of the adequacy of existing pitch and related facility provision.

2.4 Assessing future needs

The methodology applied to assess the additional future needs for pitches and related facilities arising from population growth also involves the approach advocated in Sport England's PPS guidance, namely:

- Establishing projected population change.
- Analysing sports development proposals and participation trends.
- Considering existing deficiencies or spare capacity.
- Taking account of any forthcoming changes to facility supply.

2.5 Assessed demand parameters

Analysis of the above factors influencing the future supply and demand for playing pitches in the district has led to the following conclusions, which are reflected in the subsequent assessment of future needs:

- **Population change:** East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study'*

(2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

- **Participation trends:** According to Sport England’s ‘Active People’ and ‘Active Lives’ surveys, participation at a national level in all the pitch sports has remained static or fallen in the period since 2005, in some cases by quite significant margins. This means that future increases in participation in the pitch sports cannot be assumed based upon historic trends and have therefore not been factored in to projected needs.
- **Sports development initiatives:** A number of sports development initiatives are delivered in East Cambridgeshire by the governing bodies of the pitch sports and their member clubs. The impact on sustained increases in participation directly attributable to these activities is unproven has therefore not been factored in to projected future needs.
- **Changes in supply:** Any known proposed gains or losses in pitches and related facilities provision will influence the ability to accommodate the additional demand arising from the increased population and this has been included in the capacity assessments.

2.5 Delivering future needs

To identify the most appropriate way to meet the additional pitch and related facilities needs arising from population growth, four sequential questions were addressed:

- **Existing deficiency or spare capacity:** To what extent do existing pitches and related facilities have any current shortfalls or any over-supply?
- **Additional needs:** What additional needs will arise from population growth?
- **Accommodating needs:** Which needs can be met in whole or part by spare capacity in existing pitches and related facilities and which will need to be met in whole or part by new provision?
- **Extra pitches:** What extra pitches and related facilities of each type are required to provide for the residual unmet demand?

2.7 Outputs

The methodology provides quantified answers to the above questions as follows:

- **Current provision:** The adequacy of current provision and any existing spare capacity was assessed using Sport England’s approved methodology, adapted where appropriate to assess informal demand and facilities.
- **Additional needs:** Additional needs were calculated by identifying the existing Team Generation Rates in the district, to identify the number of people that are currently required to form a team of various types in each of the pitch sports. These figures have then been applied to the ONS mid-2014 population projections, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036, to calculate the gross additional team and related pitch needs arising from the additional population.
- **Net requirements:** The net requirement for additional provision was calculated by comparing the extra required capacity to the current spare capacity where appropriate, to identify the difference.

- **Location of provision:** The location of additional pitch and related facilities needs was established by comparing the respective levels of projected population growth in each part of the district.

2.8 Stakeholder consultation

Information was gathered from a wide range of consultees including:

- **Sport England:** Guidance on the assessment methodology.
- **East Cambridgeshire Council:** Consultation with officers from Leisure and Planning and on their respective areas of responsibility.
- **Living Sport (the county sport and physical activity partnership):** Information on local and wider strategic priorities.
- **Neighbouring local authorities:** Information on their playing pitch assessments and the impact of any cross-border issues.
- **Governing bodies of sport:** Information on local and wider strategic priorities and local supply and demand information.
- **Parish councils:** As major pitch providers in the district, information on pitch provision and usage and assessments of local need.
- **Individual pitch sports clubs:** Information on playing pitch usage patterns, current and future needs and opinions on quality.
- **Schools and colleges:** Information on playing pitch needs and aspirations and attitudes towards community use.

2.9 The criteria assessed

- **Quantity:** The number of pitches and related facilities was established and cross checked against other sources provided by local stakeholders and consultees.
- **Quality:** The quality of playing pitches was assessed by visiting every pitch in the district during the respective playing seasons and assessing quality criteria using the recognised non-technical visual assessment criteria. The ratings for each aspect of each pitch were checked and challenged via the clubs' survey and stakeholder consultation and amended where necessary.
- **Accessibility:** The accessibility of pitches, in particular the extent of secured community use and pricing was assessed, to identify any barriers to use that might impact on the capacity of local provision.
- **Strategic priority:** The assessment of need and priorities for provision was identified by the governing bodies of the respective pitch sports.
- **Used capacity:** The used capacity of existing pitches at each site was assessed using a bespoke supply-demand spreadsheet.

3 THE LOCAL CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

This section identifies the context within which playing pitch provision is made in East Cambridgeshire.

3.2 Background

Size and location: East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district located to the north-east of Cambridge within the county of Cambridgeshire. The district covers an area of 655km² and has a population of almost 90,000 people. The population has increased significantly in recent years and growth is expected to continue.

Settlement hierarchy: There are four main settlements - the cathedral city of Ely, the market towns of Soham and Littleport and the large village of Burwell. Together, these comprise approximately 56% of the district's population, with the remaining population spread between about 50 villages and other rural parts of the district.

- Ely is the largest urban area and acts as a retail, service and administrative centre for a wide rural catchment.
- Soham is a small market town with a range of shops, catering for day-to-day needs.
- Littleport is a small fenland town with a localised service catchment due to its proximity to Ely.
- The villages of Bottisham, Burwell, Haddenham and Sutton play a key service role for their rural hinterlands.

Landscape and economy: East Cambridgeshire can be broadly defined into two sub-areas:

- The northern part of the district is predominantly intensively farmed fenland, with many settlements located on higher ground on the old 'islands' in the fen. Flood risk is a key issue, with much of the land at or below sea level. With the possible exception of Ely, incomes are generally lower and deprivation is more marked than the southern part of the district.
- The south of the district consists of elevated chalk and heath land and contains a range of attractive villages and hamlets. The local economy and landscape is dominated by the horse racing industry with large areas of farmland converted to stud use. Residents in the south of the district mainly look to Newmarket and Cambridge for services and facilities.

3.3 Population

3.3.1 Current population

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-2018 population estimates for East Cambridgeshire indicate 89,600 residents. This represents an increase of 5,782 people or 6.9% growth since the 2011 Census figure of 83,818.

3.3.2 Age structure

The ONS 2016 broad age and gender estimates for East Cambridgeshire were as follows, with comparator figures for Cambridgeshire and England as a whole. The figures show that the district has a slightly polarised age structure, with proportionately more younger and older people than the county and the country as a whole.

<i>Age</i>	<i>East Cambs %</i>	<i>Cambs %</i>	<i>England %</i>
0-14	18.9%	17.6%	18.9%
15-64	61.1%	63.5%	64.7%
65+	20.0%	18.9%	16.4%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

3.3.3 Ethnicity

East Cambridgeshire's population is less ethnically diverse than the national average. At the 2011 Census 95.9% of the resident population was White, 1.0% Asian/Asian British, 2.1% are Black/Black British and 1.1% are from mixed/multiple/other ethnic groups.

3.3.4 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The 'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study' (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

3.4 Deprivation

Based upon the Government's Indices of Local Deprivation, East Cambridgeshire is ranked as 262nd most deprived local authority in England (out of 326) and is therefore a relatively affluent area. However:

- 34.0% of the district's population are amongst the 20% most deprived in the country in terms of their access to housing and services, based upon geographical and affordability barriers.
- Life expectancy is 2.9 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of East Cambridgeshire than in the least deprived areas.
- 9.1% of all children and young people aged 0-18 live in low-income households.

3.5 Health

Public Health England's 'Health Profile for East Cambridgeshire' (2018) records that:

- Life expectancy at birth is slightly higher than the national averages by 2.1 years for men and 1.5 years for women.

- 11.3% of year 6 children in East Cambridgeshire are obese, compared with the national average of 20.0%.
- 58.5% of adults in the district are overweight or obese, compared with the national average of 61.3%.

3.6 Local demand for sport and physical activity

3.6.1 'Active Lives' survey

Sport England's 'Active Lives' survey measures physical activity rates amongst people aged 16 and over. The definitions used in the survey are as follows:

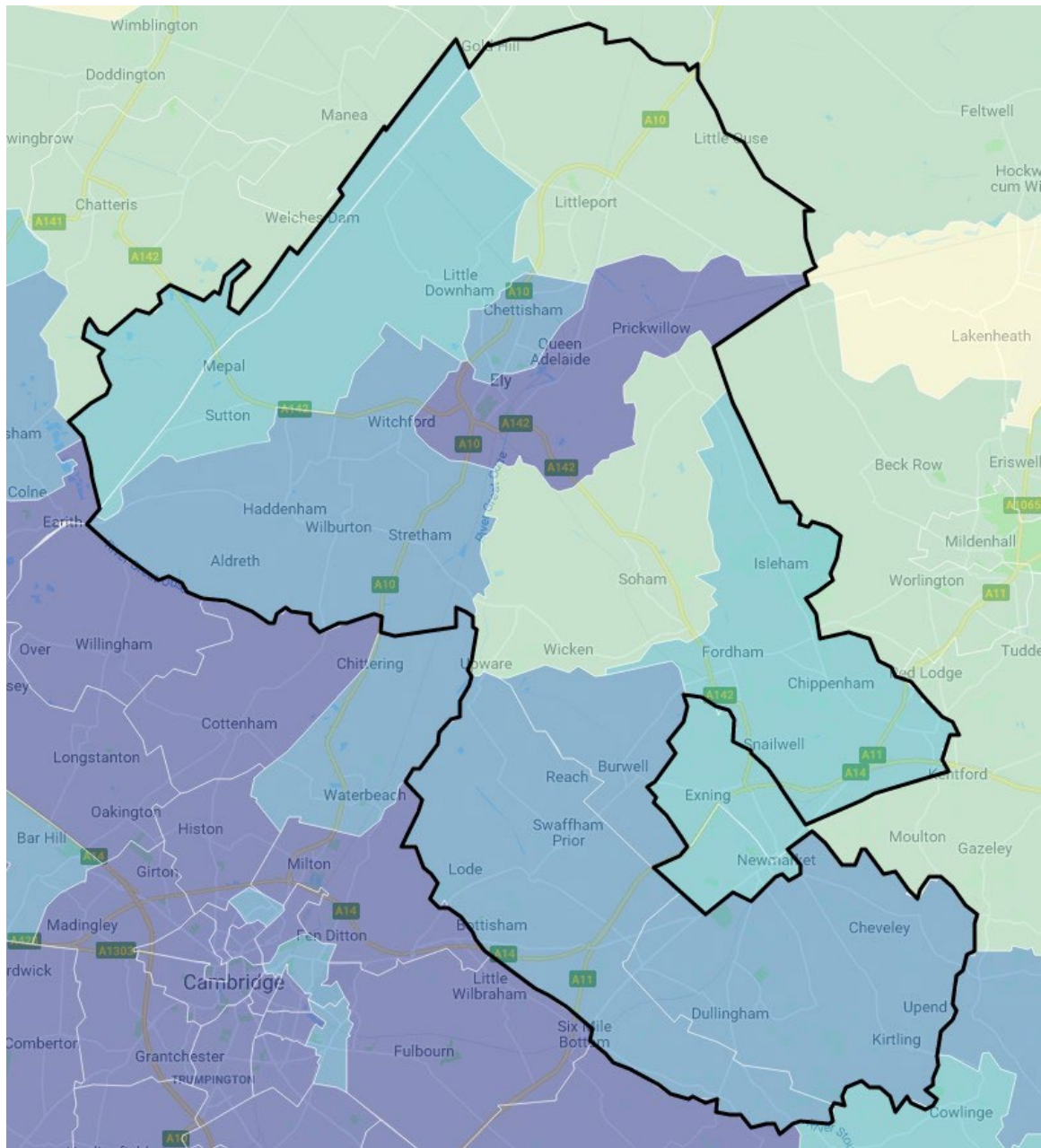
- **Sport and physical activity:** This includes at least 10-minutes of moderate or higher intensity sports activities, walking and cycling for leisure or travel, fitness and dance.
- **Active:** The 'Active' population is defined as those doing at least 150 minutes of the above activities per week.
- **Fairly active:** The 'Fairly active' population is defined as those doing between 30 and 149 minutes of the above activities per week.
- **Inactive:** The 'Inactive' population is defined as those doing 30 minutes or less of the above activities per week.

The key data for East Cambridgeshire, with county, regional and national comparators from the 2019 survey is set out below. The results showing activity levels below the county average, but above the regional and national averages:

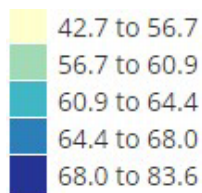
<i>Area</i>	<i>Active</i>	<i>Fairly active</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
East Cambs	63.3%	13.0%	23.7%
Cambs	64.7%	11.8%	23.5%
East	61.1%	13.3%	25.6%
England	62.6%	12.3%	25.1%

3.6.2 Geographical variations

Notwithstanding the district average figures, the 'Active Lives' survey data shows great variations at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA), with the figures for those from Ely in the 'Active' category being relatively high and those in Littleport and Soham being relatively low.



Key: Percentage of the population who are physically active for 150+ minutes per week



3.7 The local pitch supply network

Pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire comprises a mixed economy involving the public and voluntary sectors. The key providers are as follows:

- **East Cambridgeshire District Council:** The Council is a minority provider of pitches, with the '3G' pitch at the Hive the main element.
- **Parish Councils:** Parish councils are major providers of pitches in the district.
- **Schools and Leisure Centres:** The Village Colleges are significant pitch providers and most provision is community accessible; all of the trust-managed leisure centres include or manage some level of outdoor provision, particularly in Ely (Paradise Centre) and Littleport.
- **Sports clubs:** Sports clubs provide and run a range of playing pitches. The Ely Outdoor Sports Association is a consortium comprising the rugby, hockey and tennis clubs that runs a cluster of outdoor facilities and several football clubs across the District also own or operate their own facilities.

3.8 The implications for pitch provision

The implications of the local context for playing pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- **Population growth:** The population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036. This will provide additional demand for all types of playing pitch. New housing developments typically have a younger age profile, whilst the trend in the general population is towards an older age profile. The convergence of these factors suggests that the two trends may balance each other out in the district as a whole to maintain a similar age profile for the period of the strategy, although there will be variations at local level in areas where new development is prioritised (Ely, Littleport and Burwell).
- **Local deprivation:** Whilst the district is relatively affluent, which is traditionally associated with higher than average participation in sport and physical activity, deprivation relating to access to housing and services is relatively high. This relates in large part to geographical barriers to access in a relatively large rural area and emphasises the need to develop a wide geographical spread of pitches.
- **Participation rates:** General rates of participation in sport and physical activity are above the regional and national averages, which will inflate demand for pitch provision. However, the trends vary markedly within individual sports and these needs will be analysed later in this strategy in relation to specific types of pitch.
- **Geographical variations:** Participation rates varies widely across the district, with the highest rates around Ely coinciding with the greatest concentration of good quality of pitches.

4 STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

4.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of relevant policies and priorities on pitches in East Cambridgeshire, including the impact of national strategies.

4.2 East Cambridgeshire District Council's Corporate Plan

The *East Cambridgeshire Corporate Plan 2019-23* (2019) sets out the Council's overall promises and commitments:

- The Housing promises include 'seeking developer contributions for open spaces and walking and cycling infrastructure'.
- The Social and Community Infrastructure promises include 'supporting improvements to sporting and leisure facilities'.

4.3 East Cambridgeshire Local Plan

The *East Cambridgeshire Local Plan*' (2015 sets out the vision, objectives spatial strategy and policies for the future development of the district. The following elements are of relevance:

4.3.1 Spatial vision

This includes a commitment that 'communities will have improved social, recreational, health and educational facilities'.

4.3.2 Strategic objectives

These include:

- 'Support and enhance the vitality and viability of town and village centres, as places for shopping, leisure and community activities'.
- 'Ensure a high quality of life by maintaining and delivering strategic and local infrastructure and facilities needed to support local communities'.

4.3.3 Policies

The policies of relevance to pitches and outdoor sports facilities are as follows:

- ***Policy COM3: Retaining Community Facilities:*** The policy states that 'proposals that would lead to the loss of non-commercial community facilities (existing sites or sites last used for this purpose) will only be permitted if:

- It can be demonstrated there is a lack of community need for the facility, and that the building or site is not needed for any alternative community use - and in the case of open space, that the site does not make an important contribution in amenity, visual or nature conservation terms; or
 - Development would involve the provision of an equivalent or better replacement community facility (either on-site or in an appropriately accessible alternative location); or
 - Development would involve the provision of an alternative community facility which brings demonstrable greater benefits to the settlement or neighbourhood - except in the case of open space, sports and recreational facilities which should be retained where possible in accordance with paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework’.
- ***Policy COM4: New Community Facilities:*** The policy states that ‘proposals for new or improved community facilities should be located within settlement boundaries wherever possible. In exceptional circumstances facilities may be permitted in the countryside, where there is a lack of suitable and available land within settlements, or where a rural location is required. Proposals for all new or improved community facilities should:
 - Be well located and accessible to its catchment population (including by foot and cycle).
 - Not have a significant adverse impact (itself or cumulatively) in terms of the scale or nature of traffic generated.
 - Not have a significant adverse impact on the character of the locality, or the amenity of nearby properties.
 - Demonstrate that opportunities to maximise shared use have been explored; and
 - Be designed to facilitate future adaptation for alternative community uses or shared use’.
- ***Policy COM5: Strategic green infrastructure:*** The policy states that ‘proposals which would cause loss of or harm to existing strategic green infrastructure will not be permitted, unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably and substantially outweigh any adverse impacts on the green infrastructure. The Council will support proposals for new and improved strategic green infrastructure where these:
 - Are consistent with the objectives of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011).
 - Provide increased public access for quiet recreation and/or increased provision for biodiversity.
 - Do not harm the character and appearance of any existing buildings or the locality.
 - Will have no adverse effects on any existing designated sites of conservation or biological importance and impacts will be monitored to ensure the effectiveness of alternative provision away from more sensitive sites.

- Would not (by itself or cumulatively) have a significant adverse impact in terms of the amount or nature of traffic generated.
- Will not detract from residential amenity; and
- Will aim to achieve Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) through improving accessibility, naturalness and connectivity of greenspaces, which are appropriate in scale and location to the needs of the local community.

New development will be expected to contribute towards the establishment, enhancement and ongoing management of strategic green infrastructure by contributing to the development of strategic green infrastructure network within the district'.

4.4 East Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The most recent update to the *'East Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy'* (2015) specifically notes the importance of physical activity to the health and wellbeing of the local community, with the following provisions of particular relevance:

4.4.1 Priorities

The priorities for the period 2019 to 2021 are:

- 'Physical activity and healthy lifestyles'.
- 'Partnership working'.

4.4.2 Vision

The vision includes a recognition that:

- 'Open spaces are important for the health and well-being of local residents across the District'.
- 'Providing and supporting the development of local community facilities and parks and open spaces including leisure facilities to help ensure that local people have the appropriate infrastructure to support their social well-being'.

4.4.3 Actions

The actions include the following:

- Support continuing development and improvement of leisure facilities and programmes.
- Support community sports development programmes.
- Develop targeted programme-linkages to health sector (e.g. exercise referral, weight management, falls prevention).

- Engage with key partners including schools, sports bodies, community groups and health agencies to identify development needs and opportunities.
- Support development of informal everyday activities, such as local walks groups.
- Promote and support all existing opportunities to get active.
- Promote the benefits of physical activity.

4.5 Living Sport Strategic Plan

Living Sport is the county sports partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and its 'Strategic Plan 2017 - 2021' (2017) contains the following material of relevance:

4.5.1 Purpose

Living Sport's purpose is 'to inspire everyone to lead healthy lives by increasing and improving opportunities to be active and to participate in sport and physical activity'.

4.5.2 Priorities

The priorities are to increase and improve opportunities for:

- Older people's participation in sport and physical activity.
- Sport and physical activity participation by disabled people.
- Sport and physical activity amongst women and girls.
- Focused work to increase sport and physical activity participation in targeted areas of identified need.

4.6 The Government's Planning Policies

In July 2018, the Government published revisions to the 'National Planning Policy Framework' (2018), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policies of greatest relevance to pitch provision and retention are as follows:

- **Sustainable development:** 'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' and there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- **Promoting healthy and safe communities:** 'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

- Promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other - for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages.
- Are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion - for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs - for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.
- To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:
 - Plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.
 - Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
 - Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs.
 - Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community.
 - Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services'.
- **Open space and recreation:** 'Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate'.
- '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.

- 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.
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use’.

The Government also issued *Planning Practice Guidance*’ in 2014 to support the 2013 version of the *National Planning Policy Framework*’ and it remains a current document. The following is of particular relevance to playing pitches:

- ***Open space, sport and recreation provision:*** ‘Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby’.
 - ‘Authorities and developers may refer to Sport England’s guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities’.
 - ‘Local planning authorities are required to consult Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields. Where there is no requirement to consult, local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility, the creation of a site for one or more playing pitches, artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility or a residential development of 300 dwellings or more’.
- ***Health and well-being:*** ‘Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making’.
 - ‘Development proposals should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to do’.
 - ‘Opportunities for healthy lifestyles must be considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity and promotes high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation).

4.7 The Government’s Sports Strategy

The Government’s sports strategy *‘Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation’* (2015) sets the context for a national policy shift. It contains the following material of relevance to pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire:

- The Strategy seeks to ‘redefine what success looks like in sport’ by concentrating on five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.
- The benefit of engaging those groups that typically do little or no activity is immense. Future funding will therefore focus on those people who tend not to take part in sport, including women and girls, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people.

4.8 Sport England Strategy

Sport England's strategy '*Towards an Active Nation*' (2016) contains a significant policy shift to encourage more currently inactive people to become active, with a relative move away from support for programmes aimed at existing participants. Elements of particular relevance to pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- More money and resources will be focused on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest.
- There will be greater investment in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life.
- Sport England will work with those parts of the sector that serve existing participants to help them identify ways in which they can become more sustainable and self-sufficient.

4.9 The implications for pitch provision

The implications of the key strategic influences on sports facilities provision in East Cambridgeshire are:

- **Local corporate priorities:** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role that sports facilities can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment. Corporate priorities also emphatically support the value of local facilities, both as a general principle and to underpin healthy lifestyles.
- **Planning policy:** Whilst local and national planning policy is supportive of the retention and provision of playing pitches, the current work on the Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy will provide a methodologically robust basis for determining current and future needs. Policy COM4 in the Local Plan emphasises the general importance of healthy and safe communities and providing universally accessible opportunities to access open space and recreation provision.
- **National sports policy shifts:** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for individual sports to ensure that their 'offer' is sufficiently relevant and attractive to engage a wider participation base, including people who are currently inactive. Recent innovations such as walking and small-sided versions of many sports might prove more attractive than the more traditional models.

5 FOOTBALL PITCH NEEDS

5.1 Introduction

The key stakeholders delivering football in East Cambridgeshire are:

- **Cambridgeshire FA:** Most football clubs in the district affiliate to the Cambridgeshire FA, which administers the game in the county, although four clubs affiliate to the Suffolk FA.
- **FA-affiliated clubs:** There are 23 FA-affiliated clubs in East Cambridgeshire, who collectively run 33 adult teams, 66 youth teams and 44 mini-soccer teams.
- **Pitch providers:** A range of organisations provide football pitches in the district, in particular the parish councils, clubs and schools.

5.2 Strategic context

5.2.1 The Football Association

The Football Association's *National Game Strategy for Participation and Development 2018 - 2021* has a number of targets with important implications for football and its facilities needs at grassroots level (see box below).

- Boost female youth participation by 11% by 2021.
- Retain and support the 129,000 male, female and disability teams.
- Increase the number of over 16's playing every week by over 200,000, by offering a variety of formats by 2021.
- Create 100 new '3G' football turf pitches and improve 2,000 grass pitches by 2021.
- Develop 'Football Hubs' in 'areas where pressures on the local game are greatest'. The aim of the new programme is to create a new sustainable model for football facilities based around '3G' pitches and high-quality grass pitches on Hub Sites.
- Ensure that 50% of youth football and mini-soccer matches are played on '3G' pitches by 2021.

The Football Association's emerging *National Facilities Strategy* also contains a number of longer-term (10-year) facilities-related targets:

- 1,000 new '3G' football turf pitches in a mix of sizes and settings, dependent upon local needs, all aimed at enhancing the quality of the playing experience.
- 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.
- Small-sided facilities to grow the small-sided game for teams and leagues, recreational and informal play.

Linked to the national facilities strategy, the FA is rolling out a system of ‘Local Football Facilities Plans’ (LFFPs) drawing upon playing pitch strategies and guiding investment in facilities. These plans will cover each local authority in England. The East Cambridgeshire LFFP will be produced in parallel with the playing pitch strategy work.

5.2.2 Cambridgeshire Football Association

The ‘*Cambridgeshire FA Strategy 2015-2019*’ (2018 update) contains the following material of relevance to football in East Cambridgeshire:

- **Play:** The county participation objectives are:
 - Grow recreational football to 1,077 teams.
 - Easy entry into the game.
 - Transitions from youth to adult.
 - Pathways for talented players.
 - The targets for (and delivery of) team numbers are as follows:

<i>Age group teams</i>	<i>Baseline (2015)</i>	<i>2017/18 Target</i>	<i>2017/18 Actual</i>	<i>2018/19 Target</i>
Adult male	280	253	257	248
Adult female	26	26	34	26
Youth male	337	360	362	377
Youth female	65	63	66	65
Mini-soccer	264	306	335	308
Disability male	18	20	20	22
Disability female	1	1	1	3

- **Facilities:** The county objectives for improved facilities are as follows.
 - 8 new or upgraded ‘3G’ pitches by 2019.
 - Improve at least 23 grass pitches.
 - Provide advice, support and funding.
 - The targets for (and delivery of) facilities are as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Baseline (2015)</i>	<i>2017/18 Target</i>	<i>2017/18 Actual</i>	<i>2018/19 Target</i>
Improved grass pitches	0	16	15	23
New/improved ‘3G’ pitches	0	3	3	3

5.2.3 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring local authority areas identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council

The *West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy* (2015) identifies the following:

- ***Adult grass pitches:*** There is a current districtwide surplus of 108 match equivalents, reducing to a surplus of 93 match equivalents by 2031.
- ***Youth pitches:*** There is a current districtwide surplus of 98 match equivalents, reducing to a surplus of 72 match equivalents by 2031.
- ***Mini-soccer pitches:*** There is a current districtwide surplus of 183 match equivalents, reducing to a surplus of 163 match equivalents by 2031.
- ***'3G' football turf pitches:*** Additional supply is needed in Bury St. Edmunds (but this location has negligible impact on supply/demand in East Cambridgeshire).

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The *Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 - 2031* (2016) includes an assessment of needs in South Cambridgeshire:

- ***Adult grass pitches:*** There is current and future spare capacity.
- ***Youth 11v11 pitches:*** There is a projected future deficit of one pitch, if unsecured sites were lost.
- ***Youth 9v9 pitches:*** There is a projected future deficit of one pitch, if unsecured sites were lost.
- ***Mini 7v7 pitches:*** There is a projected future deficit of ten pitches, if unsecured sites were lost.
- ***Mini 5v5 pitches:*** There is a projected future deficit of two pitch, if unsecured sites were lost.
- ***'3G' football turf pitches:*** There is a need for a further six '3G' pitches to meet projected future needs. Unmet demand in the north-east part of the district impact will impact on supply/demand in East Cambridgeshire.

Huntingdonshire District Council:

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

Fenland District Council

The *Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy* (2016) identifies that there is sufficient supply of grass football pitches in Fenland to cater for both the current and future demand for football, with limited deficiency on only a small number of specific sites. However, there is an assessed shortfall of one '3G' football turf pitch in the district although the focus of demand has negligible impact on supply/demand in East Cambs.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

5.2.4 Implications of the strategic context

The implications of the strategic context for football in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- ***Participation increases:*** The FA's target increases in participation amongst the over 16s need to be set in the context of falling demand locally for adult league football.
- ***'3G' pitches:*** The increased dependence on '3G' football turf pitches for youth football and mini-soccer matches by 2019 is likely to place stresses on existing provision in the district.
- ***Neighbouring areas:*** There is spare capacity of most grass pitch types in those neighbouring areas that have undertaken assessments, but some shortfalls of '3G' pitches. Demand from the north-east part of South Cambridgeshire may impact on provision in East Cambridgeshire.

5.3 Football pitch demand in East Cambridgeshire

5.3.1 Expressed demand

The information on football clubs and teams affiliated to the Cambridgeshire FA and based in East Cambridgeshire was supplied by the FA through its 'Whole Game System' database, cross-referenced to a local clubs survey. A questionnaire survey was circulated to all FA-affiliated football clubs in East Cambridgeshire. The following clubs responded:

- Burwell Tigers FC
- Ely City FC
- Haddenham Rovers Colts FC
- Isleham United FC
- Mepal Sports FC
- Soham Town Rangers Youth FC

The following clubs affiliate to the FA and play in East Cambridgeshire. Home grounds listed in italics are outside the district:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Match venue</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini (5v5)</i>
Burwell Tigers FC	Burwell Recreation Ground Lode Recreation Ground Bottisham Village College Swaffham Prior Recn. Grd. Margaret Field	2	1	1	3	1
Cambs FC Girl's Advanced Coaching	Witchford Village College	-	2	1	-	-
Crusaders 2019 FC	Witchford Village College	1	-	-	-	-

<i>Club</i>	<i>Match venue</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini (5v5)</i>
Ely City FC	Ely City FC Little Thetford Recn. Grd. Paradise Recreation Ground	4	1	-	-	-
Ely City Crusaders FC	Ely City FC Paradise Recreation Ground	-	4	4	3	4
Fordham FC	Fordham Recn. Ground	2	-	-	1	1
Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	Haddenham Recn. Ground Haddenham Primary School Wilburton Recn. Ground	-	3	4	4	1
Isleham United FC	Isleham Recreation Ground	2	-	-	-	-
Isleham United Ladies FC	Isleham Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Isleham United Youth FC	Isleham Recreation Ground	-	6	4	4	6
Kennett Youth FC	Kennett Recreation Ground	1	3	2	2	3
Little Downham & Pymoor Swifts FC	Pymoor Recreation Ground	2	-	-	-	-
Littleport Town FC	Pymoor Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Littleport Town Colts FC	Littleport Leisure Centre	-	2	-	1	-
Mepal Sports FC	Stretham Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Newmarket Town FC	Newmarket Town FC	4	12	6	4	5
Norwich City FC Development	Ely College	2	-	-	-	-
Panthers FC	<i>Moulton Playing Field</i>	-	2	-	-	-
Soham Town Rangers FC	Soham Town Rangers FC Stretham Recreation Ground	3	-	-	-	-
Soham Town Rangers Youth FC	Soham Village College Kingfisher Drive Wicken Recreation Ground Shropshire Sports & Social	-	2	4	1	3
Soham United Youth FC	Qua Fen Common	2	6	2	4	5
Stretham FC	Stretham Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Stretham Sporting FC	Stretham Recreation Ground	-	-	-	1	-
Sutton Rangers FC	Brooklands Pavilion	-	2	1	-	2
The Eagle (Ely) FC	<i>George Lambton Pl. Fields</i>	1	-	-	-	-
The Isle FC	Witchford Village College	1	-	-	-	-
Village Inn FC	Witchford Village College	1	-	-	-	-
Wicken FC	Wicken Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Wilburton FC	Wilburton Recn. Ground	-	-	2	-	1
Witchford 96 FC	Witchford Playing Field	2	-	-	-	-
Witchford Colts FC	Witchford Playing Field Witchford Village College Little Downham Recn. Grd.	-	5	6	3	2
TOTALS		33	53	41	26	33

The key expressed demand issues are as follows:

- **Team numbers:** 30 men's teams, three women's teams, 47 youth male (11v11) teams, six youth female (11v11) teams, 35 youth male (9v9) teams, six youth female (9v9) teams, 26 mixed mini-soccer (7v7) teams and 33 mixed mini-soccer (5v5) teams play in East Cambridgeshire.

- **Charter Standard Clubs:** 25 clubs in East Cambridgeshire have achieved the FA’s quality-assured Charter Standard status. This is 80.6% which compares with the national average of 27%. In terms of teams, 95.7% (177 out of 185) play for a Charter Standard club in East Cambridgeshire, compared with the national average of 81.1%. This means that the benefits of belonging to an accredited club with formalised safeguarding procedures and qualified coaches is enjoyed by all youth and mini-soccer players in the district.
- **Women and girl’s football:** Football for women and girls is well-developed in East Cambridgeshire, with three adult women’s teams, six youth 11v11 teams and six youth 9v9 teams.

5.3.2 Expressed demand trends

- **National trends:** Overall football participation by adults is falling across the country. The ‘Active People’ survey shows that participation has fallen from 3.15 million adult players in 2010/11 to 2.66 million in 2015/16.
- **Local trends:** Teams data provided by Cambridgeshire FA shows the following trends in the county as a whole:

<i>Age group teams</i>	<i>Teams 2015</i>	<i>Teams 2018</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult male	280	257	-8.2%
Adult female	26	34	+30.8%
Youth male	337	362	+7.4%
Youth female	65	66	+1.5%
Mini-soccer	264	335	+26.9%
Disability male	18	20	+11.1%
Disability female	1	1	0.0%
TOTALS	991	1,065	+8.4%

5.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of football pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area, or vice versa:

- **Imported demand from external clubs:** No teams from neighbouring districts play their home matches on pitches in East Cambridgeshire.
- **Exported demand from internal clubs:** One adult team and two youth (11v11) teams from East Cambridgeshire play their matches on pitches in neighbouring areas (shown in italics above).

The net effect of displaced demand in East Cambridgeshire is three exported teams.

5.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.

- Pitches of a particular size or type may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

Consultation with local clubs identified that only one currently operates waiting lists for youth and mini-soccer players (Ely City FC), so there is limited evidence of unmet demand.

5.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist, latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from a population if they had access to more or better provision. Consultation with local clubs indicated that in their judgement the following additional teams could be accommodated in East Cambridgeshire if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini (5v5)</i>
Burwell Tigers FC	2	6	2	2	2
Ely City FC	0	2	2	2	2
Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	0	0	0	0	0
Isleham United FC	1	0	0	1	0
Mepal Sports FC	0	1	0	0	0
Soham Town Rangers Youth FC	0	2	1	2	2
TOTALS	3	11	5	7	6

5.4 Football pitch supply in East Cambridgeshire

5.4.1 Introduction

This section summarises the detail of football pitch supply in East Cambridgeshire. The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural or artificial turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings, with the following dimensions as specified in the FA's 'Guide to Pitch Dimensions' (2013):

<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Pitch length</i>	<i>Pitch width</i>	<i>Size including run-offs</i>
Adult football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football 11v11 (U17-U18)	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football 11v11 (U15-U16)	91m	55m	97m x 61m
Youth football 11v11 (U13-U14)	82m	50m	88m x 56m
Youth football 9v9 (U11-U12)	73m	46m	79m x 52m
Mini-soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	55m	37m	61m x 43m
Mini-soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	37m	27m	43m x 33m
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	100m	64m	106m x 70m

The categories assessed are as follows:

- Pitches available for community use and used.

- Pitches available for community use but not used.
- Pitches not available for community use.

5.4.2 Full-sized '3G' football turf pitches

The following pitches are all available for community use and used. The Bottisham and Witchford pitches are on the FA's '3G' pitch register and can therefore be used for competitive match play.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	106m x 70m	Yes	2017
Newmarket Town FC	Cricket Field Rd., Newmarket CB8 8BT	106m x 70m	Yes	2016
Witchford Village College	Manor Road, Witchford CB6 2JA	106m x 70m	Yes	2017

5.4.3 Small-sided '3G' football turf pitches

The following pitch available for community use and used.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
The Hive	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	92m x 58m	Yes	2018

5.4.4 Other full-sized artificial turf pitches used for football

The following all-weather pitches are all available for community use and used and have some football use:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Ely College	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	100m x 61m	Sand-filled	Yes	2003
Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	100m x 60m	Sand-filled	Yes	2018

5.4.5 Other small-sided artificial turf pitches used for football

The following all weather pitches are all available for community use and used are whilst they are too small to accommodate competitive play but are used for training purposes:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Burwell Sports Centre	Buntings Path, Burwell CB25 0DD	40m x 30m	Sand-dressed	Yes	2004
Haddenham Recn. Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	40m x 20m	Sand-filled	Yes	2005
Isleham Recreation Ground	Mill Street, Isleham CB7 5RY	33m x 30m	Sand-filled	Yes	2011
Little Downham Recn. Grd.	School Lane, Little Downham CB6 3SY	40m x 40m	Sand-filled	Yes	2010
Ross Peers Sports Centre	College Close, Soham CB7 5HP	30m x 20m	Sand-filled	Yes	2009
Stretham Recreation Ground	Short Road, Stretham CB6 3LS	40m x 30m	Sand-filled	Yes	2015
The Ellesmere Centre	Ley Road, Stetchworth CB8 9TS	40m x 40m	Sand-filled	Yes	2000

5.4.6 Grass football pitches

Provision of grass pitches with regulation line markings and goalposts for organised football are as follows. Pitches overmarked on other pitches are shown in brackets:

- *Available for community use and used:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	3	1	2	2	4
Brooklands Pavilion	The Brook, Sutton CB6 2QQ	-	1	(1)	(1)	1
Burwell Recreation Ground	Hythe Lane, Burwell CB25 0EZ	2	(1)	1	1	-
Burwell Sports Centre	Buntings Path, Burwell CB25 0DD	1	-	-	-	1
Dullingham Sports Field	Stetchworth Road, Dullingham CB8 9XD	1	-	-	-	-
Ely City Football Club	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	2	-	2	2	2
Ely College	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	2	-	-	-	-
Fordham Recn. Ground	Carter Street, Fordham CB7 5NG	2	-	-	1	(1)
Haddenham Recn. Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	-	2	(1)	-	1
Isleham Recreation Ground	Mill Street, Isleham CB7 5RY	3	-	2	1	(1)
Kennett Recreation Ground	Station Road, Kennett CB8 7QF	1	(1)	-	1	1
Kingfisher Drive Sp. Pitches	Kingfisher Drive, Soham CB7 5GP	-	-	-	1	(2)
Little Downham Recn. Grd.	School Lane, Little Downham CB6 2SY	1	1	1	-	-
Little Thetford Recn. Ground	The Wytches, Little Thetford CB6 3HG	1	1	-	-	-
Littleport Leisure Centre	Camel Road, Littleport CB6 1EW	1	2	1	2	1
Lode Playing Field	Station Road, Lode CB25 9EH	1	-	-	-	-
Paradise Recreation Ground	Newnham Street, Ely CB7 4PQ	2	-	-	-	1
Pymoor Social Club	Pymoor Lane, Pymoor CB6 2EE	1	-	-	-	-
Robert Arkenstall Prim. Sch.	Camping Close. Haddenham CB6 3UA	-	-	-	1	-
Soham Town Rangers FC	Julius Martin Lane, Soham CB7 5EQ	1	-	-	-	-
Soham United FC	Qua Fen Common, Soham CB7 5DF	1	2	(2)	(2)	-
Soham Village College	Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA	-	1	1	-	-
Stretham Recreation Ground	Short Road, Stretham CB6 3LS	1	-	-	1	-
Swaffham Prior Recn. Ground	Station Rd., Swaffham Prior CB25 0LG	-	-	1	1	-
Wicken Recreation Ground	Chapel Lane, Wicken CB7 5XZ	1	-	1	-	-
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Station Road, Wilburton CB6 3RP1	-	-	1	1	1
Witchford Playing Field	Bedwell Hay Lane, Witchford CB6 2JN	1	-	(1)	-	1
Witchford Village College	Manor Road, Witchford CB6 2JA	2	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	31	12(2)	12(5)	15(3)	14(4)

- *Available for community use and not used:* The following pitches have community access but are not currently used:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
Burrough Green	Bradley Road, Burrough Green CB8 9NG	1	-	-	-	-
Mepal Playing Field	Witcham Road, Mepal CB6 2YP	1	-	1	2	-
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Grd.	Station Rd., Swaffham Bulbeck CB25 0HP	1	-	-	-	-
The Ellesmere Centre	Ley Road, Stetchworth CB8 9TS	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	4	0	1	2	0

- *Not available for community use:*
 - *Full-sized artificial turf pitches used for football:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Built</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	Sand-filled	97.5m x 61m	2007	Yes

- *Other small-sided artificial grass pitches used for football:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Rackham Primary School	Main Street, Witchford CB6 2HQ	40m x 20m	Sand-filled	No	2010

- *Grass pitches:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
Bottisham Primary School	Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham CB25 9BE	-	-	-	1	-
Ely St. John's Primary School	St John's Road, Ely CB6 3BW	-	-	-	1	-
Ely St. Mary's Primary School	High Barns, Ely CB7 4RB	-	-	-	1	-
Fordham Primary School	Isleham Road, Fordham CB7 5NL	-	-	-	1	-
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	1	-	-	-	-
Kings School (Amherst Field)	Bridge Road, Ely CB7 5TH	1	-	-	-	-
Kings School (Brand Field)	Angel Drove, Ely CB7 4DT	1	1	2	-	-
Isle of Ely Primary School	Cam Drive, Ely CB6 1DP	-	-	-	1	1
Isleham Primary School	Malting Lane, Isleham CB7 5RZ	-	-	-	1	-
Lantern Primary School	Nene Road, Ely CB6 2WJ	-	-	-	1	-
Littleport Primary School	Parson's Lane, Littleport CB6 1JS	-	-	1	1	1
Mepal & Witcham Primary Sch.	Brangehill Lane, Mepal CB6 2AL	-	-	-	1	-
Millfield Primary School	Grange Lane, Littleport CB6 1HW	-	-	-	1	-
Rackham Primary School	Main Street, Witchford CB6 2HQ	-	-	1	-	-
St. Andrew's Primary School	Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA	-	-	-	1	-
Stretham Primary School	Wood Lane, Stretham CB6 3JN	-	-	-	1	-
Swaffham Prior Primary School	Station Road, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LG	-	-	-	1	-
Weatherall's Primary School	Pratt St, Soham CB7 5BH	-	-	1	-	-
Wilburton Primary School	Carpond Lane, Wilburton CB6 3RJ	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	-	3	1	5	14	2

5.4.7 Artificial turf pitch quality

The quality of the full-sized '3G' football turf pitches in East Cambridgeshire was assessed from a site visit, to apply the Non-technical Visual Assessment criteria developed for use in conjunction with the 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'. The assessment generates an overall 'score' by evaluating the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Bottisham Village College	Good	Good
Newmarket Town FC	Good	Good
The Hive	Good	Good
Witchford Village College	Good	Good

5.4.8 Grass pitch quality

The quality of all grass football pitches in East Cambridgeshire with community use and used was assessed from site visits during the playing season, to apply the Non-technical Visual Assessment criteria developed by the FA for use in conjunction with the *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*. The criteria assessed are as follows. A percentage score and associated ratings are generated as an overall measure of quality:

- **The playing surface:** This includes grass cover, pitch dimensions, gradient, evenness, length of grass, drainage and evidence of any unauthorised use.
- **The changing facilities:** This includes the availability of changing rooms, kitchen and/or bar, the interior and exterior appearance, showering and toilet provision, medical room, disability access and parking arrangements.
- **Grounds maintenance:** This includes the frequency of grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing.

The ratings for each grass football pitch in East Cambridgeshire are below. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of ‘Good’ for scores of 100% - 75% (highlighted in green below), ‘Standard’ for scores of 74.9% - 50% (highlighted in yellow below), ‘Poor’ for scores of 49.9% - 25% (highlighted in red below) and ‘Unsuitable’ below 25%:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Bottisham Village College	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Adult pitch 3 Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 pitch 1 Youth 9v9 pitch 2 Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch 1 Mini 5v5 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch 3 Mini 5v5 pitch 4	Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good	Good	‘Good’ quality pitches and ‘Good’ quality changing.
Brooklands Pavilion	Youth 11v11 pitch (Youth 9v9 pitch) (Mini 7v7 pitch) Mini 5v5 pitch	Good Good Good Good	Good	‘Good’ quality pitches, two of which are overmarked with consequent reduced capacity and ‘Good’ quality changing.
Burwell Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 (Youth 11v11 pitch) Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch	Good Good Good Good Good	Good	‘Good’ quality pitches, one of which is overmarked with consequent reduced capacity and ‘Good’ quality changing.
Burwell Sports Centre	Adult pitch Mini 5v5 pitch	Good Good	Good	‘Good’ quality fenced pitches with ‘Good’ changing in the sports centre.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Dullingham Sports Field	Adult pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality pitch on cricket outfield and 'Good' quality changing.
Ely City Football Club	Stadium pitch Adult pitch Youth 9v9 pitch 1 Youth 9v9 pitch 2 Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch 1 Mini 5v5 pitch 2	Good Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good	'Good' quality stadium pitch, but other pitches are 'standard' quality. 'Good' quality changing facilities, although the capacity is inadequate in the peak period to serve the number of pitches. Disabled access is non-compliant.
Ely College	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2	Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches with 'Good' quality changing.
Fordham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Mini 7v7 pitch (Mini 5v5 pitch)	Good Good Good Good	Standard	'Good' quality pitches, one of which is overmarked with consequent reduced capacity and 'Standard' quality changing.
Haddenham Recn. Ground	Youth 11v11 pitch 1 Youth 11v11 pitch2 (Youth 9v9 pitch) Mini 5v5 pitch	Poor Poor Poor Poor	Good	'Poor' quality pitches with bad drainage, a significant slope and poor grass cover. 'Good' quality changing.
Isleham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Adult pitch 3 Youth 9v9 pitch 1 Youth 9v9 pitch 2 Mini 7v7 pitch (Mini 5v5 pitch)	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches, one of which is overmarked with consequent reduced capacity. 'Good' quality changing.
Kennett Recreation Ground	Adult pitch (Youth 11v11 pitch) Mini 7v7 pitch Mini 5v5 pitch	Good Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches, one of which is overmarked with reduced capacity. The adult/youth 11v11 pitch is floodlit. 'Good' quality changing.
Kingfisher Drive Sports Pitches	Mini 7v7 pitch (Mini 5v5 pitch) (Mini 5v5 pitch)	Standard Standard Standard	Standard	Pitches at the lower end of 'standard' quality, two of which are overmarked with consequent reduced capacity and 'good' quality changing.
Little Downham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch	Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches and changing facilities.
Little Thetford Recreation Ground	Adult pitch Youth 11v11 pitch	Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches and changing facilities.
Littleport Leisure Centre	Adult pitch Youth 11v11 pitch 1 Youth 11v11 pitch 2 Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good	Pitches towards the lower end of 'standard' quality and 'good' quality changing facilities.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Lode Playing Field	Adult pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality pitch on cricket outfield and 'Good' quality changing, but poor vehicular access.
Mepal Playing Field	Adult pitch Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2	Poor Poor Poor Poor	Good	'Poor' quality pitches currently subject to drainage improvements and unused. 'Good' quality Football Foundation funded changing.
Paradise Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch	Standard Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches with 'good' quality changing in the leisure centre.
Pymoor Social Club	Adult pitch	Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitch, but 'good' quality changing.
Robert Arkenstall Primary School	Mini 7v7 pitch	Standard	None	'Standard' quality pitch but no changing for community users.
Soham Town Rangers FC	Stadium pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality floodlit stadium pitch with 'Good' quality changing.
Soham United FC	Adult pitch Youth 11v11 pitch 1 Youth 11v11 pitch 2 (Youth 9v9 pitch 1) (Youth 9v9 pitch 2) (Mini 7v7 pitch 1) (Mini 7v7 pitch 2)	Good Good Good Good Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches, four of which are overmarked with consequent reduced capacity. 'Good' quality changing.
Soham Village College	Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch	Good Good	None	'Good' quality pitches but no changing for community users.
Stretham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch Mini 7v7 pitch	Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches, but 'good' quality changing.
Swaffham Prior Recreation Ground	Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch	Standard Standard	Poor	'Standard' quality pitches, but very basic, 'poor' quality changing.
Wicken Recreation Ground	Adult pitch Youth 9v9 pitch	Standard Standard	Standard	'Standard' quality pitches and changing facilities.
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch Mini 5v5 pitch	Good	Standard	'Good' quality pitches, but 'standard' quality changing.
Witchford Playing Field	Adult pitch (Youth 9v9 pitch) Mini 5v5 pitch	Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches, one of which is overmarked with reduced capacity. 'Good' quality changing.
Witchford Village College	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Youth 11v11 pitch	Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches and changing facilities.

