



Playing Pitch Strategy

ANALYSIS - West Suffolk

January 2015
Version 3.0

Forest Heath • St Edmundsbury

West Suffolk
working together

Prepared by



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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council, operating as West Suffolk, have jointly commissioned 4 global to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) across the two local authorities. A Playing Pitch Strategy was commissioned in 2012, however this was not adopted and it is deemed necessary to undertake an updated analysis, using the latest PPS guidelines issued by Sport England. The joint councils will be referred to as West Suffolk throughout this report and the geographical area of West Suffolk will be referred to as 'the study area'.
- 1.1.2 Alongside this PPS, the West Suffolk has also commissioned an Indoor Sport Facilities Strategy, which will be issued with this PPS report. This will be presented as a separate document however the two should be used to inform a co-ordinated approach to sports provision over the next 15 to 16 years (up to 2031) in West Suffolk. An executive summary has been prepared to summarise the key issues and recommendations from the two strategies.
- 1.1.3 This piece of work is commissioned by West Suffolk on behalf of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council, however the individual Local Authorities will need to reference the report in their separate planning documents. With this in mind, the primary data and analysis will be split by authority, as well as the action plans.
- 1.1.4 The PPS is split into two key documents. The PPS Analysis (this document) includes a detailed strategic context and evaluation of each sport included in the study. This also includes the detailed site-by-site analysis that forms the basis of the Action Plan. The PPS Analysis is to be used as the evidence base for all the actions and recommendations in the PPS. It includes details of all consultations and evaluation; therefore the document is complex and lengthy.
- 1.1.5 The PPS Action Plan and Strategy includes a reduced strategic context, in addition to the summary of findings for each sport and the final site-by-site Action Plan. The Action Plan and Strategy is to be used as the ongoing strategic document by the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group, to inform future planning and long-term decision making.
- 1.1.6 A PPS is a strategic assessment which provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand regarding playing pitches (grass and artificial) which serve the following core sports;

- Football
- Rugby Union
- Cricket
- Hockey.

1.1.7 This report will also analyse the supply and demand of the following sports and physical activities

- Tennis
- Bowls
- Netball
- Athletics
- Golf
- Archery
- Cycling.

1.1.8 West Suffolk is committed to providing sports provision that meets the needs of its residents and local clubs. With a projected population growth, West Suffolk also has an obligation to assess planning applications with a complete evidence base and make decisions that benefit the local residents of West Suffolk. In addition, there are a number reasons why it is a good time to prepare the strategy;

- The operational management of St Edmundsbury Borough and Forest Heath District Council has been merged and the two councils are looking to create a combined vision for sports and leisure facilities across the two local authorities. It is recognised that the current supply of facilities will not cope with the demand caused by the anticipated future growth
- West Suffolk is looking to facilitate the creation of a network of community sport and leisure facilities, with a strategic hub at the centre. A strategy is therefore needed to identify where opportunities exist in the West Suffolk area to develop this community network of facilities
- There is significant growth planned in nearly all of the main towns in West Suffolk and further guidance is required on which sports or facilities would best compliment the developments being considered
- The current and future demand for sports and recreation facilities need to be planned for holistically, including the contribution that West Suffolk's sports facilities offering neighbouring authorities and the wider region
- The strategy will also provide evidence to support funding bids from National Sports bodies and support requests for contributions from Section 106 Planning Obligations or the Community Infrastructure

Levy (CIL).

1.1.9 West Suffolk has identified two of its wider priorities, which this strategy should support;

- Increase opportunities for economic growth
- Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active.