5.4.9 Summary of grass pitch quality

The number and percentage of pitches in each quality band is tabulated below. The summary shows that almost one-half of all pitches are rated as 'good' quality, with fewer than one-in-ten being assessed as 'poor' quality.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Good</i>		<i>Standard</i>		<i>Poor</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult 11v11	20	64.5%	10	32.3%	1	3.2%
Youth 11v11	10	71.4%	2	14.3%	2	14.3%
Youth 9v9	8	47.1%	7	41.2%	2	11.7%
Mini-soccer 7v7	7	41.2%	8	47.1%	2	11.7%
Mini-soccer 5v5	10	55.6%	7	38.9%	1	5.5%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>56.7%</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>35.1%</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8.2%</i>

5.4.10 Summary of changing facilities quality

The number and percentage of pitches of each type that are served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities is tabulated below. Whilst only 5.2% of pitches are served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities, the adverse impact on user experiences makes it more difficult to recruit and retain new players, particularly women and girls.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult 11v11	0	0.0%
Youth 11v11	1	0.0%
Youth 9v9	2	12.5%
Mini-soccer 7v7	2	11.8%
Mini-soccer 5v5	0	0.0%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5.2%</i>

5.4.11 Grass pitch maintenance

Football pitch maintenance in the district is organised as follows:

- ***Club-managed pitches:*** The pitches owned and managed by local football clubs, are all maintained by the clubs themselves. This involves a combination of paid grounds staff, external contractors and volunteer help.
- ***Parish council-owned pitches:*** The parish councils employ external contractors to undertake football pitch maintenance.
- ***Pitches on education sites:*** The school sites with community use all employ or contract their pitch maintenance staff.

5.4.12 Pitch hire charges

The cost of hiring football pitches in East Cambridgeshire and comparisons with other areas are as follows:

- ***3G’ football turf pitches:***

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Cost per hour (£)</i>
<i>East Cambridgeshire District Council</i>	
<i>The Hive</i>	
Full pitch (Adult peak)	£55
Full pitch (Adult off-peak)	£40
Full pitch (Junior peak)	£30
Full pitch (Junior off-peak)	£20
Half pitch (Adult peak)	£27.50
Half pitch (Adult off-peak)	£20
Half pitch (Junior peak)	£15
Half pitch (Junior off-peak)	£10
<i>Bottisham Village College</i>	
Full pitch	£65
Half-pitch	£40
One-quarter pitch	£20
<i>Fenland District Council</i>	
<i>Thomas Clarkson Academy, Wisbech</i>	
Full pitch (Adult)	£50
Full pitch (Junior)	£40
One-third pitch (Adult)	£25
One-third pitch (Junior)	£20
Floodlights (Adult)	£7.50
Floodlights (Junior)	£7.50
<i>Cromwell Community College, Chatteris</i>	
Full pitch (Adult match)	£38.33
Full-pitch (Adult training)	£73.50
Full pitch (Junior match)	£19.43
Full pitch (Junior training)	£60.90

- ***Grass pitches:***

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Cost per match (£)</i>
<i>East Cambridgeshire District Council</i>	
<i>Bottisham Village College</i>	
Adult, youth and mini pitches	£25
<i>Burwell Recreation Ground</i>	
Adult and youth pitches	£40
<i>Huntingdonshire District Council</i>	
Adult, youth and mini pitches	£30
<i>South Cambridgeshire District Council</i>	
Adult pitch	£32
Youth pitch	£17

The comparison of prices in East Cambridgeshire with elsewhere shows that they are broadly comparable with most neighbouring areas and are therefore unlikely to influence imported or exported demand.

5.4.13 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of access of all football pitch sites in East Cambridgeshire with community use and used is detailed below. Security of tenure refers to the extent to which community use is protected.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of tenure</i>
Bottisham Village College	Bottisham Village College	Bottisham Village College	Secured
Brooklands Pavilion	Sutton Parish Council	Sutton Parish Council	Secured
Burwell Recreation Ground	Burwell Parish Council	Burwell Parish Council	Secured
Burwell Sports Centre	Burwell Community Sports Centre Ltd.	Burwell Community Sports Centre Ltd.	Secured
Dullingham Sports Field	Dullingham Parish Council	Dullingham Parish Council	Secured
Ely City Football Club	East Cambs DC	Ely City Football Club	Secured
Ely College	Ely College	Ely College	Unsecured
Fordham Recreation Ground	Fordham Parish Council	Fordham Parish Council	Secured
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Haddenham Parish Council	Haddenham Parish Council	Secured
Isleham Recreation Ground	Isleham Parish Council	Isleham Parish Council	Secured
Kennett Recreation Ground	Kennett Parish Council	Kennett Parish Council	Secured
Kingfisher Drive Sports Pitches	Soham Town Council	Soham Town Rangers FC	Unsecured
Little Downham Recn. Ground	Little Downham Parish Council	Little Downham Parish Council	Secured
Little Thetford Recn. Ground	Little Thetford Parish Council	Little Thetford Parish Council	Secured
Littleport Leisure Centre	Littleport & East Cambs Academy	Littleport & East Cambs Academy	Secured
Lode Playing Field	Lode Parish Council	Lode Parish Council	Secured
Mepal Playing Field	Mepal Parish Council	Mepal Parish Council	Secured
Newmarket Town FC	Newmarket Town FC	Newmarket Town FC	Secured
Paradise Recreation Ground	East Cambs DC	The Paradise Centre	Secured
Pymoor Social Club	Pymoor Social Club	Pymoor Social Club	Secured
Robert Arkenstall Primary Sch.	Cambs County Council	Robert Arkenstall Prim. Sch.	Unsecured
Soham Town Rangers FC	Soham Town Rangers FC	Soham Town Rangers FC	Secured
Soham United FC	Soham United FC	Soham United FC	Secured
Soham Village College	Soham Village College	Soham Village College	Unsecured
Stretham Recreation Ground	Stretham Parish Council	Stretham Parish Council	Secured
Swaffham Prior Recn. Ground	Swaffham Prior Parish Council	Swaffham Prior Parish Council	Secured
The Hive	East Cambs DC	Better Leisure	Secured
Wicken Recreation Ground	Wicken Parish Council	Wicken Parish Council	Secured
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Wilburton Parish Council	Wilburton Parish Council	Secured
Witchford Playing Field	Witchford Parish Council	Witchford Parish Council	Secured
Witchford Village College	Witchford Village College	Witchford Village College	Secured

The proportion of football pitches in East Cambridgeshire with secured access is below:

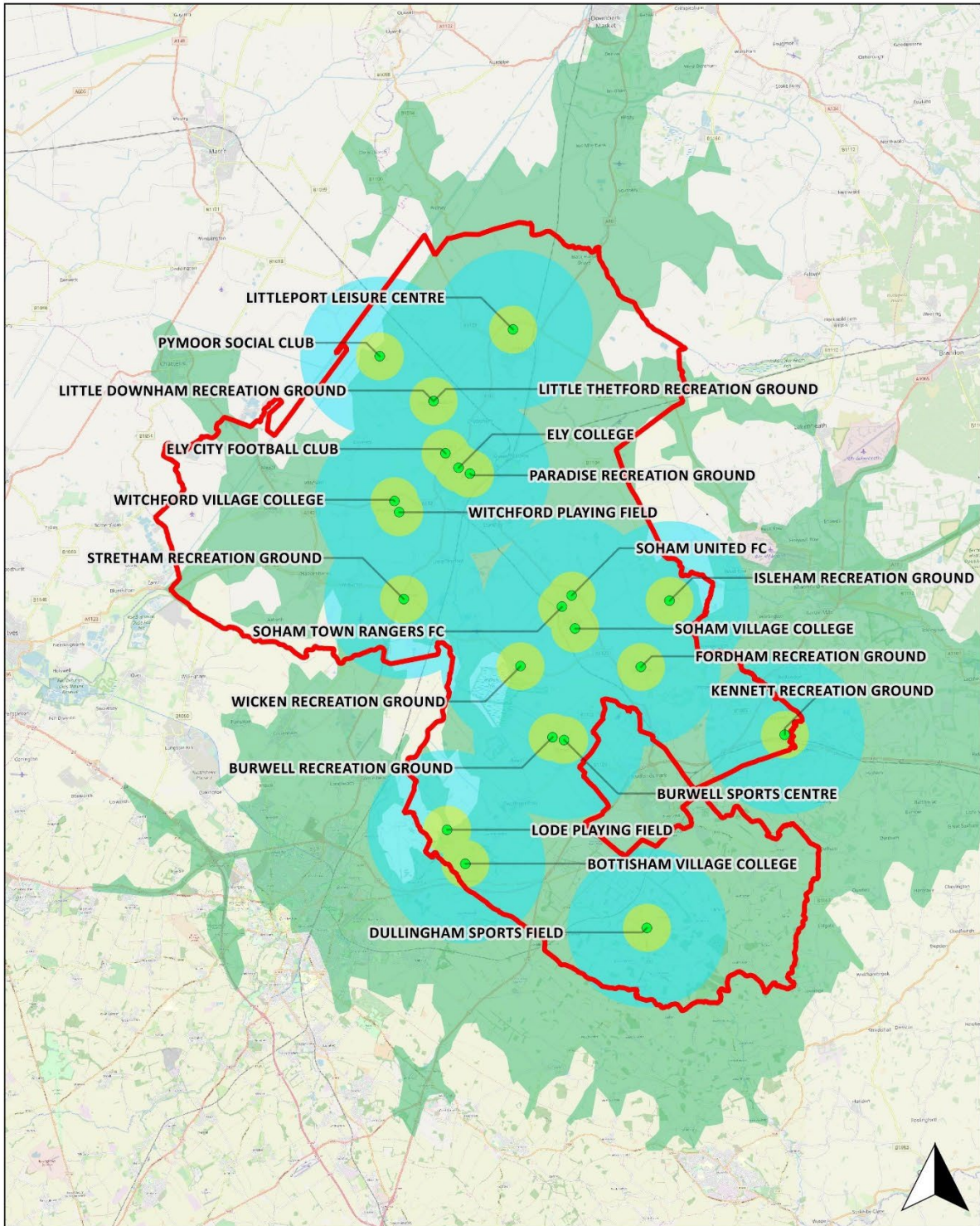
<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Secured</i>		<i>Unsecured</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult football	29	90.6%	3	9.4%
Youth football (11v11)	13	92.9%	1	7.1%
Youth football (9v9)	16	100%	0	0.0%
Mini-soccer (7v7)	16	88.9%	2	11.1%
Mini-soccer (5v5)	15	88.2%	2	11.8%
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	4	100%	0	0.0%
<i>TOTALS</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>92.1%</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7.9%</i>

5.5 Geographical distribution

The geographical distribution of football in East Cambridgeshire is set out in the maps below. 15-minute walking and cycling time catchments have been marked to illustrate local level accessibility. This is based on the results of the clubs' survey, which identifies 15-minutes travel time as the typical maximum for grass pitches, with 20-minutes travel time for '3G' football turf pitches.

5.5.1 Adult grass pitches

The map overleaf shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest adult football pitch:

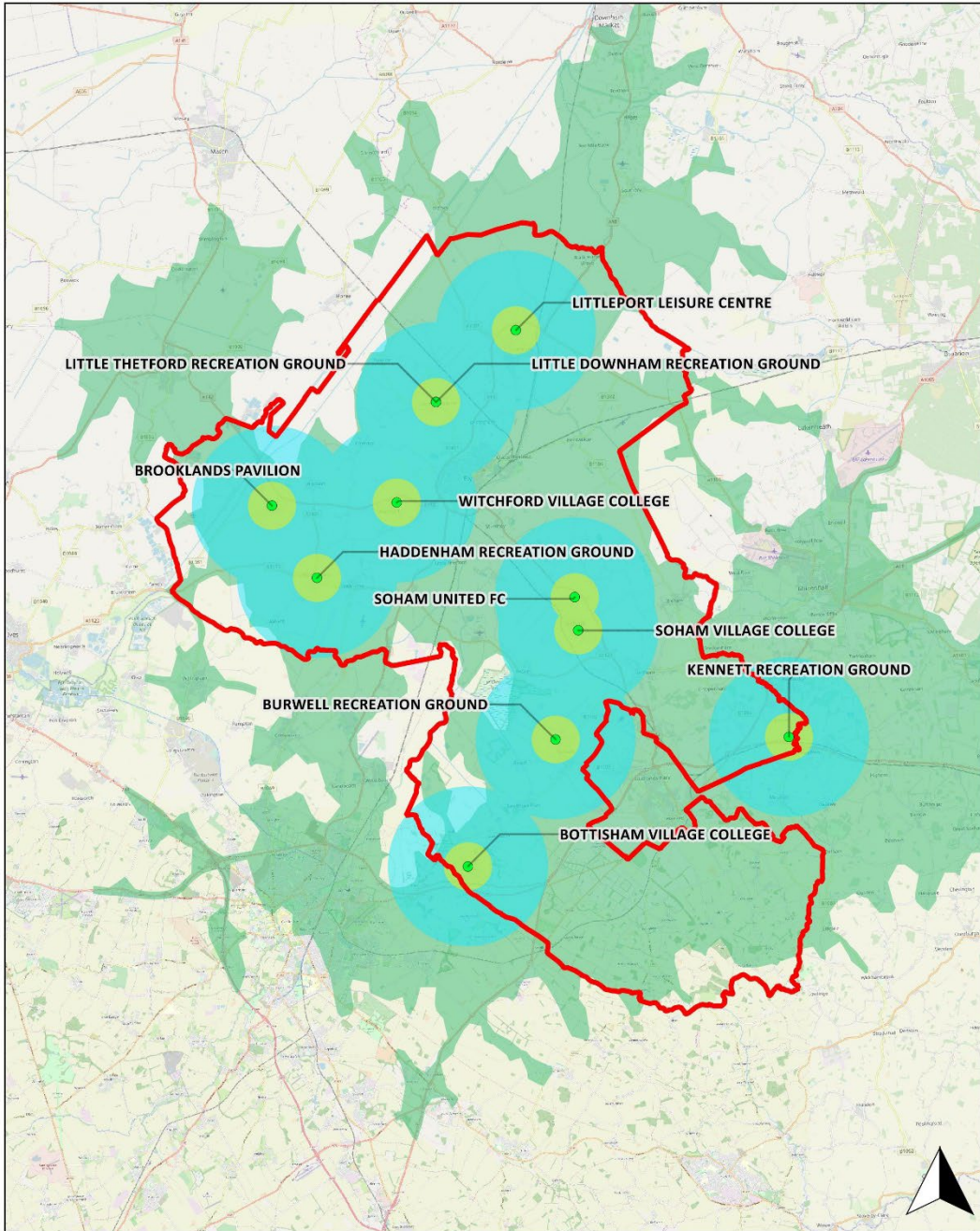


	East Cambridgeshire	● Adult Football	 15 min drive time
	Adult Football	 15 min walk time	 East Cambridgeshire boundary
		 15 min cycle time	

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5.5.2 Youth 11v11 grass pitches

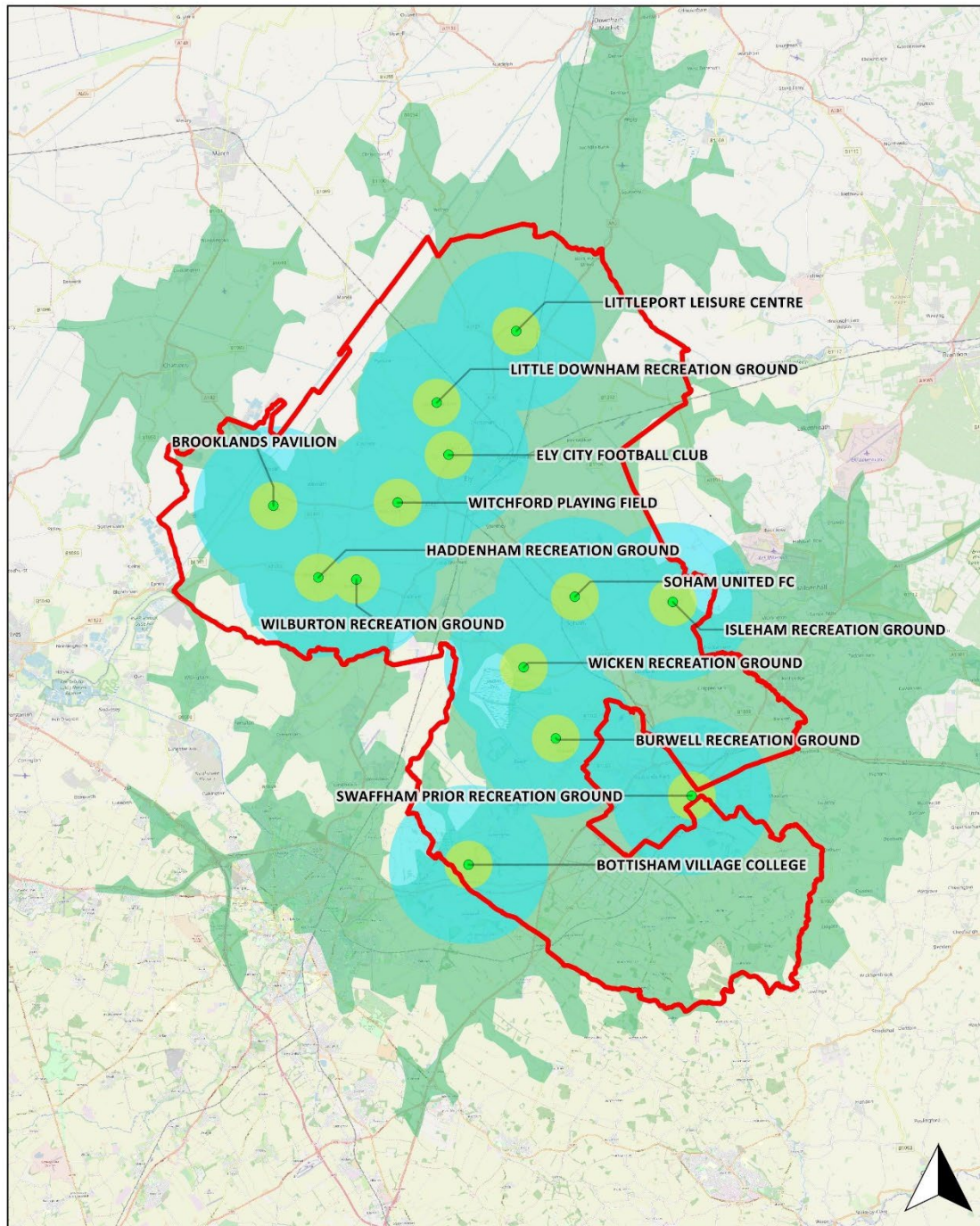
The map below shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest youth 11v11 football pitch:



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5.5.3 Youth 9v9 grass pitches

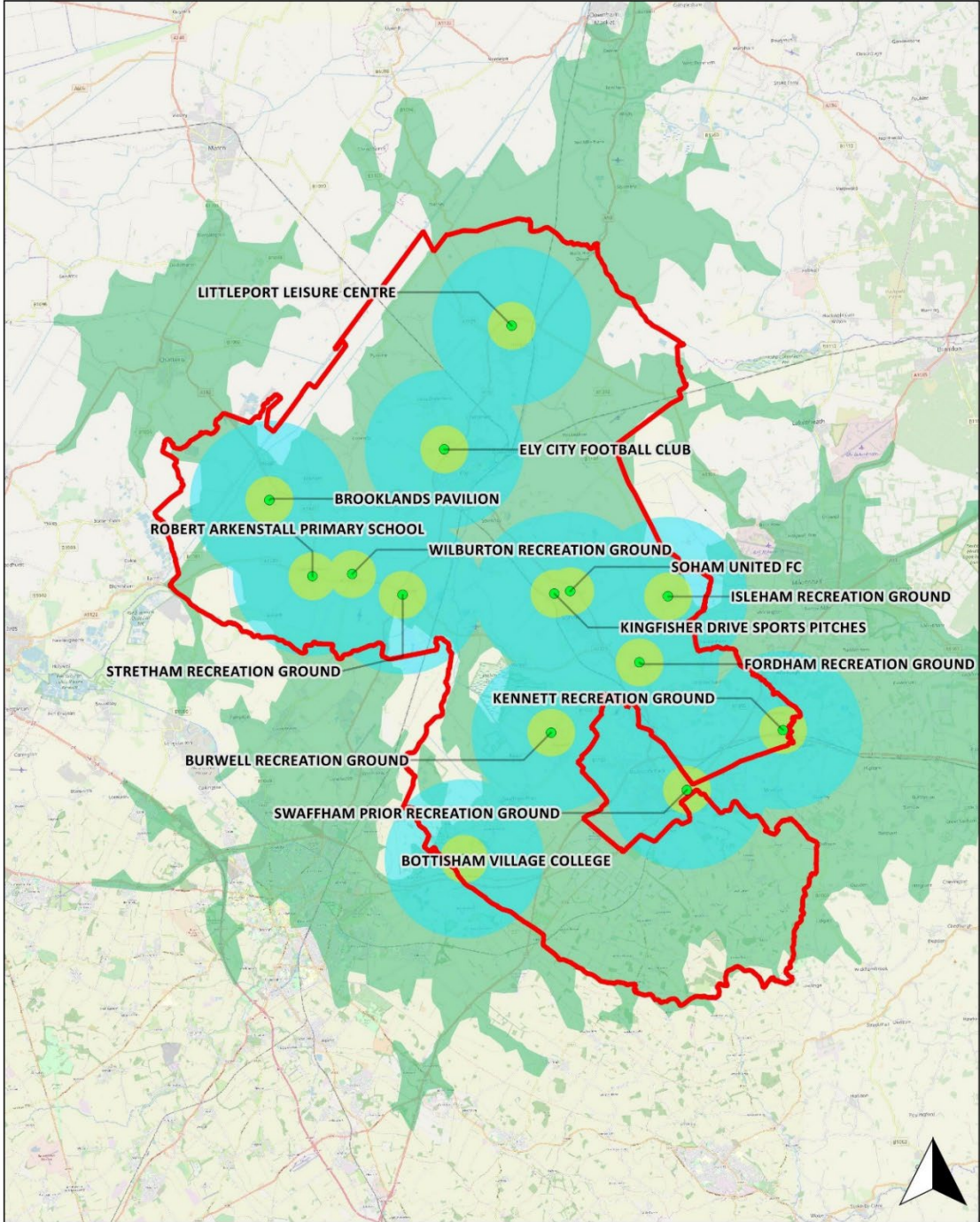
The map below shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest youth 9v9 football pitch:



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5.5.4 Mini-soccer 7v7 grass pitches

The map below shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest mini-soccer 7v7 football pitch:

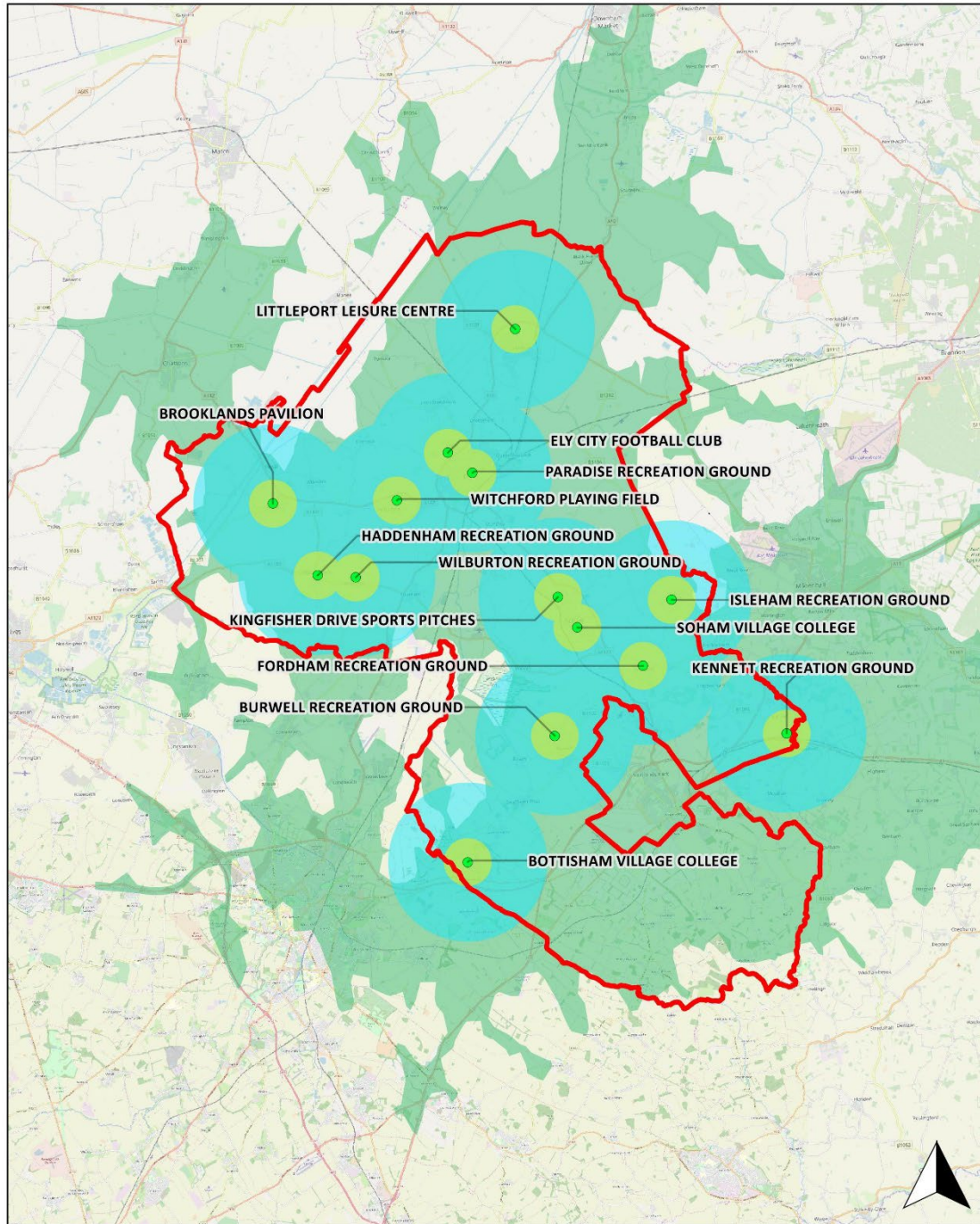


	East Cambridgeshire	● Mini Soccer 7v7	 15 min drive time
	Mini Soccer 7v7	 15 min walk time	 East Cambridgeshire boundary
		 15 min cycle time	

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5.5.5 Mini-soccer 5v5 grass pitches

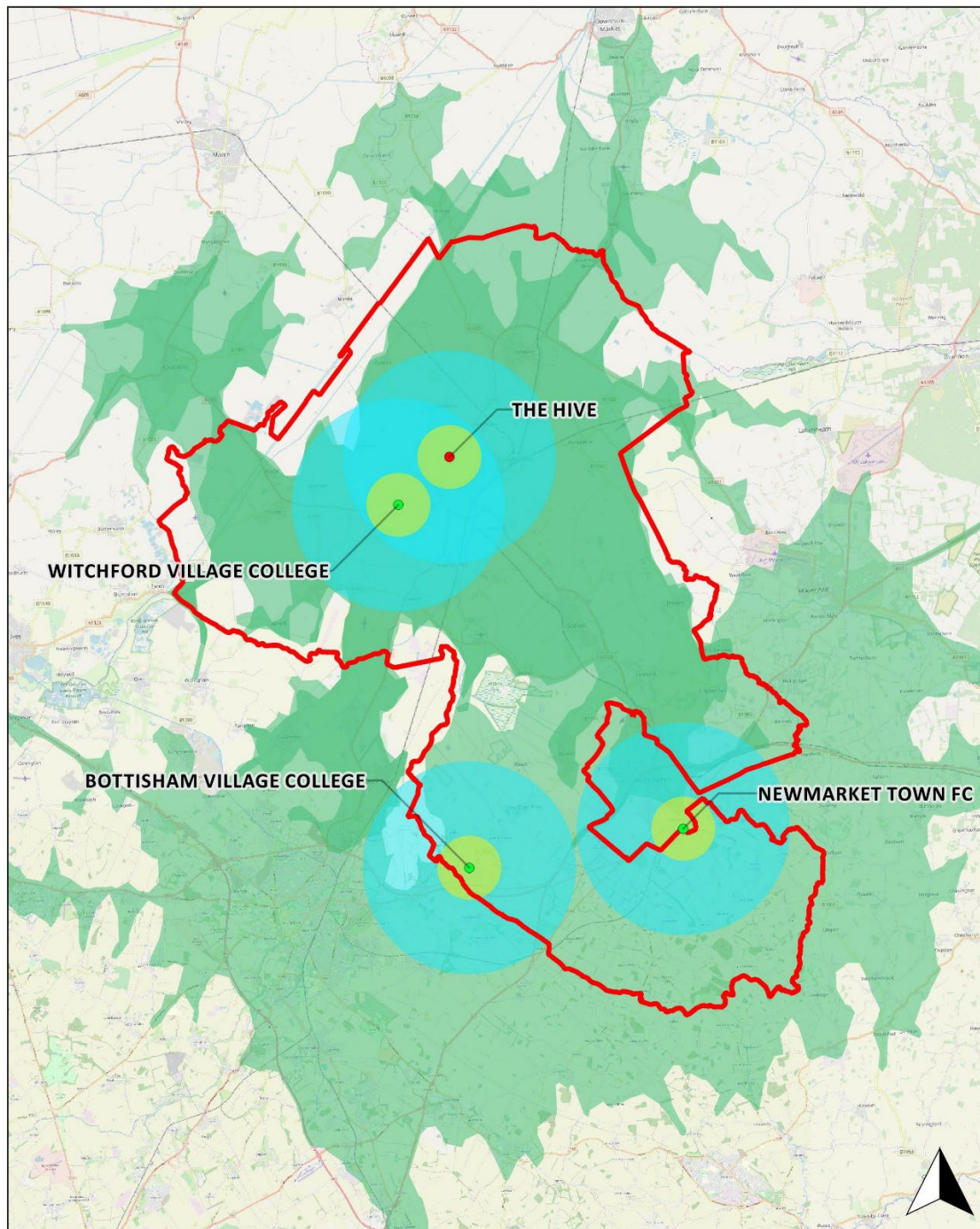
The map below shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest mini-soccer 5v5 football pitch:



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5.5.6 '3G' football turf pitches

The map below shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest '3G' football turf pitch:



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5.6 The views of local stakeholders

5.6.1 Cambridgeshire FA

Consultation with the Cambridgeshire FA highlighted that:

- **Cross-border movements:** There is some cross-border movement of football teams into and out of East Cambridgeshire, given the proximity of Newmarket and Cambridge in particular.
- **Disability football:** In East Cambridgeshire there are two disability football teams and the Cambridgeshire FA is committed to increasing this further.
- **Girl's football:** FA Wildcats girl's football centres provide the first step on the recreational football pathway, providing girls aged 5 to 11 with regular opportunities to play the game in a fun and engaging environment. East Cambridgeshire has three such centres and it is a priority for the FA to increase this number.
- **Small-sided football:** Small-sided football leagues are played at the Hive Leisure Centre and Ely Hockey Club. There is no Futsal activity in the district at present.
- **Recreational football:** Recreational football involves FA 'Just Play' sessions, walking football and casual pitch hire for small-sided match play. Walking Football is delivered by the Cambridgeshire FA at Bottisham Village College and Witchford Village College.
- **Informal football:** Informal football takes place at a number of recreation grounds and multi-use games areas in the district, although by definition it is difficult to quantify levels of use.

5.6.2 Local football clubs

Burwell Tigers FC: The club commented that 'our teams currently play matches at four different sites and we would like to focus all activities at Burwell Recreation Ground if we could have a full-sized '3G' football turf pitch'.

Ely City FC: The club made the following comments:

- 'Girls training sessions to be introduced this season from ages 10 - 13 with the aim to create girls teams moving forward'.
- 'We have plans to refurb main changing room block. Plans for a modular changing block to support colts pitches'.
- 'The current space for colts pitches is not enough to fit all teams and therefore other facilities have to be used. There is not enough changing rooms at the club to support the number of teams. The new '3G' built in Ely was not full size so we cannot move adult 11 v 11 games there to save wear and tear on grass pitches'.

- ‘We don't have a formal tenancy agreement at the Paradise Recreation Ground but have played at this venue for a long time’.

Haddenham Rovers Colts FC: The club made the following comments:

- ‘We currently do not have sufficient pitches or training facilities for our current teams and have to hire additional facilities. We would like to have a new team every year come out of our academy but this lack of facilities makes this difficult’.
- ‘Our pitches do not drain very well and so we have to limit number of games on them. We currently hire the school pitch but are limited to the amount of games per month. We also hire a nearby village rec. but share this with their local team and thus are limited to access. A number of other surrounding villages are not prepared to let us use their facilities as they are full already’.

Isleham United FC: The club made the following comments:

- ‘We need a new pitch as current facilities are over-used which affecting the quality of the pitches. We also have nowhere to train locally’.
- ‘It is difficult to play pre-season games at home due to cricket and other use’.
- ‘The village club has played here [Isleham Recreation Ground] since 1910 and no written agreements in place’.
- ‘The ideal scenario would be either some sort of floodlights and available space at Isleham or a full size 3G floodlit facility closer to us’.

Mepal Sports FC: The club made the following comments:

- ‘If we can return to Mepal after three seasons at Stretham due to problems with the recreation field, we hope to rebuild the Club. The playing surface, which is on the village recreation field, has been in a very bad and dangerous state for a few years leading to both Mepal Juniors and Seniors having to find alternative venues. The Parish Council is trying to find a solution to this problem’.
- ‘Mepal Sports Juniors had to relocate and reform as Wilburton due to the dangerous condition of the recreation field at Mepal. Mepal Sports Seniors have been playing at Stretham in that time but hope to return if the field can be maintained to a safe state’.
- Unfortunately, there is a shortage of suitable pitches in the area which can be available to us’.

Soham Town Rangers Youth FC: The club made the following comments:

- ‘The only thing holding us back as a club is the lack of facilities and pitches in Soham’.

- ‘Limited pitches in Soham and what there is gets waterlogged from December to mid-March. The only floodlit area for training is a small run down 5-a-side pitch at the local sports centre and it costs £27.50 for an hour so cripples us financially’.
- ‘Soham Parish Council is refusing to renew our lease at the Kingfisher Drive pitches when it ends in 3-years’ time so we will no longer have pitches for 5v5 or 7v7 football’.

5.6.3 Parish Councils

Ashley Parish Council: ‘The village has 250 houses and a fairly old demographic. Whilst the pavilion has a single changing room the population doesn't seem to support a full-sized team sport, despite having a large and flat playing field. Other than the play area, we have no facilities for small groups of young/teenage children to play informal sport on, other than a small goal post made from scaffolding poles’.

Haddenham Parish Council: The key comments were as follows:

- ‘Football is very popular in Haddenham (as it is in most villages nowadays). We have a men’s team plus an Academy and 11 colts teams playing regular matches and training which places a huge strain on our small recreation grounds two pitches (one of which is about to be taken out of service for a year for refurbishment work by the Parish Council because it has no grass in the summer and is too wet in winter). There was never enough topsoil added when the pitch was levelled (and indeed none in the middle third which is pure clay)’.
- ‘Youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches spring up temporarily but as the pitches are shared with the cricket pitch, the lack of space and overlapping seasons cause huge problems’.
- ‘It is a difficult dilemma for the Parish Council to support growth when currently 6 of our 11 Colts teams play permanently on other villages pitches. They might as well join those parishes teams and anyway better players seem to migrate to villages with better facilities which has caused the demise of our men’s team in the past’.
- ‘The school also has very few sporting facilities although our village teams do get occasional use of their football pitch but this is limited so it is not overused’.

Lode Parish Council: ‘There have been fewer bookings for the football pitch over the last year or so’.

Soham Parish Council: ‘Soham Town Rangers with Soham Village College are planning to provide and open two ‘4G’ all weather, floodlit football pitches for all schools, club and community use’.

5.7 The implications for football in East Cambridgeshire

Analysis of local supply of football pitches in East Cambridgeshire indicates the following:

- **Participation rates:** Football demand is very buoyant in East Cambridgeshire, with countywide increases of 8.4% in team numbers since 2015 also reflected at district level in the youth and mini age groups. There are a number of large well-run FA Charter Standard clubs that cater for youth football and mini-soccer.

- **Displaced demand:** There is a small amount of displaced demand, with three teams from the district playing matches on pitches elsewhere.
- **Unmet/latent demand:** Local clubs believe that there is latent demand for a further 32 teams in East Cambridgeshire (an increase of around 17.2% on the current team numbers).
- **Pitch quality:** Pitch quality is generally good, with only 8.2% of pitches rated as ‘poor’. More than 90% of pitches have secured community access.
- **Changing facilities:** Changing facilities are generally good quality, with only 3.1% of football pitches served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities.

5.8 Assessment of current needs

5.8.1 Introduction

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent sessions’ at each site. A ‘match equivalent session’ represents the wear and tear on a pitch equivalent to a formal match, so the impact of training sessions and unauthorised use can also be accounted for.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red below).
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity (highlighted in yellow below).
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity (highlighted in green below).

In line with FA guidance, the following assumptions have been made in relation to the number of weekly match equivalents that can be accommodated by different quality pitches:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Good quality</i>	<i>Standard quality</i>	<i>Poor quality</i>
Adult	3	2	1
Youth 11v11	4	2	1
Youth 9v9	4	2	1
Mini-soccer 7v7	6	4	2
Mini-soccer 5v5	6	4	2

The supply demand balance is tabulated below. Spare capacity is highlighted by green shading, balanced usage levels are highlighted in yellow and sites that are overused are highlighted in red.

5.8.2 Adult pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Bottisham Village College	3	Bottisham Village College	9.0	6.0	+3.0	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Burwell Recn. Ground	2	Burwell Tigers FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Burwell Sports Centre	1	Burwell Tigers FC	3.0	1.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Dullingham Sports Field	1	No recorded use	3.0	0.0	+3.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Ely City FC	2	Ely City FC Ely City Crusaders FC	5.0	5.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Ely College	2	Norwich City FC Development Ely College	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Fordham Recn. Ground	2	Fordham FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Isleham Recreation Ground	3	Isleham United FC Isleham United Ladies FC Isleham United Youth FC	6.0	8.0	-2.0	3.0	4.0	-1.0
Kennett Recn. Ground	1	Kennett Youth FC	3.0	4.0	-1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Little Downham Recn. Ground	2	Witchford FC	3.0	2.0	+1.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Little Thetford Recn. Ground	1	Ely City FC	3.0	1.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Littleport Leisure Centre	1	Littleport and East Cambs Academy	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Lode Playing Field	1	Burwell Tigers FC	3.0	1.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Paradise Recn. Ground	2	Ely City FC Ely City Crusaders FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Pymoor Sports & Social Club	1	Little Downham & Pymoor Swifts FC Littleport Town FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Soham Town Rangers FC	1	Soham Town Rangers FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Soham United FC	1	Soham United FC	3.0	2.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Stretham Recn. Ground	1	Mepal Sports FC Soham Town Rangers FC Stretham FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Wicken Recn. Ground	1	Wicken FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Witchford Playing Field	1	Witchford 96 FC Witchford FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Witchford Village College	2	Crusaders 2019 FC Witchford Village College The Isle FC Village Inn FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	31	-	79.0	58.0	+21.0	31.0	30.0	+1.0

The key findings are:

- Adult demand is supplemented by nine youth (11v11) teams using adult pitches at Ely City FC, Isleham Recreation Ground, Kennett Recreation Ground and Witchford Playing Field.
- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at three sites, is balanced at 15 sites and shows spare capacity at four sites.
- Collective peak time spare capacity in the district amounts to 1.0 match equivalent session. This figure becomes a deficit of 2.0 match equivalent session if the education sites without secured community access are excluded.

5.8.3 Youth 11v11 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Bottisham Village College	1	Burwell Tigers FC Bottisham Village College	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Brooklands Pavilion	1	Sutton Rangers FC	4.0	2.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Burwell Recreation Ground	(1)	Burwell Tigers FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Haddenham Recreation Ground	2	Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	2.0	3.0	-1.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Kennett Recn. Ground	(1)	Kennett Youth FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Little Downham Recreation Ground	1	Witchford Colts FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Little Thetford Recreation Ground	1	Ely City FC	4.0	2.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Littleport Leisure Centre	2	Littleport Town Colts FC Littleport & E.C. Academy	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Soham United FC	2	Soham United Youth FC	8.0	6.0	+2.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
Soham Village College	1	Soham Town Rangers YFC Soham Village College	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Witchford Village College	1	Cambs FC Girl's Coaching Witchford Colts FC Witchford Village College	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	12(2)	-	46.0	36.0	+10.0	14.0	16.0	-2.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at three sites, balanced provision at seven sites and spare capacity at one site.
- The collective peak time supply-demand position in the district is a deficit of 2.0 match equivalent sessions. The deficit increases to 3.0 match equivalent sessions if the education site without secured community access is excluded.

5.8.4 Youth 9v9 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Bottisham Village College	2	Burwell Tigers FC Bottisham Village College	8.0	6.0	+2.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Brooklands Pavilion	(1)	Sutton Rangers FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Burwell Recreation Ground	1	Burwell Tigers FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Ely City FC	2	Ely City Crusaders FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Haddenham Recreation Ground	(1)	Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	1.0	1.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Isleham Recreation Ground	2	Isleham United Youth FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Little Downham Recreation Ground	1	No recorded use	4.0	0.0	+4.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Littleport Leisure Centre	1	Littleport & E.C. Academy	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Soham Village College	1	Soham Town Rangers YFC Soham Village College	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Soham United FC	(2)	Soham United Youth FC	8.0	2.0	+6.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Swaffham Prior Recreation Ground	1	Burwell Tigers FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Wicken Recreation Ground	1	Soham Town Rangers FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Wilburton Recreation Ground	1	Haddenham Rovers CFC Wilburton FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Witchford Playing Field	(1)	Witchford Colts FC	4.0	6.0	-2.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
TOTALS	12(5)	-	55.0	34.0	+19.0	16.0	19.0	-2.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at three sites, a balance at nine sites and a deficit at two sites.
- The collective peak time deficit in the district amounts to 2.0 match equivalent session. The deficit remains the same if the education sites without secured community access are excluded, because none has a youth 9v9 pitch.

5.8.5 Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Bottisham Village College	2	Burwell Tigers FC	12.0	1.0	+11.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Brooklands Pavilion	(1)	No recorded use	6.0	0.0	+6.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Burwell Recreation Ground	1	Burwell Tigers FC	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Ely City FC	2	Ely City Crusaders FC	8.0	3.0	+5.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Fordham Recreation Ground	1	Fordham FC	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Isleham Recreation Ground	1	Isleham United Youth FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Kennett Recreation Ground	1	Kennett Youth FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Kingfisher Drive Sports Pitches	1	Soham Town Rangers FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Littleport Leisure Centre	2	Littleport Town Colts FC	8.0	2.0	+6.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Robert Arkenstall Primary School	1	Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Soham United FC	(2)	Soham United Youth FC	12.0	4.0	+8.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Stretham Recreation Ground	1	Stretham Sporting FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Swaffham Prior Recreation Ground	1	Burwell Tigers FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Wilburton Recreation Ground	1	Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
TOTALS	15(3)	-	90.0	27.0	+63.0	18.0	18.0	Balanced

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows a deficit at three sites, is balanced at eight further sites and there is peak time spare capacity at three sites, including one where there is currently no recorded use.
- The collective peak time position in the district shows an exact balance between supply and demand. However, a deficit of 1.0 match equivalent sessions emerges if the education site without secured community access is excluded.

5.8.6 Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Bottisham Village College	4	Burwell Tigers FC	24.0	1.0	+23.0	4.0	1.0	+3.0
Brooklands Pavilion	1	Sutton Rangers FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Burwell Sports Centre	1	Burwell Tigers FC	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Ely City FC	2	Ely City Crusaders FC	8.0	3.0	+5.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Fordham Recreation Ground	(1)	Fordham FC	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Haddenham Recreation Ground	1	Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Isleham Recreation Ground	(1)	Isleham United Youth FC	4.0	6.0	-2.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
Kennett Recreation Ground	1	Kennett Youth FC	6.0	3.0	+3.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Kingfisher Drive Sports Pitches	(2)	Soham Town Rangers FC	4.0	2.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Littleport Leisure Centre	1	No recorded use	4.0	0.0	+4.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Paradise Recreation Ground	1	Ely City Crusaders FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Wilburton Recreation Ground	1	Wilburton FC	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Witchford Playing Field	1	Witchford Colts FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	14(4)	-	86.0	24.0	+62.0	17.0	15.0	+2.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at two sites, is balanced at eight sites and shows spare capacity at three sites.
- The collective peak time surplus in the district amounts to 2.0 match equivalent sessions. The position remains the same if the education sites without secured community access are excluded, because none has a mini-soccer 5v5 pitch.

5.8.7 '3G' football turf pitches

The methodology for assessing the used capacity of the three full-sized artificial grass pitches used for football in East Cambridgeshire is based upon assessing information from two sources:

- The actual used capacity of the two '3G' football turf pitch use is based upon their hours of use in the peak period supplied by the pitch operators.
- A projection based upon the FA's guide figure of one pitch per 38 teams.

Used capacity: The used capacity of the ‘3G’ football turf pitches used for football in East Cambridgeshire is as follows:

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Peak hours</i>	<i>Utilised peak hours</i>	<i>Peak utilisation rate</i>
Bottisham Village College	18.00 - 22.00 Mon - Fri	15	75%
Newmarket Town FC	18.00 - 22.00 Mon - Fri	20	100%
Witchford Village College	18.00 - 21.30 Mon - Fri	14	80%

FA guidance: An alternative way to assess ‘3G’ pitch needs is to apply the FA’s guide figure for training needs of one full-sized pitch per 38 teams. With 186 football teams in East Cambridgeshire at present, there is a requirement for 4.89 pitches the district. If the 32 additional teams identified by local clubs as representing latent demand are included, the requirement increases to 5.74 pitches. Existing provision of three community-accessible full-sized pitches leaves an effective shortfall of 1.89 full-sized ‘3G’ pitches, or 2.74 if latent demand is included.

5.9 Assessment of future needs

5.9.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council’s planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The ‘*East Cambridgeshire Growth Study*’ (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

5.9.2 Potential changes in demand

Changes in demand for football in the future can be modelled on a trend-based projection.

- **FA strategic targets:** The FA’s ‘*National Game Strategy for Participation and Development 2018 - 2021*’ sets the following participation targets:
 - Boost female youth participation by 11% by 2021.
 - Retain and support the 129,000 male, female and disability teams.
 - Increase the number of over 16’s playing every week by over 200,000, by offering a variety of formats by 2021.
- **Local trends:** Consultation with local clubs indicated that the following additional teams could be accommodated in East Cambridgeshire if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. The projected increase is equivalent to a 17.3% rise in current team numbers. Given the broadly static participation levels over the past five years, it is considered appropriate to project future needs based on current team numbers.

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams</i>
Adult teams	3
Youth 11v11 teams	11
Youth 9v9 teams	5
Mini 7v7 teams	7
Mini 5v5 teams	6

TOTAL TEAMS	32
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5.9.3 Site-specific pressures

East Cambridgeshire District Council needs to identify sites upon which it can deliver its housing targets. Whilst planning policy offers protection to playing pitches, those sites that do not currently accommodate formal football activity may be vulnerable unless it can be proved that they are needed to accommodate existing or future shortfalls in supply or serve some other green space functions.

5.9.4 Potential changes in supply

Current ‘3G’ football turf pitch proposals are as follows:

- Soham Village College in conjunction with Soham Town Rangers FC.
- Isleham Recreation Ground.
- Littleport Leisure Centre in conjunction with Littleport and East Cambs Academy.
- Ely College is considering converting its sand-filled artificial grass pitch into a ‘3G’ football turf pitch.

Additional grass pitches are also under active consideration or linked to planned housing developments in Burwell, Haddenham and Sutton. However, details are still to be finalised, and none of these projects is yet fully funded.

5.9.5 Existing spare capacity

Existing surpluses (shown with a ‘+’) or deficits (shown with a ‘-’) in football pitch peak-time capacity have been calculated in section 5.7 above and are as follows. It is important to note that the shortfalls cannot be met by improvements to pitch quality (and related capacity), because they relate to peak period demand, which is defined by the number of pitches:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Match equivalents</i>
Adult	+1.0
Youth 11v11	-2.0
Youth 9v9	-2.0
Mini-soccer 7v7	Balanced
Mini-soccer 5v5	+2.0

5.9.6 Future grass pitch needs

Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator provides a way of modelling future playing pitch needs. The model applies Team Generation Rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand. The results of applying the Calculator for football needs in East Cambridgeshire are set out below:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand 2036</i>		
	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Youth</i>	<i>Mini</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	2.15	7.50	4.63
Extra training hours per week on '3G' pitches	29.52		
Extra grass pitches to meet demand	2.15	7.50	4.63
Capital cost of extra pitches	£221,908	£579,426	£119,173
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£46,823	£121,680	£25,026
Extra '3G' pitches to meet demand	0.78		
Capital cost of extra '3G' pitches	£793,250		
Annual running costs of extra '3G' pitches	£28,459		
Extra changing rooms	15.28		
Capital cost of extra changing facilities	£2,675,267		

5.9.7 Future '3G' pitch needs

The Playing Pitch Calculator projects future '3G' pitch needs to 2036 as a requirement for 0.78 additional pitches, in addition to the existing assessed shortfall of 1.89 pitches.

5.10 Key findings and issues

5.10.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Participation rates:** Football demand is very buoyant in East Cambridgeshire, with countywide increases of 8.4% in team numbers since 2015 also reflected at district level in the youth and mini age groups. There are a number of large well-run FA Charter Standard clubs that cater for youth football and mini-soccer.
- **Displaced demand:** There is a small amount of displaced demand, with three teams from the district playing matches on pitches elsewhere.
- **Unmet/latent demand:** Local clubs believe that there is latent demand for a further 32 teams in East Cambridgeshire (an increase of around 17.3% on the current team numbers).
- **Pitch quality:** Pitch quality is generally good, with only 8.2% of pitches rated as 'poor'. More than 95% of pitches have secured community access.
- **Changing facilities:** Changing facilities are generally good quality, with only 5.2% of football pitches served by 'poor' quality or no changing facilities.

5.10.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **NO** - there is a deficit for most pitch types

- **Adult grass pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 2.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at accessible, community-secured sites.
- **Youth 11v11 pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 3.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at the community-secured sites.

- **Youth 9v9 pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 2.0 weekly match equivalent session at community-secured sites.
- **Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 1.0 weekly match equivalent session at community-secured sites.
- **Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches:** There is a collective surplus of 2.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at the community-secured sites.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** There is 7.5 hours of peak time availability at existing '3G' football turf pitches in the district, which is equivalent to 0.38 pitches. Based on the FA's calculation of training needs against current provision however, there is an assessed current shortfall of 1.89 pitches. The net position, deducting spare capacity from surplus demand, leaves a requirement for 1.51 additional pitches.

5.10.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **YES - at most pitches**

- **Quality:** Pitch quality was rated 'poor' at only eight out of 97 grass football pitches in the district. However, quality is at the lower end of 'standard' at a further five pitches, many of which are likely to fall into the 'poor' category in the future, without enhanced maintenance.
- **Maintenance:** Most pitches in East Cambridgeshire are appropriately maintained.

5.10.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The district's population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036, a 16.1% increase over the 2018 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** Projecting future need based on current demand patterns, is a reasonable basis for forecasting.

Changes in supply: '3G' football turf pitches are under discussion at Soham, Isleham, Littleport and Ely College (for conversion of an ageing sand-filled artificial grass pitch). Additional grass pitches are also under active consideration or linked to planned housing developments in Burwell, Haddenham and Sutton. However, no details are currently available as to size or number of pitches and none of these projects is yet fully funded.

- **Existing spare capacity:** The only notional spare capacity is 2.0 match equivalent sessions at mini-soccer 5v5 pitches.
- **Future needs:** Based on projected population growth, additional future needs have been assessed as follows by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator:
 - Adult grass pitches: 2.15 pitches.
 - Youth grass pitches: 7.5 pitches.
 - Mini-soccer grass pitches: 4.63 pitches.

- '3G' football turf pitches: 0.78 pitches.

5.10.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **No** - there is a deficit for all pitch types.

The situation at community accessible pitches in the district is summarised below:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current secured pitches</i>	<i>Current secured peak spare pitch capacity</i>	<i>Current peak needs</i>	<i>New peak match equivalents by 2036</i>	<i>Total peak pitch needs by 2036</i>	<i>Surplus/deficit in 2036</i>
Adult football	29	-2.0	31.0	2.15	33.15	-4.15
Youth 11v11	13	-3.0	16.0	4.0	20.0	-7.0
Youth 9v9	16	-2.0	18.0	3.5	21.5	-5.5
Mini 7v7	17	-1.0	18.0	2.32	20.32	-3.32
Mini 5v5	17	+2.0	15.0	2.31	17.31	-0.31

5.11 Scenario Testing

5.11.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, a number of scenarios have been examined, to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

5.11.2 Scenario 1: Re-instating un-used and disused pitches

- **Rationale:** The table below models the effect of re-instating unused and disused pitches to meet future demand. The pitches concerned and the reasons why they are currently unused are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Reasons for non-usage</i>
Burrough Green	Bradley Road, Burrough Green CB8 9NG	1	-	-	-	-	Pitch available but no current demand.
Mepal Playing Field	Witcham Road, Mepal CB6 2YP	1	-	1	2	-	Problems with drainage currently being addressed.
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	Station Rd., Swaffham Bulbeck CB25 0HP	1	-	-	-	-	Pitch available but no current demand.
The Ellesmere Centre	Ley Road, Stetchworth CB8 9TS	1	-	-	-	-	Pitch available but no current demand.
TOTALS	-	4	0	1	2	0	-

- The pitches can all be restored to 'standard' quality and there are no access and parking issues at the sites. Whilst it would have limited impact on the amount of additional pitch capacity that would still need to be provided, it would at least reduce the number required. It would therefore make sense either to consider resuming use of these pitches to meet unmet existing demand for youth and mini-soccer pitches (the Ellesmere Centre would be particularly appropriate for this with an existing small-sided floodlit artificial grass pitch), or to retain them as open space until such time as additional future demand emerges.

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - All pitches were used until recently, so could be reinstated at relatively low cost.
 - All sites have secured community access so usage would be assured.
- **Disadvantages:** There are no obvious disadvantages to this scenario.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers some advantages for enhancing local pitch capacity on a cost-effective basis.

5.11.3 Scenario 2: Accessing pitches on education sites

- **Rationale:** The following pitches on school sites in East Cambridgeshire have no community use at present. Local clubs with surplus demand in the vicinity of each site that would benefit from additional pitch access are also listed:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Local clubs with surplus demand</i>
Bottisham Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Burwell Tigers FC
Ely St. John's Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Ely City FC
Ely St. Mary's Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Ely City FC
Fordham Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Fordham FC
Kings School	1	-	-	-	-	The Eagle (Ely) FC
Kings School (Amherst Field)	1	-	-	-	-	Ely City FC
Kings School (Brand Field)	1	1	2	-	-	Ely City FC
Isle of Ely Primary School	-	-	-	1	1	Ely City FC
Isleham Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Isleham United Youth FC
Lantern Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Ely City FC
Littleport Primary School	-	-	1	1	1	Littleport Town Colts FC
Mepal & Witcham Primary Sch.	-	-	-	1	-	Mepal Sports FC
Millfield Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Littleport Town Colts FC
Rackham Primary School	-	-	1	-	-	Witchford Colts FC
St. Andrew's Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Soham Town Rangers FC
Stretham Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Stretham Sporting FC
Swaffham Prior Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Burwell Tigers FC
Weatherall's Primary School	-	-	1	-	-	Soham United Youth FC
Wilburton Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Wilburton FC
TOTALS	3	1	5	14	2	-

- The table below models the effect of gaining access to school pitches to meet future community demand. It shows that whilst additional capacity would still need to be provided for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9, the amount of provision required would be reduced. Whilst pitch capacity is reduced by the education use, it would nevertheless make sense to consider negotiating the use of these pitches to meet additional future demand, rather than making entirely new provision.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current School pitches</i>	<i>Peak match equivalent capacity</i>	<i>Unmet current and future peak demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Adult football	3	3.0	-1.15	+1.85
Youth 11v11	1	1.0	-6.0	-5.0
Youth 9v9	5	5.0	-5.5	-0.5
Mini 7v7	14	14.0	-2.32	+11.68
Mini 5v5	2	2.0	-0.31	+1.69

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into use at little or no additional cost, depending on the current quality of the respective pitches.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if community-based clubs were playing on school sites.
 - The pitches should be available during the peak demand periods for community-based teams at weekends.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - None of the schools has community use at present and there is no obvious mechanism for securing it, so there is no guarantee that they would be prepared to commence such an arrangement.
 - No site has a Community Use Agreement so continued access would be unsecured.
 - No assessment has been made of the quality of schools pitches without community use, so the extent of their capacity to accommodate additional use is unknown.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers some advantages for enhancing local pitch capacity on a cost-effective basis and should therefore be examined further on a site-by-site basis.

5.11.4 Scenario 3: Improve existing grass pitch carrying capacity

- **Rationale:** The following football pitches in East Cambridgeshire are either 'standard' or 'poor' quality and as such their carrying capacity is compromised. The users of each site are also listed in the table below, to illustrate which clubs might benefit from pitch quality (and related capacity) improvements:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch rating</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Club users</i>
Ely City FC	Standard	1	-	2	2	2	Ely City FC
Ely College	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Norwich City FC Ely College
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Poor	-	2	(1)	-	1	Haddenham Rovers FC
Isleham Recreation Ground	Standard	3	-	2	1	(1)	Isleham United FC
Kingfisher Drive pitches	Standard	-	-	-	1	(2)	Soham Town Rangers FC

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch rating</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Club users</i>
Littleport Leisure Centre	Standard	1	2	1	2	1	Littleport Town Colts FC
Mepal Recreation Ground	Poor	1	-	1	2	-	Mepal Sports FC
Paradise Recreation Ground	Standard	2	-	-	-	1	Ely City FC
Robert Arkenstall Primary School	Standard	-	-	-	1	-	Haddenham Rovers FC
Stretham Recreation Ground	Standard	1	-	-	1	-	Mepal Sports FC Soham Town Rangers FC Stretham FC Stretham Sporting FC
Swaffham Prior Recreation Grd.	Standard	-	-	1	1	-	Burwell Tigers FC
Wicken Recreation Ground	Standard	1	-	1	-	-	Wicken FC
TOTALS	-	12	4	8(1)	11	5(3)	-

- The table below models the effect of improving the pitches to ‘good’ quality and subsequently maintaining them as such.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Improved pitch capacity (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Unmet current and future demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Balance (match equivalents)</i>
Adult football	13.0	-1.15	+10.85
Youth 11v11	10.0	-6.0	+4.0
Youth 9v9	22.0	-5.5	+16.5
Mini 7v7	26.0	-2.32	+23.68
Mini 5v5	16.0	-0.31	+15.69

- Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Overall usage capacity would be improved, the districtwide collective weekly capacity deficiencies would be eliminated and the distribution of the sites gives good geographical coverage across the whole district.
 - This would be a cost-effective option compared with the expense of providing new pitches, particularly if land acquisition costs are factored in.
- Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The capital cost of pitch improvements may be supported by the Football Foundation grants programmes, the main financial challenge to many pitch providers would be meeting the revenue cost implications of the enhanced works associated with maintaining the pitch quality as ‘good’.
 - The major benefit of capacity improvements are on weekly capacity and would have very limited impact on the peak period shortfalls.
- Conclusions:** Improving the ‘poor’ quality pitches (Haddenham Recreation Ground and Mepal Recreation Ground) would have the greatest impact on current deficiencies.

5.11.5 Scenario 4: Provide additional grass pitches in conjunction with housing developments

- **Rationale:** Additional grass pitches are also under active consideration or linked to planned housing developments in Burwell, Haddenham and Sutton. These have the potential to meet all additional football needs arising from the extra demand created by the inhabitants of the new housing.
- The table below models the effect of improving the pitches to ‘good’ quality and subsequently maintaining them as such.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Unmet current and future demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Grass pitches needed to meet extra demand by 2036</i>
Adult football	-1.15	2
Youth 11v11	-6.0	6
Youth 9v9	-5.5	6
Mini 7v7	-2.32	3
Mini 5v5	-0.31	1

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The districtwide collective grass pitch capacity deficiencies would be eliminated.
 - The costs of providing and maintaining the pitches will be secured through developer contributions.
 - There are existing football clubs in all three areas who may be in a position to take on the management of the pitches through an asset transfer arrangement.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - No details are currently available as to size or number of pitches associated with the proposed housing developments and none of them is yet fully funded.
 - Grass pitch provision, particularly for youth football and mini-soccer, may be less relevant in the future than ‘3G’ football turf pitches.
- **Conclusions:** Grass pitch provision associated with major housing developments in the district should be balanced against the case for inviting off-site developer contributions towards the costs of providing ‘3G’ football turf pitches to address the extra demand.

5.11.6 Scenario 5: The impact of current ‘3G’ pitch proposals

- **Rationale:** There are the following active proposals for ‘3G’ pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire:
 - Soham Village College, in conjunction with Soham Town Rangers FC.
 - Isleham Recreation Ground.

- Littleport Leisure Centre in conjunction with Littleport and East Cambs Academy.
 - Ely College is considering converting its sand-filled artificial grass pitch into a '3G' football turf pitch.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows.
 - Assuming that all pitches are provided as full-sized facilities with full community access, they will be capable of accommodating an additional 158 training slots per week. Existing provision of three community-accessible full-sized pitches leaves an effective shortfall of 1.89 full-sized '3G' pitches, or 2.74 if latent demand is included, so the proposed facilities will meet all of the current shortfall.
 - In addition to the extra training capacity, assuming the permissibility of staggered kick-off times and the accreditation of each pitch on the FA Register, the pitches could collectively provide for 16 adult or youth 11v11, or 24 youth 9v9 or mini 7v7 or 32 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions per weekend, thus eliminating peak demand deficits on grass pitches.
 - The geographical spread of the proposed facilities would give good geographical coverage of the district, in conjunction with the existing pitches.
 - **Disadvantage:** The only disadvantage of this scenario is that conversion of an artificial grass hockey pitch into a '3G' surface will need to be considered carefully in relation to the needs of hockey in the area.
 - **Conclusions:** The current '3G' pitch proposals in East Cambridgeshire have the potential to provide for all current football training needs and match play deficits, but further feasibility work will need to be undertaken to determine that:
 - All four proposals are financially viable and can be managed to accommodate all needs.
 - There is sufficient current and future artificial grass pitch capacity to meet hockey needs in the district.

5.12 Policy recommendations

5.12.1 Introduction

The East Cambridgeshire PPS is a robust and evidence-based assessment of the current and future needs for football in the district. The recommendations in relation to football are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space 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 sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the three main headings of ‘protect’, ‘enhance’ and ‘provide’.

5.12.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The Strategy identifies a need for all current and disused football pitch sites to be retained, on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of the sport and/or other wider open space functions in East Cambridgeshire both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that existing planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If any pitch sites do become the subject of development proposals, this will only be permissible if they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development’.

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: Fewer than 10% of football pitches in the district are on sites without secured community use and the absence of a Community Use Agreement at some school sites makes it impossible to assume the continued availability of the pitches for the community. It is therefore recommended that efforts are made to achieve security of Community Use Agreements at sites without them at present.

5.12.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing ‘poor’ quality provision, including dis-used sites: Eight pitches (8.3%) in the District are rated as ‘poor’ quality and several more are rated at the lower end of ‘standard’ quality. Additionally, 3% of pitches are served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities. This reduces the quality of playing experience and may deter some potential participants. Subject to security of tenure issues, it is recommended that:

- The site owners concerned should be supported to apply for external funding for facility enhancements, including the receipt of developer contributions (see below) where the usage capacity would be enhanced.
- Sites with poor playing surfaces should apply to be part of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme, which will offer a programme to improve the short, medium and long-term maintenance of pitches to improve pitch quality.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions (enhancements): Some of the additional demand for football arising from the proposed housing development in East Cambridgeshire to 2036, should be accommodated through enhancements to existing pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the East Cambridgeshire PPS be used as the basis for determining facility enhancements that demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements.

5.12.4 Provide

Recommendation 5 - ‘3G’ football turf pitches: Based upon the FA’s guide figure, there is a current shortfall of 1.87 full-sized ‘3G’ pitches in the district, with additional demand equivalent to 0.78 full-sized pitches being generated by population growth by 2036. ‘3G’ pitches are an important component of provision because their all-weather nature and floodlights enable a high volume of play to be accommodated on good quality playing surfaces. The provision of additional ‘3G’ pitches to meet needs identified in the East Cambridgeshire PPS should be supported as a priority in appropriate locations. Sites currently under active consideration and include Soham College, Isleham Recreation Ground, Littleport Leisure Centre and Ely College.

Recommendation 6 - Developer contributions (new provision): Most of the extra demand for youth football in particular arising from the proposed housing development in East Cambridgeshire to 2036, will need to be accommodated through the provision of new pitches and facilities. It is recommended that agreement be concluded with developers to provide football pitches to meet the specific future needs identified in the East Cambridgeshire PPS. Some potential projects are emerging through this mechanism and further needs and opportunities should be kept under review through the implementation phase of the strategy.

5.13 Action Plan

5.13.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the football site-specific action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for ECDC - East Cambridgeshire District Council, FA - Football Association and GANTIP - Grounds and Natural Turf Pitch Improvement Programme. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019* (2019), but actual costs will vary based on site-specific conditions.

5.13.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Community access to public and private education pitches	Pursue formal Community Use agreements at all existing and any future proposed pitches on public and private education sites.	ECDC	Academies and schools	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	High
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved football facilities.	ECDC	Developers	Determined by Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator	High
Identification of sites for additional ‘3G’ football turf pitches	Examine the feasibility of providing additional ‘3G’ pitches at the identified key sites.	ECDC	Potential host sites Football Foundation S106 funding	£10,000 for feasibility studies £750,000 per pitch	High
Site specific grounds maintenance needs	Review site specific grounds maintenance needs when through the FA Pitch Improvement Programme.	FA	GANTIP	£100 per site annually for assessment and advice.	High

5.13.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Bottisham Village College	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Brooklands Pavilion	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Burrough Green	No current use	Retain as open space and reinstate pitch in response to increased demand.	Burrough Green PC	-	-	Low
Burwell Recreation Ground	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Burwell Sports Centre	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Dullingham Sports Field	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Ellesmere Centre	No current use	Explore the possibility of providing youth and/or mini pitches	Ellesmere Centre	-	-	Medium
Ely City Football Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing capacity is inadequate to serve the number of pitches. • Disabled access is non-compliant. 	Improve changing facilities	Ely City FC	Football Foundation	£250,000 for changing improvements	High
Ely College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secured community access. • Proposal to convert sand-filled AGP to '3G'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate a formal Community Use Agreement • Feasibility study to assess impact of conversion on Hockey. 	Ely College	ECDC	£10,000 for feasibility study	Medium
Fordham Recreation Ground	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Haddenham Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Poor' quality pitches with bad drainage, a significant slope and poor grass cover. • Youth 11v11 pitches used to over-capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve grass pitches. • Explore additional off-site provision if available. 	Haddenham PC	GANTIP Haddenham Rovers FC	£50,000 for grass pitches	High
Isleham Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult pitch and mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches being used to over-capacity at peak times. • Proposed '3G' pitch provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve grass pitches. • Feasibility study for '3G' pitch. 	Isleham PC	GANTIP Isleham FC Football Foundation	£20,000 for grass pitches £10,000 for feasibility study	High
Kennett Recreation Ground	Adult pitch and mini 5v5 pitches being used to over-capacity at peak times.	Move some adult and mini 5v5 matches to	Kennett Youth FC	-	-	Medium

		'3G' pitch in Newmarket.				
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<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
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Kingfisher Drive Sports Pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential loss of access to Soham Town Rangers YFC when lease expires. • Pitches at lower end of 'standard' quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue with Soham TC to resolve longer-term access. • Review grounds maintenance with GANTIP • Explore alternative sites including '3G'. 	ECDC	Soham TC Soham Town Rangers YFC GANTIP	-	Medium
Little Downham Recn. Grd.	Youth 11v11 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period.	Move youth 11v11 matches to '3G' pitch at The Hive in Ely.	Witchford Colts FC	-	-	Medium
Little Thetford Recn. Grd.	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Littleport Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch at lower end of 'standard' quality. • Proposed '3G' pitch provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grounds maintenance with GANTIP. • Feasibility study for '3G' pitch 	Littleport & East Cambs Academy	GANTIP	£10,000 for feasibility study	High
Lode Playing Field	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Mepal Playing Field	Problems with drainage currently being addressed.	Reinstate pitches once drainage works are complete	Mepal Parish Council	-	-	High
Newmarket Town FC	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Paradise Recreation Ground	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Pymoor Social Club	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Robert Arkenstall Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secured community access. • Mini 7v7 pitch being used to over-capacity at peak times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate a formal Community Use Agreement • Improve grass pitch 	ECDC	Robert Arkenstall Primary School GANTIP	£10,000 for grass pitch	Medium
Soham Town Rangers FC	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Soham United FC	Youth 11v11 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period.	Move youth 11v11 matches to '3G' pitch at Soham Village College when provided.	Soham United FC	Soham Village College	-	Medium
Soham Village College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secured community access. • Proposed '3G' pitch provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate a formal Community Use Agreement • Feasibility study for '3G' pitch 	Soham Village College	ECDC	£10,000 for feasibility study	High
Stretham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch being used to over-capacity at peak times.	Improve grass pitch.	Stretham PC	GANTIP	£10,000 for grass pitch	Medium

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Swaffham Bulbeck Recreation Ground	No current use	Retain as open space and reinstate pitch in response to increased demand.	Swaffham Bulbeck PC	-	-	Medium
Swaffham Prior Recn. Ground	Poor quality changing facilities	Review the need for improved changing	Swaffham Prior PC	Burwell Tigers FC	-	Low
Wicken Recreation Ground	Youth 9v9 pitch used to over-capacity in the peak period.	Move youth 9v9 matches to '3G' pitch at Soham Village College when provided.	Soham Town Rangers YFC	Soham Village College	-	Medium
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period	Move youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 matches to The Hive '3G' pitch	Haddenham Rovers FC	-	-	Medium
Witchford Playing Field	Youth 9v9 pitch used to over-capacity in the peak period	Move youth 9v9 matches to '3G' pitch at The Hive in Ely.	Witchford Colts FC	-	-	Medium
Witchford Village College	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-

6 CRICKET NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

6.1 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders delivering cricket in East Cambridgeshire are:

- **Cambridgeshire Cricket:** Cambridgeshire Cricket has the responsibility for all ECB participation and growth activities and support to recreational cricket as well as the representative cricket and performance pathway programmes across the County Cricket Board geographical area of Cambridgeshire.
- **Cambridgeshire Cricket-affiliated clubs:** There are 14 affiliated clubs in East Cambridgeshire, who collectively run 32 adult and 13 junior teams.
- **Pitch providers:** Pitches in the district are managed and maintained by cricket clubs and parish councils.

6.2 Strategic context

6.2.1 National cricket strategy

The England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) strategy for 2020 -2024 '*Inspiring Generations*' (2019) contains the following priorities and activities:

Grow and nurture the core: The following will be prioritised:

- A new investment fund for County Cricket Boards.
- Investment in club facilities.
- Further investment in county competitions.

Make cricket accessible: The following will be prioritised:

- Creating a new digital community for cricket.
- Installing non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas.
- Continuing to deliver the South Asian Action Plan.
- Launching a new participation product linked to the new 100-ball competition.

Engage children and young people: The following will be prioritised:

- Doubling cricket participation in primary schools.
- Delivering a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards.
- Developing safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people.

Transform women and girl's cricket: There will be a structured pathway for women and girls in both softball and hardball cricket that will include:

- Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- Investing in girls' county age group cricket.
- Delivering a girls' secondary school programme.

Support our communities: The following will be prioritised:

- Doubling the number of volunteers in the game.
- Creating a game-wide approach to Trusts and Foundations through the cricket network.
- Developing a new wave of officials and community coaches.
- Increasing participation in disability cricket.

6.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring districts identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council

The 'West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy' (2015) identifies that there is a current surplus of cricket wickets across the borough equivalent to 366 seasonal match equivalent sessions and a future surplus in 2031 of 166 seasonal match equivalent sessions. Some of this spare capacity is in the Newmarket area, close enough to East Cambridgeshire to provide some potential provision.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The 'Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 - 2031' (2016) includes an assessment of needs in South Cambridgeshire. This concludes that there will be insufficient cricket pitches with secured community use to meet projected demand by 2031, with two further eight-wicket pitches required to meet the deficit. Most of the additional demand will be from the major housing developments to the west of Cambridge, some distance away from East Cambridgeshire.

Huntingdonshire District Council

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

Fenland District Council

The 'Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy' (2016) identifies that there is that there is a current surplus of cricket wickets across the district equivalent to 76 seasonal match equivalent sessions and a future surplus in 2031 of 52 seasonal match equivalent sessions. Most of this capacity is in parts of the district that are not adjacent to East Cambridgeshire.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

6.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

The implications of the strategic context for cricket in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- ***Local corporate priorities:*** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role Cricket can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment.
- ***Planning policy:*** Whilst local planning policy is supportive of the retention and provision of playing pitches, including those for Cricket, the current work on the Outdoor Sports

Facilities Strategy will provide a methodologically robust basis for determining current and future needs.

- **Policy shifts:** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for Cricket to demonstrate that it can attract new and lapsed participants.

6.3 Cricket demand in East Cambridgeshire

6.3.1 Affiliated clubs and teams

The following clubs affiliate to Cambridgeshire Cricket and play in East Cambridgeshire. Home grounds listed in italics are outside the district:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground(s)</i>	<i>Adult male teams</i>	<i>Adult female teams</i>	<i>Junior male teams</i>	<i>Junior female teams</i>
Burwell and Exning CC	Mingay Park <i>Exning Park</i>	4	0	3	0
Burrough Green CC	Burrough Green	3	0	1	0
Bottisham and Lode CC	Lode Playing Field	2	0	0	0
Chippenham CC	Chippenham Park	3	0	0	0
City of Ely CC	Paradise Recreation Ground	3	0	4	0
Dullingham CC	Dullingham Sports Field	2	0	3	0
Fordham CC	Fordham Recreation Ground	3	0	0	0
Haddenham CC	Haddenham Recreation Ground	1	0	0	0
Isleham CC	Isleham Recreation Ground	3	0	0	0
Little Downham CC	Little Downham Recn. Ground	1	0	0	0
Sutton CC	Sutton Recreation Ground	2	0	0	0
Swaffham Bulbeck CC	Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	1	0	0	0
Wilburton CC	Wilburton Recreation Ground	3	0	2	0
Witcham CC	Witcham Cricket Club	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	-	32	0	13	0

6.3.2 Demand trends

- **National demand:** The ECB's most recent 'National Cricket Playing Survey' (2019), which reflects club and league cricket only (for example it does not include Women's Soft Ball Cricket, or junior cricket) identified:
 - A 1.2% increase in player numbers between 2018 and 2019.
 - Of the 822,000 players nationally, 229,000 are 'core' players (playing at least 12 weeks per season), 353,000 are 'occasional' players (playing between three and 11 weeks per season) and 238,000 are 'cameo' players (playing one or two weeks per season).
 - 81.4% of completed fixtures were played in 2019, 5.4% of completed fixtures were abandoned and 7.5% of completed fixtures were cancelled.
 - Compared to 2018, conceded fixtures decreased by 15% to 5.7% of completed fixtures and short-sided game cancellations also decreased by 11% in 2019 to 11.7% of completed fixtures.

- **Local trends:** Littleport Town CC, Pymoor CC and Wicken CC have all disbanded in the past few years.

6.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area and vice versa:

- **Imported demand:** No teams from outside East Cambridgeshire play their home matches on pitches in the district, although the recent merger of Burwell and Exning CC involved the latter club from West Suffolk.
- **Exported demand:** Burwell and Exning CC play some of their matches on a pitch in West Suffolk.

6.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Some pitches may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

Consultation with local clubs indicated that a total of seven additional teams of all age groups could be accommodated in East Cambridgeshire if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Adult male teams</i>	<i>Adult female teams</i>	<i>Junior male teams</i>	<i>Junior female teams</i>
City of Ely CC	1	1	2	0
Haddenham CC	1	0	1	0
Wilburton CC	0	0	0	0
Witcham CC	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	3	1	3	0

6.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist, latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from a population if they had access to more or better provision. It is reasonable to assume that the local clubs' estimates of additional team formation potential above are an accurate assessment of the overall levels of latent demand.

6.4 Cricket supply in East Cambridgeshire

Provision of cricket pitches in East Cambridgeshire is set out below. The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural grass or artificial turf wickets (shown in brackets).

- *Available for community use and used:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Burrough Green	Bradley Road, Bottisham CB8 9NG	1	6
Chippenham Park	Parkside, Chippenham CB7 5PR	1	8
Dullingham Sports Field	Stetchworth Road, Dullingham CB8 9XD	1	6
Fordham Recreation Ground	Carter Street, Fordham CB7 5NG	1	8
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	1	7
Isleham Recreation Ground	Mill Street, Isleham CB7 5RY	1	8
Little Downham Recn. Ground	School Lane, Little Downham CB6 3SY	1	7
Lode Playing Field	Station Road, Lode CB25 9EH	1	8
Mingay Park	Reach Road, Burwell CB25 0AH	1	11
Paradise Recreation Ground	Newnham Street, Ely CB7 4PQ	1	14
Sutton Recreation Ground	Station Road, Sutton CB6 2RL	1	8 (1)
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	Station Rd., Swaffham Bulbeck CB25 0HP	1	4
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Station Road, Wilburton CB6 3RP	2	11
Witcham Cricket Club	High Street, Witcham CB6 2LQ	1	5
TOTAL	-	15	111 (1)

- *Available for community use and not used:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	1	(1)
Littleport Village College	Camel Road, Littleport CB6 1EW	1	(1)
Soham Village College	Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA	1	(1)
TOTAL	-	3	(3)

- *Not available for community use:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	1	6
Kings School (Brand Field)	Angel Drove, Ely CB7 4DT	2	8 (2)
TOTAL	-	3	14 (2)

- *Pitches decommissioned in the past five years:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Kirtling Cricket Club	The Street, Kirtling CB8 9PD	1	8
Littleport Leisure Centre	Camel Road, Littleport CB6 1EW	2	10 (1)
Margaret Field	Heath Road, Burwell CB25 0BZ	1	6
Pymoor Cricket and Social Club	Pymoor Lane, Pymoor CB6 2EE	1	6
Wicken Recreation Ground	Chapel Lane, Wicken CB7 5XZ	1	6
TOTAL	-	6	36 (1)

6.4.1 Cricket facilities quality

The qualitative analysis of cricket pitches and related facilities in East Cambridgeshire involved visits to all cricket pitches, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by the ECB for Sport England’s *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*’ (2013). The assessment evaluated the condition of:

- **Grass wickets:** This includes presence of line markings, evidence of rolling, grass cut and height, repaired wickets, grass coverage and ball bounce.
- **Outfield:** This includes grass coverage, length of grass, evenness and evidence of unofficial use or damage to the surface.
- **Non-turf wickets:** This includes integration with the surrounding grass, evenness, stump holes any evidence of moss, tears or surface lifting and ball bounce.
- **Changing facilities:** This includes the presence or absence of umpires’ provision, toilets, hot/cold water, heating and an assessment of the condition of the building.
- **Non-turf practice nets:** This includes integration with the surrounding grass, surface quality, ball bounce, safety and integrity of the steel frame and nets and safety signage.

The assessment generates a ‘score’ for each site. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of ‘Good’ for scores of 81% or more (shaded green in the table below) ‘Standard’ for scores of 80% - 51% (shaded yellow in the table below) and ‘Poor’ for scores of 50% or below (denoted by shaded red in the table below). Blank cells in the table mean that the feature concerned is absent from the site in question. The scores are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Wicket</i>	<i>Non-turf</i>	<i>Outfield</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Practice nets</i>
Burrough Green	Poor	None	Standard	Good	Poor
Chippenham Park	Good	None	Good	Good	Good
Dullingham Sports Field	Good	None	Good	Good	None
Fordham Recreation Ground	Good	None	Good	Standard	Poor
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Standard	None	Standard	Good	Good
Isleham Recreation Ground	Good	None	Good	Good	Poor
Little Downham Recn. Ground	Standard	None	Standard	Standard	None
Lode Playing Field	Good	None	Good	Good	Standard
Mingay Park	Good	None	Good	Good	Good
Paradise Recreation Ground	Standard	None	Standard	Standard	None
Sutton Recreation Ground	Good	Good	Standard	Good	Poor
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	Standard	None	Standard	Standard	None
Wilburton Recn. Ground Pitch 1	Good	None	Standard	Standard	Poor
Wilburton Recn. Ground Pitch 2	Poor	None	Poor	Standard	Poor
Witcham Cricket Club	Standard	None	Standard	Good	Poor

6.4.2 Pitch carrying capacity

The carrying capacity of pitches is related to their quality and is expressed as the number of ‘match equivalents’ that can be accommodated each season. The *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* indicates the following seasonal carrying capacities for cricket pitches:

- A ‘good’ quality wicket will accommodate five matches per season, a ‘standard’ quality wicket will accommodate four and a ‘poor’ quality wicket will accommodate none.
- ‘Good’ and ‘Standard’ quality artificial turf wickets accommodate 60 matches per season and a ‘poor’ quality wicket will accommodate none.
- The seasonal pitch carrying capacity of each cricket site in East Cambridgeshire is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Grass wickets</i>	<i>Artificial wickets</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Burrough Green	6	-	0
Chippenham Park	8	-	40
Dullingham Sports Field	6	-	30
Fordham Recreation Ground	10	-	50
Haddenham Recreation Ground	7	-	28
Isleham Recreation Ground	8	-	40
Little Downham Recn. Ground	7	-	32
Lode Playing Field	8	-	40
Mingay Park	11	-	55
Paradise Recreation Ground	14	-	56
Sutton Recreation Ground	8	1	100
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	4	-	16
Wilburton Recreation Ground	10	-	30
Witcham Cricket Club	5	-	20
TOTALS	111	1	

6.4.3 Pitch maintenance

Cricket pitch maintenance in the district is organised by the managers of the facilities as follows:

- **Club-managed pitches:** The pitches owned and managed by local sports clubs are all maintained by the clubs themselves. This involves a combination of paid grounds staff, external contractors and volunteer help.
- **Parish Council sites:** The outfielders at the Parish Council-owned recreation ground sites are generally maintained by contractors, with the user cricket club maintaining the wickets.

6.4.4 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of community access of all cricket pitch sites in East Cambridgeshire is detailed below. Security of access refers to the extent to which community use of the site is protected (through public ownership, planning policy ownership covenants etc.), rather than the security of tenure of specific club users.

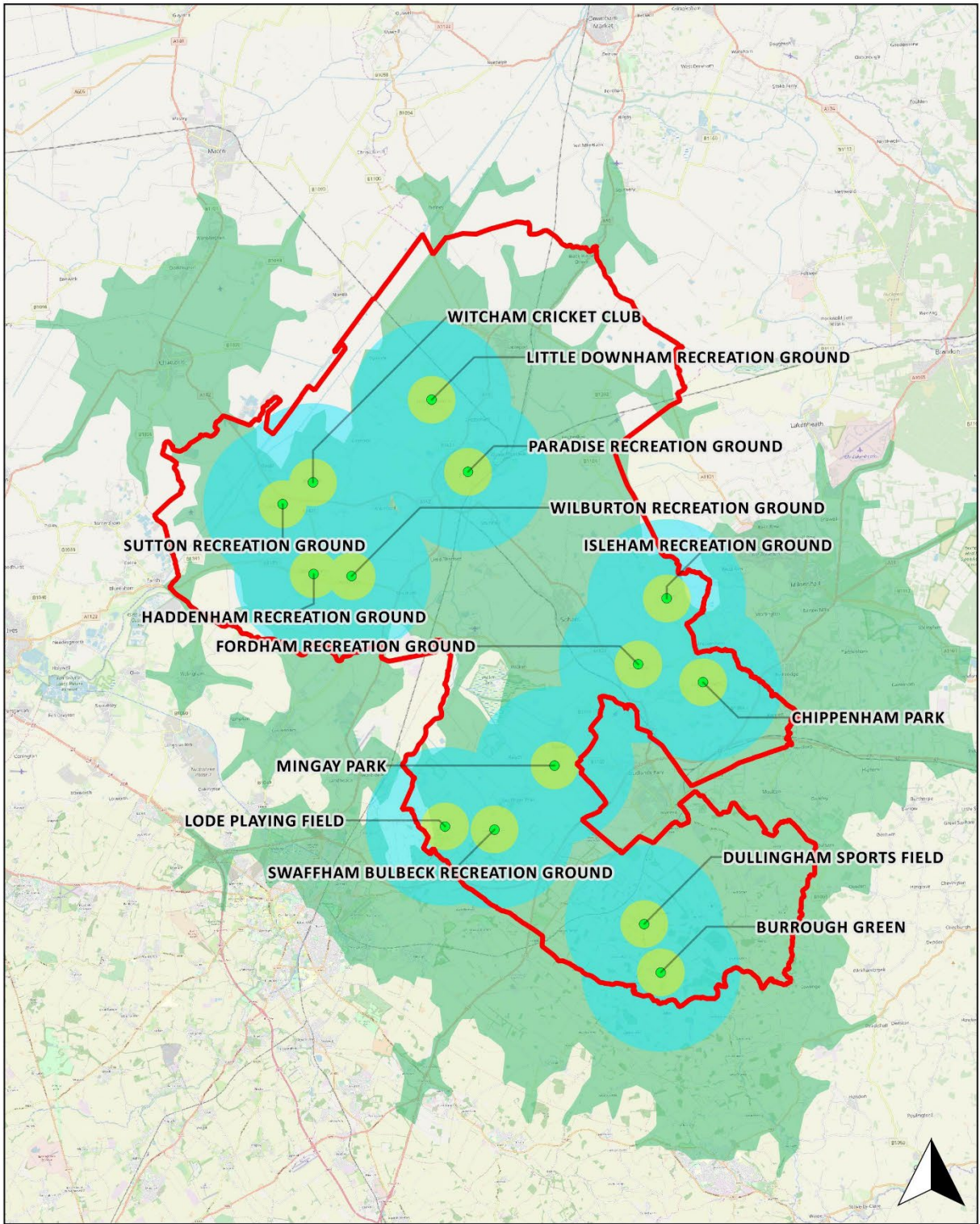
<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
Burrough Green	Burrough Green Parish Council	Burrough Green Parish Council	Secured
Chippenham Park	Private owner	Chippenham Cricket Club	Secured
Dullingham Sports Field	Dullingham Pariah Council	Dullingham Parish Council	Secured
Fordham Recreation Ground	Fordham Parish Council	Fordham Parish Council	Secured
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Haddenham Parish Council	Haddenham Parish Council	Secured
Isleham Recreation Ground	Isleham Parish Council	Isleham Parish Council	Secured
Little Downham Recn. Ground	Little Downham Parish Council	Little Downham Parish Council	Secured
Lode Playing Field	Lode Parish Council	Lode Parish Council	Secured
Mingay Park	Burwell Cricket Club	Burwell Cricket Club	Secured
Paradise Recreation Ground	Ely Town Council	City of Ely Cricket Club	Secured
Sutton Recreation Ground	Sutton Parish Council	Sutton Parish Council	Secured
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council	Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council	Secured
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Wilburton Parish Council	Wilburton Parish Council	Secured
Witcham Cricket Club	Witcham Parish Council	Witcham Cricket Club	Secured


Whilst public access to all sites with cricket facilities in East Cambridgeshire is secured, the long-term security of tenure of some cricket clubs is more limited, in particular:

- ***City of Ely CC:*** The club has no formal agreement for the use of the Paradise Recreation Ground but has been resident there for many years.
- ***Isleham CC and Haddenham CC:*** Both clubs occupy their respective playing facilities on the basis of an annual rental agreement with the site owners.
- ***Witcham CC:*** The club uses its facilities by ‘ad hoc hirings’.

6.4.5 Geographical distribution

The locations of cricket pitches in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the map overleaf. The map shows that the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes’ drive time of at least one cricket pitch, with the exception of some sparsely populated areas on the edge of the district. This is based on the results of the clubs’ survey, which identifies 15-minutes travel time as the typical maximum for cricket pitches:



	East Cambridgeshire	● Cricket Pitches	 15 min drive time
	Cricket Pitches	 15 min walk time	 East Cambridgeshire boundary
		 15 min cycle time	

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6.5 The views of local stakeholders

6.5.1 Cambridgeshire Cricket

Consultation with Cambridgeshire Cricket highlighted that:

- There are several strong clubs with a good geographical spread in the district.
- The majority of sites are shared with football, which can cause some problems in the seasonal overlap periods.
- The ‘All Stars’ cricket programme for 5 - 8-year olds is expected to continue to grow.
- A new ECB programme ‘Dynamos Cricket’ for 8 - 11-year olds has been launched and is expected to increase the numbers of children playing cricket.
- There is ongoing development of schools activity (through ‘Chance to Shine’) around East Cambridgeshire, particularly Littleport/East Cambridge Academy which will continue to drive the accessibility of the game and also the opportunity to migrate to local clubs.
- The ‘Ely North’ development will provide new cricket facilities which will become the new base for City of Ely CC. The club will maintain the Paradise Centre for its second ground but plans just to have a non-turf pitch there.

6.5.2 Bottisham and Lode Cricket Club

The club commented that ‘we hope to increase our junior teams, but it is difficult to attract new players’.

6.5.3 City of Ely Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- ‘There simply hasn’t been enough done about recreational grounds sharing with Football clubs and the small window we are given to repair the outfield isn’t enough’.
- ‘Membership has remained static over the past five years’.
- ‘We don’t have a formal tenancy agreement at the Paradise Recreation Ground but have played at this venue for a long time’.

6.5.4 Haddenham Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We have started coaching from 11 - 17-year olds from a low base which is slowly increasing but limited by coaching resources’.

- ‘Our adult team is made up from 15 - 60 years old including one female and our ambition is to have a second adult team and one youth team’.
- ‘Pitch facilities are limited due to pressure from football teams also we have no cricket nets which is a funding problem. We have a strategy to provide an artificial wicket on the cricket square with roll-on nets, followed by permanent training facility which includes a full-length bowling lane and cage subject to grant funding’.
- ‘Football and cricket do not go well together on the Haddenham Recreation Ground and we will have to separate longer term to support growth’.

6.5.5 Isleham Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We have lost our outdoor net facility and are currently fundraising to build a new one’.
- ‘We plan to enter junior teams in the league in the future’.

6.5.6 Wilburton Cricket Club

The club commented that ‘we hope to have a new pavilion in the next two to three years’.

6.5.7 Witcham Cricket Club

The club commented that ‘we are keen to replace our existing practice nets, which are very poor standard’.

6.6 *The implications for cricket in East Cambridgeshire*

Analysis of local supply of cricket pitches in East Cambridgeshire indicates the following:

- ***Participation rates:*** Team numbers within existing clubs have remained broadly static in the past five years, although local clubs have folded in that period (Littleport Town CC, Kirtling CC and Pymoor CC). There are currently no dedicated women or girl’s teams in the district.
- ***Displaced demand:*** Burwell and Exning CC, which formed through a recent merger, plays some of its matches in Exning (in West Suffolk).
- ***Unmet/latent demand:*** Local clubs believe that there is unmet demand for a further seven teams in East Cambridgeshire (an increase of around 15.6% on the current team numbers).
- ***Pitch quality:*** Pitch quality is ‘poor’ at two sites and the practice nets are ‘poor’ quality at six sites.
- ***Shared usage:*** Several sites with cricket pitches are also used for football and this causes problems for both sports in the seasonal overlap periods (April-May and August-September).

6.7 Assessment of current needs

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent sessions’ at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods. The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are
- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red in the tables below).
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity (highlighted in yellow in the tables below).
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity (highlighted in green in the tables below).

In line with ECB guidance, the following assumptions have been made in relation to the number of weekly match equivalents that can be accommodated by different quality pitches:

- Overall capacity is expressed as match equivalents per **season**, as opposed to per **week** for all other pitch types.
- The number of wickets at each site is shown below.
- The supply-demand balance for grass and artificial turf wickets respectively have been assessed separately because there is little or no use of artificial wickets by adult teams, with use confined to junior teams.
- In line with the guidance it has been assumed that a ‘good’ quality grass wicket will accommodate five matches per season, a ‘standard’ quality wicket will accommodate four and a ‘poor’ quality wicket will accommodate no play.
- ‘Good’ and ‘standard’ quality artificial turf wickets will accommodate 60 matches per season and the additional capacity that they provide is analysed in a separate column in the table.
- Adult teams typically play ten home games per season and junior teams typically play eight home games per season.
- Aspects of each site shaded in red indicate a deficiency, those shaded in yellow indicate that supply and demand are balanced and those shaded in green have some spare capacity.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Seasonal demand</i>	<i>Seasonal capacity</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Burrough Green	Burrough Green CC	40	0	-40	1	1	Balanced
Chippenham Park	Chippenham CC	30	40	+10	1	1	Balanced
Dullingham Sports Field	Dullingham CC	50	30	-20	1	1	Balanced
Fordham Recn. Ground	Fordham CC	30	50	+20	1	1	Balanced
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Haddenham CC	10	28	+18	1	1	Balanced
Isleham Recn. Ground	Isleham CC	30	40	+10	1	1	Balanced
Little Downham Recn. Ground	Little Downham CC	10	32	+22	1	1	Balanced
Lode Playing Field	Bottisham and Lode CC	20	40	+20	1	1	Balanced
Mingay Park	Burwell and Exning CC	50	55	+5	1	1	Balanced
Paradise Recn. Ground	City of Ely CC	70	56	-14	1	1	Balanced
Sutton Recn. Ground	Sutton CC	20	100	+80	1	1	Balanced
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	Swaffham Bulbeck CC	10	16	+6	1	1	Balanced
Wilburton Recn. Ground	Wilburton CC	50	30	Balanced	2	2	Balanced
Witcham Cricket Club	Witcham CC	10	20	+10	1	1	Balanced
TOTALS	-	430	537	+107	15	15	Balanced

The key findings are as follows:

- There is collective seasonal spare capacity of 107 match equivalent sessions.
- Three sites show a seasonal deficit but peak usage is balanced in the District as a whole.
- Seasonal spare capacity at sites with secured community use remains the same.

6.7 Assessment of future needs

6.7.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study'* (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

6.7.2 Potential changes in demand

Changes in demand for cricket in the future can be modelled on a trend-based projection.

- **National cricket playing survey:** The ECB's most recent *'National Cricket Playing Survey'* (2019), which reflects club and league cricket only (for example it does not include Women's Soft Ball Cricket, or junior cricket) identified:
 - A 1.2% increase in player numbers between 2018 and 2019.

- Of the 822,000 players nationally, 229,000 are ‘core’ players (playing at least 12 weeks per season), 353,000 are ‘occasional’ players (playing between three and 11 weeks per season) and 238,000 are ‘cameo’ players (playing one or two weeks per season).
 - 81.4% of completed fixtures were played in 2019, 5.4% of completed fixtures were abandoned and 7.5% of completed fixtures were cancelled.
 - Compared to 2018, conceded fixtures decreased by 15% to 5.7% of completed fixtures and short-sided game cancellations also decreased by 11% in 2019 to 11.7% of completed fixtures.
- **Local demand:** Consultation with local clubs indicated that a total of seven additional teams of all age groups could be accommodated in East Cambridgeshire if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. This would constitute a 15.6% increase over current team numbers.

6.7.3 Site-specific pressures

East Cambridgeshire District Council needs to identify sites upon which it can deliver its housing targets. Whilst planning policy offers protection to playing pitches, those sites that do not currently accommodate formal cricket activity may be vulnerable unless it can be proved that they are needed to meet existing or future shortfalls in supply or serve some other open space needs.

6.7.4 Potential changes in supply

The ‘Ely North’ development will provide new cricket facilities which will become the new base for City of Ely Cricket Clubs.

6.7.5 Existing spare capacity

Existing cricket pitch capacity has been calculated in section 6.6 above and indicates seasonal spare capacity of 107 match equivalent sessions. If weekly peak time capacity is considered, supply and demand is balanced, which confirms that there is no effective spare capacity in the peak period for cricket at present.

6.7.6 Future cricket pitch needs

Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator provides a way of modelling future playing pitch needs. The model applies Team Generation Rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra seasonal match equivalent sessions	67.67
Extra pitches to meet demand	1.57
Capital cost of extra pitches	£477,983
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£96,553
Extra changing rooms	3.15
Capital cost of extra changing facilities	£550,895

6.8 Key findings and issues

6.8.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Quantity:** There is seasonal spare capacity of 107 match equivalent sessions. However, if weekly peak time capacity is considered, supply and demand is balanced, which confirms that there is no effective spare capacity as present.
- **Participation rates:** Littleport Town CC, Pymoor CC and Wicken CC have all disbanded in the past few years. However, consultation with local clubs indicated that a total of seven additional teams of all age groups could be accommodated in East Cambridgeshire if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. This would constitute a 15.6% increase over current team numbers.
- **Women and Girls:** There are currently no dedicated women or girl's teams in the district.
- **Displaced demand:** Burwell and Exning CC, which formed through a recent merger, plays some of its matches in Exning (in West Suffolk).
- **Pitch quality:** Pitch quality is 'poor' at two sites and the practice nets are 'poor' quality at six sites.
- **Shared usage:** Several sites with cricket pitches are also used for football and this causes problems for both sports in the seasonal overlap periods (April-May and August-September).