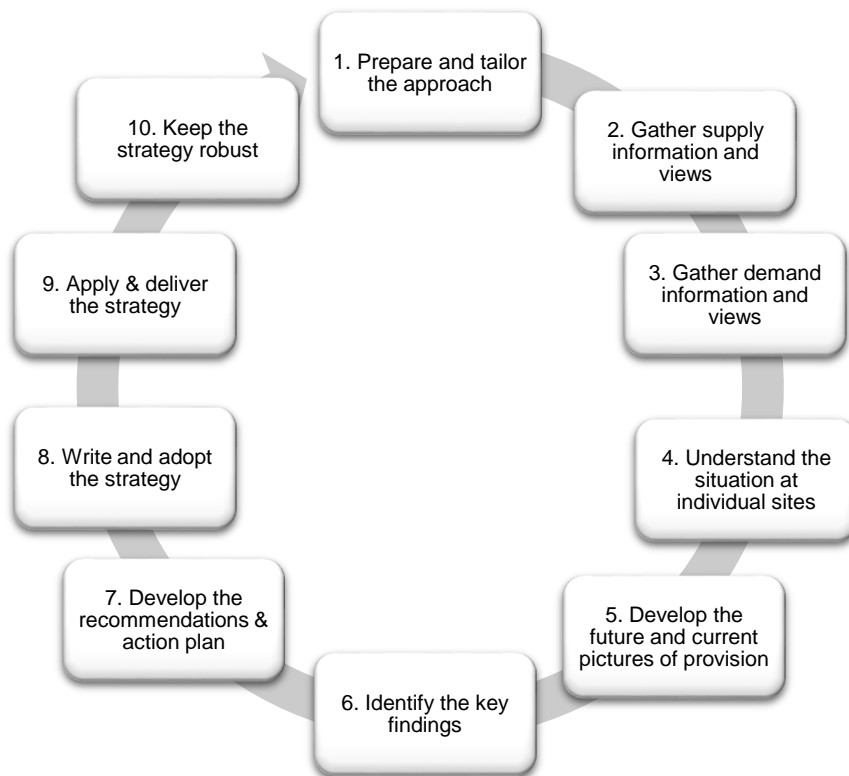
1.1.10 The objectives of the West Suffolk PPS are;

- To identify supply and demand issues for playing pitch provision across West Suffolk
- To identify priority sports, pitches and clubs for the area based on clear evidence-based justification and also based on National Governing Bodies (NGB) targets
- To provide evidence to guide and support bids to external funding partners and to support the delivery of new and improved sports and recreation facilities in the local area
- To provide a robust needs and evidence base to support the preparation, adoption and implementation of sport and leisure planning policies
- To develop a priority list of pitches and projects for investment and use of resources secured through CIL and Section 106
- To identify opportunities to deliver new and improved sports pitches and ancillary facilities as part of the strategic development of Local Authority owned sites.

1.2 Methodology

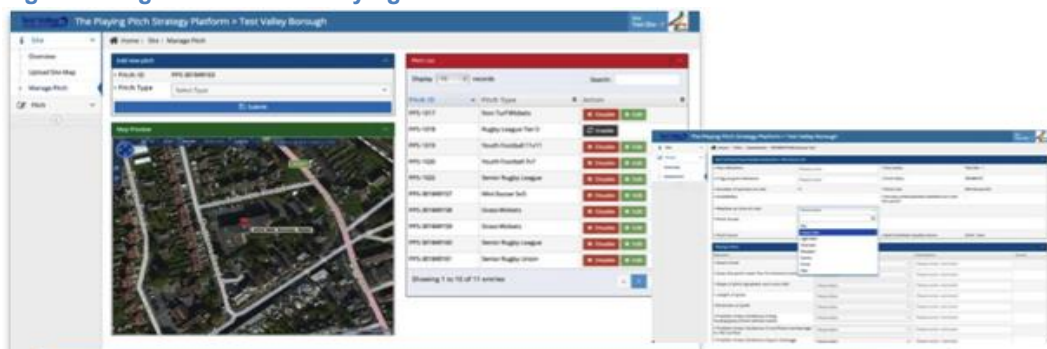
1.2.1 The assessment methodology adopted for the PPS follows the published guidance from Sport England. The guidance used is the 2013 version, Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy. Figure 1 summarises the approach proposed in this guidance and is broken down into 10 steps.

Figure 1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach (Sport England, 2013)



1.2.2 To facilitate information gathering and help ensure PPS reports are based on a robust evidence base, 4 global has developed an online data entry and assessment platform (see images below), which contains all pitch provider and club information. This will enable West Suffolk to keep supply and demand information and the strategy up to date through its life and beyond.

Figure 2 - 4 global's Online Playing Pitch Platform



1.2.3 A Project Steering Group comprising representatives from West Suffolk, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) has guided the study from its commencement. At critical milestones, the Steering Group members have reviewed and verified the data and information collected to allow the work to proceed efficiently through each stage, reducing the margin of error.

- 1.2.4 For the purpose of this study, the two local authorities have been treated as two separate areas for audits and supply calculations (looking back). The Action Plan and future recommendations (looking forward) will reflect the increasingly collaborative approach of the two local authorities and provide recommendations for West Suffolk as a whole.

1.3 The Structure of our Report

- 1.3.1 The structure of the PPS report is as follows

- Section 2 – Strategic Context
- Section 3 – Football
- Section 4 – Cricket
- Section 5 – Rugby
- Section 6 – Hockey
- Section 7 – Additional Outdoor Sports

- 1.3.2 Supporting information is included in the appendices and referenced throughout.