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

- **Seasonal pitch capacity:** There is seasonal spare capacity of 107 match equivalent sessions.
- **Peak time pitch capacity:** Supply and demand are precisely balanced at peak times.

6.8.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **MOSTLY** - The pitches at Burrough Green and Wilburton Recreation Ground Pitch Two are rated as 'poor' quality,

The pitches at Burrough Green and Wilburton Recreation Ground Pitch Two are rated as 'poor', as is the outfield at the latter site.

6.8.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The District's population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036, a 16.1% increase over the 2018 population estimate.

- **Changes in demand:** Balancing past trends that identify falling demand against the target increases in participation, suggests that projecting future need based on current demand levels is a reasonable basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** The 'Ely North' development will provide new cricket facilities which will become the new base for City of Ely Cricket Clubs.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is no effective peak time spare capacity as present.
- **Future needs:** Based on projected population growth, there will be additional demand for 67.67 seasonal match equivalent sessions by 2036. This is equivalent to 1.57 additional pitches

6.8.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **No** - There is no effective spare capacity at present.

There is insufficient accessible and secured provision to meet future demand at present, but additional capacity could be created in five ways:

- **New pitch provision:** The proposed new cricket facilities to be provided as part of the Ely North development.
- **Pitch quality improvements:** If the 'poor' quality pitches at Burrough Green and Wilburton Recreation Ground were upgraded, it would add two peak-time match equivalent sessions to overall capacity.
- **Installation of non-turf wickets:** Installing non-turf wickets at sites like Dullingham Sports Field and Paradise Recreation Ground, that are currently used to over capacity would help to expand seasonal carrying capacity, although would have little impact on peak time provision if provided as part of an existing square.
- **Re-instating unused pitches:** Re-instating unused or recently decommissioned sites in the district would expand collective seasonal carrying capacity by six pitches and 36 grass wickets. If all wickets were maintained to a 'good' quality standard, this would increase seasonal carrying capacity by 180 match equivalent sessions.
- **Using pitches on school sites:** Using the artificial grass cricket pitches at Bottisham Village College and Soham Village College that are available but have no community use at present would add a further two pitches and 120 seasonal match equivalent sessions to the available supply.

6.9 Scenario Testing

6.9.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, a number of scenarios have been examined, to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

6.9.2 Scenario 1: Increasing capacity by improving 'poor' quality pitches to 'standard' quality.

- **Rationale:** If the 'poor' quality wickets at Burrough Green and Wilburton Recreation Ground (Pitch 2) were upgraded, it would add 44 seasonal match equivalent sessions to overall capacity.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that additional peak period capacity would be created and the improvements to the pitches could be achieved at relatively low cost.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantage of this scenario is that there would be additional pitch maintenance cost implications of around £5,000 per annum.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario has significant benefits for meeting additional cricket pitch demand in East Cambridgeshire.

6.9.3 Scenario 2: Installation of additional non-turf wickets

- **Rationale:** Installing non-turf wickets at the following sites, in particular to support junior play, would help to expand seasonal carrying capacity:
 - Dullingham Recreation Ground.
 - Paradise Recreation Ground.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The pitches can be installed at relatively low cost (£8,000 - £10,000).
 - They have the potential to accommodate 60 match equivalent sessions per season.
 - Pitch maintenance costs are relatively low compared with natural turf.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Non-turf wickets are used primarily for junior matches, so they would have limited impact on addressing capacity issues in relation to adult play.
 - Unless there is space to accommodate non-turf pitches away from the main square, they would not address peak-time deficiencies because they could not be used simultaneously with the grass wickets.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario should be examined further at Dullingham Recreation Ground and Paradise Recreation Ground.

6.9.4 Scenario 3: Re-instating un-used pitches.

- **Rationale:** The pitches at Kirtling Cricket Club, Littleport Leisure Centre, Margaret Field (Burwell), Pymoor Cricket and Social Club and Wicken Recreation Ground all ceased to be used in the past five years. Re-instating the use of these pitches at 'standard' quality would

collectively provide an additional 144 match equivalent sessions per season a collective total of six peak time match equivalent sessions.

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that the pitches could help to ease the peak period capacity issues identified by each club.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that all the pitches would require additional investment to get them back into a useable condition. The capital costs of restoring each pitch are estimated at £12,000, with annual maintenance budgets of £5,000 per annum. Furthermore, use was discontinued due to falling demand in the locality of each pitch and this position has not materially altered.
- **Conclusions:** The un-used pitches should be retained as recreational open space and the demand position kept under review with a view to reinstating provision in response to any additional team formation.

6.9.5 Scenario 4: Negotiating access to school pitches

- **Rationale:** Using the artificial grass cricket pitches at Bottisham Village College and Soham Village College that are available but have no community use at present would add a further two pitches and 120 seasonal match equivalent sessions to the available supply. It would also add to peak time capacity by two match equivalent sessions.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Additional peak time pitch capacity could be accessed, particularly for junior matches on non-turf pitches.
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into community use at little or no additional cost.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if community-based clubs were playing on school sites.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - There is no evidence of unmet demand in the Bottisham and Soham areas at present.
 - Existing use by the respective schools reduces the overall seasonal carrying capacity of the pitches.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers little practical benefit for meeting additional cricket pitch demand in East Cambridgeshire from junior teams.

6.10 Policy recommendations

6.10.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to cricket are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space 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 sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the main headings of ‘protect’, ‘enhance’ and ‘provide’.

6.10.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The East Cambridgeshire PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for cricket in the district. The PPS identifies a need for all current cricket pitch sites to be retained on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of the sport in East Cambridgeshire both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites based upon the evidence in the PPS. If any pitch sites do become the subject of development proposals, this will only be permissible if they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development’.

6.10.3 Enhance

Recommendation 2 - Improving existing ‘poor’ quality provision: Two sites in the District have ‘poor’ quality wickets, one has a ‘poor’ quality outfield and seven have ‘poor’ quality practice nets. This reduces the quality of playing experience and may deter some potential participants. Subject to security of tenure issues, it is recommended that the clubs concerned should be supported to apply for external funding for facility enhancements, including the receipt of developer contributions (see below) where the usage capacity would be enhanced.

6.10.4 Provide

Recommendation 3 - Developer contributions: It is recommended that the action plan in the East Cambridgeshire PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of providing additional cricket pitches to meet the needs of the additional population arising from housing growth by 2035.

6.11 Action Plan

6.11.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the cricket action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for ECDC - East Cambridgeshire District Council, ECB - England and Wales Cricket Board and CCB - Cambridgeshire Cricket Board. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019*' (2019).

6.11.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved cricket facilities, in particular as part of the Ely North development.	ECDC	Developers Local clubs	Determined by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator	High
Preserving unused cricket pitches	Ensure that the currently unused cricket pitches at Kirtling Cricket Club, Littleport Leisure Centre, Margaret Field (Burwell), Pymoor Cricket and Social Club and Wicken Recreation Ground are all preserved as recreational open space to enable reinstatement in the future.	ECDC	Site owners Local clubs	-	High

6.11.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Burrough Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Poor' quality pitch and practice nets. • Seasonal capacity deficit due to quality issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch • Provide new practice nets 	Burrough Green CC	Burrough Green PC	£2,000 per annum for extra maintenance £25,000 for new nets	High
Chippenham Park	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Dullingham Sports Field	Seasonal capacity deficit	Provide new non-turf pitch	Dullingham PC	Dullingham CC	£10,000 for non-turf pitch	High
Fordham Recreation Ground	Poor quality practice nets	Provide new practice nets	Fordham CC	Fordham PC	£25,000 for new nets	Medium
Haddenham Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Isleham Recreation Ground	Poor quality practice nets	Provide new practice nets	Isleham CC	Isleham PC	£25,000 for new nets	Medium

Little Downham Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Lode Playing Field	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Mingay Park	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Paradise Recreation Ground	Seasonal capacity deficit	Provide new non-turf pitch	City of Ely CC	Ely TC	£10,000 for non-turf pitch	High
Sutton Recreation Ground	Poor quality practice nets	Provide new practice nets	Sutton CC	Sutton PC	£25,000 for new nets	Medium
Swaffham Bulbeck Recreation Ground	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Wilburton Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Poor' quality pitch and outfield on pitch 2. • 'Poor' quality practice nets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch and outfield • Provide new practice nets 	Wilburton CC	Wilburton PC	£5,000 per annum for extra maintenance £25,000 for new nets	High
Witcham Cricket Club	Poor quality practice nets	Provide new practice nets	Witcham CC	Witcham PC	£25,000 for new nets	Medium

7 RUGBY UNION NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

7.1 Organisational context

- **Rugby Football Union:** The RFU is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in East Cambridgeshire.
- **RFU-affiliated Rugby Club:** Ely Rugby Club is the only club in the district and fields two adult teams, eight junior teams and six mini-rugby teams.

7.2 Strategic context

7.2.1 National rugby facilities strategy

The RFU has set the following targets and objectives for 2017 - 2021. A new rugby facilities strategy will be launched in 2020:

- 600 new male adult 15-a-side teams (10% increase).
- 10,000 more 15-a-side male adult matches (20% increase).
- 25,000 more 15-a-side male adult players (9% increase).
- 25,000 more female adult players (100% increase).
- 800 more female teams and 8,000 more matches.
- 625 '02 Touch Rugby Centres' and 42,000 players.
- 150 Field Rugby Centres and 15,000 players.

7.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring local authority areas identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council

The 'West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy' (2015) identifies the following:

- Newmarket RFC has a pitch deficiency because of poor quality and limited carrying capacity.
- The RFU has prioritised finding a long-term base for Newmarket RFC. The club's preference is to secure a long-term lease and to improve provision on its current site.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The 'Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 - 2031' (2016) includes an assessment of needs in South Cambridgeshire. This concludes that the Renegades RFC, which is currently based in Cottenham should relocate to the proposed '3G' pitch provided as part of the Northstowe development.

Huntingdonshire District Council

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

Fenland District Council

The ‘*Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy*’ (2016) identifies that there is a current shortfall equivalent to 7.5 rugby pitches in the district. This should be addressed through a combination of drainage and maintenance improvements and the provision of floodlights at the existing sites.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

7.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

The implications of the strategic context for rugby union in East Cambridgeshire are:

- ***Local corporate priorities:*** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role rugby can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment.
- ***Planning policy:*** Whilst local planning policy is supportive of the retention and provision of playing pitches, including those for rugby, the current work on the Playing Pitch Strategy will provide a methodologically robust basis for determining current and future needs.
- ***Policy shifts:*** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for rugby to demonstrate that it can attract new and lapsed participants. The RFU’s support for Touch Rugby, Tag Rugby and walking rugby are all positive developments in this regard.
- ***Additional demand for pitch capacity:*** The RFU’s targets for increased participation will create additional demand for pitch capacity, including activity in the summer period when traditionally much pitch maintenance is undertaken.

7.3 Rugby demand

7.3.1 RFU-affiliated club and teams

Ely Tigers RFC has the following teams.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Male teams</i>	<i>Female teams</i>	<i>Junior male teams</i>	<i>Junior female teams</i>	<i>Mini teams</i>
Ely Tigers RFC	Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	2	0	7	1	6

7.3.2 Demand trends

- ***National trends:*** Sport England’s ‘*Active People*’ survey national data for rugby union indicates that the percentage of adults (16+) who played rugby the four weeks prior to each survey has remained static in the period since 2005.

2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/1	2011/2	2012/3	2013/4	2014/5	2015/6	% Change
0.46%	0.56%	0.50%	0.46%	0.42%	0.42%	0.37%	0.43%	0.40%	0.46%	0.00%

- **Local trends:** Team numbers at Ely Tigers RFC have remained static over the past five years, with the exception of an additional junior girls team, so broadly match the national picture.

7.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. 75% of club members are drawn from East Cambridgeshire, with the remainder coming from Fenland district.

7.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Some pitches may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

Consultation with the RFU and Ely Tigers RFC indicated that there is some evidence of unmet demand at present, necessitating the use of the Kings College pitches for mini-rugby play.

7.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is no evidence of any latent demand in East Cambridgeshire at present. Consultation with the RFU and Ely Tigers RFC indicated that there is scope for another adult men's team, an adult women's team and two junior girl's teams over the next five years. The growth of female teams is a strategic priority for the RFU, through its *Women and Girl's Action Plan 2017 - 2021*.

7.4 Rugby supply

7.4.1 Quantity

This section summarises the detail of rugby pitch supply in East Cambridgeshire. The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings. The categories assessed are as follows:

- **Available for community use and used:**

Site	Address	Floodlit pitches	Non-floodlit pitches
Ely Tigers RFC	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	1.5	1.5
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	0	4

- **Available for community use and not used:** There are no rugby pitches available for community use that are not used.
- **Not available for community use:** The following grass rugby pitches on school sites are not available for community use, although the pitches at Ely College, Soham Village College and Bottisham Village College all host the ‘All Schools’ programme delivered by Ely Tigers RFC. All pitches are non-floodlit:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	1
Ely College	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	2
Kings School (Amherst Field)	Bridge Road, Ely CB7 5TH	3
Kings School (Brand Field)	Angel Drove, Ely CB7 4DT	3
Soham Village College	Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA	1
Witchford Village College	Manor Road, Witchford CB6 2JA	1
TOTALS	-	11

- **Not available as disused:** There are no rugby pitches that are available for community use that are disused.

7.4.2 Quality

The qualitative analysis involved a visit to all rugby pitches in East Cambridgeshire with community use and used during the playing season, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by the RFU for Sport England’s *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* (2013). The assessment generated ‘scores’ for each pitch by evaluating the condition of:

- **Pitch drainage:** Inadequately naturally drained (scores D0), adequately naturally drained (scores D1) pipe drained (scores (D2) and pipe and slit drained pitches (scores D3).
- **Grounds maintenance:** Frequency of aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing. This generates scores of ‘Poor’ (M0), ‘Adequate’ (M1) and ‘Good’ (M2).

The scores for the pitches at Ely Tigers RFC as follows. ‘Good’ ratings are highlighted in green, ‘standard’ in yellow and ‘poor’ in red.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Drainage</i>
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 1	M1	D1
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 2	M1	D1
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 3	M0	D1

7.4.3 Grass pitch carrying capacity

The carrying capacity of grass pitches is related to their quality and is expressed as the number of ‘match equivalent sessions’ that can be accommodated each week. The *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* indicates the following weekly carrying capacities for rugby union pitches:

<i>Drainage</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>		
	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>
Natural inadequate	0.5	1.0	2.0

Natural adequate	1.5	2.0	3.0
Pipe drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and slit drained	2.0	3.0	3.5

The weekly collective carrying capacity of the pitches at Ely Tigers RFC is therefore as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 1	2.0
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 2	2.0
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 3	1.5
TOTALS	5.5

7.4.4 Changing quality

The quality of the changing facilities at each Ely Tigers RFC, which are shared with Ely Hockey Club is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Ely Tigers RFC	Standard

7.4.5 Pitch maintenance

The Ely Tigers RFC pitches are maintained by contractors employed by the club.

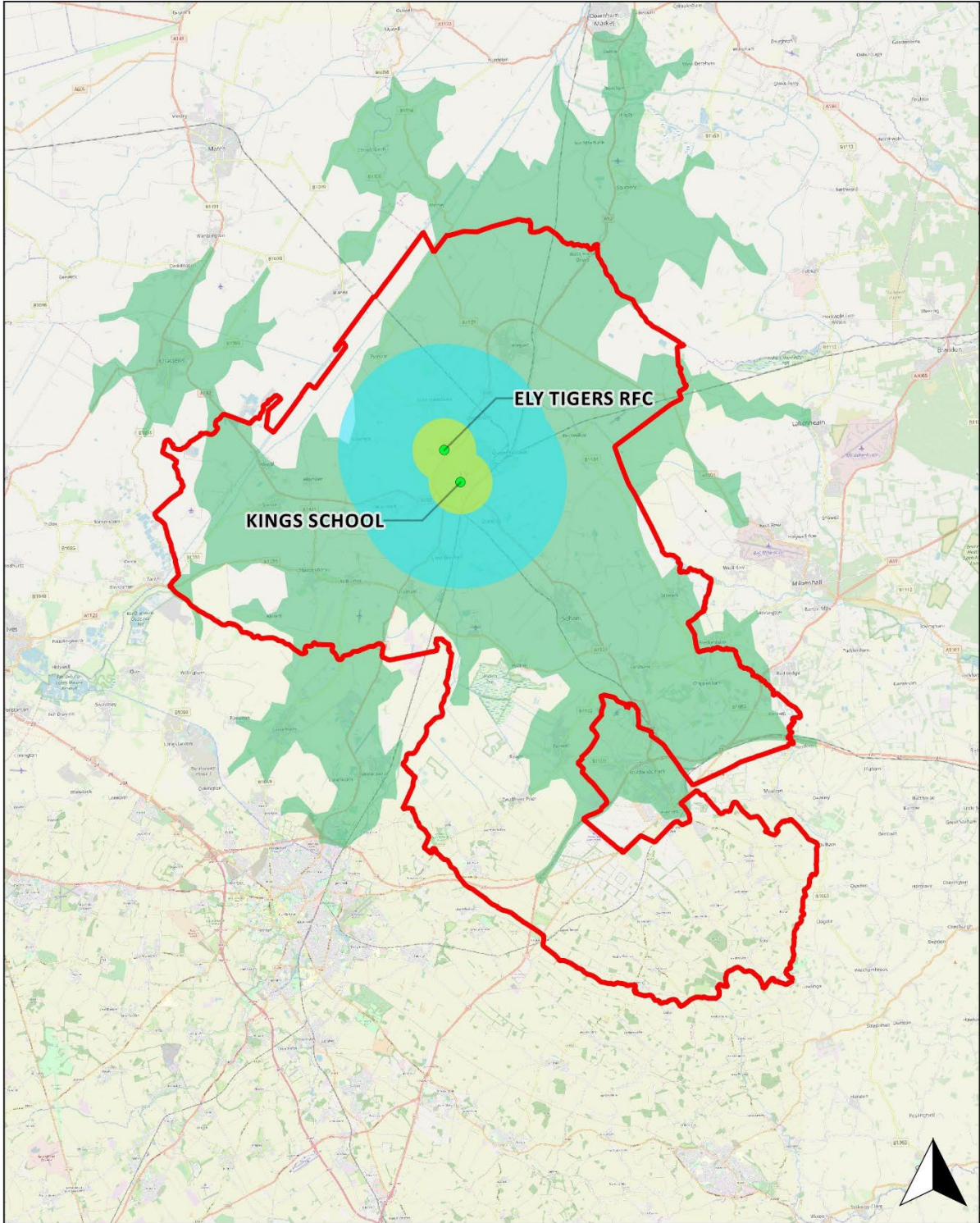
7.4.6 Ownership, management and security of access


The ownership, management and security of community access of the Ely Tigers RFC pitches detailed below. Security of access refers to the extent to which community use is protected.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
<i>Ely Tigers RFC</i>			
Pitch 1 (floodlit)	Ely Outdoor Sports Association	Ely Tigers RFC	Secured
Pitch 2 (part floodlit)	Ely Outdoor Sports Association	Ely Tigers RFC	Secured
Pitch 3 (not floodlit)	Private landowner	Ely Tigers RFC	Unsecured

7.4.7 Geographical distribution

The locations of rugby pitches in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the map overleaf. The map shows that the population in the northern part East Cambridgeshire is within 20-minutes' drive time of at least one rugby pitch, with the exception of some sparsely populated areas on the edge of the district. The southern part of the district is not served by pitches within East Cambridgeshire, but provision in Cambridge, Newmarket and Cottenham:





East Cambridgeshire

Rugby Pitches

- Rugby Pitches
- 20 min walk time
- 20 min cycle time
- 20 min drive time
- East Cambridgeshire boundary

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2019

7.5 The views of local stakeholders

7.5.1 The Rugby Football Union

Consultation with the RFU highlighted that:

- The pitches at Ely Tigers RFC are heavily used by the club but are also regularly made available to the County Union and Eastern Counties Rugby Union for representative rugby. Along with this the site has been host venue for the emerging in popularity, Friday night lights where a number of short form games are played under floodlights between clubs.
- The Ely Tigers site is split across two areas with the two main pitches positioned in front of the clubhouse and a further third pitch to the north/east of the site. It is understood that this is on a different arrangement to the other pitches, with a local farmer. It is felt that this pitch receives relatively little maintenance and not of great quality or levels. But serves well to provide pitch space during peak periods of Sunday mornings.
- The Rugby club is part of the Ely Outdoor Sports Association (EOSA) who possess freehold status over the site.
- The site is facing increasing demand for use due to the above requests from outside organisations, but also the advent of girls rugby starting with fledgling numbers at U13's and U15's. There is also a Women's touch rugby section which operates session every week. In line with the RFU's *'Women and Girl's Action Plan 2017 - 2021'*, sustainable growth is anticipated in the next assessment period, which will place further demands on pitch capacity at Ely Tigers RFC.
- There are no significant reports of cancellations of activity during the past 12 months, but there has been incidents where the pitch conditions have been reported as being poor.
- The pitch in front of the clubhouse is fully floodlit to a recognised standard within the RFU 'Guidance for Floodlighting' which classes the system as a Match (200lux) system. The second pitch is served by about half a pitch of lights, and the need to complete the pitch with a full system is recognised as a priority which would help to migrate some of the training demand from Pitch one but also avoid heavy wear areas to one side of Pitch two.
- Ely Tigers RFC is linked into the RFU's flagship 'All Schools' programme locally with secondary schools supported with investment and dedicated coaching intervention. The schools currently involved are Ely College, Witchford College and Soham Village College.
- The immediate growth anticipated at Ely Tigers is within the emerging women and girls section, in particular the U13s and U15s. The aim will be to bolster and establish the teams at these age groups. The RFU Development team will support through mentoring of the coaches involved. There is also a recognised need to develop the coaches at ETRFC with additional training through the RFU's coach education programme.
- The RFU will focus on the club to deliver a Young Match Officials scheme.
- The Colts section at the rugby club continues to develop and although in the past it has clustered with other local clubs to fulfil fixtures, it is likely that the club will be able to sustain a colts section independently from season 2020/21 onwards.

- The club has an aspiration to field a 3rd XV adult male team this coming season, but realistically this may take a further two or three seasons.
- There could be a medium-term transition of the Women's touch section into full contact, but this is likely to require up to five years to develop.
- The club is RFU Club Accredited.
- Governance and club management at Ely Tigers RFC has improved significantly and the relationship with the EOSA has improved greatly with a joint approach to the development of the site.
- The clubhouse has enjoyed some recent improvements, but these have been towards the social area and kitchen with the club securing external funds. There is a current aspiration to improve disabled access to the first-floor level of the clubhouse and the toilet facilities. There is also a recognised need to upgrade the showers within individual changing rooms.

7.5.2 Ely Tigers RFC

The club commented as follows:

- 'We have regularly had to send mini teams to train and play at Kings School pitches on Sunday mornings, due to increased numbers of players and insufficient pitch space. Insufficient pitch space for all youth, girls and senior teams to train midweek, particularly floodlit pitch space'.
- 'We need more floodlights on pitch 2, so that whole pitch can be used for midweek training'.
- 'Sunday training and midweek training sessions are staggered. Minis rugby is 9.30-10.30 on Sunday and Youth rugby starts at 11.00. Youth training midweek is spread over 3 nights and start times are staggered.'.
- 'Our pitches are also used for Cambridgeshire Senior games and occasional Eastern Counties games. We also host local cluster schools tournaments twice-a-year'.
- 'Pitch 3 is on rented land (10-year lease) and is not aerated or regularly fertilised. It is sloping and has a very thin layer of topsoil over poor subsoil'.

7.6 The implications for rugby in East Cambridgeshire

Analysis of local supply of rugby union pitches in East Cambridgeshire indicates the following:

- **Local club:** Ely Tigers RFC provides high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of rugby teams at the club has increased only slightly in the past five years, with the addition of one junior girls team. However, in line with the RFU's *Women and Girl's Action Plan 2017 - 2021*, growth in the female game is anticipated in the next assessment period.

- **Imported and exported demand:** 75% of the club’s membership is drawn from within East Cambridgeshire.
- **Pitch supply:** There is some evidence of a shortage of pitch supply at the club’s main site, necessitating use of the pitches at Kings School for mini-rugby on Sunday mornings.
- **Pitch quality:** There are some pitch quality issues, based upon the need for improved pitch maintenance and drainage on all pitches and a good case for improving floodlighting on pitch two, based on midweek capacity issues.

7.7 Assessment of current needs

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site and how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent’ sessions at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red in the table below).
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity.
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity.

As per RFU guidance, rugby union pitch capacity, demand and the resultant balance are expressed as ‘match equivalent sessions’, both weekly and at peak times.

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Ely Tigers RFC	3	Ely Tigers RFC	5.5	10.5	-5.0	3.0	4.0	-1.0

The split between midweek training supply and demand and weekend match supply and demand is tabulated below, to highlight the main capacity pinch points.

Site	Midweek training capacity	Midweek training demand	Midweek training balance	Weekend match capacity	Weekend match demand	Weekend match balance
Ely Tigers RFC	2.5	6.5	-4.0	3.0	4.0	-1.0

There is a capacity shortfall at midweek and weekends, with the latter mitigated by the use of pitches at King's School for mini-rugby. The provision of full floodlighting to the second pitch at the club would improve the potential for additional midweek use but would only be effective with improvements in pitch drainage and maintenance to expand capacity.

7.8 Assessment of future needs

7.8.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study'* (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

7.8.2 Potential changes in demand

The RFU has confirmed that.

- The immediate growth anticipated at Ely Tigers is within the emerging Girls section and in particular the U13s and U15s.
- The Colts section at the rugby club continues to develop and although in the past it has clustered with other local clubs to fulfil fixtures, it is likely that the club will be able to sustain a colts section independently from season 2020/21 onwards.
- The club has an aspiration to field a 3rd XV adult male team this coming season, but realistically this may take a further two or three seasons.
- There could be a medium-term transition of the Women's touch section into full contact, but this is likely to require up to five years to develop.

In addition, Ely Tigers RFC indicated that there is scope for another adult men's team, an adult women's team and two junior girls' teams over the next five years.

7.8.3 Site-specific pressures

There are some pitch quality issues, based upon the need for improved pitch maintenance and drainage on all pitches and a good case for improving floodlighting on pitch two, based on midweek capacity issues.

7.8.4 Potential changes in supply

There are no known potential changes in rugby pitch supply, although with no security of tenure, use of pitch three could in theory be lost at any time. There is a current aspiration to improve disabled access to the first-floor level of the clubhouse and the toilet facilities. There is also a recognised need to upgrade the showers within individual changing room

7.8.5 Existing spare capacity

There is no current spare capacity, with both the midweek and weekend supply-demand balance showing a deficit.

7.8.6 Team Generation Rates

Future rugby pitch needs are modelled below using ‘Team Generation Rates’ (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the District are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Projected extra teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Popn. 2036</i>	<i>Teams 2036</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult males	19-45	13,522	2	1	1: 4,507	13,632	3	1
Adult females	19-45	14,069	0	1	1: 14,069	13,525	1	1
Junior males	13-18	3,310	7	0	1: 473	3,568	8	1
Junior females	13-18	2,906	1	2	1: 1,453	3,304	2	1
Mini-rugby	7-12	7,209	6	0	1: 1,202	6,754	6	0

7.8.7 Future rugby pitch needs

Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator provides an additional way of modelling future playing pitch needs. The model applies Team Generation Rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	0.92
Extra weekly training sessions	1.04
Extra pitches to meet demand	0.92
Capital cost of extra pitches	£132,323
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£28,317
Extra changing rooms	1.84
Capital cost of extra changing facilities	£321,356

7.9 Key findings and issues

7.9.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Local club:** Ely Tigers RFC provides high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of rugby teams at the club has increased only slightly in the past five years, with the addition of one junior girls team.
- **Imported and exported demand:** 75% of the club’s membership is drawn from within East Cambridgeshire.
- **Pitch supply:** There is some evidence of a shortage of pitch supply at the club’s main site, necessitating use of the pitches at Kings School for mini-rugby on Sunday mornings.
- **Pitch quality:** There are some pitch quality issues, based upon the need for improved pitch maintenance and drainage on all pitches and a good case for improving floodlighting on pitch two, based on midweek capacity issues.

7.9.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **NO** - There is a significant weekly and peak time deficit

The key findings are that there is a capacity shortfall at midweek and weekends, with the latter mitigated by the use of pitches at King's School for mini-rugby. The provision of full floodlighting to the second pitch at the club would improve the potential for additional midweek use but would only be effective with improvements in pitch drainage and maintenance to expand capacity.

7.9.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **NO** - The capacity of all the pitches is compromised by poor drainage and maintenance

Improvements in drainage and maintenance at the three pitches could potentially increase their capacity as follows to 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week, from the current 5.5 match equivalent sessions. Improvements should be prioritised on the pitches with secured tenure.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Future capacity</i>
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 1	2.0	3.5
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 2	2.0	3.5
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 3	1.5	3.5
TOTALS	5.5	10.5

7.9.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The district's population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036, a 16.1% increase over the 2018 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** Projecting future need based on current demand patterns, plus the RFU's forecasts of increases in women's and girl's teams, is the most appropriate basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** Ely Tigers RFC has aspirations to fully floodlight its second pitch.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is no current spare capacity, with a deficit of both weekly and peak-time pitch capacity.
- **Future needs:** Additional future needs involves demand for 0.92 peak match equivalent sessions and 1.04 training sessions per week, equivalent to an extra 0.92 pitches.

7.9.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **NO**

There is a current weekly deficit of 5.0 match equivalent sessions. Additional future needs involves demand for a further 0.92 peak match equivalent sessions and 1.04 training sessions per week, equivalent to an extra 0.92 pitches. Additional capacity could be created in three ways:

- **Pitch quality improvements:** Improvements in drainage and maintenance at the three pitches could potentially increase their capacity to 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week, from the current 5.5 match equivalent sessions.

- **Installation of floodlights:** The provision of full floodlighting to the second pitch at the club would improve the potential for additional midweek use but would only be effective with improvements in pitch drainage and maintenance to expand capacity.
- **Using pitches on school sites:** Additional use could be made of the four pitches at Kings School, although these are not floodlit so would not alleviate the lack of capacity for midweek training.

7.10 Scenario testing

7.10.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, some scenarios examining the effect of securing additional pitch capacity have been rehearsed to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

7.10.2 Scenario 1: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity with maintenance improvements

- **Rationale:** Improving the maintenance of the grass pitches where they are sub-optimal at present would add the following capacity (in match equivalent sessions):

<i>Site</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Extra capacity</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Ely Tigers RFC	5.5	4.5	10.0

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The additional match equivalents would provide some of the capacity to support the clubs' aspirations to increase team numbers over and above population-based team generation rates.
 - The extra capacity could be achieved at the existing site without the need for additional land acquisition costs.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The main pinch points are in the midweek evenings for training, so without additional floodlight provision, the improved pitch capacity could not be used during the hours of darkness in the winter months.
 - There is no security of tenure on pitch 3, so investing money in pitch improvements would be risky.
- **Conclusions:** There would be merit in exploring the potential for maintenance improvements. However, to maximise the benefits of this, the review will also need to consider the issue of drainage improvements and floodlighting to maximise the benefits in the midweek evening period (see below).

7.10.3 Scenario 2: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity with drainage improvements

- **Rationale:** Improving the drainage of the grass pitches where they are sub-optimal at present would add the following capacity (in match equivalent sessions):

<i>Site</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Extra capacity</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Ely Tigers RFC	5.5	0.5	6.0

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The additional match equivalents would provide some of the capacity to support the clubs' aspirations to increase team numbers over and above population-based team generation rates.
 - The extra capacity could be achieved at the existing site without the need for additional land acquisition costs.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The main pinch points are in the midweek evenings for training, so without additional floodlight provision, the improved pitch capacity could not be used during the hours of darkness in the winter months.
 - There is no security of tenure on pitch 3, so investing money in pitch improvements would be risky.
- **Conclusions:** There would be merit in exploring the potential for drainage improvements. However, to maximise the benefits of this, the review will also need to consider the issue of maintenance improvements and floodlighting to maximise the benefits in the midweek evening period (see below).

7.10.4 Scenario 3: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity with maintenance and drainage improvements

- **Rationale:** Improving the maintenance and drainage of the grass pitches where they are sub-optimal at present would add the following capacity (in match equivalent sessions):

<i>Site</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Extra capacity</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Ely Tigers RFC	5.5	5.0	10.5

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The additional capacity match equivalents would provide all of the capacity to meet existing demand.
 - The extra capacity could be achieved at the existing site without the need for additional land acquisition costs.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:

- The main pinch points are in the midweek evenings for training, so without additional floodlight provision, the improved pitch capacity could not be used during the hours of darkness in the winter months.
 - Even with floodlighting, the additional capacity would only meet current, but not future additional needs.
 - There is no security of tenure on pitch 3, so investing money in pitch improvements would be risky.
- **Conclusions:** There would be merit in exploring the potential for maintenance (annual recurring costs) and drainage improvements. However, to maximise the benefits of this, the review will also need to consider the issue of floodlighting to maximise the benefits in the midweek evening period (see below).

7.10.5 Scenario 4: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity by providing floodlights

- **Rationale:** Whilst improved maintenance and drainage would add overall capacity, to achieve the maximum benefits floodlighting will be required to facilitate use during midweek evenings. 1.5 pitches are already floodlit, but 1.5 are not.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Floodlighting additional pitches will increase their availability on midweek evenings when training sessions take place.
 - The Ely Outdoor Sports Association site already has several floodlit pitches, which should simplify obtaining planning consent and in may reduce installation costs if some of the services infrastructure is already in place.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Its effectiveness is contingent upon the pitch capacity enhancements achievable through the drainage and maintenance improvements, so it needs to be considered in conjunction.
 - Even with floodlighting, the additional capacity would only meet current, but not future additional needs.
 - There is no security of tenure on pitch 3, so investing money in floodlights would be risky.
- **Conclusions:** The greatest benefits of floodlighting will only be achieved if it is combined with an improvement in pitch maintenance and drainage ratings and even then the additional capacity will only meet current and not additional future needs.

7.10.6 Scenario 5: Negotiating access to rugby pitches on school sites

- **Rationale:** There are 11 rugby pitches on school sites with no community use at present, including eight in Ely and accessing these facilities would provide some additional capacity. The pitches at the three Kings School sites in Ely are relatively close to the Ely Tigers site.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that:
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into community use at little or no additional cost.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if Ely Tigers RFC was playing on school sites.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - Some capacity is already used by the schools to meet their educational needs, so the potential net pitch availability for community use is around half the total number of match equivalent sessions.
 - Some schools only mark rugby pitches for the spring term, so they are not available for the full rugby season.
 - The main capacity issues at the Ely Tigers site are at midweek evenings when pitch usage is dependent on floodlighting. None of the schools pitches are floodlit.
- **Conclusions:** Given the lack of impact on pitch capacity in the midweek evening peak periods, this scenario is not the preferred way to meet identified current and future needs.

7.10.7 Scenario 6: Provision of a World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant artificial grass pitch

- **Rationale:** A floodlit rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch would provide 12.0 hours per week of midweek training time and 10.0 hours per week of weekend match time. This would be sufficient to meet all current and future needs, without the necessity of improving the drainage and maintenance of the grass pitches.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that:
 - Sufficient pitch capacity could be provided within the current site to meet all the current and future needs of the club.
 - The Ely Outdoor Sports Association site already has several floodlit pitches, which should simplify obtaining planning consent and may reduce installation costs if some of the services infrastructure is already in place.
 - There is demand for additional '3G' pitch capacity for football in Ely and any surplus capacity at the Ely Tigers pitch could be used by local football clubs.
- **Disadvantage:** The only disadvantage of this scenario is that the cost of provision is relatively high. Sport England's latest cost guidance (second quarter of 2019) quotes £1.32 million for a rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch.

- **Conclusions:** Given that this scenario would provide sufficient pitch capacity to meet all the club's current and future needs within the current site, further consideration should be given to its feasibility.

7.10.8 Scenario 7: Additional land acquisition at Ely Outdoor Sports Association

- **Rationale:** There is agricultural land to the west and south-west of the Ely Outdoor Sports Association site, that might be leased or purchased for additional grass rugby pitches.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that:
 - Additional grass pitches could be created, to provide the extra capacity to meet the club's current and future needs.
 - The club already leases one area of land for its third pitch, so there is a precedent for creating additional capacity at the site in this way.
- **Disadvantage:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - It is unclear whether the landowner would be prepared to lease or sell the land, because given the proximity of the urban area of Ely, there might be potential for higher value housing development.
 - The land concerned is at some distance from the existing pitches and clubhouse, so the area of new pitches would be slightly detached from the club's main centre of operations.
- **Conclusions:** It would be worth investigating further the possibility of leasing or purchasing additional land and the related costs, as part of a wider options appraisal.

7.10.9 Scenario 8: Selling the current site and relocating

- **Rationale:** If the constraints of the current site make it difficult or impossible for the club to identify a cost-effective way of meeting its capacity requirements, selling the site and relocating to a location with sufficient space to meet all its needs should be considered.
- **Advantage:** The advantage of this scenario are that a large capital receipt could potentially be realised from the sale of the current site, which could be reinvested in a purpose-built facility designed to meet all existing and future needs.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - Ely Tigers RFC does not own the site but leases its facilities from the Ely Outdoor Sports Association. Any decision to sell the site and move would need the approval of EOSA and its other two tenant clubs Ely City Hockey Club and Ely Tennis Club. It is far from certain that this would be forthcoming.
 - The current site is in an excellent location to serve both Ely and the wider district and it is far from certain that an alternative site could be identified with such good accessibility.

- **Conclusions:** Given the site ownership position, it is unlikely that this scenario would be feasible.

7.10.10 Conclusions

Examination of the eight scenarios for developing additional capacity at Ely Tigers RFC have concluded that the only scenario that would meet all current and future capacity needs at the site is the provision of a full-sized World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant floodlit artificial grass pitch, although in the short-term, pitch quality improvements and floodlighting to pitch two would provide enhanced capacity on an interim basis.

7.11 Policy recommendations

7.11.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to rugby union are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space 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 sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the main headings of ‘protect’ and ‘enhance’.

7.11.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The East Cambridgeshire PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for rugby union in the district. The PPS has identified a need to increase local rugby pitch capacity and to this extent, it will be important for all current community used rugby pitch sites to be retained.

It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If proposals to redevelop rugby pitches do come forward, this will only be permissible they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development’.

7.11.3 Enhance

Recommendation 2 - Enhancing existing pitch capacity: In the short-term, additional pitch capacity would best be developed on an interim basis to meet immediate needs by undertaking pitch maintenance and drainage improvements and providing floodlighting to pitch two.

7.11.4 Provide

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing pitch capacity: In the medium to long term, additional pitch capacity would best be developed by providing a full-sized World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant floodlit artificial grass pitch at the Ely Outdoor Sports Association site and the detailed feasibility of achieving this should be pursued further.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions: All the additional demand for rugby arising from the proposed housing development in East Cambridgeshire to 2036, should be accommodated through the developments outlined above. It is recommended that the action plan in the East Cambridgeshire PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements.

7.12 Action Plan

7.12.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the rugby union action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for ECDC - East Cambridgeshire District Council, RFU - Rugby Football Union, ETRC - Ely Tigers Rugby Club and EOSA - Ely Outdoor Sports Association. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019*' (2019).

7.12.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards improved rugby facilities.	ECDC	Developers	Determined by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator	High

7.12.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
EOSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient pitch capacity. • No security of tenure on pitch 3. • Need to improve showers and disabled access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch drainage and maintenance. • Provide floodlights to pitch 2. • Seek secured tenure on pitch 3 through a longer lease. • Feasibility study for a rugby-compliant AGP • Implement RFU-compliant clubhouse improvements 	EOSA	ETRC RFU	£80,000 for pitch drainage £7,500 annually for maintenance. £20,000 for floodlights £10,000 for feasibility study £1,320,000 for AGP £150,000 clubhouse improvements	High

8 HOCKEY NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

8.1 Organisational context

- **England Hockey:** England Hockey is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in East Cambridgeshire.
- **England Hockey-affiliated club:** There is one affiliated club in East Cambridgeshire, Ely City Hockey Club, who provide three men's teams, three women's teams, one mixed team one master's team and one junior team.

8.2 Strategic context

8.2.1 National hockey strategy

England Hockey's strategic plan 2013 - 2017 '*A Nation Where Hockey Matters*' (2013) contains the following priorities of relevance to East Cambridgeshire:

Our vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

- We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.
- Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.
- As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.
- Our core objectives are as follows:
 - Grow our Participation.
 - Deliver International Success
 - Increase our Visibility
 - Enhance our Infrastructure
 - For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

Club Participation

- Our 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 our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.
- Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.
- Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks - a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds - in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

8.2.2 Hockey facilities strategy

England Hockey's *Facilities Strategy*' (2016) contains the following key elements:

Vision: For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: 'More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities'. The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ***Protect - To conserve the existing hockey provision:*** There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) The current provision must be retained where appropriate, to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- ***Improve - To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively):*** The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers and education around owning an asset.
- ***Develop - To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain:*** 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 allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an

identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

8.2.3 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring districts identify cross-boundary issues:

<p><i>West Suffolk District Council:</i></p> <p>The <i>West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy</i> (2015) identifies that there is sufficient current and future artificial grass pitch capacity to meet hockey needs, subject to securing community use at the Culford School pitches.</p> <p><i>South Cambridgeshire District Council</i></p> <p>The <i>Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 - 2031</i> (2016) includes an assessment of needs in South Cambridgeshire. This concludes that there are no hockey clubs in South Cambridgeshire and that all needs are met by clubs and pitches in Cambridge.</p> <p><i>Huntingdonshire District Council</i></p> <p>The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.</p> <p><i>Fenland District Council</i></p> <p>The <i>Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy</i> (2016) identifies that there is a sufficient pitch supply to meet all current and future hockey needs in the district.</p> <p><i>Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk</i></p> <p>The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.</p>
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8.2.4 Implications of the strategic context

Most current needs for hockey are being met in neighbouring areas.

8.3 Hockey demand

8.3.1 England Hockey-affiliated club and teams

Ely City HC has 194 members and fields the following teams.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Men's teams</i>	<i>Women's teams</i>	<i>Mixed teams</i>	<i>Masters' teams</i>	<i>Junior teams</i>
Ely City HC	Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	3	3	1	1	1

8.3.2 Demand trends

- **National trends:** National affiliation data for hockey club members provided by England Hockey reveals successive increases in the period since 2010 as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. players</i>	<i>Annual % increase</i>
2010/11	102,313	-
2011/12	106,665	4.3%
2012/13	114,642	7.5%
2013/14	113,575	-0.9%
2014/15	120,404	6.0%
2015/16	129,857	7.9%
2016/17	138,915	6.6%
2017/18	143,762	3.6%

- **Local trends:** The number of teams at Ely City HC has remained static for the past five years.

8.3.3 Displaced demand

Consultation with England Hockey and Ely City HC has confirmed that there is no significant imported or exported demand in the district.

8.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Some pitches may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

Consultation with England Hockey and Ely City HC has confirmed that there is no unmet demand in the district.

8.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to exist, latent demand is demand that may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Consultation with England Hockey and Ely City HC has confirmed that there is no latent demand in the district.

8.4 Hockey pitch supply in East Cambridgeshire

8.4.1 Quantity

This section summarises the detail of the supply of artificial turf pitches suitable for hockey (water-based, sand-dressed and sand-filled) in East Cambridgeshire.

- Water-based pitches are the preferred surface for elite-level hockey. The sports turf uses a denser pile than other surface types which, combined with the water layer, provides the truest ball roll of any artificial turf system. There are no such pitches in East Cambridgeshire.

- Sand-dressed artificial turf is a higher specification surface designed specifically for fast-paced hockey.
- With sand-filled pitches, the playing surface is only partially filled (usually about two-thirds of the pile height) so the game is played on the sports carpet, not the sand infill.
- Both types of sand-based pitches can also be used for football, but the rubber crumb-filled, long-pile surface of ‘3G’ football turf pitches and/or World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant pitches are not suitable of hockey use.
- **Pitches with community use and used:** These are as follows.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Ely College	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	Sand-filled	100m x 61m	Yes	2003
Ely Outdoor Sports Association	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	Sand-filled	100m x 60m	Yes	2018

- **Pitches with community access but not used for hockey:** There are no pitches with community access that are not used for hockey by external hirers.
- **Pitches not available for community use:** The following pitch is not available for community use:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	Sand-filled	97.5m x 61m	Yes	2007

8.4.2 Use of hockey pitches for football

Both the hockey pitches are used for football training. This reduces the capacity of the pitches to cater for hockey as follows. The usage figures represent hours per week at evenings and weekends:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Hockey use</i>	<i>Hockey use (%)</i>	<i>Football use</i>	<i>Football use (%)</i>	<i>Unused</i>	<i>Unused (%)</i>
Ely College	2 hours	9.1%	16 hours	72.7%	4 hours	18.2%
Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	16 hours	53.3%	6 hours	20.0%	8 hours	26.7%

8.4.3 Quality

The qualitative analysis of pitches and related facilities in East Cambridgeshire involved a visit to all hockey pitches, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by England Hockey for Sport England’s ‘Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance’ (2013). The assessment generates an overall ‘score’ for each pitch by evaluating the condition of the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision. The scores for each hockey pitch in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Ely College	Standard	Good
Ely Outdoor Sports Association	Good	Standard

8.4.4 Pitch maintenance

The Ely City HC pitch is maintained by the Ely Outdoor Sports Association and the Ely College pitch by the College's groundstaff.

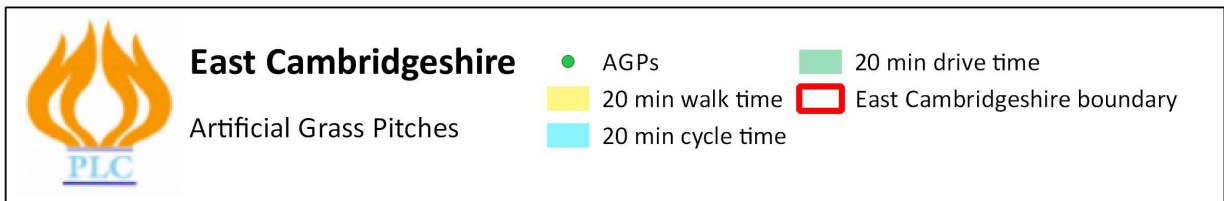
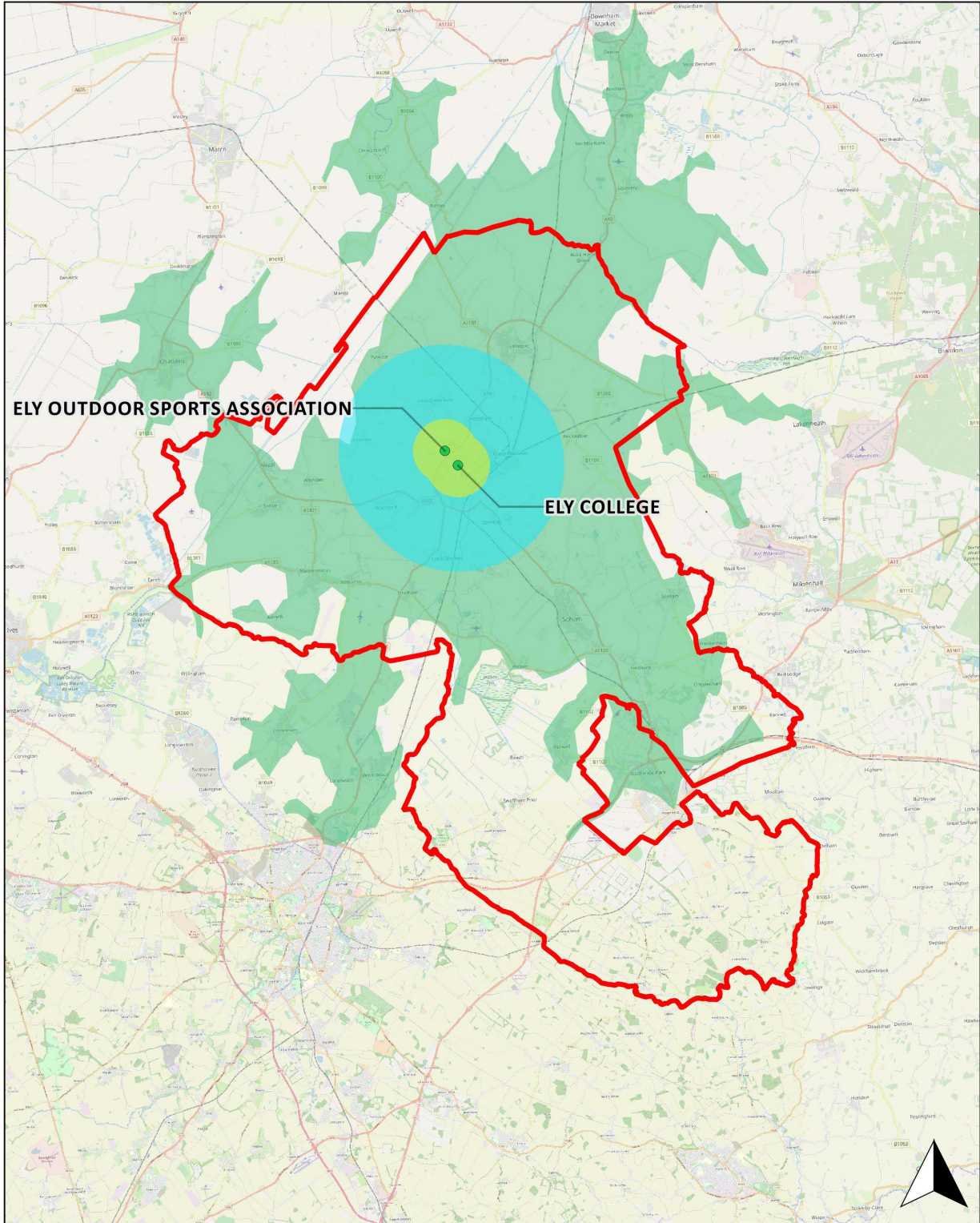
8.4.5 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of community access of the pitches is detailed below. Security of access refers to the extent to which community use is protected.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
Ely College	Ely College	Ely College	Unsecured
Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	Secured

8.4.6 Geographical distribution

The locations of artificial grass pitches for hockey in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the map overleaf. The map shows that the population in the northern part East Cambridgeshire is within 20-minutes' drive time of at least one pitch, with the exception of some sparsely populated areas on the edge of the district. The southern part of the district is not served by pitches within East Cambridgeshire, but provision in Cambridge, Newmarket and St. Ives meets needs in this area:



8.5 The views of stakeholders on pitch supply and demand

England Hockey: Consultation with England Hockey’s Facilities Relationship Manager for the region raised the following issues:

- Ely City Hockey Club is the only club in the district and is based at the Ely Outdoor Sports Association.
- There are hockey clubs in Cambridge, Wisbech, March and Newmarket, but there is no evidence of any significant imported or exported demand to or from East Cambridgeshire.

Ely City Hockey Club:

The key comments were as follows:

- ‘We have three men’s and three ladies teams, plus a thriving youth section with 115 members’.
- ‘We run a popular summer tournament that attracts more than 20 teams’
- ‘We are proud to have been awarded 'Club Mark' By England Hockey which means we operate to a set of core criteria and have good practices to ensure the delivery of quality hockey in a sustainable and vibrant club environment’.
- ‘Our pitch at Ely Outdoor Sports Association was resurfaced in 2018 and is high quality’.

8.6 The implications for hockey in East Cambridgeshire

Analysis of local supply and demand for hockey pitches in East Cambridgeshire indicates the following:

- **Local clubs:** Ely City Hockey Club is a ‘Clubmark’ accredited club providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of hockey teams in all age groups has remained static over the past five years.
- **Imported demand:** There is no evidence of any significant imported or exported demand to or from East Cambridgeshire.
- **Pitch supply:** There is no immediate evidence of a shortage of hockey pitch supply in the district, with some spare capacity at present even allowing for football usage.
- **Pitch quality:** There are no pitch quality issues, with Ely City HC’s main pitch resurfaced in 2018. However, Ely College is considering resurfacing its facility as a ‘3G’ football turf pitch, which would mean it could no longer be used for hockey.

8.7 Assessment of current needs

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site and how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent’ sessions at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity.
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity.
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity.

As per England Hockey guidance, pitch capacity is expressed as weekly peak time hours of availability, demand as actual hours of use and the resultant balance is expressed as hours of availability at peak times. The actual used capacity of artificial turf pitches is based upon their hours of use in the peak period supplied by the pitch operators.

Site	Users	Saturday capacity	Saturday demand	Saturday balance	Sunday capacity	Sunday demand	Sunday balance
Ely College	Ely College	6.0	2.0	+4.0	6.0	0.0	+6.0
Ely Outdoor Sports Association	Ely City HC	7.5	7.5	Balanced	6.0	0.0	+6.0
TOTALS	-	13.5	9.5	+4.0	12.0	0.0	+12.0

The split between midweek and weekend use at each pitch is as follows:

Site	Midweek used hours	% capacity	Saturday used hours	% capacity	Sunday used hours	% capacity
Ely College	16.0*	73%	2.0	33.3%	0.0	0%
Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	13.0*	65%	7.5	100.0%	0.0	0%
TOTALS	29.0	69.0%	9.5	70.4%	0.0	0.0%

* Includes some football training use

The assessment shows that there is some peak-time spare capacity on Saturdays at the Ely College pitch and on Sundays at both pitches in the district.

8.7 Assessment of future needs

8.7.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study'* (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

8.7.2 Potential changes in demand

Notwithstanding the data from the *'Active People'* survey, which shows a fall in adult participation in the game since 2005, England Hockey's national membership figures show an increase of 13% in the past four years, although local club membership has remained static in the same period. Demand increases have therefore been modelled based upon current participation levels.

8.7.3 Site-specific pressures

There are no identified site-specific pressures at present.

8.7.4 Potential changes in supply

Ely College is considering resurfacing its facility as a '3G' football turf pitch, which would mean it could no longer be used for hockey. There is a current aspiration to improve disabled access to the first-floor level of the clubhouse and the toilet facilities at the EOSA site. There is also a recognised need to upgrade the showers within individual changing rooms.

8.7.5 Existing spare capacity

There is some peak-time spare capacity on Saturdays at the Ely College pitch and on Sundays at both pitches in the district.

8.7.6 Future hockey pitch needs

Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator provides a way of modelling future playing pitch needs. The model applies Team Generation Rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	0.48
Extra training match equivalent sessions	1.81 hours
Extra pitches to meet demand	0.12 pitches
Capital cost of extra pitches	£101,091
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£3,134
Extra changing rooms	0.24
Capital cost of extra changing facilities	£41,916

8.9 Key findings and issues

8.9.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Local clubs:** Ely City Hockey Club is a ‘Clubmark’ accredited club providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of hockey teams in all age groups has remained static over the past five years.
- **Imported demand:** There is no evidence of any significant imported or exported demand to or from East Cambridgeshire.
- **Pitch supply:** There is no immediate evidence of a shortage of hockey pitch supply in the district, with some spare capacity at present even allowing for football usage. However, Ely College is considering resurfacing its facility as a ‘3G’ football turf pitch, which would mean it could no longer be used for hockey.
- **Pitch quality:** There are no pitch quality issues, with Ely City HC’s main pitch resurfaced in 2018.

8.9.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **NO**

Whilst there is peak-time spare capacity on Saturdays at the Ely College pitch and on Sundays at both pitches in the district, community use of the Ely College pitch is unsecured.

8.9.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **YES**

The pitch at Ely College will need to be re-surfaced in two to four years’ time.

8.9.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The district’s population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036, a 16.1% increase over the 2018 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** The projected increase in population will generate 0.48 additional teams and extra demand equivalent to 0.12 hockey pitches by 2036.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known threats to hockey pitch supply.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is some peak-time spare capacity on Saturdays at the Ely College pitch and on Sundays at both pitches in the district.
- **Future needs:** Additional spare capacity is sufficient to accommodate all additional demand to 2036, provided access to both existing pitches is maintained.

8.9.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **YES**

Future demand can be accommodate using existing spare capacity, provided access to both existing pitches is maintained..

8.10 Scenario testing

8.10.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, some scenarios examining the effect of securing additional pitch capacity have been rehearsed to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

8.10.2 Scenario 1: Loss of the Ely College pitch for hockey

- **Rationale:** Ely College hosts a Norwich City FC Development Centre and therefore having a specialist football surface on its artificial grass pitch would have many benefits, particularly since the current pitch is only used for hockey by City of Ely HC for two hours per week..
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - There are no full-sized ‘3G’ football turf pitches in Ely at present (the pitch at The Hive is under-sized) and re-surfacing the existing artificial turf pitch at Ely College would represent a very cost-effective way of providing such a facility, since the sub-base, fencing and floodlights are already in place.
 - There is minimal use of the existing pitch for hockey, which comprises less than 10% of the used capacity of the facility, with football occupying 90%.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - There is no secured community access to the existing Ely College pitch, so the full community benefits of a ‘3G’ pitch may not be realised.
 - City of Ely HC’s own pitch is used to capacity on Saturdays and it needs access to a further pitch to meet its current competitive fixtures programme.
- **Conclusions:** Whilst there is a strong rationale for converting the Ely College pitch to a ‘3G’ surface, it should not be sanctioned unless acceptable alternative arrangements can be made for City of Ely HC to meet its additional capacity needs elsewhere.

8.10.3 Scenario 2: Obtaining access to the Kings School artificial grass pitch

- **Rationale:** Kings School in Ely has a full-sized artificial grass pitch which has no community use at present. Negotiating access to this pitch would provide additional capacity to meet any unmet or surplus demand in the event that the Ely College pitch was converted to a ‘3G’ surface.
- **Advantage:** The advantage of this scenario is that the pitch already exists and as such this represents a low-cost solution to providing additional capacity.

- **Disadvantage:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that there is no community use of any of the School's pitches at present and as a boarding school it often uses its facilities on Saturdays for school fixtures. There is therefore no guarantee that access could be achieved.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario should be explored further with Kings School, to establish its viability.

8.11 Policy recommendations

8.11.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to hockey are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space 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 sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the main headings of 'protect' and 'enhance'.

8.11.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The East Cambridgeshire PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for hockey in the district. The PPS has identified a need to safeguard local hockey pitch capacity and to this extent, it will be important for all current community used hockey pitch sites to be retained, unless a feasibility study demonstrates that it is permissible for the Ely College pitch to be converted to a '3G' surface. It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If proposals to redevelop hockey pitches do come forward, this will only be permissible they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. This states that 'the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development'.

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: Neither the Ely College or Kings School pitches are subject to formal Community Use Agreements and these should be pursued at both sites to secure external access to the facilities.

8.11.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Maintaining pitch quality: Replacing the pitch surfaces at least once every 10-years is essential to maintain quality. It is therefore recommended that the pitch owners contribute money annually to a sinking fund to cover the costs of resurfacing when they arise.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions: It is recommended that the action plan in the East Cambridgeshire PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of improving hockey pitches to meet the needs of the additional population arising from housing growth by 2036.

8.12 Action Plan

8.12.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the hockey action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for ECDC - East Cambridgeshire District Council, EH - England Hockey and CoEHC - City of Ely Hockey Club. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019* (2019).

8.12.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved hockey facilities.	ECDC	Developers	Determined by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator	High

8.12.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Ely College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed '3G' resurfacing No secured access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study to assess the implications of a '3G' surface Negotiate secured access 	ECDC	Ely College	£10,000 for feasibility study	High
EOSA	Need to improve showers and disabled access.	Implement clubhouse improvements	CoEHC	EOSA	£150,000 clubhouse improvements	High
Kings School Ely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No community access No secured access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate community access Negotiate secured access 	ECDC	CoEHC Kings School	-	High

9 APPLYING AND REVIEWING THE STRATEGY

9.1 Introduction

This section identifies the applications of the East Cambridgeshire PPS and the mechanisms for reviewing it to ensure that it remains robust and up-to-date.

9.2 Strategy applications

The success of the PPS will be determined by how it is used. While the use of the PPS should be led by East Cambridgeshire District Council, its application and delivery should be the responsibility of the project steering group involving other key local stakeholders including Sport England and the governing bodies of the pitch sports. The PPS has a number of applications:

9.2.1 Sports development planning

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Highlight, justify and make the case for sports development activities with particular sports, groups and clubs and in particular areas.
- Identify current and future trends and changes in the demand for individual sports and how they are played.
- Inform the work, strategies and plans of sporting organisations active in the area.
- Advocate the need to work with specific educational establishments to secure community use of their site(s).
- Develop and/or enhance school club links by making the best use of school sites where they have spare capacity and are well located to meet demand.

9.2.2 Planning policy

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Develop new, and review the effectiveness of existing, local planning policy (e.g. Local and Neighbourhood Plans) in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The implementation of local planning policy to meet the needs of the community in line with the NPPF.

9.2.3 Planning applications

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Inform the development of planning applications which affect existing and/or proposed new sports facilities provision.

- Inform pre-application discussions to ensure any subsequent planning applications maximise their benefit to sport and are developed in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sports clubs and other organisations provide the strategic need for development proposals thereby potentially adding support to their application(s) and saving them resources in developing such evidence.
- The Council to assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposed new playing pitch provision in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sport England and other parties respond to relevant planning application consultations.

The PPS can also be applied to help the Council to meet other relevant requirements of the NPPF including:

- Taking account of and supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.
- Delivering the social, recreational, cultural facilities and services the community needs.
- Planning positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the framework.
- Working with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being).

9.2.4 Section 106

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Advocate the need for playing pitch provision to be taken into account when the local authority is developing and/or reviewing an approach to Section 106 contributions and the wider benefits of doing so (e.g. improving health and wellbeing).
- Provide prioritised infrastructure requirements for playing pitch provision including deliverable sport, area and site-specific projects with costings (where known).

9.2.5 Funding bids

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base and strategic need to support funding bids by a range of parties to a variety of potential funding sources.
- Inform potential bidders of the likely strategic need for their project.

9.2.6 Facility and asset management

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Ensure a strategic approach is taken to the provision and management of playing pitches.
- Inform the current management, strategies and plans of playing pitch providers.
- Share knowledge of how sites are managed and maintained, the lessons learnt and good practice.
- Highlight the potential of asset transfers and ensure any proposed are beneficial to all parties.
- Provide additional protection for particular sites over and above planning policy, for example through deeds of dedication.
- Resolve issues around security of tenure.

9.2.7 Public health

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Understand how the community currently participates in sport, the need for playing pitches and how this may evolve.
- Raise awareness of and tackle any barriers to people maintaining and increasing their participation.
- Highlight and address any inequalities of access to provision within the study area.
- Provide evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.

9.2.8 Co-ordinating resources and investment

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Raise awareness of the current resources and investment (revenue and capital) going into the management, maintenance and improvement of playing pitch provision.
- Co-ordinate the current and any future resources and investment to ensure the maximum benefit to sport and that value for money is secured.
- Ensure the current and any future resources and investment are complimentary and do not result in their inefficient use.

9.2.9 Capital programmes

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base to justify the protection and investment in playing pitch provision.
- Influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes (e.g. school refurbishment and new build programmes).

9.3 Monitoring delivery

A process should be put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered. This monitoring should be led by East Cambridgeshire District Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery.

9.4 Keeping the strategy robust and up-to-date

Along with ensuring that the PPS is used and applied, a process should be put in place to keep it robust and up to date. This will expand the life of the PPS, providing people with the confidence to continue to both use it and attach significant value and weight to its key findings and issues, along with its recommendations and actions.

Sport England advocates that the PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

The annual review should highlight:

- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- Any changes to particularly important facilities and/or sites in the area (e.g. the most used or high-quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

9.5 Strategy implementation

To support the delivery of the actions in all the pitch sport-specific chapters, East Cambridgeshire District Council in consultation with stakeholders will prepare a short-term action plan identifying priorities and actions for year one of the strategy delivery. The action plans in the PPS provide a long list of prioritised actions, but many will not be applicable, appropriate or manageable to deliver initially. This is the first stage of delivering the PPS and essential that this is undertaken as this initiates the delivery and provides momentum following completion of the work.

**Ploszajski Lynch
Consulting Ltd.**



**East Cambridgeshire District
Council**

Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy

July 2020

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) was commissioned by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) to produce an Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy for the district, comprising three distinct elements:

- Formal playing pitches for football, cricket, rugby and hockey.
- Formal outdoor sports facilities for bowls, netball, tennis and athletics.
- Informal outdoor provision for sport and physical activity, including multi-use games areas and walking, running and cycling trails.

1.2 Background

East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district. The District Council does not directly control any outdoor leisure facilities, apart from a small country park in Ely. All such facilities in the district are owned and managed by parish councils, schools, or free-standing local trusts or sports clubs. It is recognised, however, that in order to respond to local aspirations and emerging opportunities a coherent overview of provision and needs is increasingly necessary. The purpose of strategy is to facilitate this.

ECDC is currently building on its 2015 Local Plan, through the production of Supplementary Planning Guidance documents. The Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy will form part of the evidence base, will inform the Local Plan and provide a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor facilities between 2020 and 2036, in line with population projections. It will also be used to ensure that there is a good supply of high-quality provision to meet the sport and physical activity needs of local communities as far as possible. By providing valuable evidence and direction, it will be used to help provide significant benefits to a wide variety of interested parties.

1.3 The objectives of the strategy

The objectives of the strategy are as follows:

- To establish a comprehensive and up-to-date record of current facilities for outdoor sport and related leisure activities.
- To provide an objective evaluation of the quantity, quality, availability and use of all such facilities, taking account of relevant sports governing body or other technical benchmarks as appropriate.
- To identify and evaluate emerging and likely future influences on facility needs.

- To identify facility deficits and/or surplus provision, priorities for development and future provision, and opportunities for rationalisation, as appropriate, so as to guide planning and investment decisions for the period to 2036.
- To engage partner organisations and local stakeholders in the process and its outcomes.
- To support engagement with current or impending sport-specific development strategies.

1.4 Key outcomes

The strategy must provide two documents, covering respectively playing pitches and all other formal and informal outdoor sports facilities. Each document should include:

- A comprehensive record of all outdoor sports facilities and resources in East Cambridgeshire.
- A comprehensive understanding of:
 - Usage patterns, including effective catchments.
 - The strengths and weaknesses of all current facilities, including accessibility, management and usage arrangements, and ancillary facilities, as well as the core facilities.
 - The relevant objective standards of provision and/or user expectations which frame recommendations for development.
- A robust and workable facility development strategy, identifying:
 - Priorities for development, with indicative financial implications (both capital and revenue).
 - Opportunities for rationalisation or improved management arrangements.
 - Key policy approaches

1.5 Outdoor sports facilities strategy

This document comprises the formal and informal outdoor sports facilities strategy. The structure of the document is as follows:

- Assessing sports facilities needs in East Cambridgeshire.
- The local context for facilities provision.
- Strategic influences on facilities provision.
- Bowls greens.
- Tennis courts.
- Netball courts.

- Athletics facilities.
- Multi-use Games Areas (MUGAs).
- Provision for walking, running and cycling.
- Policies and recommendations.
- Applying and reviewing the strategy.

2 ASSESSING SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS

2.1 Introduction

This section explains the basis upon which the outdoor sports facilities needs in East Cambridgeshire have been identified, along with the approach for identifying the additional provision that will be needed as a result of population growth.

2.2 Methodology

The methodology applied to assess the needs and opportunities for sports facilities follows Sport England's recommended approach, advocated in '*Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance*' (2014). The process involves two parts and three stages as follows:

- **Part One** - Undertaking the assessment.
 - *Stage A*: Prepare and tailor the assessment.
 - *Stage B*: Gather information on supply and demand.
 - *Stage B*: Bring the information together.
- **Part Two** - *Stage C*: Applying the assessment.

2.3 Undertaking the assessment

2.3.1 Preparing and tailoring the approach

ECDC devised a project brief that defined:

- The aims and objectives of the review of sports and leisure facilities in the district.
- The scope of the exercise, including the types of facilities to include, the geographical scope and the overall timeframe for the assessment.
- The local and wider strategic context.
- The project management arrangements for the study, including the decision to engage assistance from external consultants.

A project brief was produced, approved and signed-off to complete Stage A of the process.

2.3.2 Assessing sports facilities supply

The assessment of formal and informal outdoor sports facilities supply at Stage B of the study involved four main elements:

- **Quantity:** Establishing what facilities there are in the district, with details of their dimensions, technical information like playing surfaces and floodlighting. This included consideration of facilities not currently in use, not available to the community and significant provision in neighbouring areas that serves some needs of East Cambridgeshire residents.
- **Quality:** Auditing the quality of all aspects of all facilities. This involved assessing each facility in terms of its condition (its age, appeal, fabric and ancillary provision like changing and car parking - factors that will influence its attractiveness to users) and fitness for purpose (its technical specifications and ability to accommodate an appropriate standard of play).
- **Accessibility:** Determining spatial distribution of provision in the district by GIS mapping of each facility type, including catchment analysis appropriate to the scale and role of each facility.
- **Availability:** Identifying how much each facility is used, whether there is any existing spare capacity and if there is any scope to increase capacity. This involved consideration of programming and usage data, opening times and pricing levels, which was secured through consultation with facility providers and operators.

The information was collated and analysed in a facilities supply report, which was evaluated and approved by the project steering group.

2.3.3 Assessing sports facilities demand

The assessment of sports facilities demand at Stage B of the study involved five main elements:

- **Local population profile:** Establishing the local demography, including the size, age profile, affluence/deprivation, health indices and growth projections.
- **Sports participation:** Identifying local sports participation characteristics, through analysing the results of Sport England's 'Active People' and 'Active Lives' surveys, local facilities usage figures and a survey of local clubs to establish membership patterns and trends.
- **Unmet, displaced and future demand:** In addition to current expressed demand, analysis of unmet (demand which exists but cannot currently be satisfied), displaced (demand from within the district that is satisfied elsewhere) and future demand (based on projected population and participation increases) was identified.
- **Local participation priorities:** Establishing and local priorities for the use of sports facilities, such as those relating to corporate health and well-being policies.
- **Sport-specific priorities:** Determining through consultation with Living Sport, the governing bodies of sport and a local sports clubs survey, whether there are any sport-specific priorities for East Cambridgeshire.

The information was collated and analysed in a facilities demand report, which was evaluated and approved by the project steering group.

2.3.4 Assessing the balance between sports facilities supply and demand

To complete Stage B of the process, the supply and demand information was brought together for each type of facility to establish:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?
- **Quality:** Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users?
- **Accessibility:** Are the facilities in the right physical location for the users?
- **Availability:** Are the facilities available for those who want to use them?

The information was collated and analysed in a supply and demand assessment report, which was evaluated, approved and signed-off by the project steering group to complete Stage B of the process.

2.4 Applying the assessment

2.4.1 Developing the strategy

The results of the assessment were applied to produce an outdoor sports facilities strategy for the district, which included:

- **Options for provision:** The options for meeting current and future facilities needs were identified under Sport England's recommended headings of 'Protect', 'Provide' and 'Enhance'.
- **Policy recommendations:** Arranged under the headings of 'Protect', 'Provide' and 'Enhance', planning policy recommendations were developed to ensure that the implementation of the strategy will be supported by the provisions of the Local Plan.
- **Action plan:** An action plan was developed for each type of outdoor sports facility, linking identified issues with specific actions, including the organisations responsible for lead and support roles, the resource implications and the respective priorities.
- **Delivery:** Mechanisms for securing developer contributions towards the costs of meeting additional facilities arising from housing growth in the district were developed.
- **Monitoring and review:** The arrangements for ensuring that the strategy remains robust and up-to-date were specified.

2.4.2 Stakeholder consultation

Information was gathered throughout the process from a wide range of consultees including:

- **Sport England:** Guidance on the assessment methodology.
- **East Cambridgeshire Council:** Consultation with officers from Leisure and Planning and on their respective areas of responsibility.
- **Living Sport (the county sport and physical activity partnership):** Information on local and wider strategic priorities.

- ***Neighbouring local authorities:*** Information on their facilities assessments and the impact of any cross-border issues.
- ***Governing bodies of sport:*** Information on local and wider strategic priorities and local supply and demand information.
- ***Parish councils:*** As major providers in the district, information on outdoor sports facilities provision and usage and assessments of local need.
- ***Individual sports clubs:*** Information on facility usage patterns, current and future needs and opinions on quality.
- ***Schools and colleges:*** Information on outdoor sports facilities needs and aspirations and attitudes towards community use.

2.5 **Assessing the need for informal provision for physical activity**

2.5.1 Introduction

The formalised supply and demand assessments of the *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance'* (2014) do not lend themselves well to identifying how best to address the need for informal provision for physical activity such as walking, cycling and running. In particular:

- Most of the 'supply' involves either non-specialist provision such as open spaces and public rights of way, whose primary functions are not to specifically to accommodate physical activity. It is difficult therefore to define 'capacity' in this context.
- Much of the 'demand' is 'unmetered' - there is very little detailed data on the usage of specific open space sites or rights of way.

2.5.2 Assessment methodology

The following approach has therefore been devised and applied to assess the need for informal provision for walking, cycling and running in East Cambridgeshire.

- Establishing the extent of local opportunities to undertake short, medium and long forms (15 minutes, 45 minutes and 90 minutes) of each activity, on or off-road,
- Identifying what area of open space is available within walking distance of each settlement in the district.
- Assessing gaps in provision.

3 THE LOCAL CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

This section identifies the context within which outdoor sports facilities provision is made in East Cambridgeshire.

3.2 Background

East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district located to the north-east of Cambridge within the county of Cambridgeshire. The district covers an area of 655km² and has a population of almost 90,000 people. The population has increased significantly in recent years and growth is expected to continue.

There are four main settlements - the cathedral city of Ely, the market towns of Soham and Littleport and the large village of Burwell. Together, these comprise approximately 56% of the district's population, with the remaining population spread between about 50 villages and other rural parts of the district.

- Ely is the largest urban area and acts as a retail, service and administrative centre for a wide rural catchment.
- Soham is a small market town with a range of shops, catering for day-to-day needs.
- Littleport is a small fenland town with a localised service catchment due to its proximity to Ely.
- The villages of Bottisham, Burwell, Haddenham and Sutton play a key service role for their rural hinterlands.

Landscape and economy: East Cambridgeshire can be broadly defined into two sub-areas:

- The northern part of the district is predominantly intensively farmed fenland, with many settlements located on higher ground on the old 'islands' in the fen. Flood risk is a key issue, with much of the land at or below sea level. With the possible exception of Ely, incomes are generally lower and deprivation is more marked than the southern part of the district.
- The south of the district consists of elevated chalk and heath land and contains a range of attractive villages and hamlets. The local economy and landscape is dominated by the horse racing industry with large areas of farmland converted to stud use. Residents in the south of the district mainly look to Newmarket and Cambridge for services and facilities.

3.3 Population

3.3.1 Current population

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-2018 population estimates for East Cambridgeshire indicate 89,600 residents. This represents an increase of 5,782 people or 6.9% growth since the 2011 Census figure of 83,818.

3.3.2 Age structure

The ONS 2016 broad age estimates for East Cambridgeshire were as follows, with comparator figures for Cambridgeshire and England as a whole. The figures show that the district has a slightly polarised age structure, with proportionately more younger and older people than the county and the country as a whole.

<i>Age</i>	<i>East Cambs %</i>	<i>Cambs %</i>	<i>England %</i>
0-14	18.9%	17.6%	18.9%
15-64	61.1%	63.5%	64.7%
65+	20.0%	18.9%	16.4%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

3.3.3 Ethnicity

East Cambridgeshire's population is less ethnically diverse than the national average. At the 2011 Census 95.9% of the resident population was White, 1.0% Asian/Asian British, 2.1% are Black/Black British and 1.1% are from mixed/multiple/other ethnic groups.

3.3.4 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The 'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study' (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

3.4 Deprivation

Based upon the Government's Indices of Local Deprivation, East Cambridgeshire is ranked as 262nd most deprived local authority in England (out of 326) and is therefore a relatively affluent area. However:

- 34.0% of the district's population are amongst the 20% most deprived in the country in terms of their access to housing and services, based upon geographical and affordability barriers.
- Life expectancy is 2.9 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of East Cambridgeshire than in the least deprived areas.
- 9.1% of all children and young people aged 0-18 live in low-income households.

3.5 Health

Public Health England's 'Health Profile for East Cambridgeshire' (2018) records that:

- Life expectancy at birth is slightly higher than the national averages by 2.1 years for men and 1.5 years for women.

- 11.3% of year 6 children in East Cambridgeshire are obese, compared with the national average of 20.0%.
- 58.5% of adults in the district are overweight or obese, compared with the national average of 61.3%.

3.6 Local demand for sport and physical activity

3.6.1 'Active Lives' survey

Sport England's 'Active Lives' survey measures physical activity rates amongst people aged 16 and over. The definitions used in the survey are as follows:

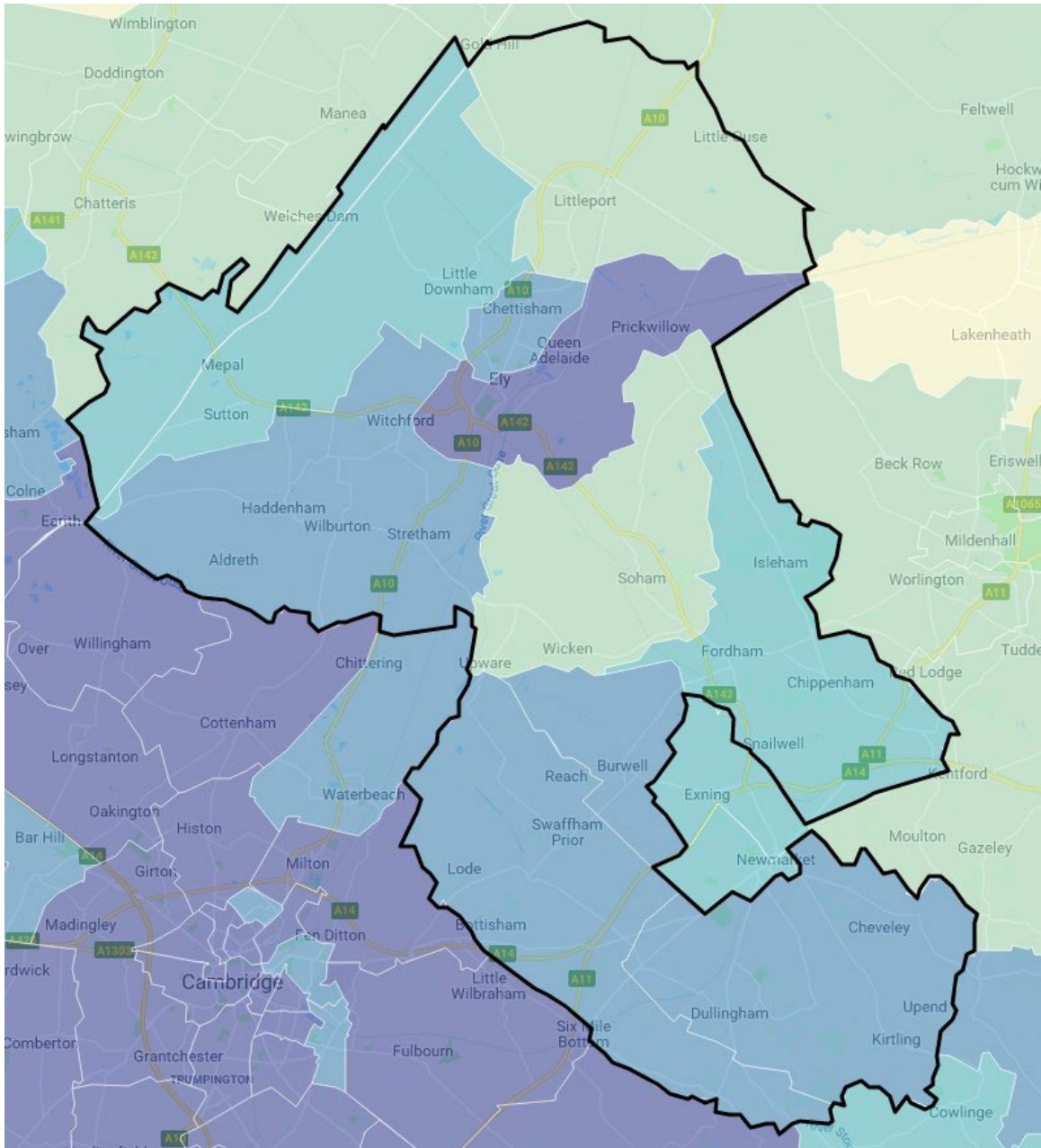
- **Sport and physical activity:** This includes at least 10-minutes of moderate or higher intensity sports activities, walking and cycling for leisure or travel, fitness and dance.
- **Active:** The 'Active' population is defined as those doing at least 150 minutes of the above activities per week.
- **Fairly active:** The 'Fairly active' population is defined as those doing between 30 and 149 minutes of the above activities per week.
- **Inactive:** The 'Inactive' population is defined as those doing 30 minutes or less of the above activities per week.

The key data for East Cambridgeshire, with county, regional and national comparators from the 2019 survey is set out below. The results showing activity levels below the county average, but above the regional and national averages:

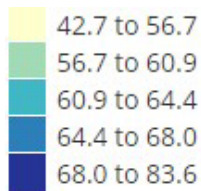
<i>Area</i>	<i>Active</i>	<i>Fairly active</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
East Cambs	63.3%	13.0%	23.7%
Cambs	64.7%	11.8%	23.5%
East	61.1%	13.3%	25.6%
England	62.6%	12.3%	25.1%

3.6.2 Geographical variations

Notwithstanding the district average figures, the 'Active Lives' survey data shows great variations at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA), with the figures for those from Ely in the 'Active' category being relatively high and those in Littleport and Soham being relatively low.



Key: Percentage of the population who are physically active for 150+ minutes per week



3.7 **The local outdoor sports facilities supply network**

Outdoor sports facilities provision in East Cambridgeshire comprises a mixed economy involving the public and voluntary sectors. The key providers are as follows:

- **East Cambridgeshire District Council:** The Council is a minority provider of outdoor facilities provision, with Ely Country Park the main element.
- **Parish Councils:** Parish councils are major providers of outdoor sports facilities in the district.
- **Schools:** The Village Colleges are significant pitch and outdoor sports facilities providers and most provision is community accessible.
- **Sports clubs:** Sports clubs provide and run a range of outdoor sports facilities, in particular tennis courts and bowling greens.

3.8 **The implications for outdoor sports facilities provision**

The implications of the local context for outdoor sports facilities provision in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- **Population growth:** The population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036. This will provide additional demand for all types of sports facilities. New housing developments typically have a younger age profile, whilst the trend in the general population is towards an older age profile. The convergence of these factors suggests that the two trends may balance each other out in the district as a whole to maintain a similar age profile for the period of the strategy, although there will be variations at local level in areas where new development is prioritised (Ely, Littleport and Burwell).
- **Local deprivation:** Whilst the district is relatively affluent, which is traditionally associated with higher than average participation in sport and physical activity, deprivation relating to access to housing and services is relatively high. This relates in large part to geographical barriers to access in a relatively large rural area and emphasises the need to develop a wide geographical spread of facilities.
- **Participation rates:** General rates of participation in sport and physical activity are above the regional and national averages, which will inflate demand for facilities provision. However, the trends vary markedly within individual sports and these needs will be analysed later in this strategy in relation to specific types of facility.
- **Geographical variations:** Participation rates varies widely across the district, with the highest rates around Ely coinciding with the greatest concentration of good quality of sports facilities.

4 STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

4.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of relevant policies and priorities on pitches and outdoor sports facilities provision in East Cambridgeshire, including the impact of national strategies.

4.2 East Cambridgeshire District Council's Corporate Plan

The *East Cambridgeshire Corporate Plan 2019-23* (2019) sets out the Council's overall promises and commitments:

- The Housing promises include 'seeking developer contributions for open spaces and walking and cycling infrastructure'.
- The Social and Community Infrastructure promises include 'supporting improvements to sporting and leisure facilities'.

4.3 East Cambridgeshire Local Plan

The *East Cambridgeshire Local Plan*' (2015 sets out the vision, objectives spatial strategy and policies for the future development of the district. The following elements are of relevance:

4.3.1 Spatial vision

This includes a commitment that 'communities will have improved social, recreational, health and educational facilities'.

4.3.2 Strategic objectives

These include:

- 'Support and enhance the vitality and viability of town and village centres, as places for shopping, leisure and community activities'.
- 'Ensure a high quality of life by maintaining and delivering strategic and local infrastructure and facilities needed to support local communities'.

4.3.3 Policies

The policies of relevance to pitches and outdoor sports facilities are as follows:

- ***Policy COM3: Retaining Community Facilities:*** The policy states that 'proposals that would lead to the loss of non-commercial community facilities (existing sites or sites last used for this purpose) will only be permitted if:
 - It can be demonstrated there is a lack of community need for the facility, and that the building or site is not needed for any alternative community use – and in the case of open

space, that the site does not make an important contribution in amenity, visual or nature conservation terms; or

- Development would involve the provision of an equivalent or better replacement community facility (either on-site or in an appropriately accessible alternative location); or
 - Development would involve the provision of an alternative community facility which brings demonstrable greater benefits to the settlement or neighbourhood - except in the case of open space, sports and recreational facilities which should be retained where possible in accordance with paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework’.
- ***Policy COM4: New Community Facilities:*** The policy states that ‘proposals for new or improved community facilities should be located within settlement boundaries wherever possible. In exceptional circumstances facilities may be permitted in the countryside, where there is a lack of suitable and available land within settlements, or where a rural location is required. Proposals for all new or improved community facilities should:
 - Be well located and accessible to its catchment population (including by foot and cycle).
 - Not have a significant adverse impact (itself or cumulatively) in terms of the scale or nature of traffic generated.
 - Not have a significant adverse impact on the character of the locality, or the amenity of nearby properties.
 - Demonstrate that opportunities to maximise shared use have been explored; and
 - Be designed to facilitate future adaptation for alternative community uses or shared use’.
 - ***Policy COM5: Strategic green infrastructure:*** The policy states that ‘proposals which would cause loss of or harm to existing strategic green infrastructure will not be permitted, unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably and substantially outweigh any adverse impacts on the green infrastructure. The Council will support proposals for new and improved strategic green infrastructure where these:
 - Are consistent with the objectives of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011).
 - Provide increased public access for quiet recreation and/or increased provision for biodiversity.
 - Do not harm the character and appearance of any existing buildings or the locality.
 - Will have no adverse effects on any existing designated sites of conservation or biological importance and impacts will be monitored to ensure the effectiveness of alternative provision away from more sensitive sites.
 - Would not (by itself or cumulatively) have a significant adverse impact in terms of the amount or nature of traffic generated.

- Will not detract from residential amenity; and
- Will aim to achieve Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) through improving accessibility, naturalness and connectivity of greenspaces, which are appropriate in scale and location to the needs of the local community.

New development will be expected to contribute towards the establishment, enhancement and ongoing management of strategic green infrastructure by contributing to the development of strategic green infrastructure network within the district'.

4.4 East Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The 'East Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy' (2015) is currently being updated and the consultation draft contains the following material of relevance:

4.4.1 Priorities

The priorities for the period 2019 to 2021 are:

- 'Physical activity and healthy lifestyles'.
- 'Partnership working'.

4.4.2 Vision

The vision includes a recognition that:

- 'Open spaces are important for the health and well-being of local residents across the District'.
- 'Providing and supporting the development of local community facilities and parks and open spaces including leisure facilities to help ensure that local people have the appropriate infrastructure to support their social well-being'.

4.4.3 Actions

The actions include the following:

- Support continuing development and improvement of leisure facilities and programmes.
- Support community sports development programmes.
- Develop targeted programme-linkages to health sector (e.g. exercise referral, weight management, falls prevention).
- Engage with key partners including schools, sports bodies, community groups and health agencies to identify development needs and opportunities.

- Support development of informal everyday activities, such as local walks groups.
- Promote and support all existing opportunities to get active.
- Promote the benefits of physical activity.

4.5 Living Sport Strategic Plan

Living Sport is the county sports partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and its 'Strategic Plan 2017 - 2021' (2017) contains the following material of relevance:

4.5.1 Purpose

Living Sport's purpose is 'to inspire everyone to lead healthy lives by increasing and improving opportunities to be active and to participate in sport and physical activity'.

4.5.2 Priorities

The priorities are to increase and improve opportunities for:

- Older people's participation in sport and physical activity.
- Sport and physical activity participation by disabled people.
- Sport and physical activity amongst women and girls.
- Focused work to increase sport and physical activity participation in targeted areas of identified need.

4.6 The Government's Planning Policies

In July 2018, the Government published revisions to the 'National Planning Policy Framework' (2018), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policies of greatest relevance to pitch provision and retention are as follows:

- **Sustainable development:** 'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' and there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- **Promoting healthy and safe communities:** 'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:
 - Promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other - for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy

pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages.

- Are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion - for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs - for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.
- To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:
 - Plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.
 - Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
 - Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs.
 - Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community.
 - Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services?
- ***Open space and recreation:*** 'Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate?'
- '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.
 - 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.

- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use’.

The Government also issued *Planning Practice Guidance*’ in 2014 to support the 2013 version of the *National Planning Policy Framework*’ and it remains a current document. The following is of particular relevance to outdoor sports facilities:

- ***Open space, sport and recreation provision:*** ‘Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby’.
 - ‘Authorities and developers may refer to Sport England’s guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities’.
 - ‘Local planning authorities are required to consult Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields. Where there is no requirement to consult, local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility, the creation of a site for one or more playing pitches, artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility or a residential development of 300 dwellings or more’.
- ***Health and well-being:*** ‘Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making’.
 - ‘Development proposals should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to do’.
 - ‘Opportunities for healthy lifestyles must be considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity and promotes high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation)’.

4.7 The Government’s Sports Strategy

The Government’s sports strategy *‘Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation’* (2015) sets the context for a national policy shift. It contains the following material of relevance to pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire:

- The Strategy seeks to ‘redefine what success looks like in sport’ by concentrating on five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.
- The benefit of engaging those groups that typically do little or no activity is immense. Future funding will therefore focus on those people who tend not to take part in sport, including women and girls, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people.

4.8 Sport England Strategy

Sport England's strategy *'Towards an Active Nation'* (2016) contains a significant policy shift to encourage more currently inactive people to become active, with a relative move away from support for programmes aimed at existing participants. Elements of particular relevance to pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- More money and resources will be focused on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest.
- There will be greater investment in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life.
- Sport England will work with those parts of the sector that serve existing participants to help them identify ways in which they can become more sustainable and self-sufficient.

4.9 The implications for sports facilities provision

The implications of the key strategic influences on sports facilities provision in East Cambridgeshire are:

- **Local corporate priorities:** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role that sports facilities can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment. Corporate priorities also emphatically support the value of local facilities, both as a general principle and to underpin healthy lifestyles.
- **Planning policy:** Whilst local and national planning policy is supportive of the retention and provision of sports facilities, the current work on the Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy will provide a methodologically robust basis for determining current and future needs. Policy COM4 in the Local Plan emphasises the general importance of healthy and safe communities and providing universally accessible opportunities to access open space and recreation provision.
- **National sports policy shifts:** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for individual sports to ensure that their 'offer' is sufficiently relevant and attractive to engage a wider participation base, including people who are currently inactive. Recent innovations such as walking and small-sided versions of many sports might prove more attractive than the more traditional models.

5 BOWLS NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

5.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of outdoor bowls facilities in East Cambridgeshire. Outdoor bowls greens are defined as effectively flat, fine turf grassed areas, 40 yards x 40 yards, with regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter and ancillary facilities for changing and equipment storage.

5.2 Strategic context

5.2.1 National bowls strategy

Bowls England's strategic plan 2019 - 2023 is currently being finalised, but the following priorities emerged from consultation with members and stakeholders:

- To deliver a structure that supports bowlers, clubs and county associations.
- To develop the National Membership Register.
- To invest in member services.
- To develop stronger internal communication channels and share best practice.
- To raise the profile of the sport with external stakeholders.

5.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Outdoor sports facilities strategies in neighbouring districts identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council

The '*West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2015) identifies that there is a strong level of supply across West Suffolk, with a large concentration of bowls clubs in Bury St Edmunds. However, it notes that membership of many clubs is in decline and that some will become unsustainable in the future.

Fenland District Council

The '*Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2016) identifies that:

- In terms of provision, bowls in Fenland is well catered for with many small sized populations having good access to a bowling green of decent standard.
- Results from the consultation with the March and District League indicate that Fenland, much like the rest of the country, is facing a sharp decline in participation, is failing to attract younger players to the sport, is seeing an increase in the average age of its players and is failing to replace volunteers to run clubs and competitions.
- Clubs have identified better ancillary facilities might be a way of attracting people to their sport and keeping them there. As a result, several clubs from the area have submitted grant applications to refurbish or extend their ancillary facilities.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of bowls needs.

Huntingdonshire District Council

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of bowls needs.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of bowls needs.

5.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

Bowls facilities assessments in neighbouring areas identify declining membership and spare capacity, so demand from adjacent local authorities is unlikely to impact on provision in East Cambridgeshire.

5.3 Stakeholder consultation

5.3.1 Bowls England

Consultation with Bowls England's Operational Services Manager highlighted the following issues:

- Bowls England is currently working on a national facilities strategy.
- There are no identified facilities priorities in East Cambridgeshire.
- Haddenham BC and Isleham BC both received Lottery grants for pavilion improvements.
- The facilities at Bottisham BC, Fordham BC, Haddenham BC, Isleham BC and Littleport BC are all used for inter-county matches.
- Despite falling participation rates nationally, no bowls club in East Cambridgeshire has closed in the past ten years.
- There are clubs in the area that would like to improve their facilities, but are restricted by location as they cannot extend the current buildings, but could improve the internal layout but are unable to do so because of lack of funding.

5.3.2 Local bowls clubs

An electronic survey was circulated to all 14 clubs in East Cambridgeshire. The following clubs responded:

- Ely Beet Bowls Club.

- Isleham Bowls Club.
- Littleport Bowls Club.

The key findings were as follows:

- **Membership trends:** Isleham BC and Littleport BC have increased their respective memberships over the past five years, whilst Ely Beet BC has remained static.
- **Waiting list:** None of the clubs has a waiting list.
- **Displaced demand:** 96% of Isleham BC members, 90% of Littleport BC members and 100% of Ely Beet BC members live in East Cambridgeshire, so there is little evidence of displaced demand.
- **Ely Beet BC:** The club commented that a lack of funding and a shortage of volunteers are both currently problematic for it.
- **Littleport BC:** The club commented that ‘we would like to further expand/modernise our pavilion building/kitchen area. There is limited space for car parking’.

5.4 Quantity

The location of bowls greens with community use in East Cambridgeshire is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Bottisham Bowls Club	Downing Close, Bottisham CB25 9DD
Burwell Bowls Club	The Causeway, Burwell CB25 0DU
Chippenham Bowls Club	Chippenham Park, Chippenham CB7 5PR
City of Ely Bowls Club	Nutholt Lane, Ely CB7 4PL
Ely Beet Bowls Club	Lynn Road, Ely CB6 1DD
Fordham Bowls Club	Recreation Ground, Carter Street, Fordham CB7 5NG
Haddenham Bowls Club	Church Lane, Haddenham, CB6 3TB
Hiams Bowls Club	Putney Hill Road, Prickwillow CB7 4UU
Isleham Bowls Club	Vicarage Meadow, Jubilee Close, Isleham CB7 5RW
Littleport Bowls Club	Hempfield Place, Littleport CB6 1NP
Mitchell Lodge Bowls Club	Quarry Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck CB25 0LU
Soham Town Bowls Club	Fountains Lane, Soham CB7 5ED
Stretham Bowls Club	Short Road, Stretham CB6 3LS
Sutton British Legion BC	The Brook, Sutton CB6 2QQ

5.5 Quality

5.5.1 The criteria assessed for outdoor bowls greens

The quality of bowls greens was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities during the playing season. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The green:** The quality of the grass, flatness and regulation ditches.
- **Changing facilities:** The capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Disability access:** The extent of full disabled access to the facility, including the provision of access ramps, dedicated changing, toilets and car parking.
- **General access:** Parking, signage and proximity to public transport.