2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 2.1.1 This section summarises the most important policies and context that impact upon the strategy and its interpretation. It also gives an overview of the demographics of the borough, which provides contextual background to sport participation and the need for provision now and in the future. Further detail can be found in Appendix 1: National Context.
- 2.1.2 Sport specific strategies and policy documents published by NGBs are included within each sport's section to provide more relevant context to each sport.

2.2 National Context

- 2.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the requirement of local authorities to establish and provide adequate and proper leisure facilities to meet local needs. Paragraphs 73 and 74 outline the planning policies for the provision and protection of sport and recreation facilities.

“Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required”.

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

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

2.2.2 Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications that affect sports pitches and it has a long established policy of playing pitch retention, even prior to the NPPF guidance. It looks to improve the quality, access and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand. Sport England requires local authorities to have an up-to date assessment of playing pitch needs and an associated strategy including a recommendation that the evidence base is reviewed every three years. The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide playing pitches, as follows:

- **Protect:** To provide evidence to inform policy and specifically to support Site Allocations and Development Management Policies which will protect playing fields and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership
- **Enhance:** To ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that best uses are made of existing resources - whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on local authority budgets
- **Provide:** To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements through grant aid and also through CIL and Section 106 agreements

2.2.3 Sport England and local authorities can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding sports pitches and facility developments in the area and to support or protect against planning applications brought forward by developers.

2.3 Local Context – West Suffolk

2.3.1 A number of current strategic policies, strategies and factors influence current and future supply and demand for sport and recreation facilities in West Suffolk. It is important to be aware that if current initial discussions around devolution in Suffolk progress, there could be implications for some of these, if the existing shared agenda, funding and partnership arrangements/agreements change.

2.3.2 These include:

- Forest Heath Local Plan
- St Edmundsbury Local Plan
- Suffolk Community Strategy
- Suffolk Health and Well-Being Strategy
- Creating an Active Suffolk – Suffolk County Sports Facilities Strategy

2009 – 2016

- Suffolk the most Active County
- Population Profiles and Projections
- Participation Trends and Rates

West Suffolk Local Plan

2.3.3 The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was revoked in 2013, but the housing numbers for West Suffolk, which it sets out, are justified, and have been reflected in the development of the Local Plans.

Suffolk Community Strategy 2008-2018

2.3.4 The Suffolk Strategic Partnership has developed 'Transforming Suffolk, Suffolk's Community Strategy 2008 to 2028'. This strategy will deliver improvements to the quality of life in Suffolk, for its people and for communities.

2.3.5 The overall ambition for the strategy is:

'By 2028 we want Suffolk to be recognised for its outstanding environment and quality of life for all; a place where everyone can realise their potential, benefit from and contribute to Suffolk's economic prosperity, and be actively involved in their community.'

West Suffolk Strategic Plan 2014-16

2.3.6 West Suffolk's Strategic Plan 2014-2016 sets out what both councils aim to achieve together, with partners, local businesses, communities and residents. West Suffolk's priorities are:

- Increased opportunities for economic growth
- Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active
- Homes for our communities

2.3.7 The delivery of this vision and priorities in the West Suffolk Strategic Plan is supported by the medium term financial strategy 2014 – 16

Suffolk Health and Well-being Strategy

2.3.8 The Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board aims to improve health and decrease inequalities, to ensure that those in Suffolk live long, fulfilling and healthy lives and to see a narrowing of the health inequalities between our affluent and poorer areas.

2.3.9 The Board agreed four strategic outcomes for the Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy 2012-2022, based on information from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The four priorities are:

- Every child in Suffolk has the best start in life
- Suffolk residents have access to a healthy environment and take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing
- Older people in Suffolk have a good quality of life
- People in Suffolk have the opportunity to improve their mental health and wellbeing

2.4 Local Context – St Edmundsbury

St Edmundsbury Local Plan¹

2.4.1 The St Edmundsbury Local Plan sets the long-term planning and land use policies within the Borough. The Local Plan includes documents previously referred to as the Local Development Framework (LDF).

2.4.2 The Local Plan comprises;

- Core Strategy: adopted on 14 December 2010, this sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and overarching policies for the provision of new development in the Borough up to 2031
- The town will grow by at least 6360 new homes between 2009 and 2031 (now 5740 between 2012 and 2031)
- Most new housing will be located in five strategic areas of growth located around the town
- Vision 2031: this consists of three Local Plans: Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031 and Rural Vision 2031, which were adopted on 23 September 2014 and identify where growth will be allowed and what local everyday services people will need to enjoy a good quality of life
- Joint Development Management Policies Document: adopted on 27 February 2015 by Forest Heath District Council and on 24 February 2015 by St Edmundsbury Borough Council. It contains policies that form an important tool for the day to day determination of planning application in both St Edmundsbury Borough and Forest Heath District
- St Edmundsbury Policies map: showing the areas where the policies of the adopted Core Strategy, Vision 2031 and joint development management policies local plan documents will apply.

Vision 2031²

2.4.3 Vision 2031 comprises three documents; Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031 and Rural Vision 2031.

¹ St Edmundsbury Local Plan - <http://goo.gl/NdFNg4> (Forest Heath & St Edmundsbury Councils: 2010)

² Vision 2031 - <http://goo.gl/pvZibi> (St Edmundsbury Council: 2014)

- 2.4.4 Bury St Edmunds is an ancient market town and much of its attraction lies with its historic buildings and abbey ruins, surrounded by the Abbey Gardens. The town is the main cultural and retail centre for West Suffolk.
- 2.4.5 The leisure centre has recently been refurbished and an athletics arena lies besides it that provides a high-class facility for regional and national competition. The town's central location in the region means that it is well positioned to host regionally significant cultural destinations, sporting facilities and events.
- 2.4.6 There is an equally wide range of leisure providers. Some facilities are both owned and managed by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, which has made a huge investment in leisure and cultural facilities in recent years. Some sporting facilities, owned by West Suffolk, are managed by a trust (Abbeycroft Leisure) while the private and charitable sector offers many leisure facilities too, such as private fitness clubs, sports grounds, restaurants and accommodation.

Bury St Edmunds in 2031

- 2.4.7 To achieve the aspirations of the local residents and West Suffolk, in 2031 Bury St Edmunds will be a place which;
- Has met people's need for new housing; respects its nationally important heritage
 - Is a sub-regional centre for West Suffolk
 - Has reduced out-commuting
 - Has seen an increased shift to non-car modes of travel
 - Retains skills and talents within the town
 - Has a modern health campus
 - Has maintained environmental capacity and placed a priority on respecting the identity of surrounding villages
 - Has enhanced and new green infrastructure
 - Has high quality streets
 - Has good access links connecting people with the town centre and other local and regional destinations
 - Has a diverse, vibrant economy with increased jobs and prosperity.

Key Challenges for Bury St Edmunds

- 2.4.8 Vision 2031 identifies ten different themes, which are closely interlinked and their aspirations taken together add up to a vision for the town.
- 2.4.9 Those specifically relevant for future provision of sports facilities are:
- Dual use of schools: Maximising the use of facilities is a recurrent

theme in this document as it is far more cost-effective to open school facilities to community use than to build new community facilities. The use of these facilities after school hours, at weekends and during holidays will need to be explored.

- Community facilities: Several of the themes stress the importance of community facilities not just as places where local people can meet but also as potential hubs for delivering services in the community, as locations for leisure activities and as bases for community and voluntary groups. Community facilities can be spaces as well as buildings and do not have to be purpose-built or solely dedicated to community use.

2.4.10 In 2031, Bury St Edmunds will be a place where:

Aspiration 15 A wide range of top quality cultural and leisure opportunities are offered to residents and visitors.

2.4.11 The actions to achieve this aspiration are:

- Work in partnership with the private and voluntary sector to identify opportunities to maximise the use of, and safeguard, existing cultural and leisure facilities including open space and sports facilities
- Maximise the use of libraries, schools and other public sector facilities as important contributors to strong, vibrant and healthy communities
- Build new cultural and leisure facilities in areas of population growth
- Integrate new cultural and leisure facilities with new school and community provision
- Work with other public services to deliver an inclusive service and support the ambitions of the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Aspiration 16: More People Access Cultural and Leisure Opportunities

2.4.12 The actions to achieve this aspiration are;

- Promote active cultural and leisure participation as a way of achieving good health
- Work together with partners and stakeholders to provide or promote services that better help to reduce anti-social behaviour
- Deliver cultural and leisure facilities and an events programme that promotes tourism and maximises the local economic impact
- Promote leisure activity that enables access to, but safeguards, the diverse range of habitats/environments
- Encourage space to be made available for children to play safely and creatively.

Haverhill Vision 2031

2.4.13 The Core Strategy has already determined the following strategic policies for Haverhill:

- The town will grow by at least 4,260 new homes between 2009 and 2031
- Most new housing will be located to the northwest and northeast of the town.

2.4.14 Haverhill's position gives it a big advantage. It lies on the A1307, less than 20 miles from Cambridge. It is close to the M11 corridor, near Stanstead Airport and on the cusp of three counties: Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex. It is in the borough of St Edmundsbury in West Suffolk but it has strong economic links to Cambridge and a large proportion of residents commute to work in Cambridgeshire and Essex.