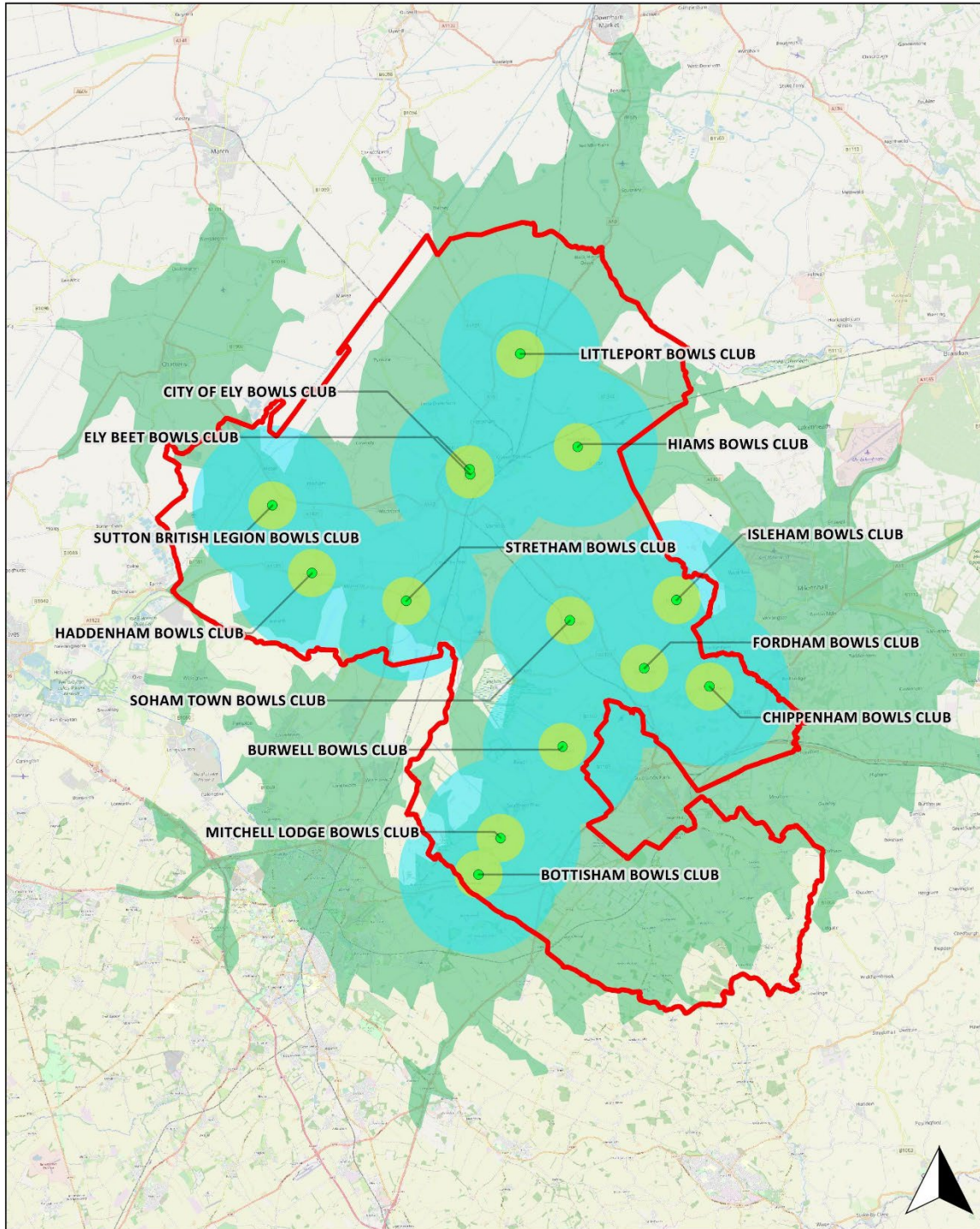
5.5.2 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’ (highlighted in green below), 4 to ‘good’ (also highlighted in green below), 3 to ‘average’ (highlighted in yellow below), 2 to ‘poor’ (highlighted in red below) and 1 to ‘very poor’. The ratings for the outdoor bowls greens in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>General access</i>
Bottisham Bowls Club	5	5	5	5
Burwell Bowls Club	3	3	2	4
Chippenham Bowls Club	5	4	3	4
City of Ely Bowls Club	5	5	5	5
Ely Beet Bowls Club	5	5	5	5
Fordham Bowls Club	5	5	5	5
Haddenham Bowls Club	5	5	4	3
Hiams Bowls Club	4	4	4	4
Isleham Bowls Club	5	5	4	4
Littleport Bowls Club	5	3	4	3
Mitchell Lodge Bowls Club	5	4	4	4
Soham Town Bowls Club	5	4	2	2
Stretham Bowls Club	5	4	4	4
Sutton British Legion Bowls Club	5	5	4	4

5.6 Accessibility

Based on Sport England research, the ‘effective catchment’ for bowls greens (defined as the time/distance travelled and the prevailing mode of transport used by up to 90% of facility users) is 15 minutes driving time. The map overleaf shows that apart from some sparsely populated areas around the margins of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15 minutes driving time of at least one bowling green.



	East Cambridgeshire	● Bowls Greens	 15 min drive time
	BOWLS GREENS	 15 min walk time	 East Cambridgeshire boundary
		 15 min cycle time	

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5.7 Availability

The table below identifies the basis of use of bowls greens in East Cambridgeshire:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Basis of use</i>
Bottisham Bowls Club	Membership only
Burwell Bowls Club	Membership only
Chippenham Bowls Club	Membership only
City of Ely Bowls Club	Membership only Introductory sessions for non-members
Ely Beet Bowls Club	Membership only
Fordham Bowls Club	Membership only
Haddenham Bowls Club	Membership only
Hiams Bowls Club	Membership only
Isleham Bowls Club	Membership only
Littleport Bowls Club	Membership only
Mitchell Lodge Bowls Club	Membership only
Soham Town Bowls Club	Membership only
Stretham Bowls Club	Membership only Introductory sessions for non-members
Sutton British Legion BC	Membership only

5.8 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are 14 bowls greens in East Cambridgeshire.
- The quality of facilities is generally good, but disabled access is rated as ‘poor’ at two sites.
- The whole population is within 15-minutes’ drive of the nearest outdoor bowls green.
- All facilities operate on a membership basis, although two clubs run introductory coaching sessions to attract new members.

5.9 Current demand for bowls facilities

5.9.1 Expressed demand

- **National demand:** Two separate national surveys have both identified the same trend:
 - **‘Active People’ survey:** Sport England’s survey recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for bowls at national level on an annual basis between 2005 and 2016. The results indicate that participation declined significantly over the period, with the number of regular (at least once a week) players falling by more than 98,000, from 309,800 in 2005 to 211,900 in 2016. This represents reductions of around 4% per annum.

- ***‘Active Lives’ survey:*** The survey superseded ‘Active People’ in 2016 and measured at national level the percentage of the adult population who played bowls at least twice in the preceding month. This showed statistically significant reductions from 0.8% in 2016 to 0.7 in 2018.
- ***Local demand:*** Whilst bowls participation has been in long-term decline at national level, the position in East Cambridgeshire is more positive, with no clubs folding over the past ten years, despite some reductions in membership numbers. All local clubs have significant spare capacity.

5.9.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of bowls greens from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. 98% of local bowls club members live in East Cambridgeshire, so there is little evidence of imported demand. A limited amount of demand is exported to clubs in Newmarket, although the *‘West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy’* (2015) identifies that there is ‘a strong level of supply’ in the area.

5.9.3 Unmet demand

Clubs in the district have indicated that they can accommodate new users/members, so facility capacity is not an issue. The whole district population is within the catchment of at least one outdoor green, so there is no unmet geographical demand.

5.10 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in East Cambridgeshire, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. As an activity appealing primarily to older age groups, bowls is likely to have some appeal to new and lapsed sports participants in an expanding proportion of the local population.

5.11 Future demand for bowls

5.11.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council’s planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *‘East Cambridgeshire Growth Study’* (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

5.11.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. National participation in bowls has declined significantly over the past decade, with the number of regular (at least once a week) players falling by more than 98,000, from 309,800 in 2005 to 211,900 in 2016, although the rate of decline locally has been more limited.

5.12 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Expressed demand for bowls in East Cambridgeshire has fallen in the past decade, but at an estimated rate of around 2% per annum, compared with the national reduction of around 4% per annum.
- Population growth of 16.1% in the district by 2036 is likely to increase the potential number of bowlers, although this needs to be set in the context of the likelihood of continued falls in participation rates in the sport in the future.

5.13 The balance between bowls supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between bowls green supply and demand in East Cambridgeshire:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough greens with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the greens fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the greens in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the greens available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

5.14 Quantity

5.14.1 Current needs

Current bowls facilities in East Cambridgeshire are assessed to be at operating with significant spare capacity, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used capacity:** Local clubs have indicated that there is significant spare capacity.
- **Satisfied demand:** There is no evidence of unmet demand in the district.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known current planned changes to bowls green supply.

5.14.2 Future needs

Spare capacity at the existing bowls facilities will be able to accommodate all additional future demand, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 14,400 by 2036. This will represent an increase of 16.1% over the 2014 mid-year estimate figure.

- **Participation trends:** Local bowls participation rates have been projected to continue to fall at around the current rate of 2% per annum until 2036 (an overall 30% decline from the current levels by the end of the period).
- **Additional outdoor bowls needs:** With a projected net loss in the number of bowlers, there is no need for additional provision to be made and it is possible that some clubs may become unsustainable in the period to 2036.

5.15 Quality

5.15.1 Current quality

Most aspects of the bowls facilities are rated as at least ‘average’, with the exception of disabled access at two sites and general access at one site.

5.15.2 Future quality

Unless there is a reduction in the number of clubs due to falling demand, all providers will need to continue to invest in maintaining and improving their facilities.

5.16 Accessibility

5.16.1 Current accessibility

All of the population is within 15-minutes’ drive of the nearest bowls green.

5.16.2 Future accessibility

If some clubs close due to falling demand, geographical accessibility to bowls clubs may reduce in the period to 2036.

5.17 Availability

5.17.1 Current availability

Usage arrangements are overwhelmingly through club membership, although limited sessions for non-members are run at two bowls clubs in the district. Club membership fees are however generally set at reasonable rates and clubs have available capacity to accommodate additional members.

5.17.2 Future availability

There is no indication at present that prevailing usage arrangements will change. Given the downward trends in participation levels however, it would be reasonable for any support for bowls facility enhancements (such as developer contributions or grants) to be conditional upon substantive initiatives to develop the participation base.

5.18 The options for securing bowls capacity

The options for securing bowls capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

5.18.1 Protect

Protecting existing bowls facilities through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility:

- Would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.
- Is the result of falling demand and a robust assessment demonstrates that the facility will not be required to meet the future needs of bowls or other sport and physical activity.

5.18.2 Provide

With spare capacity at existing greens there will be no need to provide additional facilities.

5.18.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing bowls facilities by:

- Ensuring that the greens and ancillary facilities receive regular maintenance and improvements, funded by developer contributions where appropriate.
- Strengthening the user base, for example by making the provision of access for non-members a condition of any developer contribution funding offered towards bowls facilities improvements.
- Improving disabled access at those facilities where it is currently rated as below ‘average’ quality.

5.19 Action Plan

5.19.1 Introduction

The tables below set out the action plan for bowls greens to guide the implementation of the strategy. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019* (2019).

5.19.2 Key strategic actions

Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Protection of existing bowls greens.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing bowls greens.	ECDC	-	-	High
Falling participation rates.	Encourage initiatives amongst clubs to increase their member base.	Bowls England	Clubs	-	High
Funding for future bowls greens’ needs.	Ensure that S106 contributions are collected from developers, with associated provisions to broaden the participation base.	ECDC	Developers	-	High

5.19.3 Site-specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Bottisham Bowls Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Burwell Bowls Club	'Poor' quality disabled access	Improve access to clubhouse and green	Burwell BC	-	£5,000	Medium
Chippenham Bowls Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
City of Ely Bowls Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Ely Beet Bowls Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Fordham Bowls Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Haddenham Bowls Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Hiams Bowls Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Isleham Bowls Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Littleport Bowls Club	Need to modernise clubhouse and catering facilities	Internal improvements to clubhouse and kitchen re-fit.	Littleport BC	-	£20,000	Medium
Mitchell Lodge Bowls Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Soham Town Bowls Club	'Poor' quality disabled and general access	Improve access to clubhouse and green	Soham Town BC	-	£5,000	Medium
Stretham Bowls Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Sutton British Legion BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-

6 TENNIS NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

6.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of tennis courts in East Cambridgeshire. Tennis courts are defined as specialist outdoor facilities with appropriate playing surface, line markings and nets for tennis. In addition, multi-use games areas (MUGAs) that include marked tennis courts and are used for playing tennis are noted separately.

6.2 Strategic context

6.2.1 National tennis strategy

The Lawn Tennis Association's strategic plan 2019 - 2023 'Tennis for Britain' (2019) contains the following priorities of relevance to East Cambridgeshire:

Vision:

Tennis opened up - tennis is for everyone. All ages, all backgrounds, all levels of fitness. Anyone can pick up a racket, anyone can be part of the tennis family.

Mission:

To grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.

Priorities:

- ***Visibility:*** Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ***Innovation:*** Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ***Investment:*** Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ***Accessibility:*** Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ***Engagement:*** Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ***Performance:*** Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ***Leadership:*** Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

6.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Outdoor sports facilities strategies in neighbouring districts identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council

The *West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy* (2015) identifies that:

- There is a relatively poor level of provision with only 29 courts across the two local authorities. This ensures a low (unfavourable) ratio of courts to residents, compared with neighbouring authorities.
- There is poor accessibility to tennis courts in West Suffolk, especially in Forest Heath where there are only two clubs available across the entire local authority. A strength of the tennis provision is the amount of pay per play or casual provision, which ties in with the LTA's objective of creating facilities with low barriers to entry and high flexibility.
- West Suffolk could consider the benefits of investing in the upgrading or reinstatement of tennis courts at local parks.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of tennis needs.

Huntingdonshire District Council

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of tennis needs.

Fenland District Council

The *Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy* (2016) identifies that:

- There is a relatively good level of provision with 37 courts across the study area. This ensures a good ratio of courts to residents, compared with neighbouring authorities.
- There is adequate access to facilities. This is especially the case for those participants who are prepared to pay memberships or pay and play at leisure centre courts.
- There is a short fall in free to use tennis courts. This could create a case to the LTA to invest in development initiatives around the main market towns to help increase the number of easily accessing facilities and reduce the barriers to entry of existing sites.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of tennis needs.

6.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

Tennis is embarking on an ambitious effort to attract new and lapsed participants and its programmes will be supported by strategic initiatives at county and local level to implement its strategy. Tennis facilities provision in the two neighbouring areas that have undertaken assessments

show contrasting positions in terms of court availability. Newmarket Tennis Club is close enough to East Cambridgeshire to offer some playing opportunities to residents.

6.3 Stakeholder consultation

6.3.1 Lawn Tennis Association

Consultation with the Lawn Tennis Association highlighted the following issues:

- ‘The LTA’s vision for tennis which has recently been introduced following a major consultative process. The vision is ‘Tennis Opened Up’ and the mission is to grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. Strategic initiatives at county and national level aim to support this’.
- ‘The only registered ‘Places to Play Tennis’ in East Cambridgeshire are the Soham, Ely and Burwell Tennis Clubs’.
- ‘The LTA a good relationship with Ely Tennis Club and feels that it could be developed to become a district hub. It has a dynamic committee, space to expand and a growing population within a 5-mile radius. Our experience is that a hub club is vital to provide a focus for tennis and to provide support for other clubs/players throughout winter. The LTA would be very supportive of initiatives here’.
- ‘Cambridgeshire as a whole lacks clubs of more than 4 courts and there is a need to develop hub clubs of sufficient size to support floodlit courts, coaches and other facilities such as a gym, cafe etc. Such clubs can then support the smaller surrounding rural clubs - especially during the winter when they can offer access to floodlit courts or even indoor facilities’.
- ‘Whilst the LTA maintains a dialogue with Ely TC and has some small-scale funding available to support both revenue and capital projects, the club has not come forward with any concrete plans at present. The LTA does not ignore smaller village clubs but these often prove less sustainable and very dependent on the dynamism of their committees’.
- ‘The LTA nationally does have funding for facilities development but it is in the form of interest free loans, not grants. It also favours development (particularly of indoor courts) in areas of high population density - well beyond that of anywhere in East Cambridgeshire. Tennis Cambridgeshire offers a service to clubs to assist them in obtaining third party grants. Ely TC has made use of this in the past’.
- ‘At national and county level there is a genuine desire to get more people playing tennis more often and to rid the game of any remaining elitist associations. Many clubs are open to pay and play - not just membership - and many also offer different forms of tennis adapted for those with disabilities’.
- ‘Our view would be that tennis in East Cambs would greatly benefit from the further development of Ely Tennis Club and that should be the focus of attention. My plan for Ely would be to:
 - Ensure all existing surfaces and surrounds are of good playing standard.
 - Floodlighting to all courts.

- Provide more courts if demand from the actions above show membership/play and play growth.
 - Consider other options including padel tennis and possibly some indoor facility’.
- ‘This can largely be driven by the club committee and county LTA but any local government support of any kind would be greatly appreciated. This may be in terms of planning, land availability etc. rather than funding which we appreciate is challenging in the current financial climate’.
- ‘Ely becoming a “hub” club for the area will help the game and provides a winter venue for more serious players’.
- ‘Our experience elsewhere in the county of clubs based in schools or using MUGAs has not generally been successful in growing the game or (in most cases) sustaining membership’.
- ‘Along with other old-established sports, tennis must work hard to grow the game. I think the strategy advanced by LTA centrally of ‘Tennis Opened Up’ is sound. Having a local centre of excellence open to all is vital to this’.
- ‘We have found that new courts provided randomly in amongst new housing developments do not work well. Far better to put in a MUGA there and to invest some \$106 money in enhancing the facilities at an existing tennis venue that can then provide more tennis support in terms of coaching, social facilities etc. This can be linked in with a requirement to offer pay and play to the local community’.
- ‘A huge amount of work connected to the vision “tennis opened up” is being undertaken currently which could enhance the accessibility of certain venues in E Cambs. The LTA is very active in helping park courts and clubs to make available spare court time. A free App called Rally can point to venues (clubs and parks) which have free court time. This can be linked to booking systems, payment portals and gate opening systems’.

6.3.2 Local tennis clubs

An electronic survey was circulated to the three clubs and one tennis academy in East Cambridgeshire that are affiliated to the LTA. In the absence of any response from Ely Tennis Club, the largest in the district, the conclusions are necessarily qualified. Soham Tennis Club and the 10is Academy responded and the key findings were as follows:

- **Membership trends:** Membership at adult and junior level has decreased at Soham TC over the past five years, but numbers have increased in the veterans age group. The 10is Academy has increased its membership over the same period.
- **Waiting list:** The Academy has a waiting list, which it attributes to a lack of court capacity. Soham TC has no waiting list.
- **Displaced demand:** 100% of Soham TC’s membership is drawn from East Cambridgeshire. 75% of the Academy’s members live in the district, so there is some evidence of displaced demand. It is also reasonable to assume that some demand is exported to Newmarket Tennis Club, but no data is available to verify that assumption.

- **Soham TC:** The Club stated that ‘finding new members is the main challenge. Membership has been broadly static in the 20s for years with long-standing existing members (who are getting older!’.
- **10is Academy:** The Academy stated that ‘there are plenty of tennis courts around (mainly at the village colleges) but they are not great to create a club (child protection and limited court space during daytime). The main deterrent though is the price charged by the schools. It either puts the price of the lessons far too high or stops us growing. I am looking for a piece of land to create my own club, a club that is for families. I am ready to invest but finding land with planning permission is a nightmare’.

6.4 Quantity

6.4.1 Specialist tennis courts

The location and number of specialist tennis courts with community use in East Cambridgeshire is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Burwell Village College	Buntings Path, Burwell CB25 0DD	3 tarmac
Chippenham Park courts	Parkside, Chippenham CB7 5PR	2 tarmac
Ely Beet Sports Club	Lynn Road, Ely CB6 1DD	1 tarmac
Ely Tennis Club	Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc., Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	2 tarmac (1 floodlit) 2 artificial grass (floodlit)
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	5 tarmac
Littleport Leisure Centre	Camel Road, Littleport CB6 1EW	3 tarmac
Lode Tennis Club	High Street, Lode CB25 9EN	1 tarmac
Reach tennis court	Burwell Road, Reach CB25 0JD	1 tarmac
Soham Tennis Club	Soham Village College, Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA	4 tarmac (2 floodlit)
Witchford Village College	Manor Road, Witchford CB6 2JA	5 tarmac

6.4.2 MUGAs used for tennis

In addition to the specialist tennis courts above, the following multi-use games areas are used for tennis in East Cambridgeshire is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	Artificial turf	65m x 40m	Yes
Brooklands Pavilion	The Brook, Sutton CB6 2QQ	Tarmac	40m x 20m	No
Burwell Recreation Ground	Hythe Lane, Burwell CB25 0EZ	Tarmac	40m x 40m	Yes
Burwell Sports Centre	Buntings Path, Burwell CB25 0DD	Artificial turf	40m x 30m	Yes
Coveney MUGA	School Lane, Coveney CB6 2DB	Tarmac	40m x 20m	No
Fordham Recn. Ground	Carter Street, Fordham CB7 5NG	Artificial turf	40m x 40m	Yes
Haddenham Recn. Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	Artificial turf	40m x 20m	Yes
Isleham Recreation Ground	Mill Street, Isleham CB7 5RY	Artificial turf	33m x 30m	Yes
Little Downham Recn. Grd.	School Lane, Little Downham CB6 2SY	Artificial turf	40m x 40m	Yes
Little Thetford Recn. Grd.	The Wytches, Little Thetford CB6 3HG	Tarmac	40m x 20m	Yes
Ross Peers Sports Centre	College Close, Soham CB7 5HP	Artificial turf	30m x 20m	Yes

Stretham Recreation Ground	Short Road, Stretham CB6 3LS	Artificial turf	40m x 30m	Yes
The Ellesmere Centre	Ley Road, Stetchworth CB8 9TS	Artificial turf	40m x 40m	Yes
Wicken Recreation Ground	Chapel Lane, Wicken CB7 5XZ	Tarmac	40m x 20m	No

6.5 Quality

6.5.1 The criteria assessed for outdoor courts

The quality of tennis courts was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The court:** Court surface, line markings and fitness for purpose.
- **Fencing:** Condition and appearance.
- **Disability access:** Provision for disabled access to the courts.
- **General access:** Parking, signage and proximity to public transport.
- **Lighting:** The quality, illumination levels and evenness of floodlights.

6.5.2 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good' (highlighted in green below), 4 to 'good' (also highlighted in green below), 3 to 'average' (highlighted in yellow below), 2 to 'poor' (highlighted in red below) and 1 to 'very poor' (also highlighted in red below).

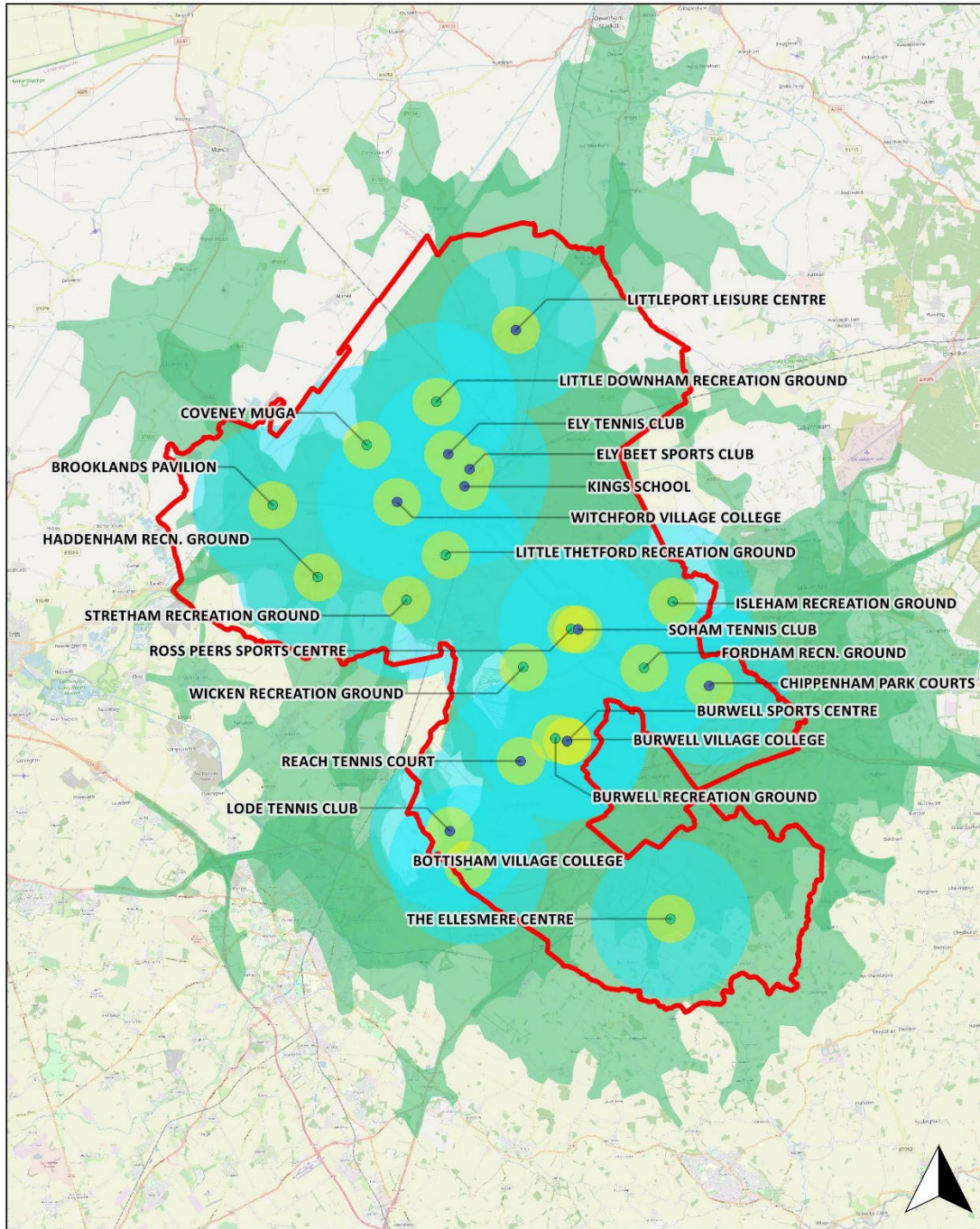
6.5.3 Tennis court assessment

The ratings for tennis courts in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Court</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>General access</i>	<i>Lighting</i>
Burwell Village College	4	4	4	4	-
Chippenham Park courts	5	5	3	3	-
Ely Beet Sports Club	4	4	3	4	-
Ely Tennis Club	5	5	4	4	5
Kings School, Ely	4	4	4	3	-
Littleport Leisure Centre	5	5	4	4	5
Lode Tennis Club	4	4	2	2	-
Reach tennis court	4	3	3	3	-
Soham Tennis Club	5	5	5	4	5
Witchford Village College	4	4	4	4	5

6.6 Accessibility

Based on Sport England research, the ‘effective catchment’ for tennis courts is 15 minutes driving time. The map below shows that apart from some sparsely populated areas around the margins of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15 minutes driving time of at least one tennis court and/or MUGA marked for tennis:



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6.7 Availability

The table below identifies the basis of use and cost of tennis court usage in East Cambridgeshire:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Basis of use</i>
Burwell Village College	£5 per court per hour casual hire (£6 with lights)	'Pay-and-play'
Chippenham Park courts	Club use £30 per year membership Free	Membership Casual use
Ely Beet Sports Club	Club use only £38 per year membership	Membership only
Ely Tennis Club	£130 per year adult membership £40 per year junior membership £10 per court per hour casual hire	Membership 'Pay-and-play'
Kings School, Ely	£4,000 per annum club lease	Club use only
Littleport Leisure Centre	£10 per court per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Lode Tennis Club	£20 per year adult membership £7.50 per year junior membership	Membership
Reach tennis court	Free to residents	Casual use
Soham Tennis Club	£75 per year adult membership £20 per year junior membership	Membership
Witchford Village College	£10 per court per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'

The table below shows the basis of use and cost of MUGAs marked for tennis in the district:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Basis of use</i>
Bottisham Village College	£8.10 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Brooklands Pavilion	Free	Casual use
Burwell Recreation Ground	£5 per hour casual hire (£6 with lights)	'Pay-and-play'
Burwell Village College	£5 per hour casual hire (£6 with lights)	'Pay-and-play'
Coveney MUGA	Free	Casual use
Fordham Recreation Ground	Free	Casual use
Haddenham Recreation Ground	£5 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Isleham Recreation Ground	£5 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Little Downham Recreation Ground	£4 per hour casual hire (£5 with lights)	'Pay-and-play'
Little Thetford Recreation Ground	Free	Casual use
Ross Peers Sports Centre	£10 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Stretham Recreation Ground	£10 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
The Ellesmere Centre	£8 per court per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Wicken Recreation Ground	Free	Casual use

6.8 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are 29 tennis courts with community access in East Cambridgeshire, plus a further 13 courts marked on multi-use games areas in the district.
- The quality of all courts is at least 'above average' although the disabled access and general access is rated as 'poor' at Lode Tennis Club.
- The whole population of the district is within the catchment of a tennis court.

- Whilst courts are well-distributed across the district, organisational infrastructure for coaching and development is limited to one or two sites.
- ‘Pay-and-play’ or unrestricted access is available at 23 (79.3%) of the tennis courts.
- Only five of the 29 courts in the district are floodlit (17.2%), which restricts play in the winter months.

6.9 Current demand for tennis courts

6.9.1 Expressed demand

- **National demand:** Two separate national surveys have both identified the same trend:
 - **‘Active People’ survey:** Sport England’s ‘Active People’ survey recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for tennis at national level on an annual basis since 2005. The results show that participation has declined significantly, with the number of regular (at least once a week) players falling by more than 59,000, from 457,200 in 2005 to 398,100 in 2016.
 - **‘Active Lives’ survey:** The survey superseded ‘Active People’ in 2016 and measured at national level the percentage of the adult population who played tennis at least twice in the preceding month. This showed statistically significant reductions from 2.0% of the population in 2016 to 1.7 in 2018.
- **Local demand:** At local level, tennis demand has been broadly stable in recent times, but all clubs have spare capacity to accommodate new members.

6.9.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of tennis courts from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. There is some evidence of limited imported demand for the 10is Academy, but most usage is more localised and involves East Cambridgeshire residents only. It is reasonable to assume that some demand is exported to Newmarket Tennis Club by virtue of its location, although no data is available to verify this assumption.

6.9.3 Unmet demand

There is no evidence of unmet demand in the district.

6.10 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in East Cambridgeshire, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. As an activity appealing to both genders and most age groups, tennis is likely to have some appeal to new and lapsed sports participants.

6.11 Future demand for tennis courts

6.11.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study'* (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

6.11.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Nationally, tennis participation has declined significantly over the past decade, with the number of regular (at least once a week) players falling around 0.8% per annum. Locally, demand has been stable.

6.12 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Contrary to national trends, demand for tennis courts in East Cambridgeshire is stable.
- Population growth of 16.1% in the district by 2036 is likely to increase the potential number of tennis players, although this needs to be set in the context of the likelihood of continued falls in participation rates in the sport in the future.

6.13 The balance between tennis court supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between tennis court supply and demand in East Cambridgeshire:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough courts with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the courts fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the courts in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the courts available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

6.14 Quantity

6.14.1 Current needs

Current tennis courts in East Cambridgeshire are assessed to be at operating with significant spare capacity, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used capacity:** All local providers have indicated that there is significant spare capacity at most courts.
- **Satisfied demand:** There is limited evidence of unmet demand in the district.

- **Changes in supply:** There are no known planned changes to tennis court supply.

6.14.2 Future needs

Spare capacity at the existing tennis courts should be able to accommodate all additional future demand, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 14,400 by 2036. This will represent an increase of 16.1% over the 2014 mid-year estimate figure.
- **Participation trends:** Local tennis participation rates have been projected to remain static until 2036.

6.15 Quality

6.15.1 Current quality

The quality of outdoor courts is generally at least 'average' although the disability and general access are 'poor' at Lode tennis court.

6.15.2 Future quality

All court providers will need to continue to invest in maintaining and improving their facilities, so if this process can be assisted with funding from developer contributions in the future, it seems reasonable to assume that local provision will continue to be upgraded regularly.

6.16 Accessibility

6.16.1 Current accessibility

All of the population is within 10-minutes' drive of the nearest tennis court.

6.16.2 Future accessibility

Providing locally accessible outdoor tennis courts within Multi-use Games Areas, as part of the housing developments would be consistent with meeting health and well-being objectives in the new developments.

6.17 Availability

6.17.1 Current availability

'Pay-and-play' or unrestricted tennis is available at 26 (81.3%) of the existing courts.

6.17.2 Future availability

It is reasonable to assume that a similar balance of access arrangements will be offered in the future and if developer contribution funding is offered to enhance the facilities at club sites, it could be conditional on the provision of ‘pay-and-play’ access.

6.18 The options for securing additional tennis court capacity

The options for securing existing and additional tennis court capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

6.18.1 Protect

Protecting existing tennis courts through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

6.18.2 Provide

With spare capacity at outdoor courts, all additional demand can be accommodated by current spare capacity, although there is a case for enhancing quality issues at existing sites with funding from developer contributions.

6.18.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing tennis court capacity by:

- Addressing the disabled access issues at the two sites where this is rated as ‘poor’.
- Ensuring that the courts and ancillary facilities receive regular maintenance and improvements, funded by developer contributions where appropriate.
- Considering the addition of floodlights at appropriate sites, particularly in conjunction with netball developments at shared use sites.
- Supporting the ‘Tennis Opened Up’ initiative, including the ‘Rally’ booking app and related court access systems.

6.19 Action Plan

6.19.1 Introduction

The tables below set out the action plan for tennis courts to guide the implementation of the strategy. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s ‘Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019’ (2019).

6.19.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
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Protection of existing tennis courts.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing tennis courts.	ECDC	-	-	High
Funding for future tennis court needs.	Ensure that S106 contributions are collected from developers.	ECDC	Developers	-	High

6.19.3 Site-specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Burwell Village College	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Chippenham Park courts	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Ely Beet Sports Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Ely Tennis Club	Based upon Cambs LTA aspirations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish as a 'Hub Club' • Floodlighting to all courts • Additional courts as demand increases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LTA to pursue dialogue with Ely TC • Provide extra floodlighting • Review the need for extra courts 	LTA	Ely TC	£15,000 for floodlights £80,000 for 2 extra courts	High
Kings School	No secured access	Negotiate a Community Use Agreement	ECDC	Kings School	-	Medium
Littleport Leisure Centre	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Lode Tennis Club	Poor disability and general access	Provide a tarmac path from the access point	Lode PC	-	£5,000	Medium
Reach tennis court	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Soham Tennis Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Witchford Village College	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-

7 NETBALL NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

7.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of netball courts in East Cambridgeshire. Netball courts are defined as specialist outdoor facilities with appropriate playing surface, line markings and posts for netball. The game is also played indoors in sports halls (although dimensions of 34.5m x 20m are required to accommodate a netball court and only The Hive sports hall complies with this. In all instances in the district, outdoor netball courts double as tennis courts and/or multi-use games areas (MUGAs), so demand from other sports also impacts upon the availability for netball.

7.2 Strategic context

7.2.1 National strategy

England Netball's strategic goals are as follows:

England Netball remains committed to its 10-1-1 mission and vision to

- Establish netball as a top ten participation sport.
- Make netball the first choice of team sport for women and girls.
- Achieve and maintain world number one status.

Its strategic goals are to:

- Grow participation by at least 10,000 participants per annum.
- Deliver a first-class member and participant experience.
- Establish England as the number one team by winning the World Championships.
- Lead an effective and progressive infrastructure.

7.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Outdoor sports facilities strategies in neighbouring districts identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council

The '*West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2015) identifies that:

- There is insufficient supply of both indoor and outdoor netball courts across West Suffolk. All regional matches are played in Ipswich due to the lack of high-quality supply.
- The main issue with quality is the lack of floodlights, which means leagues cannot utilise outdoor courts during the winter, therefore increasing the demand for indoor facilities.
- There is not currently a central venue in West Suffolk and there are minimal indoor courts across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of netball needs.

Huntingdonshire District Council

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of netball needs.

Fenland District Council

The 'Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy' (2016) does not include an assessment of netball needs.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of netball needs.

7.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

Most neighbouring areas have not assessed netball needs, but the one that has (West Suffolk) has identified some significant deficiencies.

7.3 Stakeholder consultation

7.3.1 England Netball

Consultation with England Netball's Netball Development Officer for Cambridgeshire highlighted the following issues:

- 'Bee Netball' is aimed at 5 to 11 year olds as an introduction to the sport, although there are no local opportunities in the East region whilst the scheme is piloted.
- Traditional 7-A-Side Netball Is played by over 180,000 women every week. All age ranges and levels of ability are catered for with traditional netball - from primary school children, to people playing in local leagues, plus returning players through to regional or premier league right up to elite international athletes - anyone can play the game at the level that suits them.
- 'Back to Netball' is aimed at lapsed participants and provides a gentle reintroduction to the sport. Courses in East Cambridgeshire are based at Witchford Village College and Littleport Leisure.
- Walking Netball has evolved from a growing demand for walking sports. Often, one of netball's strengths is that people never forget playing the sport and the memories as well as the love for the game never leave. Walking Netball is a slower version of the game - it is netball, but at a walking pace. The game has been designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level. Sessions in East Cambridgeshire are run at Ely College and Littleport Leisure Centre.

- Most competitive matches are played at central venues. There are no such facilities in East Cambridgeshire, with the county leagues based at Impington Village College, Milton Community Centre and Thomas Clarkson Academy in Wisbech.

7.3.2 Local netball clubs

A meeting was held with local netball clubs in May 2018 to discuss local facilities issues in the Ely area, which identified a shortage of suitable outdoor courts, indoor courts are either undersized or not marked for netball and matches have to be played outside the district.

- Witchford Village College has three floodlit outdoor courts and one indoor court, although the latter is not a full-sized court (27m x 18m). Netball clubs suggested expanding the current courts to up to four outdoor courts with floodlights, giving the College the opportunity to offer a netball hub (the potential would then exist for clubs to expand and weekly leagues could be run from the site).
- The Hive has a sports hall with suitable dimensions for netball, but no court markings. There are no outdoor courts at the site.
- The Paradise Centre has a 33m x 18m sports hall, which is too small to accommodate a full-sized netball court and no outdoor courts at the site.

An electronic survey was circulated to the netball clubs in East Cambridgeshire that are affiliated to England Netball. The following clubs responded:

- Ely Netball Club.
 - ‘We have increased membership so more players attend training sessions and cannot filter into the five teams we already have due to being full. We can only field five teams in the local Cambs District Netball Team for matches due to their capacity. We do not turn any player away from training and ideally a bigger facility would be wonderful?’
 - ‘Competitive matches are played at Impington, Milton or Netherhall through Cambs District Netball League (who currently have no facility at Impington College due to repairs). Ely Netball club members have to travel to/from matches on a weekly basis’.
 - ‘Indoor netball courts could be an asset in Ely. There is only one provided, at Paradise Sports Centre - which we use for our Walking Netball sessions. The Hive has a lovely indoor court but no provision for netball. It would be great to see the Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc. incorporate netball under their umbrella, but I believe space is a limiting factor. Netball has seen a national increase in people taking up the sport with plenty more opportunities through the success of the World Cup held in Liverpool in July 2019, the pending Commonwealth Games in 2022 (as we won Gold in 2018) - the interest is there. It would be good to be able to expand our club to more juniors but we hold off due to not being able to field them through to competitive competitions due to limitations on where and how many matches can be played’.
- Haddenham Netball Club

- ‘Haddenham Netball Club has 25 members, of which 18 play regularly in the winter league the remaining members play friendlies, mid-week matches and attend training’.
- ‘We use the MUGA, which we use for training once a week and we play mid-week matches and friendlies on there too. We play league matches away due to lack of facilities’.

7.4 Quantity

7.4.1 Netball courts

The location and number of netball courts with community use in East Cambridgeshire and used by clubs is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Ely College	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	2 tarmac
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	1 artificial turf
Littleport Leisure Centre	Camel Road, Littleport CB6 1EW	2 tarmac
Soham Village College	Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA	5 tarmac
Witchford Village College	Manor Road, Witchford CB6 2JA	3 tarmac

7.4.2 MUGAs marked for netball

In addition to the netball courts that are currently used by clubs in the district above, the following multi-use games areas are also marked for netball:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	Artificial turf	65m x 40m	Yes
Brooklands Pavilion	The Brook, Sutton CB6 2QQ	Tarmac	40m x 20m	No
Burwell Recreation Ground	Hythe Lane, Burwell CB25 0EZ	Tarmac	40m x 20m	Yes
Burwell Sports Centre	Buntings Path, Burwell CB25 0DD	Artificial turf	40m x 30m	Yes
Coveney MUGA	School Lane, Coveney CB6 2DB	Tarmac	40m x 20m	No
Fordham Recreation Ground	Carter Street, Fordham CB7 5NG	Artificial turf	40m x 40m	Yes
Haddenham Recn. Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	Artificial turf	40m x 20m	Yes
Isleham Recreation Ground	Mill Street, Isleham CB7 5RY	Artificial turf	33m x 30m	Yes
Little Downham Recn. Grd.	School Lane, Little Downham CB6 2SY	Artificial turf	40m x 40m	Yes
Little Thetford Recn. Grd.	The Wytches, Little Thetford CB6 3HG	Tarmac	40m x 20m	Yes
Ross Peers Sports Centre	College Close, Soham CB7 5HP	Artificial turf	30m x 20m	Yes
Stretham Recreation Ground	Short Road, Stretham CB6 3LS	Artificial turf	40m x 30m	Yes
The Ellesmere Centre	Ley Road, Stetchworth CB8 9TS	Artificial turf	40m x 40m	Yes
Wicken Recreation Ground	Chapel Lane, Wicken CB7 5XZ	Tarmac	40m x 20m	No

7.5 Quality

7.5.1 The criteria assessed for netball courts

The quality of netball courts was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The court:** Court surface, line markings and fitness for purpose.
- **Fencing:** Condition and appearance.
- **Disability access:** Provision for disabled access to the courts.
- **General access:** Parking, signage and proximity to public transport.
- **Lighting:** The quality, illumination levels and evenness of floodlights.

7.5.2 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’ (highlighted in green below), 4 to ‘good’ (also highlighted in green below), 3 to ‘average’ (highlighted in yellow below), 2 to ‘poor’ (highlighted in red below) and 1 to ‘very poor’ (also highlighted in red below).

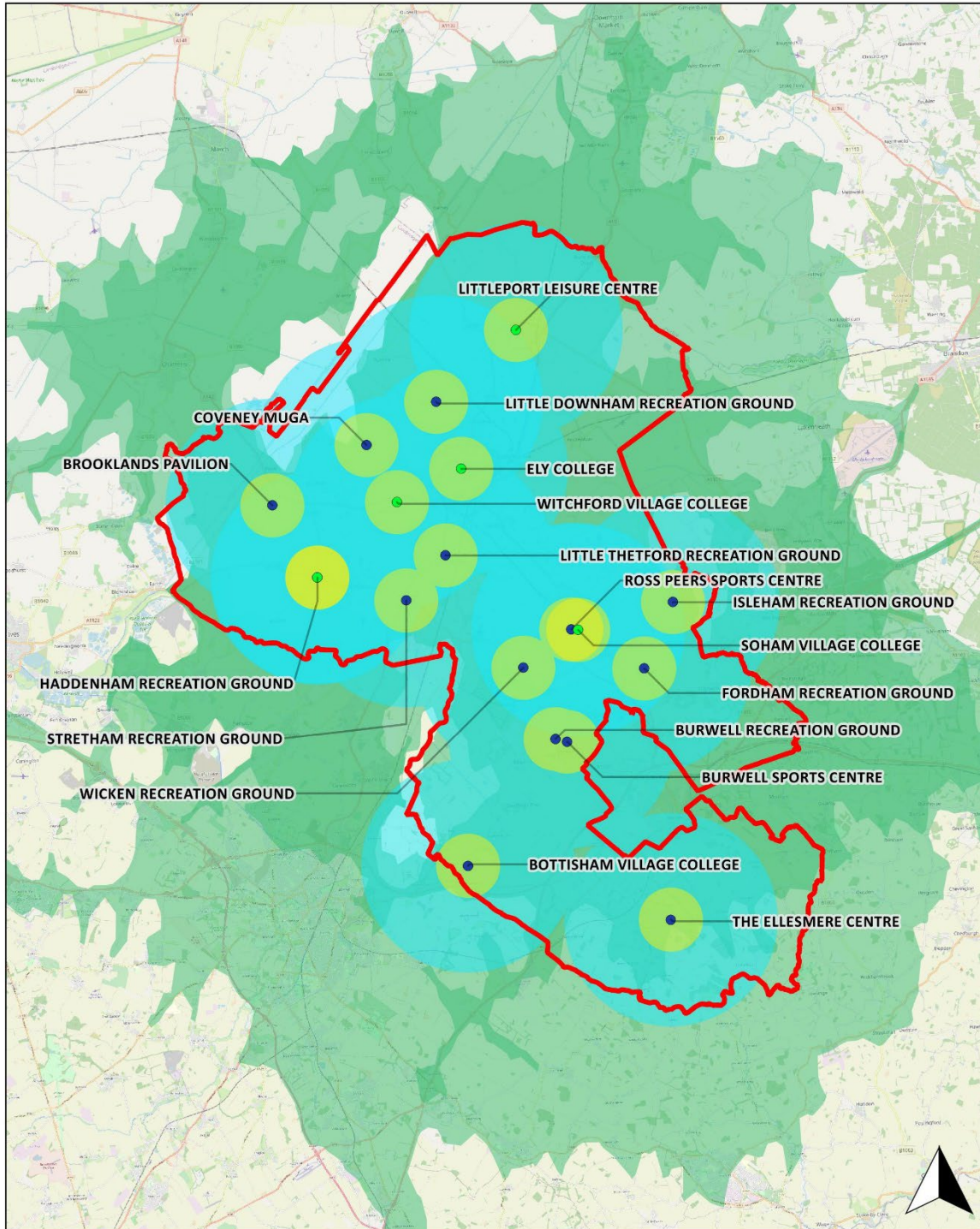
7.5.3 Netball court assessment

The ratings for netball courts used by clubs in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Court</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>General access</i>	<i>Lighting</i>
Ely College	4	4	4	4	4
Haddenham Recreation Ground	5	4	4	4	4
Littleport Leisure Centre	5	5	4	4	5
Soham Village College	5	5	5	4	5
Witchford Village College	4	4	4	4	5

7.6 Accessibility

The ‘effective catchment’ for netball courts is 20 minutes driving time. The map below shows that the whole population of the district is within the catchment of at least one court.



	East Cambridgeshire Netball Courts	 Netball Courts  Netball MUGAs  20 min walk time	 20 min cycle time  20 min drive time  East Cambridgeshire boundary
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Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2019

7.7 Availability

The table below identifies the basis of use and cost of netball court usage in East Cambridgeshire:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Ely College	£10 per hour
Haddenham Recreation Ground	£5 per hour
Littleport Leisure Centre	£10 per hour
Soham Village College	£8 per hour
Witchford Village College	£10 per hour

7.8 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are 13 netball courts that are currently used by local clubs in East Cambridgeshire. In addition, there are a further 19 courts marked on multi-use games areas.
- There are no sites with the four floodlit outdoor courts that are required to host a central venue league, so all clubs in the district currently play matches at sites outside East Cambridgeshire.
- Only one sports hall in the district (at The Hive) has dimensions suitable for indoor netball and the facility is not marked with a netball court.
- The quality of all outdoor courts is ‘above average’ or better.
- The whole population of the district is within the catchment of a netball court.
- 10 of the 13 the courts in the district are floodlit, which facilitates play in the winter months.

7.9 Current demand for netball courts

7.9.1 Expressed demand

- **National demand:** Sport England's ‘Active Lives’ survey identified that more than 286,000 people played netball at least twice in the preceding 28 days. The survey revealed that 180,200 people aged 16 and over, took to the court at least once a week, an increase of 25,400 (16.4%) on the same period the previous year and a rise of 68,500 (61.3%) since 2006. England Netball 103,000 members of the governing body for the 2016-17 season, a 3.42% increase in members on the previous year. ‘Back to Netball’ schemes have seen more than 60,000 people return to the sport since their introduction in 2009
- **Local demand:** Current netball clubs in East Cambridgeshire and the courts where they train are as follows. Courts outside the district are shown in italics:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Burwell Netball Club	<i>Newmarket Leisure Centre</i>
City of Ely Netball Club	Witchford Village College
Ely Netball Club	Ely College Witchford Village College
Haddenham Netball Club	Haddenham MUGA
Little Thetford Netball Club	Little Thetford Recreation Ground
Littleport Falcons Netball Club	Littleport Leisure Centre
Stretham Netball Club	Soham Village College

7.9.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of netball courts from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. There is some evidence of exported demand:

- All clubs play league matches at central venue sites outside East Cambridgeshire (Impington, Milton and Wisbech).
- Burwell Netball Club trains at courts at Newmarket Leisure Centre.