2.4.15 Haverhill is surrounded by attractive countryside and has some good parks. The town has changed a great deal, and is still changing. Haverhill's market town origins can still be seen, but it evolved to become a manufacturing centre, principally for textiles, in the Victorian period. Much of the development that took place during this period survives today and forms the basis for two town centre Conservation Areas. In the 1960s Haverhill was part of the Greater London Council's town expansion scheme and grew rapidly. In the past 20 years, it has experienced an economic renaissance and the population has increased by just under 23% between 2001 and 2011.

2.4.16 As a result, the town's social and economic profile has changed and it has become more prosperous. Haverhill's population is now estimated to be 27,041 and it is the fourth largest town in Suffolk, after Ipswich, Lowestoft, and Bury St Edmunds. It is the second largest town in St Edmundsbury, but its profile differs markedly from that of the rest of the borough.

2.4.17 To achieve people's aspirations, in 2031 Haverhill will be a town that has:

- Met people's need for new housing
- An attractive retail, leisure and employment offer
- A high quality town centre environment
- Well-connected new development integrated into the town
- Protected the identity and integrity of surrounding villages and hamlets
- A diverse employment base with strong links to Cambridge and Stanstead
- Sustainable transport links and seen an increased shift to non-car modes of travel.

Community Facilities

2.4.18 Several of the themes stress the importance of community facilities not just as places where local people can meet but also as potential hubs for delivering services in the community, as locations for leisure activities and as bases for community and voluntary groups.

Rural Areas Vision 2031

2.4.19 The Core Strategy identifies a long-term strategy for the rural areas and that 1600 new homes are needed in the rural areas to 2031

2.4.20 The rural areas provide opportunities for outdoor activities, which can provide health benefits and improve quality of life

2.4.21 Many people choose to live in the rural areas for the peace and quiet it brings; however, young people can find it difficult to take part in out-of-school activity and may feel isolated. Elderly people may also find it difficult to reach services just when they need higher levels of medical care

2.4.22 Deprivation in Rural Suffolk (Deprivation in Rural Suffolk Report, OCSI, 2008) identified part of Barningham and Ampton and Timworth as being among the 10% most deprived areas in Suffolk

2.4.23 The rural population is generally older than the urban population. They may also live in older houses that are difficult and expensive to heat

2.4.24 Generally the quality of the rural environment is good, but traffic emissions are the main source of pollution

2.4.25 In 2031, rural St Edmundsbury will be a place where:

Aspiration 2: Every village has a real sense of community and identity

2.4.26 The actions to achieve this aspiration are to encourage;

- The multi-purpose use of public sector and other buildings used by the community
- The effectiveness of rural community hubs through grants and support
- Work with voluntary and community sector organisations to enable and support local communities

Aspiration 19: A wide range of top quality cultural and leisure opportunities are available to residents and visitors

2.4.27 The key challenge in the rural areas is offering an appropriate range of leisure activities to scattered rural communities, where there are not enough people to justify building or maintaining large leisure facilities such as sports centres.

2.4.28 The actions to achieve the aspiration are:

- Help rural communities apply for grants from other organisations towards leisure facilities and activities
- Ensure better multi-use of current leisure facilities, for example schools and libraries, so that they can be easily used by the community. There is a particular opportunity for this through the moving from a three-tier to a two- tier education system and the facilitation of the redundant facilities for community use wherever possible (See Policy RV8)
- Work with partners and stakeholders to understand rural opportunities and to develop a range of cultural and leisure services that help to deliver strong, vibrant and healthy communities
- Work with partners to safeguard existing leisure and cultural facilities and ensure new facilities, where required, are provided in appropriate locations.

Aspiration 20: More people access cultural and leisure opportunities

2.4.29 The actions to achieve the aspiration are:

- Promote active cultural and leisure participation as a way of achieving good health
- Encourage, train and work alongside local groups in environmental stewardship
- Work with villages and accommodation providers to identify and promote their tourism potential
- Deliver cultural and leisure facilities and an events programme that promotes tourism and maximises the local economic impact
- Promote leisure activity that enhances access to, but safeguards, the diverse range of habitats/environments
- Encourage space to be made available for children to play safely.
- Work to improve access to leisure facilities in larger population centres.

Aspiration 21: Different organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors work in partnership to offer high quality cultural and leisure activities offering the best possible value for money

2.4.30 It is particularly relevant to promote wide access and to look at ways of providing cultural and leisure activities in the most cost-effective and efficient way.

2.4.31 The actions to achieve the aspiration are:

- Work together with partners and stakeholders to understand rural

opportunities and to develop innovative ways of providing leisure and cultural activities.

- Encourage sports clubs to enable people of all ages to keep active.