7.9.3 Unmet demand

The City of Ely Netball Club has a waiting list for its junior section. Other clubs also cite the lack of available court capacity as limiting the potential to attract additional members.

7.10 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in East Cambridgeshire, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. As a sport with versions of the game appealing to most age groups, netball is likely to have some appeal to new and lapsed sports participants.

7.11 Future demand for netball courts

7.11.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study'* (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

7.11.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Netball participation has increased significantly over the past decade, with the number of regular (at least once a week) players rising by 68,500, from 111,700 in 2005 to 180,200 in 2016. This represents a 61% increase (or just over 5% per annum).

7.11.3 Future projections

Given the recent growth in participation and continued netball development initiatives, it would be reasonable to assume further growth in demand to 2036. In addition, population growth of 16.1% will further increase demand for netball court capacity.

7.12 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Demand for netball nationally has been increasing at more than 5% per annum for the past decade.
- Population growth of 16.1% in East Cambridgeshire by 2036 will further increase demand for netball court capacity.

7.13 The balance between netball court supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between netball court supply and demand in East Cambridgeshire:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough courts with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the courts fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the courts in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the courts available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

7.14 Quantity

7.14.1 Current needs

Current netball courts in East Cambridgeshire are assessed not to be meeting current needs, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used capacity:** Whilst all local courts have some spare capacity, many also double as tennis courts and/or multi-use games areas so demand from other sports has to be accommodated.
- **Satisfied demand:** There is substantial evidence of unmet demand in the district, with no site capable of hosting a central venue league.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known planned changes to netball court supply.

7.14.2 Future needs

Spare capacity at the existing netball courts should be able to accommodate all additional future demand, based upon the following evaluation:

- ***Demand increases:*** The district's population is projected to increase by 14,400 by 2036. This will represent an increase of 16.1% over the 2014 mid-year estimate figure.
- ***Participation trends:*** Based on national trends, local netball participation rates have been projected to increase by 6% per annum until 2036.

7.15 Quality

7.15.1 Current quality

The quality of outdoor courts is generally 'above average'.

7.15.2 Future quality

All court providers will need to continue to invest in maintaining and improving their facilities, so if this process can be assisted with funding from developer contributions in the future, it seems reasonable to assume that local provision will continue to be upgraded regularly.

7.16 Accessibility

7.16.1 Current accessibility

All of the population is within 20-minutes' drive from the nearest netball court.

7.16.2 Future accessibility

Providing locally accessible netball courts as part of the housing developments would be consistent with meeting health and well-being objectives in the new developments.

7.17 Availability

7.17.1 Current availability

All existing courts are available for hire at reasonable rates.

7.17.2 Future availability

It is reasonable to assume that similar access arrangements will be offered in the future.

7.18 The options for securing additional netball court capacity

The options for securing existing and additional netball court capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

7.18.1 Protect

Protecting existing netball courts through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

7.18.2 Provide

Providing a four-court facility with floodlights would allow a central venue league to be hosted within the district and also create additional training capacity.

7.18.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing netball court capacity by:

- Ensuring that the courts and ancillary facilities receive regular maintenance and improvements, funded by developer contributions where appropriate.
- Considering the addition of floodlights at appropriate sites, particularly in conjunction with tennis developments at shared use sites.

7.19 Action Plan

7.19.1 Introduction

The tables below set out the action plan for netball courts to guide the implementation of the strategy. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019*' (2019).

7.19.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Protection of existing netball courts.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing netball courts.	ECDC	-	-	High
Funding for future netball court needs.	Ensure that S106 contributions are collected from developers.	ECDC	Developers	-	High
Need for a floodlit 4-court central league venue	Add one floodlit court at Witchford Village College	Witchford VC	ECDC	£155,000	High

7.19.3 Site-specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Ely College	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Haddenham Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Littleport Leisure Centre	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Soham Village College	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
The Hive	No netball court marked in the sports hall at The Hive	Mark netball court in sports hall	Better	ECDC	£1,000	High

Witchford Village College	Develop extra court capacity to host a central venue league	Add one floodlit court	Witchford VC	ECDC	£155,000	High
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8 ATHLETICS NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

8.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of athletics facilities in East Cambridgeshire.

- Athletics tracks are defined as 400m synthetic surfaced tracks with full field events provision.
- Athletics training facilities comprise either Club Training Venues or Compact Athletics Facilities, both of which are flexible in terms of the precise composition of facilities.

8.2 Strategic context

8.2.1 National strategy

England Athletics' *Facilities Strategy 2018 - 2025* contains the following material of relevance:

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

England Athletics has adopted UK Athletics' Hierarchy of Facilities. This includes **Compact Athletics Facilities** - 'a new generation of affordable and sustainable satellite athletics facilities that provide a stepping-stone into Club Venues'.

- England Athletics is aware that athletics facilities have traditionally been built to a very rigid design (a 400m oval with 6-8 lanes with a natural turf infield). With the challenges faced by public sector bodies, a key driver of this strategy is to 'break the mould' and give clubs, operators and investors the ability to innovate and develop a new generation of athletics facilities that are both inspiring and viable. Not all clubs/athletes need a 400m oval track. The fundamentals of run, jump, throw can be taught on scaled down facilities that are much more appropriate and attractive for beginners/younger users and cost much less to build and maintain'.
- 'England Athletics has adopted UKA's strategic position to concentrate on preserving and improving the existing stock of 400m tracks rather than seeking to build additional ones. However, there are areas in the country where journey time to the nearest full-size outdoor track is greater than ideal and there are places where good coaching has created significant demand despite the lack of a local athletics facility. The Compact Athletics concept is intended to fill this gap, providing training facilities in places where there is insufficient demand, funding or land to accommodate a full-size track. A Compact Athletics facility can take a number of forms, but essentially provides a strip of synthetic track plus some capacity for jumps and throws, enabling core athletic skills to be taught, enjoyed and developed. It can then be linked into a wider network of athletics facilities using a 'hub and spoke' approach'.
- 'Priority will be given to developing compact athletics facilities at locations where there is proven demand, a base of athletics participation and a partnership that enables the facility to be maintained, managed and financially secure. It may, for example, be a useful, first stage enabling development for clubs that do not have access to a facility or for those seeking to establish a base for the sport in a town or community that is presently not served by a standard synthetic athletics track. Suitable locations might include primary/secondary schools to complement existing sport/play provision. As additions to existing sports and leisure facilities. Aligned to tracks developed for seasonal running, such as grass marked routes at

secondary schools. Compact facilities will mainly develop athletes up to the age of 16, so ideal locations will have a high under 16 population within 20 minutes’.

8.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Outdoor sports facilities strategies in neighbouring districts identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council

The ‘*West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy*’ (2015) identifies that:

- There are two athletics tracks in West Suffolk, one of which is available to the public.
- The West Suffolk arena track [in Bury St. Edmunds] is seen as a high-quality facility, which is suitable for all levels of amateur athletics.
- No latent demand has been identified as part of the assessment. The recommendation is therefore to maintain the current levels of supply.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of athletics needs.

Huntingdonshire District Council

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of athletics needs.

Fenland District Council

The ‘*Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy*’ (2016) does not include an assessment of athletics needs.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current outdoor sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of athletics needs.

8.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

- The England Athletics Facilities Strategy identifies Compact Athletics Facilities as an alternative to full-sized tracks in areas like East Cambridgeshire with no provision at present.
- Most neighbouring areas have not assessed athletics needs, but the one that has (West Suffolk) has identified that existing provision meets local needs.

8.3 Stakeholder consultation

Consultation with England Athletics’ Club Support Manager for Cambridgeshire highlighted the following issues:

- ‘England Athletics has no specific facilities priorities for East Cambridgeshire’.
- ‘Ely Runners are keen to identify a long-term training facility, to provide grass track facilities with toilets, changing facilities and floodlighting, to allow a permanent training base all year round’.

8.4 Demand

There are two local running clubs in East Cambridgeshire:

8.4.1 Ely Runners

- Ely Runners was formed in 1985 and has over 300 members. The club has Community Amateur Sports Club status.
- The club trains from the Paradise Sports Centre in Ely on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Sunday mornings. The evening sessions have varied daylight and dark programmes with options according to ability. They attract a typical attendance of 30-50 members.
- The club has a wide membership from Juniors to over 70 years of age. About a third are ladies. The club current activities are cross-country, trail running, road running, fell running, track racing, and race walking. Whilst the club caters for runners of all abilities, it has achieved many successes in national, regional, open, championship, relay and league events.

8.4.2 Village Runners Ely

- Village Runners provides training opportunities for runners in Wilburton, Stretham, Haddenham and Ely.
- Activities are based at Stretham School, Wilburton Cricket Pavilion and Ely Country Park.

In addition, weekly 5km Parkruns are organised in Littleport and (from November 2019) Soham.

8.5 Supply

8.5.1 Athletics tracks

There are no athletics tracks in East Cambridgeshire, the closest facilities are as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>
West Suffolk Athletics Arena	Beeton's Way, Bury St. Edmunds IP33 3TT
St. Ives Leisure Centre	Westwood Road, St. Ives PE27 6WU
Cambridge University Track	Wilberforce Road, Cambridge CB3 0EQ
Lynnsport	Greenpark Avenue, King's Lynn PE30 2NB

8.5.2 Compact Athletics Facilities

There are no Compact Athletics facilities in East Cambridgeshire or adjoining areas.

8.6 Quality

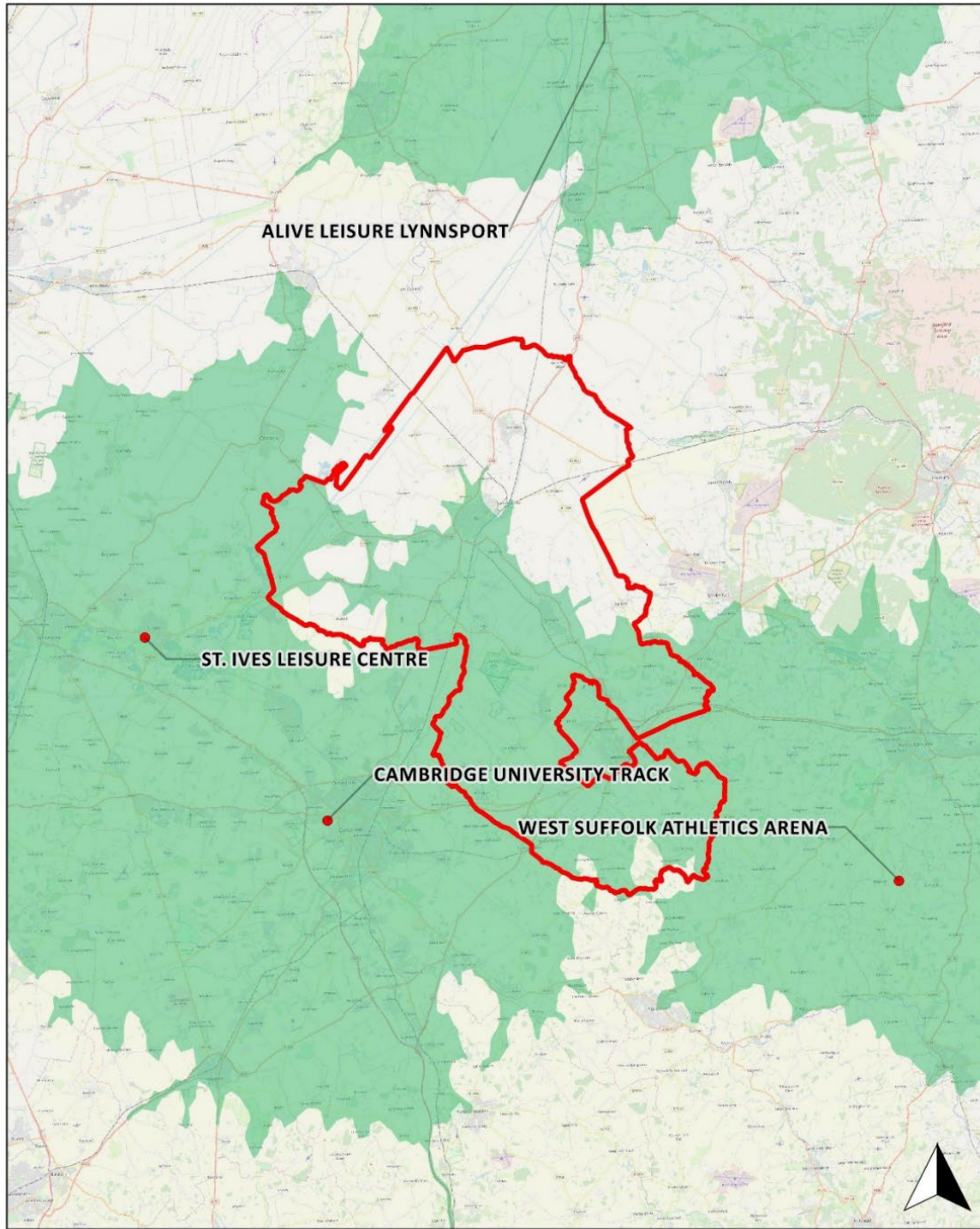
One measure of track quality is the standard of events accommodated. UK Athletics certifies tracks on this basis. Level 1 tracks can host local open meetings and leagues, whilst Level 2 tracks host area and county leagues and championship events. Tracks in adjoining areas rate as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Track certification</i>
West Suffolk Athletics Arena	Level 2

St. Ives Leisure Centre	Level 1
Cambridge University Track	Level 2
Lynnsport	Ungraded (no pole vault)

8.7 Accessibility

The ‘effective catchment’ for athletics tracks is 30 minutes driving time. The map below shows that the whole of the northern part of the district, including north Ely and Littleport, are outside the catchment of the nearest track:



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8.8 Availability

The table below identifies the basis of use and cost of athletics track usage at the closest facilities:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Cost</i>
West Suffolk Athletics Arena	£4.70 (adult) £3.70 (junior)
St. Ives Leisure Centre	£5.00 (adult) £3.50 (junior)
Cambridge University Track	£15 per month Track Pass
Lynnsport	£5.10 (adult) £3.60 (junior)

8.9 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are no athletics tracks or Compact Athletics Facilities in East Cambridgeshire, but there are four tracks in adjacent areas.
- The quality of all tracks in adjacent areas is variable, with St. Ives and Lynnsport certified only to accommodate local scale competitions.
- The whole of the northern part of the district, including north Ely and Littleport, are outside the catchment of the nearest track.
- The pricing levels at tracks in neighbouring areas are reasonable for most potential users.

8.10 Current demand for athletics facilities

8.10.1 Expressed demand

- **National demand:** Two separate national surveys have identified variable findings:
 - **England Athletics' 'Strategic Plan' (2017):** The plan states that 1,000,000 people were active in track and field in 2017 (at least once a month).
 - **'Active Lives' survey:** Sport England's survey measures at national level the percentage of the adult population who participated in track and field athletics at least twice in the preceding month. This showed statistically significant reductions from 0.6% of the population in 2016 to 0.5 (equivalent to 211,600 people) in 2018.
- **Local demand:** There is some local demand for track and field facilities.

8.10.2 Displaced demand

Any residents of East Cambridgeshire wanting to compete in track and field athletics currently have to do so at tracks outside the district.

8.10.3 Unmet demand

In the absence of any specialist facilities in the district, there is unmet demand for track and field facilities in East Cambridgeshire.

8.11 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in East Cambridgeshire, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. Whilst track and field athletics is a specialist sport, given the wide appeal of running and the availability of programmes such as ‘Couch to 5k’, there is some potential to attract new and lapsed participants to the sport.

8.12 Future demand for athletics facilities

8.12.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council’s planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The ‘*East Cambridgeshire Growth Study*’ (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

8.12.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Sport England’s ‘*Active Lives*’ survey showed statistically significant reductions from 0.6% of the adult population in 2016 to 0.5 (equivalent to 211,600 people) in 2018. However, this excludes under 16s, many of whom experience the sport in some form through PE programmes at school.

8.12.3 Future projections

Given the current slightly downward participation trend it would be reasonable to assume no increase in demand rated until 2036. However, population growth of 16.1% will further increase demand for athletics and provision.

8.13 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Sport England’s ‘Active Lives’ survey showed statistically significant reductions from 0.6% of the adult population in 2016 to 0.5 (equivalent to 211,600 people) in 2018.
- Population growth of 16.1% in East Cambridgeshire by 2036 will increase demand for athletics provision by a similar amount.

8.14 The balance between athletics facilities supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between athletics facilities supply and demand in East Cambridgeshire:

- **Quantity:** Is there enough provision with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Is the provision fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Is provision in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?

- **Availability:** Are the facilities available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

8.15 Quantity

8.15.1 Current needs

There is some evidence of a shortfall in current provision for track and field activities, based upon the following evaluation:

- **No current athletics facilities:** With no athletics tracks or Compact Athletics Facilities in East Cambridgeshire, there are no local opportunities for those who want to participate in track and field activities.
- **Unmet demand:** Ely Runners have indicated an aspiration to develop track and field activities, based upon their perceptions of local demand.

5.15.2 Future needs

Unless some provision is made to meet current needs, existing shortfalls in track and field provision will be further exacerbated in the future, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 14,400 by 2036. This will represent an increase of 16.1% over the 2014 mid-year estimate figure.
- **Participation trends:** Given the current slightly downward participation trend it would be reasonable to assume no increase in demand rated until 2036.

8.16 Quality

8.16.1 Current quality

The quality of all tracks in adjacent areas is variable, with St. Ives and Lynnsport certified only to accommodate local scale competitions.

8.16.2 Future quality

Tracks require periodic re-surfacing and therefore preserving the quality of provision in neighbouring areas will be dependent on on-going investment in the facilities.

8.17 Accessibility

8.17.1 Current accessibility

The whole of the northern part of the district, including north Ely and Littleport, are outside the catchment of the nearest track. This suggests a current accessibility deficiency.

8.17.2 Future accessibility

Unless some form of facility provision is made to meet local track and field needs, the accessibility deficiency will remain in the future.

8.18 Availability

8.18.1 Current availability

The user charges at athletics tracks in neighbouring areas are all set at reasonable rates.

8.18.2 Future availability

It is reasonable to assume that similar access arrangements will be offered in the future.

8.19 The options for securing additional athletics facilities capacity

The options for securing existing and additional athletics facilities provision to meet current and future needs are as follows:

8.19.1 Protect

There are no formal track and field facilities to protect at present.

8.19.2 Provide

Consideration should be given to providing a Compact Athletics Facility in the district, to address track and field needs.

8.19.3 Enhance

There are no formal track and field facilities to enhance at present.

8.20 Action Plan

The table below sets out the action plan for athletics facilities to guide the implementation of the strategy.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Lack of specialist athletics facilities in the district at present	Investigate the feasibility of providing a Compact Athletics Facility at a location in Ely	ECDC	England Athletics	£10,000 for feasibility study	High

9 MULTI-USE GAMES AREA NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

9.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of Multi-use Games Areas (MUGAs) in East Cambridgeshire. MUGAs are defined as outdoor facilities with all-weather playing surface, markings for a range of sports including basketball, five-a-side football, netball and tennis and full perimeter fencing. Some facilities are also floodlit.

9.2 Stakeholder consultation

Parish Councils are the principal providers of MUGAs and the parish councils' survey identified the following:

- **Soham Parish Council:** The Council noted that 'we have closed our MUGA due to continual vandalism. The area was also under-used and largely ignored by the community. It did nothing but cost Soham vast amounts of money to keep repairing it for no gain'.
- **Ashley Parish Council:** The Council noted that 'the population doesn't seem to support a full-sized team sport, despite having a large and flat playing field. Other than the play area, we have no facilities for small groups of young/teenage children to play informal sport on, other than a small goal post made from scaffolding poles. Ashley as a village would benefit from a multi-use all weather facility for use by children, teens and adults i.e. football/tennis'.

9.3 Quantity

The location of MUGAs in East Cambridgeshire is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	Artificial turf	65m x 40m	Yes
Brooklands Pavilion	The Brook, Sutton CB6 2QQ	Tarmac	40m x 20m	No
Burwell Recreation Ground	Hythe Lane, Burwell CB25 0EZ	Tarmac	40m x 40m	Yes
Burwell Sports Centre	Buntings Path, Burwell CB25 0DD	Artificial turf	40m x 30m	Yes
Coveney MUGA	School Lane, Coveney CB6 2DB	Tarmac	40m x 20m	No
Ely Beet Sports Club	Lynn Road, Ely CB6 1DD	Tarmac	40m x 20m	No
Ely Community Centre	High Barns, Ely CB7 4SB	Tarmac	15m x 10m	No
Ely St. John's Road Recn. Grd.	St. John's Road, Ely CB6 3SG	Tarmac	25m x 15m	No
Fordham Recn. Ground	Carter Street, Fordham CB7 5NG	Artificial turf	40m x 40m	Yes
Haddenham Recn. Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	Artificial turf	40m x 20m	Yes
Isleham Recreation Ground	Mill Street, Isleham CB7 5RY	Artificial turf	33m x 30m	Yes
Little Downham Recn. Grd.	School Lane, Little Downham CB6 2SY	Artificial turf	40m x 40m	Yes
Little Thetford Recn. Grd.	The Wytches, Little Thetford CB6 3HG	Tarmac	40m x 20m	Yes
Littleport Leisure Centre	Camel Road, Littleport CB6 1EW	Tarmac	40m x 40m	Yes
Ross Peers Sports Centre	College Close, Soham CB7 5HP	Artificial turf	30m x 20m	Yes
Stretham Recreation Ground	Short Road, Stretham CB6 3LS	Artificial turf	40m x 30m	Yes
The Ellesmere Centre	Ley Road, Stetchworth CB8 9TS	Artificial turf	40m x 40m	Yes
Wicken Recreation Ground	Chapel Lane, Wicken CB7 5XZ	Tarmac	40m x 20m	Yes

9.4 Quality

9.4.1 The criteria assessed for MUGAs

The quality of MUGAs was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The court:** Court surface, line markings and fitness for purpose.
- **Fencing:** Condition and appearance.
- **Disability access:** Provision for disabled access to the courts.
- **General access:** Parking, signage and proximity to the community served.
- **Lighting:** The quality, illumination levels and evenness of floodlights.

9.4.2 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’ (highlighted in green below), 4 to ‘good’ (also highlighted in green below), 3 to ‘average’ (highlighted in yellow below), 2 to ‘poor’ (highlighted in red below) and 1 to ‘very poor’ (also highlighted in red below).

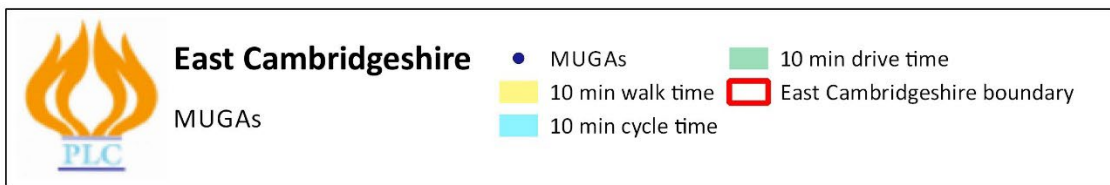
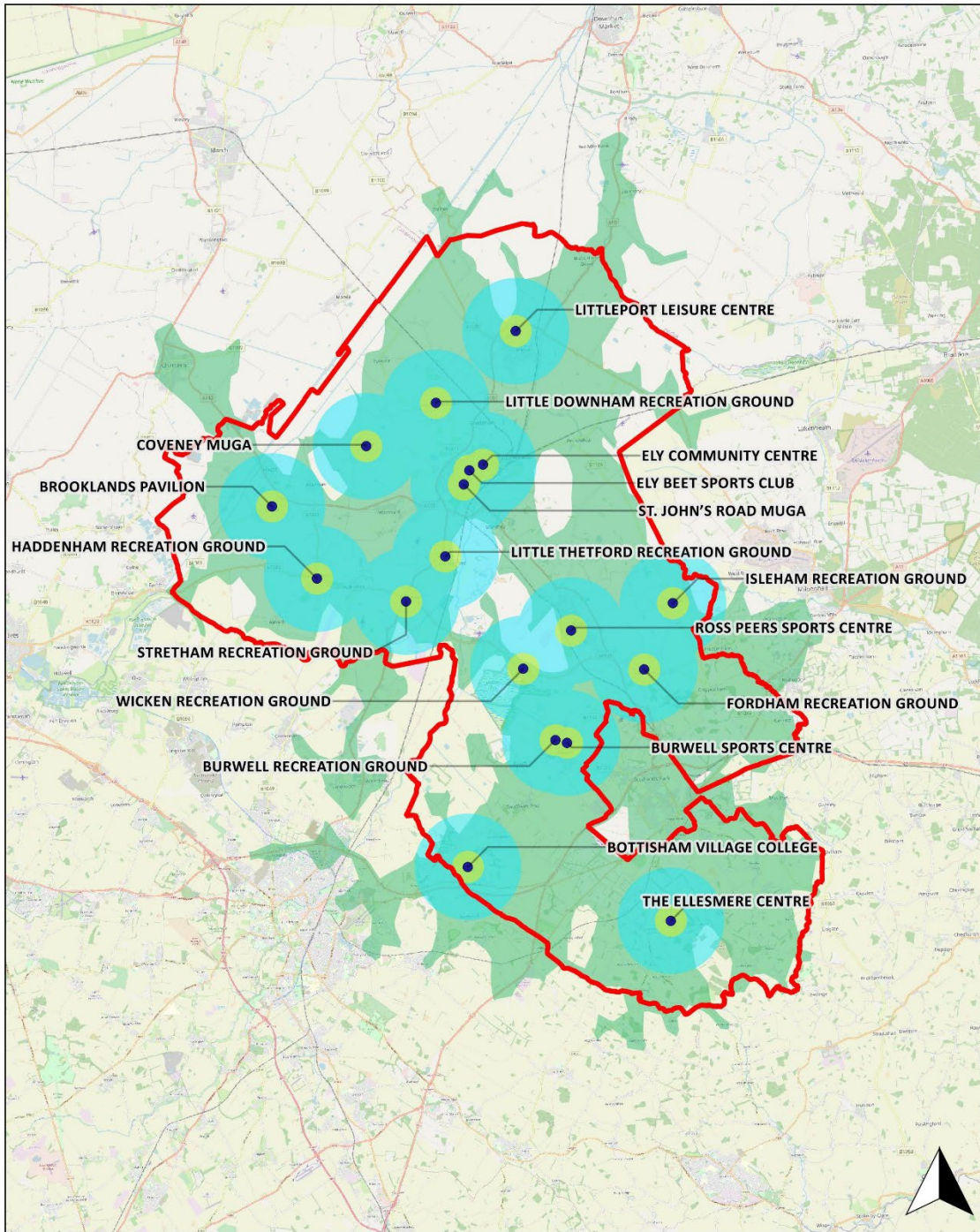
9.4.3 MUGA assessment

The ratings for MUGAs in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Court</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>General access</i>	<i>Lighting</i>
Bottisham Village College	4	4	4	4	4
Brooklands Pavilion	3	4	2	2	-
Burwell Recreation Ground	5	5	5	4	5
Burwell Village College	4	4	4	4	-
Coveney MUGA	3	4	2	2	-
Ely Beet Sports Club	3	4	4	4	-
Ely Community Centre MUGA	4	5	3	3	-
Ely St. John’s Road Recreation Ground	5	5	3	3	-
Fordham Recreation Ground	3	4	3	3	3
Haddenham Recreation Ground	5	4	4	4	4
Isleham Recreation Ground	5	4	2	2	4
Little Downham Recreation Ground	2	5	3	3	4
Little Thetford Recreation Ground	3	5	3	3	5
Littleport Leisure Centre	5	5	4	4	5
Ross Peers Sports Centre	5	5	4	4	-
Stretham Recreation Ground	5	5	3	3	5
The Ellesmere Centre	4	5	4	4	4
Wicken Recreation Ground	4	4	2	2	3

9.5 Accessibility

The ‘effective catchment’ for MUGAs is 10 minutes driving time. The map below shows that whilst most of the population of the district is within the catchment of at least one MUGA, there are some gaps in some of the sparsely populated rural areas.



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9.6 Availability

The table below identifies the basis of use and cost of MUGA usage in East Cambridgeshire:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Basis of use</i>
Bottisham Village College	£8.10 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Brooklands Pavilion	Free	Casual use
Burwell Recreation Ground	£5 per hour casual hire (£6 with lights)	'Pay-and-play'
Burwell Village College	£5 per hour casual hire (£6 with lights)	'Pay-and-play'
Coveney MUGA	Free	Casual use
Ely Beet Sports Club	Club use only £38 per year membership	Membership only
Ely Community Centre MUGA	Free	Casual use
Fordham Recreation Ground	Free	Casual use
Haddenham Recreation Ground	£5 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Isleham Recreation Ground	£5 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Little Downham Recreation Ground	£4 per hour casual hire (£5 with lights)	'Pay-and-play'
Little Thetford Recreation Ground	Free	Casual use
Littleport Leisure Centre	£10 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Ross Peers Sports Centre	£10 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
St. John's Road MUGA	Free	Casual use
Stretham Recreation Ground	£10 per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
The Ellesmere Centre	£8 per court per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play'
Wicken Recreation Ground	Free	Casual use

9.7 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are 18 MUGAs with community access in East Cambridgeshire.
- The quality of all MUGAs is generally 'average' or better, although the court surface of the MUGA at Little Downham Recreation Ground is rated as 'poor'.
- Whilst most of the population of the district is within the catchment of at least one MUGA, there are some gaps in some of the sparsely populated rural areas.
- 12 courts in the district are floodlit, which facilitates play in the winter months.

9.8 Current demand for MUGAs

9.9.1 Expressed demand

Several of the MUGAs in the district operate in a free access basis and therefore demand and use is 'unmetered'. However, the following estimated peak utilisation rates (evenings and weekends) relate to facilities where charges are levied:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Peak utilisation rate</i>
Burwell Recreation Ground	50%
Haddenham Recreation Ground	30%
Isleham Recreation Ground	25%

Little Downham Recreation Ground	10%
Littleport Leisure Centre	40%
Ross Peers Sports Centre	30%
Stretham Recreation Ground	45%
The Ellesmere Centre	30%

Little Downham Parish Council commented that their MUGA ‘used to be well used Monday - Friday, but teams have dwindled off over the years and there have been no regular booking this year. The Council would like to upgrade the floodlights to LED and when done will promote the area’.

9.9.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of MUGAs from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. There is no evidence of exported demand for MUGAs in East Cambridgeshire.

9.9.3 Unmet demand

Ashley Parish Council has identified unmet demand for a MUGA in the village.

9.9 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in East Cambridgeshire, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. As a facility that provides for a range of sports, including informal versions that are likely to appeal to young people, MUGAs represent a good opportunity to provide for a range of needs.

9.10 Future demand for MUGAs

9.11.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council’s planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The ‘*East Cambridgeshire Growth Study*’ (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

9.11.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Of the sports that make use of MUGAs, netball participation has increased over the past decade, whilst basketball, football and netball have all decreased.

9.11.3 Future projections

Given the recent trends in participation, it would be reasonable to assume static participation growth in the sports using MUGAs, with netball growth offset by further modest declines in the other sports. However, population growth of 16.1% will increase demand for MUGA capacity.

9.11 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- There is significant peak-time spare capacity at all MUGAs in the district for which usage figures are available.
- Population growth of 16.1% in East Cambridgeshire by 2036 will increase demand for MUGA capacity.

9.12 The balance between MUGA supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between MUGA supply and demand in East Cambridgeshire:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough MUGAs with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the MUGAs fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the MUGAs in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the MUGAs available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

9.13 Quantity

9.14.1 Current needs

Current MUGAs in East Cambridgeshire are assessed to be at operating with significant spare capacity, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used capacity:** All local providers have indicated that there is significant spare capacity at MUGAs where usage is metered.
- **Satisfied demand:** There is limited evidence of unmet demand in the district.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known planned changes to MUGA supply.

9.14.2 Future needs

Spare capacity at the existing MUGAs should be able to accommodate all additional future demand, based upon the following evaluation:

- ***Demand increases:*** The district's population is projected to increase by 14,400 by 2036. This will represent an increase of 16.1% over the 2014 mid-year estimate figure.
- ***Participation trends:*** Local participation rates in the sports that use MUGAs have been projected to remain static on a net basis across all the sports until 2036.

9.14 Quality

9.15.1 Current quality

The quality of MUGAs is generally 'average' or better, although the court surface at Little Downham Recreation Ground is rated as 'poor'.

9.15.2 Future quality

All MUGA providers will need to continue to invest in maintaining and improving their facilities, so if this process can be assisted with funding from developer contributions in the future, it seems reasonable to assume that local provision will continue to be upgraded regularly.

9.15 Accessibility

9.16.1 Current accessibility

Whilst most of the population of the district is within the catchment of at least one MUGA, there are some gaps in some of the sparsely populated rural areas.

9.16.2 Future accessibility

Providing locally accessible MUGAs as part of the housing developments would be consistent with meeting health and well-being objectives in the new developments.

9.16 Availability

9.17.1 Current availability

All existing MUGAs are available for hire at reasonable rates.

9.17.2 Future availability

It is reasonable to assume that similar access arrangements will be offered in the future.

9.17 The options for securing additional MUGA capacity

The options for securing existing and additional MUGA capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

9.18.1 Protect

Protecting existing MUGAs through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

9.18.2 Provide

With spare capacity at MUGAs, all additional demand can be accommodated by current capacity, although there is a case for making locally-accessible provision in any major new housing developments.

9.18.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing MUGA capacity by:

- Addressing the quality issues at the site where the court surface is rated as ‘poor’.
- Ensuring that the MUGAs and ancillary facilities receive regular maintenance and improvements, funded by developer contributions where appropriate.
- Adding floodlights at those MUGAs without lighting at present, to extend their hours of use in the winter months.

9.18 Action Plan

9.18.1 Introduction

The tables below set out the action plan for MUGAs to guide the implementation of the strategy. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019* (2019).

9.18.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Protection of existing MUGAs.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing MUGAs.	ECDC	-	-	High
Funding for future MUGAs.	Ensure that S106 contributions are collected from developers.	ECDC	Developers	-	High

9.18.3 Site-specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Bottisham Village College	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Brooklands Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Poor’ disabled and general access • No floodlighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a tarmac path from the access point • Provide floodlighting 	Sutton PC	-	£5,000 for path £10,000 for floodlights	Medium
Burwell Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Burwell Village College	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Coveney MUGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Poor' disabled and general access • No floodlighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a tarmac path from the access point • Provide floodlighting 	Coveney PC	-	£5,000 for path £10,000 for floodlights	Medium
Ely Beet Sports Club	No floodlighting	Provide floodlights	Ely Beet SC	-	£10,000	Medium
Ely Community Centre MUGA	No floodlighting	Provide floodlights	ECDC	-	£10,000	Medium
Fordham Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Haddenham Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Isleham Recreation Ground	'Poor' disabled and general access	Provide a tarmac path from the access point	Isleham PC	-	£5,000	Medium
Little Downham Recreation Ground	'Poor' quality court surface	Resurface the MUGA	Little Downham PC	-	£20,000	High
Little Thetford Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Littleport Leisure Centre	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Ross Peers Sports Centre	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
St. John's Road MUGA	No floodlighting	Provide floodlights	ECDC	-	£10,000	Medium
Stretham Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
The Ellesmere Centre	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Wicken Recreation Ground	'Poor' disabled and general access	Provide a tarmac path from the access point	Wicken PC	-	£5,000	Medium

10 INFORMAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND EXERCISE NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

10.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision for informal physical activity and exercise needs in East Cambridgeshire. It covers two different types of provision:

- Specific designated running, cycling and walking trails.
- Recreation grounds and public open space that accommodates informal physical activity.

10.2 Assessing the need for informal provision for physical activity

10.2.1 Introduction

The formalised supply and demand assessments of the *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance'* (2014) do not lend themselves well to identifying how best to address the need for informal provision for physical activity. In particular:

- Most of the 'supply' involves either non-specialist provision such as open spaces and public rights of way, whose primary functions are not to specifically to accommodate physical activity. It is difficult therefore to define 'capacity' in this context.
- Much of the 'demand' is 'unmetered' - there is very little detailed data on the usage of specific open space sites or rights of way.

10.2.2 Assessment methodology

The following approach has therefore been devised and applied to assess the need for informal provision for walking, cycling and running in East Cambridgeshire.

- Establishing the extent of designated running, cycling and walking trails providing local opportunities to undertake short, medium and long forms (15 minutes, 45 minutes and 90 minutes) of activity, on or off-road,
- Identifying what areas of open space are available within each parish in the district and the extent to which per capita levels of provision vary.
- Assessing gaps in provision.

10.3 Strategic context

General physical activity

Sport England defines and measures physical activity as follows. 'We measure activity based on the number of moderate intensity equivalent minutes whereby each 'moderate' minute of

activity counts as one minute and each 'vigorous' minute of activity counts as two moderate minutes.

Moderate activity is defined as activity where you raise your breathing rate, and vigorous activity is where you're out of breath or are sweating. Depending on the number of minutes of moderate intensity equivalent (MIE) physical activity, people are described as being:

- **Inactive:** Doing fewer than 30 minutes a week
- **Fairly active:** Doing 30-149 minutes a week
- **Active:** Doing at least 150 minutes a week.

Taking part in sport and physical activity is measured as the equivalent of 30 minutes' activity at least twice in the last 28 days. Each session must last at least 10 minutes and be of at least moderate intensity. An individual can reach the minimum threshold by a combination of two 30-minute sessions across the last 28 days or by six 10-minute sessions, for example. This is measured for all the following activities:

- Sporting activities
- Fitness activities
- Dance
- Cycling and walking for leisure
- Cycling and walking for travel.

Activity-specific strategies

Cycling: The relevant strategic priorities identified by British Cycling (2017) are as follows:

- A comprehensive network of accessible traffic-free multi-disciplined cycling facilities enabling the effective and safe delivery of cycling activities both at a participation and excellence level.
- Support for clubs and groups who wish to develop new, or improve existing, facilities and infrastructure.

Running: England Athletics' *Facilities Strategy 2018 - 2025* contains the following material of relevance:

The number of people running in England has grown by 67% in the last 10 years. Running does not require a specific facility, with the majority of participants making use of non-specialist (and largely free of charge) existing infrastructure, including roads, rights of way, parks and open spaces. More than 50% of runners always run alone.

- **Public parks:** 'England Athletics is of the opinion that activity that drives people to local parks and generates a variety of positive health and community benefits should be encouraged and that it is not appropriate to charge non-profit making voluntary groups that want to use parks for running.'
- **Marked running routes:** 'England Athletics owns two marked running route products - '3-2-1' and 'Greenline Urban Running Routes'. Existing 3-2-1 and Greenline routes will

remain, but no further investment will be made in the development of physical marked running routes in their current format’.

10.4 Stakeholder consultation

10.4.1 Running

Consultation with England Athletics established that there are affiliated and non-affiliated running groups in East Cambridgeshire in Ely and Wilburton, established through the 'Run Together' initiative with support and funding from England Athletics.

10.4.2 Walking

Consultation with the Rambler's Association highlighted the following issues:

- The Ramblers and Macmillan have hosted the national Walking for Health programme since 2012. Every week, local Walking for Health schemes run over 1,800 free, friendly, short group walks that reach approximately 20,200 individuals. A Walking for Health walk is organised in Ely every Tuesday afternoon. This is one of at least ten regular walking groups in the district, operating from eight different locations.
- The Ramblers place a high priority on enhancing, improving and protecting the paths, parks and other green spaces that millions of people rely upon for their regular dose of walking.
- The Parish Paths Partnership is a long-standing arrangement between Cambridgeshire County Council, District Councils and participating Parishes to work together to maintain, improve and promote the Public Rights of Way Network. Five parishes in the south of the district have (Ashley, Cheveley, Dullingham, Stetchworth and Woodditton) have publicised circular walks of various lengths which are not constrained by parish boundaries.

10.4.3 Cycling

Consultation with British Cycling highlighted the following issues:

- Dedicated cycling facilities provide safe, traffic-free environments for any cyclist of any ability to participate, train, compete and - most importantly - have fun whilst riding a bike. British Cycling is working closely with Sport England to develop a national network of new cycling facilities which meets local demand, making use of a £15 million investment programme called 'Places to Ride'.
- The funding is available to any organisation that is developing cycling activity in their community and can be used for anything from equipment packages to activate an existing local space, through to a brand new-cycling facility. The programme is open until January 2021.

10.5 Current supply

10.5.1 Walking

Designated walking routes in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

<i>Route</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Duration</i>
Bishop's Way Walk	Ely to Little Downham	3 miles	45 minutes
Cawdle Fen Way	Ely to Little Thetford	6 miles	90 minutes
Earthworks Way	Reach to Newmarket	4 miles	60 minutes
Ely Country Park	Cresswells Lane, Ely CB7 4PU	Bullrush Walk 1.5 miles Kingfisher Walk 2 miles	20 minutes 30 minutes
Ely Eel Trail	Ely	2 miles	30 minutes
Fen Rivers Way	Kings Lynn to Cambridge via Ely	48 miles	90+ minutes
Five Parish Partnership	South of the district	1-6 miles	15 - 90 minutes
Hereward Way	Oakham to Brandon via Ely	55 miles	90+ minutes
Quy Fen walks	Quy to Lode	5 miles	75 minutes
Rothschild Way	Wicken Fen to Woodwalton Fen	20 miles	90+ minutes
Wicken walks	Wicken	6 miles	90 minutes
Witchford walks	10 walks around Witchford	1-6 miles	15 - 90 minutes

10.5.2 Cycling

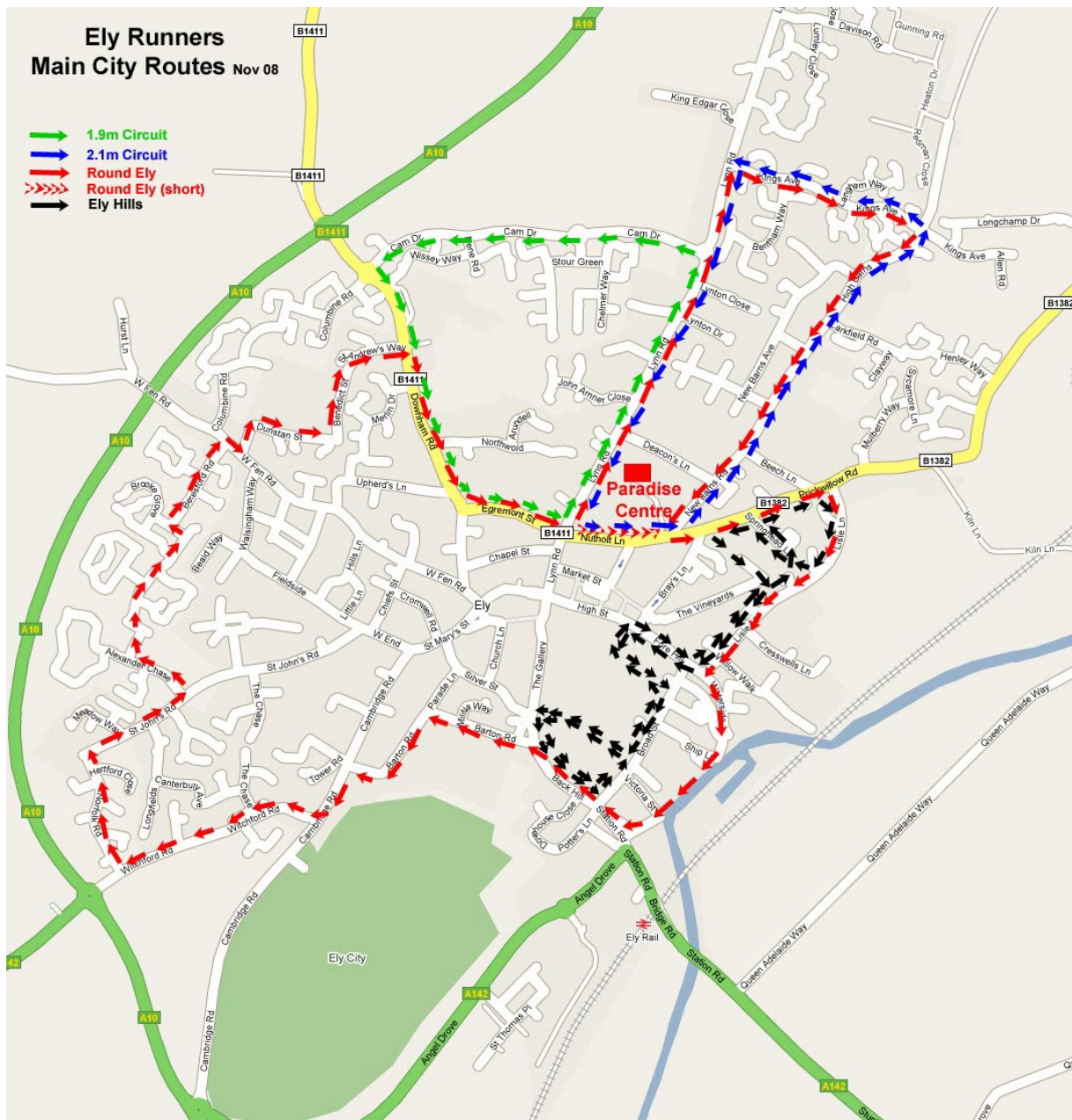
Designated cycling routes in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

<i>Route</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Duration</i>
Ely to Wicken Fen	Ely station to Wicken Fen	9 miles	60 minutes
Lodes Way	Wicken to Bottisham	9 miles	60 minutes
National Cycle Route 11	Swaffham Bulbeck to Little Downham	18 miles	90+ minutes
National Cycle Route 51	Bottisham to Burwell	5 miles	30 minutes

10.5.3 Running

There are no formally designated running routes in East Cambridgeshire, although informal routes in Ely are shown in the map overleaf. The route distances and durations are as follows:

<i>Route</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Duration</i>
Green circuit	1.9 miles	17 minutes
Blue circuit	2.1 miles	20 minutes
Round Ely (red)	5 miles	45 minutes
Round Ely Short (red-hatched)	3 miles	25 minutes
Ely Hills	2 miles	18 minutes



10.5.4 Open spaces

Recreation grounds and public open spaces of at least 2.0ha in size in each parish in East Cambridgeshire that accommodate exercise and physical activity are as follows. It is informed in part by a play and open space audit of the district, that was carried out in 2013-14, supplemented by a parish councils' survey conducted as part of the current study. The quality of recreation grounds and public open space for informal physical activity and exercise in terms of their attractiveness and ability to accommodate a range of activities was assessed. The ratings are based upon the presence/absence of the following elements:

- Outdoor gym equipment is installed.
- There are other formal sports facilities on the site.
- There are ancillary facilities like toilets and changing rooms.

- There is dedicated car parking.
- There are links to the wider public rights of way network.
- The site is well-located in relation to the population it serves.