2.5 Local Context – Forest Heath

Forest Heath Local Plan

2.5.1 The Forest Heath Local Plan sets out the long term planning and land use policies for the District. The Local Plan includes documents previously referred to as the Local Development Framework (LDF). It comprises:

- **Core Strategy:** adopted on the 12 May 2010, this provides the overall vision for Forest Heath up to 2026 (with housing projections up to 2031)
- **Joint Development Management Policies Document:** this was adopted on 27 February 2015 by Forest Heath District Council and on 24 February by St Edmundsbury Borough Council. It contains policies that form an important tool for the day to day determination of planning applications in St Edmundsbury Borough and Forest Heath District.
- **Saved policies:** are policies from the Forest Heath Local Plan of 1995 which remain in force until superseded by the adoption of new plans
- **Forest Heath** local plan policies map February 2015: showing the areas where different policies apply.

Newmarket Vision 2031

2.5.2 The key priority relating to future provision of leisure facilities in the town is the vision of schools as community hubs, with community access to on-site facilities.

2.5.3 It is important to highlight that the Core Strategy for both St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath highlights the priority to be placed on future provision of walking and cycling networks and facilities (active travel) wherever possible across the area, and particularly in urban areas.

2.6 Suffolk Public Health and Education Context

Public Health

- 2.6.1 Public Health Suffolk, in line with national objectives Public Health England, Everybody Active Every Day 2014, aims to keep people in the county as healthy as possible, for as long as possible. The important role and contribution of sport and physical activity to achieving these outcomes is therefore recognised. Supporting initiatives targeted at those who are inactive is critical to achieve maximum health impact, just as is changing behaviours and lifestyles to incorporate physical activity as part of daily life from an early age.
- 2.6.2 Public health is targeting interventions across specific cohorts (pre-pregnancy, 0-2, 2-5, 5-11, 11-16, and 16-18), to raise awareness of the need to increase levels of physical activity for health benefits. It also advocates the benefits of increased physical activity in relation to mental health.
- 2.6.3 Suffolk Public Health outcomes can also be contributed to through the planning framework; the creation of environments, (suitable for all age groups), which encourage physical activity e.g. walking and cycling routes, as set out in the Vision 31 statements, and in the existing Suffolk Walking 2015-2020 and Cycling Strategies 2014. The Walking Strategy aims to increase the frequency of walking done by Suffolk residents, and the Cycling Strategy aims to make cycling a 'normal' form of transport for Suffolk residents.
- 2.6.4 Equally, integrating opportunities for those with disabilities to be more physically active is crucial to ensure the four priority outcomes can be met.
- 2.6.5 Creating environments where it is possible to be more active are critical, but it is also important in relation to sport and sports facilities, that the food and beverage offer is also healthy.
- 2.6.6 In relation to existing sports facilities, Abbeycroft Leisure is already working with Public Health Suffolk and the current Healthy Lifestyles Service, to deliver various initiatives, including 'Get Healthy, Get into Sport'.

2.6.7 Public Health Suffolk is undertaking an audit of physical activity in Suffolk to inform future interventions, and it is also re-procuring its Integrated Healthy Lifestyles Service (IHLS) later in 2015; the outcome of this service is that anyone in Suffolk who wants to be more active will be able to access appropriate advice/guidance/referral opportunities, to address their personal needs. The main aims of the IHLS will be to:

- Tackle modifiable risk factors that contribute to increased morbidity and mortality; namely smoking; hypertension; obesity physical inactivity and alcohol use
- Reduce health inequalities
- Promote prevention at scale
- Improve long-term health outcomes
- Increase health and well being.

Children and Young Peoples' Services

2.6.8 In terms of local context, it is worth highlighting that the recent changes in the education provision in Suffolk, i.e. moving from a three tier to a two-tier service has highlighted opportunities to maximise use of school sites in terms of community use of sports facilities, although this is complicated in Bury St Edmunds with several schools seeking academy status.

2.6.9 Suffolk County Council (SCC) is operating a Community Use Support Framework (CUSF) 2011-2017 across Suffolk. This scheme supports schools free of charge for 12 months, to develop community use, or refine their existing offer to try and make it financially viable.

2.6.10 New school facilities are developed with the concept of community use embedded in their design; this includes primary schools, many of which have external play provision, and a multi-purpose hall. Particularly in rural areas, such facilities have the potential to provide for informal sport and physical activity.

2.6.11 The provision of community use on high school sites has significant potential to increase levels of accessible provision for local communities, and extend the opportunities for participation in sport and physical activities. There is a new high school being developed in Bury St Edmunds, which will have sports facilities available for community use, under a secured agreement.

Physical Activity and Participation – The Value of Participation

2.6.12 The value of participation in sport and physical activity is significant, and its contribution to individual and community quality of life should not be under-estimated. This is true for both younger and older people; participation in sport and physical activity delivers:

- Opportunities for physical activity and therefore more ‘active living’
- Health benefits; cardio-vascular, strong bones and mobility
- Health improvement
- Mental health benefits
- Social benefits – socialisation, communications, inter-action, regular contact, stimulating

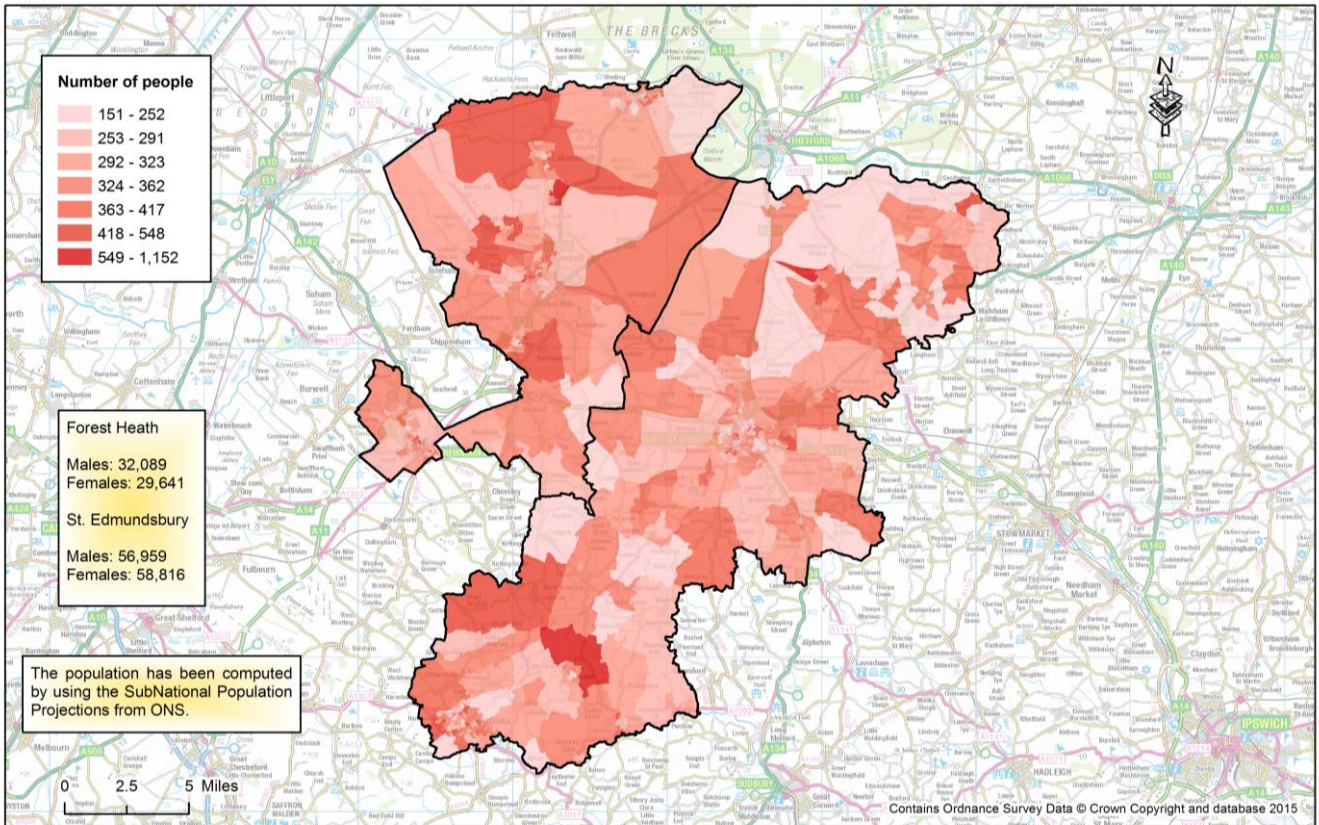
2.6.13 In addition, participation in sport and physical activity can facilitate the learning of new skills, development of individual and team performance, and provide a ‘disciplined’ environment in which participants can ‘grow’ and develop.

2.6.14 The benefits of regular and active participation in sport and physical activity will be important to promote in relation to future provision of sport, leisure and physical activity in West Suffolk; critically there is an existing audience in the Borough, who already recognise the advantages of participating, and a latent community who are inclined to take part.

2.7 Population Profiles and Projections

2.7.1 The population profile of West Suffolk, the future growth projections and the locations of growth are important to understand in planning for the future provision of sports facilities. Figure 3 below shows the population in West Suffolk, with the darker red areas indicating densely populated output areas.