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Score</i>
High Quality	Complies with all five or six of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Quality</i>
Ashley	Ashley Recreation Ground	High Street, Ashley CB8 9DY	2.25ha	4
Bottisham	-	-	-	-
Brinkley	-	-	-	-
Burrough Green	Burrough Green	Bradley Road, Burrough Green CB8 9NG	3.5ha	4
Burwell	Burwell Recreation Ground	Hythe Lane, Burwell CB25 0EZ	6.0ha	5
	Margaret Field	Heath Road, Burwell CB25 0BZ	2.2ha	2
Cheveley	Cheveley Recreation Ground	High Street, Cheveley CB8 9EP	3.0ha	3
Chippenham	-	-	-	-
Coveney and Wardy Hill	Coveney Village Green	School Lane, Coveney CB6 2DB	2.5ha	3
Dullingham	Dullingham Sports Field	Stetchworth Road, Dullingham CB8 9XD	2.25ha	3
Ely	Ely Country Park	Cresswell's Lane, Ely CB7 4PU	62.0ha	4
	Paradise Recreation Ground	Newnham Street, Ely CB7 4PQ	4.5ha	5
Fordham	Fordham Recreation Ground	Carter Street, Fordham CB7 5NG	4.5ha	5
Haddenham	Haddenham Recn. Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	4.0ha	5
Isleham	Isleham Recreation Ground	Mill Street, Isleham CB7 5RY	7.0ha	5
Kennett	Kennett Recreation Ground	Station Road, Kennett CB8 7QF	3.0ha	5
Kirtling and Upend	-	-	-	-
Little Downham and Pymoor	Little Downham Recn. Ground	School Lane, Little Downham CB6 2SY	4.5ha	4
	Pymoor Social Club	Pymoor Lane, Pymoor CB6 2EE	2.0ha	4
Little Thetford	Little Thetford Recn. Ground	The Wytches, Little Thetford CB6 3HG	2.7ha	5
Littleport and Blackhorse Drove	Littleport Leisure Centre	Camel Road, Littleport CB6 1EW	14.0ha	5
Lode	Lode Playing Field	Station Road, Lode CB25 9EH	2.25ha	4
Mepal	Mepal Recreation Ground	Witcham Road, Mepal CB6 2YP	5.0ha	4
Soham	Angle Common	Mill Drove, Soham CB7 5JN	2.75ha	2
	East Fen Common	East Fen Common, Soham CB7 5JH	14.5ha	2
	Qua Fen Common	Qua Fen Common, Soham CB7 5DF	10.0ha	2
	Soham Recreation Ground	Fountain Lane, Soham CB7 5ED	3.0ha	3
Stetchworth	The Ellesmere Centre	Ley Road, Stetchworth CB8 9TS	3.5ha	5
Stretham	Stretham Recreation Ground	Short Road, Stretham CB6 3LS	4.0ha	4
Sutton	Brooklands Pavilion	The Brook, Sutton CB6 2QQ	3.0ha	5
Swaffham Bulbeck	Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Grd.	Station Rd., Swaffham Bulbeck CB25 0HP	2.2ha	4
	Swaffham Prior Recn. Ground	Station Rd., Swaffham Prior CB25 0LG	3.0ha	2
Westley Waterless	-	-	-	-

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Quality</i>
Wicken	Wicken Recreation Ground	Chapel Lane, Wicken CB7 5XZ	2.0ha	4
Wilburton	Wilburton Recreation Ground	Station Road, Wilburton CB6 3RP	8.0ha	3
Witcham	Witcham Recreation Ground	High Street, Witcham CB6 2LQ	2.0ha	4
Witchford	Witchford Playing Field	Bedwell Hay Lane, Witchford CB6 2JN	2.5ha	4
Woodditton and Saxon Street	-	-	-	-

10.6 Accessibility

10.7.1 Activity space per capita

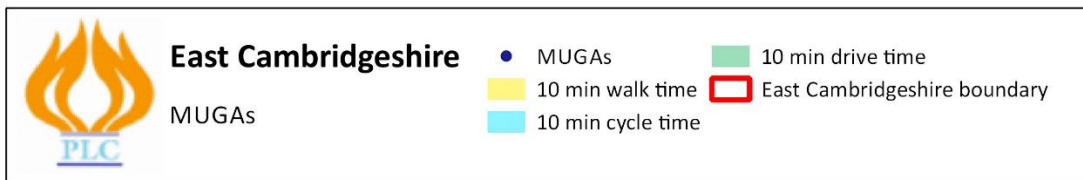
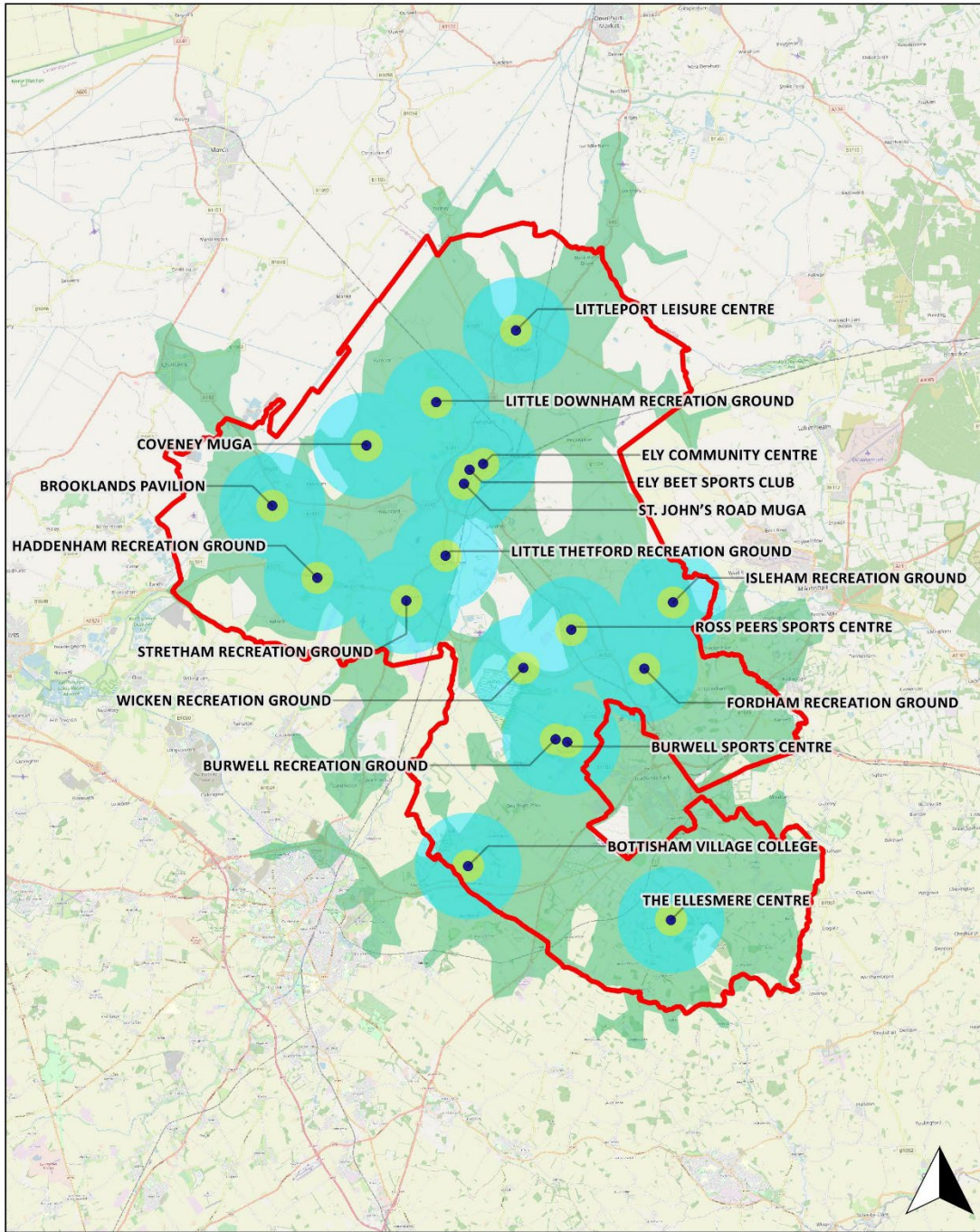
The activity space per capita in each parish is tabulated below, to highlight local variations and to compare with the Fields in Trust standard of 2.4ha of recreational greenspace per 1,000 people:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Space</i>	<i>Ha/'000 people</i>	<i>FiT Standard</i>
Ashley	707	2.25ha	3.18ha/'000	+0.55ha
Bottisham	2,199	-	0	-5.28ha
Brinkley	383	-	0	-0.92ha
Burrough Green	378	3.5ha	9.26ha/'000	+2.59ha
Burwell	6,667	8.2ha	1.23ha/'000	-7.80ha
Cheveley	1,990	3.0ha	1.51ha/'000	-1.78ha
Chippenham	519	-	0	-1.25ha
Coveney and Wardy Hill	424	2.5ha	5.90ha/'000	+1.48ha
Dullingham	767	2.25ha	2.93ha/'000	+0.41ha
Ely	20,312	66.5ha	3.25ha/'000	+17.75ha
Fordham	2,712	4.5ha	1.66ha/'000	-2.01ha
Haddenham	3,604	4.0ha	1.11ha/'000	-4.65ha
Isleham	2,378	7.0ha	2.94ha/'000	+1.29ha
Kennett	353	3.0ha	8.50ha/'000	+7.65ha
Kirtling and Upend	440	-	0	-1.06ha
Little Downham and Pymoor	3,050	6.5ha	2.13ha/'000	-0.82ha
Little Thetford	782	2.7ha	3.45ha/'000	+1.57ha
Littleport and Blackhorse Drove	8,738	14.0ha	1.60ha/'000	-6.97ha
Lode	913	2.25ha	2.46ha/'000	+0.06ha
Mepal	982	5.0ha	5.09ha/'000	+2.64ha
Soham	10,860	30.25ha	2.79ha/'000	+4.19ha
Stetchworth	681	3.5ha	5.12ha/'000	+1.97ha
Stretham	1,831	4.0ha	2.18ha/'000	-0.39ha
Sutton	3,952	3.0ha	0.76ha/'000	-6.48ha
Swaffham Bulbeck	1,667	5.2ha	3.12ha/'000	+1.2ha
Westley Waterless	132	-	0	-0.32ha
Wicken	839	2.0ha	2.38ha/'000	-0.02ha
Wilburton	1,348	8.0ha	5.93ha/'000	+4.76ha
Witcham	429	2.0ha	4.66ha/'000	+0.97ha

Witchford	2,385	2.5ha	1.05ha/'000	-3.22ha
Woodditton and Saxon Street	1,818	-	0	-4.36ha
TOTALS	85,240	197.6ha	2.32ha/'000	-6.98ha

10.7.2 Geographical distribution

The 'effective catchment' for recreation grounds and public open space for informal physical activity and exercise is 10 minutes driving time. The map overleaf shows that whilst most of the population of the district is within the catchment of at least one recreation ground or public open space, there are some gaps in some of the sparsely populated rural areas.



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10.7 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- In addition to the public rights of way network, there are 12 designated walking routes and four designated cycling routes in East Cambridgeshire.
- The whole population of the district is within easy reach of a designated route.
- There are 31 public open spaces of 2.0 hectares or larger, that can accommodate exercise and informal physical activity. Most sites are at least ‘average’ quality.
- The amount of exercise space per settlement varies widely and whilst Ely has more space per capita than the average for the district, a number of the other main settlements such as Burwell, Haddenham, Littleport, Sutton and Witchford have less space per capita than the districtwide figure, whilst Bottisham has no provision at all.
- When the amount of recreational open space in each parish and the district as a whole are compared with the Fields in Trust 2.4ha per 1,000 people standard, Ely and 14 parishes have levels of provision in excess of the standard, whilst 16 parishes and the district as a whole show a shortfall in relation to the standard. Burwell, Littleport and Bottisham have the largest deficits in provision on this basis.
- Whilst most of the population of the district is within the catchment of at least one recreation ground or public open space, there are some gaps in some of the sparsely populated rural areas.

10.8 Current demand

Because most informal physical activity in East Cambridgeshire is free of charge and therefore ‘unmetered’, assessments of local demand are based upon a combination of national participation figures and trends and local data from Sport England’s ‘Active Lives’ survey.

10.9.1 Running

England Athletics’ *‘Strategic Plan’* (2017) contains the following national participation statistics:

- 1,000,000 people were active in track and field in 2017 (at least once a month).
- More than 7,000,000 people went for a run at least once a year.
- Sport England’s ‘Active Lives’ survey (2018) shows that 15% of the adult population runs at least once a month. If this is translated into the context of East Cambridgeshire, there would be around 8,200 adults running at least monthly.

10.9.2 Cycling

The number of adults aged 16 and over cycling at least twice a month for leisure and sport nationally is around 6,170,000 people (16.3% of the population), and around 3,116,000 cycled for travel. Over 60% of the cycling for leisure and sport and about 70% of cycling for travel was by men. The rates of participation have fallen slightly since 2015. If this is translated into the context of East Cambridgeshire, there would be around 8,900 adults cycling at least monthly.

10.9.3 Walking

The number of adults walking for leisure at least twice a month in the period up to November 2018 was around 19,069,000 (61.9%) and the walking for travel figure was 14,914,500. Both have seen an increase since 2015. Slightly more women than men walk for both leisure and travel. If this is translated into the context of East Cambridgeshire, there would be around 33,850 people walking at least monthly. The Ramblers Association has published the following figures on walking for leisure:

- Around 63% of English adults walk for leisure at least once a year, and around 20 million people say they walk for leisure at least once a month (National Transport Survey (NTS), 2017).
- 38% of English adults have used a ‘strategic recreational route’ such as a National Trail or long-distance path in the past year (NTS 2017).
- Walking is the joint most popular activity (along with eating out) for people taking days out in England, and the most important reason for 18% of the 3.6 billion trips per year. It is the main activity on 36% of countryside and 33% of seaside visits (Natural England, 2016).
- Of 386.1million trips on the National Cycle Network per year, 191.4million, or around half, are on foot (Sustrans, 2018).
- A third of adults in Britain say walking for more than 10 minutes is their only form of exercise in a typical month (Office of National Statistics, 2016).

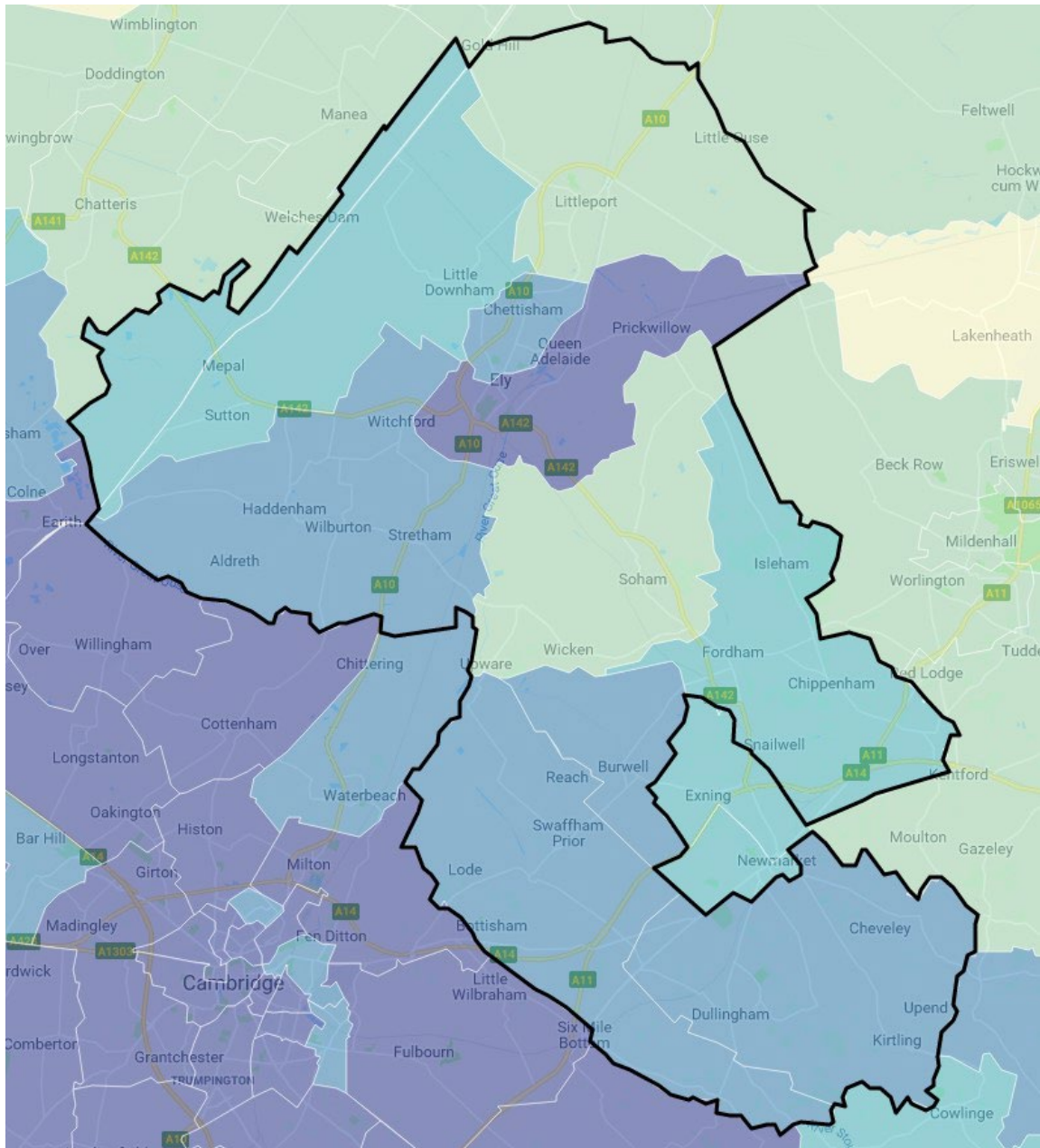
10.9.4 Physical activity

The key data for East Cambridgeshire, with county, regional and national comparators from the 2019 ‘Active People’ survey is set out below. The results show activity levels below the county average, but above the regional and national averages:

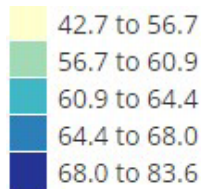
<i>Area</i>	<i>Active</i>	<i>Fairly active</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
East Cambs	63.3%	13.0%	23.7%
Cambs	64.7%	11.8%	23.5%
East	61.1%	13.3%	25.6%
England	62.6%	12.3%	25.1%

10.9.5 Geographical variations

Notwithstanding the district average figures, the 'Active Lives' survey data shows significant variations at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA), with the figures for those from Ely in the 'Active' category being relatively high and those in Littleport and Soham being relatively low.



Key: Percentage of the population who are physically active for 150+ minutes per week



10.9 Local sports participation priorities

The *East Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy* (2015) contains an action to ‘support development of informal everyday activities, such as local walks groups’. Running, walking and cycling trails and public open spaces provide a range of opportunities for informal and formal exercise and can have a major impact on supporting efforts to increase rates of physical activity.

10.10 Future demand

10.11.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council’s planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *East Cambridgeshire Growth Study* (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

10.11.2 Participation rates

Notwithstanding some year-on-year fluctuations, participation rates in running, walking, cycling and informal physical activity have shown sustained growth over the past decade.

10.11.3 Future projections

Given the recent trends in participation, it would be reasonable to assume that growth in demand for informal physical activity of 1% per annum will be achievable to 2036. In addition, population growth of 16.1% will increase demand for informal exercise and physical activity by a comparable amount.

10.11 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- National demand levels for informal exercise and physical activity are buoyant and local trends are likely to be consistent with this.
- Participation growth of 1% per annum and overall population growth of 16.1% in East Cambridgeshire by 2036 will increase demand by a similar amount.

10.12 Assessment of current provision

Two criteria have been assessed to evaluate the supply and demand balance for exercise and informal physical activity in East Cambridgeshire:

- **Quantity:** Is there enough provision with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Is there sufficient provision in each area for the users now and in the future?

10.13 Quantity

10.14.1 Current needs

Current provision of running, walking and cycling trails in East Cambridgeshire are assessed to be adequate to meet current needs, given that there is sufficient existing capacity to accommodate all demand.

However, the amount of publicly accessible exercise space per settlement varies widely and whilst Ely has more space per capita than the average for the district, a number of the other main settlements such as Burwell, Haddenham, Littleport, Sutton and Witchford have less space per capita than the districtwide figure, whilst Bottisham has no provision at all.

10.14.2 Future needs

Additional capacity will need to be provided to accommodate all additional future demand, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 14,400 by 2036. This will represent an increase of 16.1% over the 2014 mid-year estimate figure.
- **Participation trends:** Local participation rates are projected to increase by 1% per annum until 2036, equivalent to a further 16% increase.

Based upon the benchmark of the Fields in Trust standard of 2.4ha of exercise space per 1,000 people in East Cambridgeshire, with a multiplier to reflect a 16% increase in participation, a standard of 2.78ha of exercise space per 1,000 people can be applied to model future demand at parish level. It shows a shortfall in 22 out of 31 parishes.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Future population</i>	<i>Future space needs</i>	<i>Current space</i>	<i>Future surplus/deficit</i>
Ashley	821	2.28ha	2.25ha	+0.03ha
Bottisham	2,553	7.09ha	-	-7.09ha
Brinkley	445	1.24ha	-	-1.24ha
Burrough Green	439	1.22ha	3.5ha	+2.28ha
Burwell	7,740	21.52ha	8.2ha	-13.32ha
Cheveley	2,310	6.42ha	3.0ha	-3.42ha
Chippenham	603	1.68ha	-	-1.68ha
Coveney and Wardy Hill	492	1.37ha	2.5ha	+1.13ha
Dullingham	890	2.48ha	2.25ha	-0.23ha
Ely	23,582	65.56ha	66.5ha	+0.94ha
Fordham	3,151	8.76ha	4.5ha	-4.26ha
Haddenham	4,184	11.63ha	4.0ha	-7.63ha

Isleham	2,761	7.68ha	7.0ha	-0.68ha
Kennett	410	1.14ha	3.0ha	+1.86ha
Kirtling and Upend	511	1.42ha	-	-1.42ha
Little Downham and Pymoor	3,541	9.84ha	6.5ha	-3.34ha
Little Thetford	908	2.52ha	2.7ha	+0.18ha
Littleport and Blackhorse Drove	8,738	28.20ha	14.0ha	-14.20ha
Parish	Future population	<i>Future space needs</i>	<i>Current space</i>	<i>Future surplus/deficit</i>
Lode	1,060	2.95ha	2.25ha	-0.70ha
Mepal	1,140	3.17ha	5.0ha	+1.83ha
Soham	12,608	35.05ha	30.25ha	-4.80ha
Stetchworth	790	2.20ha	3.5ha	+1.30ha
Stretham	2,126	5.91ha	4.0ha	-1.91ha
Sutton	4,588	12.75ha	3.0ha	-9.75ha
Swaffham Bulbeck	1,935	5.38ha	5.2ha	-0.18ha
Westley Waterless	153	0.43ha	-	-0.43ha
Wicken	974	2.71ha	2.0ha	-0.71ha
Wilburton	1,565	4.35ha	8.0ha	+3.65ha
Witcham	498	1.38ha	2.0ha	+0.62ha
Witchford	2,768	7.70ha	2.5ha	-5.20ha
Woodditton and Saxon Street	2,111	5.87ha	-	-5.87ha
TOTALS	85,240	271.9ha	197.6ha	-74.3ha

10.14 Accessibility

10.15.1 Current accessibility

The geographical spread of running, walking and cycling route opportunities in East Cambridgeshire is such that routes should be accessible to all users and potential users. Whilst Ely has more publicly accessible exercise space per capita than the average for the district, a number of the other main settlements such as Burwell, Haddenham, Littleport, Sutton and Witchford have less space per capita than the districtwide figure, whilst Bottisham has no provision at all. Most of the population of the district is within the catchment of at least one recreation ground or public open space, but there are some gaps in some of the sparsely populated rural areas.

10.15.2 Future accessibility

Ensuring connectivity and capacity increases to running, walking and cycling trails from new housing developments would be consistent with meeting health and well-being objectives in the new developments.

Ensuring that there is sufficient accessible exercise space in each settlement in the district to meet the needs of the population of new housing developments will also be essential.

10.15 The options for securing additional capacity

The options for securing existing and additional provision of publicly accessible exercise space to meet current and future needs are as follows:

10.16.1 Protect

Protecting existing running, walking and cycling trails and exercise space capacity through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing routes, unless the loss of part of a route would involve its replacement with a route of at least the equivalent capacity, quality and accessibility.

10.16.2 Provide

There is a case for making locally-accessible provision in any major new housing developments. Opportunities to create or access additional areas of publicly accessible space for exercise should also be explored in those settlements with levels of provision that fall below the Fields in Trust standard of 2.6ha per 1,000 people.

10.16.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing provision for physical activity by:

- Ensuring that the routes and sites receive regular maintenance and improvements, funded by developer contributions where appropriate.
- Ensuring that the routes and sites are available to people with disabilities.
- Installing features like outdoor gym equipment.

10.16 Action Plan

The table below sets out the action plan for informal activity and exercise space to guide the implementation of the strategy.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Protection of existing informal activity and exercise space.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing informal activity and exercise space.	ECDC	-	-	High
Funding for future informal activity and exercise space.	Ensure that S106 contributions are collected from developers.	ECDC	Developers	-	High
Creation of locally-accessible provision in any major new housing developments	Ensure that planning consent is contingent upon the provision of publicly accessible space for exercise	ECDC	Developers	-	High
Route and site maintenance	Ensure that all routes and exercise spaces are maintained to appropriate standards to ensure their continued use.	Route and site owners	-	-	Medium
Disabled access	Review disabled access on all routes and exercise spaces and implement improvements where appropriate.	Route and site owners	-	-	Medium
Outdoor gym equipment	Consider the installation of outdoor gym equipment on at least one site per parish.	ECDC	Parish Councils	£5,000 per site	Medium

11 IMPLEMENTING AND REVIEWING THE STRATEGY

11.1 Introduction

This section identifies the applications of the East Cambridgeshire Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy (OSFS) and the mechanisms for reviewing it to ensure that it remains robust and up-to-date.

11.2 Strategy implementation

The success of the OSFS will be determined by how it is used. While the use of the strategy should be led by East Cambridgeshire District Council, its application and delivery will also be the responsibility of the other key local stakeholders including:

- **Town and parish councils:** Town and parish councils are the main providers of outdoor sports facilities in the district.
- **Sports clubs:** Voluntary sector sports clubs provide and run a range of facilities, in particular tennis courts and bowls greens.
- **Village Colleges:** The village colleges are major sports facilities providers in the district, although not all provision is community accessible.

11.3 Strategy applications

The OSFS has a number of applications:

11.3.1 Sports development planning

The OSFS can be applied to help:

- Highlight, justify and make the case for sports development activities with particular sports, groups and clubs and in particular areas.
- Identify current and future trends and changes in the demand for individual sports and how they are played.
- Inform the work, strategies and plans of sporting organisations active in the area.
- Advocate the need to work with specific educational establishments to secure community use of their site(s).
- Develop and/or enhance school club links by making the best use of school sites where they have spare capacity and are well located to meet demand.

11.3.2 Planning policy

The OSFS can be applied to help:

- Develop new, and review the effectiveness of existing, local planning policy (e.g. Local and Neighbourhood Plans) in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The implementation of local planning policy to meet the needs of the community.

11.3.3 Planning applications

The OSFS can be applied to help:

- Inform the development of planning applications which affect existing and/or proposed new sports facilities provision.
- Inform pre-application discussions to ensure any subsequent planning applications maximise their benefit to sport and are developed in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sports clubs and other organisations provide the strategic need for development proposals thereby potentially adding support to their application(s) and saving them resources in developing such evidence.
- East Cambridgeshire District Council to assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposed new playing sports facilities provision in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sport England and other parties respond to relevant planning application consultations.

The SFS can also be applied to help East Cambridgeshire District Council to meet other relevant requirements of the NPPF including:

- Taking account of and supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.
- Delivering the social, recreational, cultural facilities and services the community needs.
- Planning positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the framework.
- Working with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being.

11.3.4 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The OSFS can be applied to help:

- Advocate the need for sports facilities provision to be taken into account when the local authority is developing and/or reviewing an approach to the CIL (Charging Schedule and Infrastructure Delivery Plan) and the wider benefits of doing so (e.g. improving health and wellbeing).
- Provide prioritised infrastructure requirements for sports facilities provision including deliverable sport, area and site-specific projects with costings (where known).

11.3.5 Funding bids

The OSFS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base and strategic need to support funding bids by a range of parties to a variety of potential funding sources.
- Inform potential bidders of the likely strategic need for their project.

11.3.6 Facility and asset management

The OSFS can be applied to help:

- Ensure a strategic approach is taken to the provision and management of sports facilities.
- Inform the current management, strategies and plans of sports facility providers e.g. local authorities (within the study area and neighbouring areas), leisure trusts and educational establishments.
- Share knowledge of how sites are managed and maintained, the lessons learnt and good practice.
- Highlight the potential of asset transfers and ensure any proposed are beneficial to all parties.
- Provide additional protection for particular sites over and above planning policy, for example through deeds of dedication.
- Resolve issues around security of tenure.

11.3.7 Public health

The OSFS can be applied to help:

- Understand how the community currently participates in sport, the need for sports facilities and how this may evolve.

- Raise awareness of and tackle any barriers to people maintaining and increasing their participation.
- Highlight and address any inequalities of access to provision within the study area.
- Provide evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.

11.3.8 Co-ordinating resources and investment

The OSFS can be applied to help:

- Raise awareness of the current resources and investment (revenue and capital) going into the management, maintenance and improvement of sports facilities provision.
- Co-ordinate the current and any future resources and investment to ensure the maximum benefit to sport and that value for money is secured.
- Ensure the current and any future resources and investment are complimentary and do not result in their inefficient use.

11.3.9 Capital programmes

The OSFS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base to justify the protection and investment in sports facilities provision.
- Influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes (e.g. school refurbishment and new build programmes).

11.4 Monitoring delivery

A process should be put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered. This monitoring should be led by East Cambridgeshire District Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the OSFS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery.

11.5 Keeping the strategy robust and up-to-date

Along with ensuring that the OSFS is used and applied, a process should be put in place to keep it robust and up to date. This will expand the life of the OSFS providing people with the confidence to continue to both use it and attach significant value and weight to its key findings and issues, along with its recommendations and actions.

Sport England advocates that the OSFS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the OSFS. Taking into account the time to develop the OSFS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

The annual review should highlight:

- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- How the OSFS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- Any changes to particularly important facilities and/or sites in the area (e.g. the most used or high-quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

11.6 Strategy implementation

To support the delivery of the actions in all the facility-specific chapters East Cambridgeshire District Council in consultation with stakeholders should prepare a short-term action plan identifying priorities and actions for year one of the strategy delivery. The action plans in the OSFS provide a long list of prioritised actions, but many will not be applicable, appropriate or manageable to deliver initially. This is the first stage of delivering the OSFS and essential that this is undertaken as this initiates the delivery and provides momentum following completion of the work.

APPENDIX 3: EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL: OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES PROVISION BY PARISH

This paper summarised outdoor sports facilities provision in each parish in East Cambridgeshire, to illustrate the totality of provision at the local community level:

- 1) The provision listed is that which has community access and includes some pitches that are currently disused.
- 2) Pitches marked in brackets are overmarked on other (larger) pitches.
- 3) The public open space sites are recreation grounds and other spaces with public access that accommodate informal sport and physical activity.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Pop.</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Bowls</i>	<i>Tennis</i>	<i>Netball</i>	<i>MUGA</i>	<i>Public open space</i>
Ashley	707		-	-	-	-	1 site (2.25ha)
Bottisham	2,199	3 adult football 1 youth 11v11 football 2 youth 9v9 football 2 mini-soccer 7v7 4 mini-soccer 5v5 1 '3G' football turf pitch	1 green	-	-	1 MUGA	-
Brinkley	383	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burrough Green	378	1 cricket	-	-	-	-	1 site (3.5ha)
Burwell	6,667	3 adult football (1 youth 11v11 football) 1 youth 9v9 football 1 mini-soccer 7v7 1 mini-soccer 5v5 1 cricket	1 green	4 courts	-	2 MUGAs	2 sites (8.2ha)
Cheveley	1,990	-	-	-	-	-	1 site (3.0ha)
Chippenham	519	1 cricket	1 green	2 courts	-	-	-
Coveney & Wardy Hill	424	-	-	-	-	1 MUGA	1 site (2.5ha)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Pop.</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Bowls</i>	<i>Tennis</i>	<i>Netball</i>	<i>MUGA</i>	<i>Public open space</i>
Dullingham	767	1 adult football 1 cricket	-	-	-	-	1 site (2.25ha)
Ely	20,312	6 adult football 2 youth 9v9 football 2 mini-soccer 7v7 3 mini-soccer 5v5 1 cricket 3 rugby 2 artificial grass pitches 1 '3G' football turf pitch	2 greens	11 courts	2 courts	3 MUGAs	2 sites (66.5ha)
Fordham	2,712	2 adult football 1 mini-soccer 7v7 (1 mini-soccer 5v5) 1 cricket	1 green	-	-	1 MUGA	1 site (4.5ha)
Haddenham	3,604	2 youth 11v11 football (1 youth 9v9 football) 1 mini-soccer 7v7 1 mini-soccer 5v5 1 cricket	1 green	-	-	1 MUGA	1 site (4.0ha)
Isleham	2,378	3 adult football 2 youth 9v9 football 1 mini-soccer 7v7 (1 mini-soccer 5v5) 1 cricket	1 green	-	-	1 MUGA	1 site (7.0ha)
Kennett	353	1 adult football (1 youth 11v11 football) 1 mini-soccer 7v7 1 mini-soccer 5v5	-	-	-	-	1 site (3.0ha)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Pop.</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Bowls</i>	<i>Tennis</i>	<i>Netball</i>	<i>MUGA</i>	<i>Public open space</i>
Kirtling and Upend	440	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Downham & Pymoor	3,050	2 adult football 1 youth 11v11 football 1 youth 9v9 football 1 cricket	-	-	-	1 MUGA	2 sites (6.5ha)
Little Thetford	782	1 adult football 1 youth 11v11 football	-	-	-	1 MUGA	1 site 2.7ha
Littleport & Blackhorse Drove	8,738	1 adult football 2 youth 11v11 football 1 youth 9v9 football 2 mini-soccer 7v7 1 mini-soccer 5v5	1 green	3 courts	2 courts	1 MUGA	1 site (14.0ha)
Lode	913	1 adult football 1 cricket	-	1 court	-	-	1 site (2.25ha)
Mepal	982	1 adult football 1 youth 9v9 football 2 mini-soccer 7v7	-	-	-	-	1 site (5.0ha)
Soham	10,860	3 adult football 3 youth 11v11 football (2 youth 9v9 football) (3 mini-soccer 7v7) 1 mini-soccer 5v5	1 green	4 courts	5 courts	1 MUGA	4 sites (30.25ha)
Stetchworth	681	1 adult football	-	-	-	1 MUGA	1 site (3.5ha)
Stretham	1,831	1 adult football 2 mini-soccer 7v7	1 green	-	-	1 MUGA	1 site (4.0ha)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Pop.</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Bowls</i>	<i>Tennis</i>	<i>Netball</i>	<i>MUGA</i>	<i>Public open space</i>
Sutton	3,952	1 youth 11v11 football (1 youth 9v9 football) (1 mini-soccer 7v7) 1 mini-soccer 5v5 1 cricket	1 green	-	-	1 MUGA	1 site (3.0ha)
Swaffham Bulbeck	1,667	1 youth 9v9 football 1 mini-soccer 7v7 1 cricket	1 green	-	-	-	2 sites (5.2ha)
Westley Waterless	132	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wicken	839	1 adult football 1 youth 9v9 football	-	-	-	1 MUGA	1 site (2.0ha)
Wilburton	1,348	1 youth 9v9 football 1 mini-soccer 7v7 1 mini-soccer 5v5 1 cricket	-	-	-	-	1 site (8.0ha)
Witcham	429	1 cricket	-	-	-	-	1 site (2.0ha)
Witchford	2,385	3 adult football 1 youth 11v11 football 1 youth 9v9 football 1 mini-soccer 5v5 1 '3G' football turf pitch	-	5 courts	3 courts	-	1 site (2.5ha)
Woodditton & Saxon Street	1,818	1 '3G' football turf pitch	-	-	-	-	-

TITLE: Quarter 1 2021/22 Performance Report for the Waste and Street Cleansing Services

Committee: Operational Services Committee

Date: 13 September 2021

Author: James Khan, Head of Street Scene

[W67]

1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with the Quarter 1, April - June 2021, performance report for the delivery of the waste and street cleansing services by East Cambs Street Scene Ltd (ECSS).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the performance of service delivery, for the first quarter of 2021/22.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Although remaining heavily affected by the negative impacts of COVID, ECSS has continued to strive for excellence and provide all its services to the highest standards possible through this first quarter.

Our employees remain resilient and dedicated to our cause, banding together to overcome periods of staffing shortages.

They continue to be the backbone of this organisation and evidence unwavering resolve against the tough times we have already faced and continue to face in the following quarters.

- 3.2 Despite ongoing additional pressures, all waste collection and street cleansing services have continued to be provided, with the overall performance of both service areas remaining stable.

- 3.3 The very beginning of this quarter saw East Cambridgeshire hold host to the 166th boat race, which was last held in East Cambs back in 1944.

Although a closed event, the race would still be televised, promoting our district.

As an organisation, we wanted to ensure the area was immaculate. Crews took to the area in the days leading up to the race to remove waste, litter and remove offensive graffiti from the bridge at the finish line.

Additionally, areas close to the river, which were likely to witness an increase in footfall, were treated to an increase in street scene presence ensuring waste was removed and litter cleared, preventing the open spaces becoming spoiled and guaranteeing residents and visitors a clean and presentable space to enjoy their weekend.

- 3.4 This quarter held host to the Great British Spring Clean. An annual event ECSS has taken part in since 2018.

This year we wanted to work alongside some of the amazing volunteer groups that have pledged their own valuable time to clearing our district of litter.

This year we support their efforts by organising and providing litter picking equipment, including hi-vis vests, gloves, bags and hoops and litter picking sticks to ensure everyone could get involved.

Additionally, we ensured that all picked litter and waste was responsibly disposed of, ensuring it doesn't return to spoiling our environment.

The event was a great success and further evidences the commitment we all have to protecting the places we love.

- 3.5 This year, as part of our communication and education plans, we looked to create new relationships and grow existing ones with local groups within the district.

During this quarter we have managed to form a strong and positive partnership with the Ely Litter Pickers Group.

Working with this group, we have been able to provide a responsible route for the collection and disposal of waste collected as well as provide supportive information and education on safe and efficient working practices.

Having additional eyes across the district ensures information is passed to the necessary service area with little delay, certifying quick and robust action.

We continue to work with many community groups across the district, aiding where possible, to support those who dedicate their time and effort.

- 3.6 As part of our pledge to reduce carbon emissions, during this quarter we took delivery of a trial waste collection vehicle.

The vehicle boasted a cylindrical body which is designed to continuously rotate, causing waste to compact.

This method reduced the high sporadic demand on the engine, reducing the fuel usage and therefore carbon output.

The vehicle was also fitted with tracking technology that would record the demands of the vehicle and provide an insight into the level of hydrogen equipment required to do the same job.

This information will provide valuable data on the configuration of a hydrogen vehicle required to perform to the local standards required in East Cambs. This will then provide ball park capital cost for the procurement of a hydrogen vehicle.

- 3.7 The start of this financial year saw ECSS move the responsibility of its financial management outside of the Council.

This movement ensures that ECSS's accounts are managed with a commercial eye and ensures the organisations does not miss out on the opportunities it is awarded due to its nature.

- 3.8 To ensure the recyclable waste we collect is the quality required by our re-processor and to prevent against financial liability our development team completed an initial participation and contamination survey.

This survey saw the team work in advance of the collection teams, recording the quality of recyclable waste presented in wheeled bins by residents. During this process, officers recorded cases of waste that was not accepted with in the recycling bins and would cause issues contamination penalties.

This information is then used to tailor education and promotion campaigns and ensures material released targets the specific issues we are witnessing with the service, rectifying them swiftly and efficiently.

Additionally, the survey gathers information on participation rates. This information provides an insight into the level of service being used, including the number of residents that use the basic service and utilise the additional bins.

4. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

- 4.1 In accordance with the approved business plan for this year, the performance figures outlined below are in line with the newly adopted Key Performance Indicators and their new target values.

KPI	Target	Quarterly performance
Waste Collection		
Collections completed successfully	95%	99.91%
Successful completion of bin deliveries within 10 working days	92%	79%
Percentage of waste recycled	59%	59.8%
Overall performance of the service	90%	93%
Street Cleansing		
Work completed as scheduled	95%	92%
Successful removal of offensive graffiti within 1 working day	98%	100%
Successful removal of fly tipped waste within 2 working days	98%	83%
Overall performance of the service	90%	86%
Communication, Education and Promotion		
Increase in social media presence	Annual increase of 5%	11% page growth in the quarter
School or Community groups engaged with	10	32 (27 primary and 5 secondary) schools provided waste activities for all Key stages
Number of local events attended	10	0 (COVID)

4.2 Waste Collection KPIs

4.3 The successful collection figure takes into consideration all three waste service streams and covers the circa. 1 million collections scheduled during the quarter.

4.4 The performance figure for bin deliveries has unfortunately not been achieved for this quarter. This is solely due to the increased pressure placed on the operation stemming from insufficient staffing and vehicles following increased levels of sickness absence in June. The quarter started well with the month of May overachieving against the target.

4.5 Overall performance of the service remains positive, excelling against the new increased target set for this year.

4.6 This quarter saw a 61% recycling rate.

As with previous years, a rate around 60% has become common for the first quarter. However, the rate is heavily affected by many variables throughout the year and is likely to continue to fluctuate as the months progress.

4.7 Street Cleansing KPIs

4.8 Scheduled work for the service remained steady, however, the service has experienced levels of impact due to the lack of staffing and vehicles seen during the quarter.

This additional pressure has resulted in responsive work, including fly tip removal, suffering.

4.9 Regrettably, offensive graffiti has continued to plague the district. With many cases of anti-Semitic graffiti showing up around Ely.

Due to the nature of this graffiti and the impact it has on our residents, we have continued to ensure each case reported is removed within the 1-day SLA timeframe.

4.10 Although exceeding the previous KPI target of 80%, the overall performance of the street cleansing service has failed to achieve the increased target for this year, during this quarter.

The overall performance of the service takes into consideration all service areas but unfortunately is negatively affected when just one service area fails.

As an organisation, we aim to provide all our services to the highest possible standards, continuing to push for excellence. Any specific service area failing will be monitored and adjustments made to mitigate against underperformance in the future.

4.11 Communication, Education and Promotion

4.12 Engagement with residents has continued to prove difficult due to the ongoing COVID restrictions.

However, to ensure that we are communicating with residents as best as possible, we have continued to use social media channels and utilise ECSS's dedicated Facebook page.

- 4.13 Our Facebook page witnessed an 11% increase in presence during the quarter with our development team continuing to share valuable information on waste and recycling.

We continue to grow the page’s connections and reach out and create relationships with other local organisations.

- 4.14 Although face to face contact continued to be restricted during the quarter, we wanted to ensure we provided waste related education material to as many schools as possible.

This quarter saw 32 schools, across the district, covering all Key Stages, receive educational material on waste and recycling, for teachers to share with their pupils.

This process ensures that waste awareness and its importance remain present in classrooms.

- 4.15 Unfortunately, due to restrictions, our development team were unable to attend any local events in the district.

We do however aim to continue to engage with residents on a face to face level as soon as possible and have continued to create and design artwork and graphics to meet the everchanging demands of waste.

5.0 SICKNESS ABSENCE

- 5.1 Outlined in the table below are the targets for sickness absence set for the waste and street cleansing services. They reflect that the majority of staff work outside in all weathers carrying out physically arduous tasks.

These targets reflect similar targets set in other high performing waste and street cleansing service delivery organisations.

Sickness Absence Targets Set for the Waste and Street Cleansing Services

Staffing Category	Number of Staff	Annual Sickness Target (Hours)	Annual Sickness Target (Working Days)	Monthly Sickness Absence Target (Hours)	Monthly Sickness Absence Target (Working Days)
HGV Drivers (Waste)	16	672	96	56	8
Driver/Operative (Waste)	3	126	18	10.5	1.5
Operatives (Waste)	29	1,218	174	101.5	14.5
HGV Drivers (Street Cleansing)	3	126	18	10.5	1.5
Driver/Operatives (Street Cleansing)	3	126	18	10.5	1.5
Operatives (Street Cleansing)	7	294	42	24.5	3.5
Ops Management & Admin	5	210	30	17.5	2.5
Waste Management Team	3	126	18	10.5	1.5

- 5.2 The table below includes a RAG rating with the following explanation:
Green rating = Actual is less or equal to the Cumulative Target
Amber rating = Actual is up to 12 hours greater than the Cumulative Target
Red rating = Actual is in excess of 12 hours of the Cumulative Target
- 5.3 Many cases seen through this quarter are continuous long-term sickness cases where employees are suffering from pre-existing injuries or health conditions. This is common in an aging workforce predominantly focused on manual labour.
- 5.4 Occupational Health services are being utilised to better understand how we can support our long term absent employee's safe return to work. This process includes forming phased return to work plans, to create the most stable environment and have the least impact on their injuries and illnesses in the future.
- 5.5 Short term sickness cases continue to have the most affect on service delivery, with employees being absent for between 1 – 3 days.
These cases are dealt with under the absent management protocol with employees attending formal meeting to discuss their absence and the impact it has on the organisation.

6.0 RECYCLING RATES

6.1 The target recycling rate for this year is set at 59%.

6.2 The table below highlights the individual rate for each month of the quarter, as well as the quarter average against the annual target.

Month	% Waste Recycled	Target %
April	56.6	
May	58.6	
June	64.3	
Quarter 1	59.8	59

6.3 As the table highlights, the difference in rate achieved in consecutive months, can be substantial and will have an impact on the end of year figure.

6.4 The rates achieved over the past few years and continuing in this current year have been positive and evidences the success our residents have with recycling.

The proposed changes in waste collection are aimed at improving this further. However, there are concerns that the additions discussed could add additional levels of complexity to recycling and may have the opposite overall effect.

Our development team continue to communicate and educate residents in order to provide support and guidance, to allow East Cambridge to continue to evidence high recycling rates.

6.4 Data gathering, like that done as part of the participation survey, provide the development team with a detailed insight into the specific issues halting the progression of the recycling rate and allow them to focus on the smaller barriers preventing its growth, rather than general recycling messages.

As the figures suggest, these types of messages are unnecessary as the current and past figures show a high level of understanding from our residents.

6.5 Work will continue on reducing the tonnage of non-recyclable waste collected, which will also have a positive impact on the overall rate.

Waste analysis programmes, like the one completed previously in the district, further assist us in providing guidance to residents on where to responsibly place their waste, ultimately reducing recyclable waste not being collected and processed as such.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Although remaining under additional COVID related pressures, ECSS has started the new financial year of well.

Performance levels remain stable, with all services being provided, despite pressures.

Even though increased performance levels are yet to be achieved across all aspects of service, small isolated areas are causing issues, which will be given focus and rectified swiftly.

7.2 Employee resolve has continued to ensure the ongoing success of the operations. They have evidenced a clear commitment to the delivery of services, even through the recent and ongoing times of increased pressure.

7.3 Communication and education continue to remain a priority for achieving a majority of targets, including the district’s recycling rate.

The development team have continued to maximise on alternative methods to remain engaged with residents and have a positive impact on services.

This first quarter has witnessed an increase in engagement with alternative demographics, widening our impact on local groups and activities.

This expansion into wider groups has proven valuable and evidences further opportunities for engagement growth in the future.

7.4 Although COVID related impacts remained, a large majority of the workforce received either one or both vaccinations, which has reduced the risk against our employees and added a layer of protection against service failure.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 The waste and street cleansing services are being delivered within the contract value.

9.0 APPENDICES

None

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
None	The Grange,	James Khan
	Ely	Head of Street Scene
		E-mail: james.khan@eastcambs.gov.uk

OPERATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Lead Officer: Jo Brooks, Director, Operations

FORWARD AGENDA PLAN

Democratic Services Officer: Adrian Scaites-Stokes

15th November 2021 4:30pm		17th January 2022 4:30pm		21st March 2022 4:30pm	
Agenda Planning Meeting #	To be agreed	Agenda Planning Meeting #	To be agreed	Agenda Planning Meeting #	To be agreed
Report Deadline:	3 rd November 2021	Report Deadline:	5 th January 2022	Report Deadline:	9 th March 2021
Service Presentation – Housing & Community Safety	Angela Parmenter (Housing & Community Safety Manager)	VCAEC -Service Level Agreement Update	VCAEC (presentation)	Progress Report on the Youth Strategy Action Plan	Lewis Bage (Communities & Partnership Manager) Angela Parmenter (Housing & Community Safety Manager) Liz Knox (Environmental Services Manager)
Review of Citizens Advice West Suffolk	Lewis Bage (Communities & Partnership Manager)	Service Presentation – Customer Services	Annette Wade (Customer Services Manager)		
Review of Grant to Voluntary & Community Action East Cambridgeshire	Lewis Bage (Communities & Partnership Manager)	The Housing Model 2021	Julia Atkins Senior Environmental Health Officer		
Effects of COVID-19 on Housing and Community Advice Service	Angela Parmenter (Housing & Community Safety Manager)	Presentation (Housing Model)	Building Research Establishment		
Review of Housing and Community Advice Service	Angela Parmenter (Housing & Community Safety Manager)	Quarter 3 Waste Performance	James Khan (Head of Street Scene)		
Quarter 2 Waste Performance	James Khan (Head of Street Scene)				
ARP Joint Committee Minutes – September	A Scaites-Stokes (Demo. Services Officer)	ARP Joint Committee Minutes – December	A Scaites-Stokes (Demo. Services Officer)	Forward Agenda Plan	A Scaites-Stokes (Democratic Services Officer)
Forward Agenda Plan	A Scaites-Stokes (Demo. Services Officer)	Forward Agenda Plan	A Scaites-Stokes (Demo. Services Officer)	Agenda Planning Meeting #	To be agreed

These meetings are not open to the public