Figure 3 Existing Population in West Suffolk



Population (2015)



2.7.2 The population of Bury St Edmunds is 37,000, (2015), but this is expected to increase to 50,000 by 2031 i.e. an increase of 13,000 people³.

2.7.3 Table 1 shows how this population is split among the main settlements, illustrating the high proportion of residents in villages and outlying areas and emphasising the rural nature of the area.

Table 1 – 2013 Mid Year Population Split Estimates. Source: Suffolk Observatory Census 2011

Town	Population %
Villages and outlying areas	38%
Bury St Edmunds	25.5%
Haverhill	15%
Newmarket	10.5%
Brandon	6%
Mildenhall	5%

³ Vision 2031 - <http://goo.gl/pvZibi> (St Edmundsbury Council: 2014)

2.7.4 Table 2 below provides a summary of the demographic profile in St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath, which provides valuable insight into the different resident profiles.

Table 2 – Summary of demographic profile in St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath

Key Factors	West Suffolk	St Edmundsbury Borough	Forest Heath District
Population 2013 (ONS Midyear '13)	173,000	111,800 in between 2012 and 2013, the population of St Edmundsbury grew by 0.2%	61,200 in between 2012 and 2013, the population of Forest Heath grew by 0.8%.
Population 2031	185,256	116,851	68,405
Population Increases Planned		Bury St Edmunds – a minimum of 6,360 new homes between 2009 and 2031 (5,740 between 2012 and 2031), located in five strategic areas of growth around the town. Haverhill – a minimum of 4,260 new homes between 2009 and 2031, located to the northwest and northeast of the town. Rural areas – 1,600 new homes	5,000 new homes 2011-2013; the area has already virtually achieved its allocation
Population characteristics	Ageing population. In 2011, 18% of the population was aged over 65, compared to an England average of 16.3% (Census 2011).	Predominantly white; young population – 0 -13, and 25 - 49; also large 50 - 65+ group	Predominantly white; young population – 0 -13, and 25 - 49; also large 65+ group Most ethnically diverse in Suffolk
Rural Areas		St Edmundsbury is predominantly rural. 42,800 people or 38% of its population live in its rural area which includes 80 villages. The population of St Edmundsbury's rural area is increasing, whilst nationally the rural population is declining. There are a higher proportion of older people living in the rural areas than in the towns: nearly 25% of the rural population is 65 or over, increasing from	Forest Heath also has large rural areas, including forests, and open countryside around Newmarket. Mildenhall and Brandon are smaller urban settlements close to large US army bases. In January 2015 the US Office of the Secretary of Defense announced that the RAF Mildenhall airbase would close by 2022. At the same time the USAF also committed its future to West Suffolk with the announcement that RAF Lakenheath would expand in

Key Factors	West Suffolk	St Edmundsbury Borough	Forest Heath District
		22% in 2001 and compared to only 18% in St Edmundsbury and 13% in Haverhill. In the rural areas 20% of the population is under 24 years, with 21% in Bury St Edmunds? and noticeable difference in Haverhill which has 26% of the population under 24..	2021 with the arrival of approximately 1,600 extra personnel alongside F-35A jets. It's estimated that as a result of the changes at both RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath that there will be a net loss of 2,900 jobs across both airbases (including USAF personnel). Many leisure facilities are provided for USAF personnel on-base, however the changes across both airbases could bring a higher civilian population in Forest Heath. This could have a positive impact on demand for leisure facilities from civilians that will be occupying residential properties and not able to access leisure facilities on-base.
Deprivation		IMD 15.271 (204 th ranked LA in England) ⁴ Although St Edmundsbury is a relatively affluent area, with low unemployment and general good health, it has pockets of health inequality. There is a significant gap in life expectancy between those from the most affluent areas of the town compared with those from the most deprived. Moreton Hall residents, for example, have an average life expectancy of 86.3 years, compared with Eastgate ward residents with an average of 77.3 years.	18.016 (165 th ranked LA in England) ¹ Given the relative affluence of some people and communities in the rural area, it is important to recognise that this also masks fairly severe areas of deprivation in the more urban areas.
Obesity		66% of adults are overweight; 12.9% of children are obese	65.1% of adults are overweight; 20% of children are obese
Health Cost of Inactivity	£3.2m	£2.014m	£1.240m
Health Issues		Main health problems are caused by obesity and smoking: in St Edmundsbury about 22% of the adult	Health priorities in Forest Heath include ensuring more children are at a healthy weight, preventing early death

⁴ Local Authority IMD Statistic (Office of National Statistics: 2013)

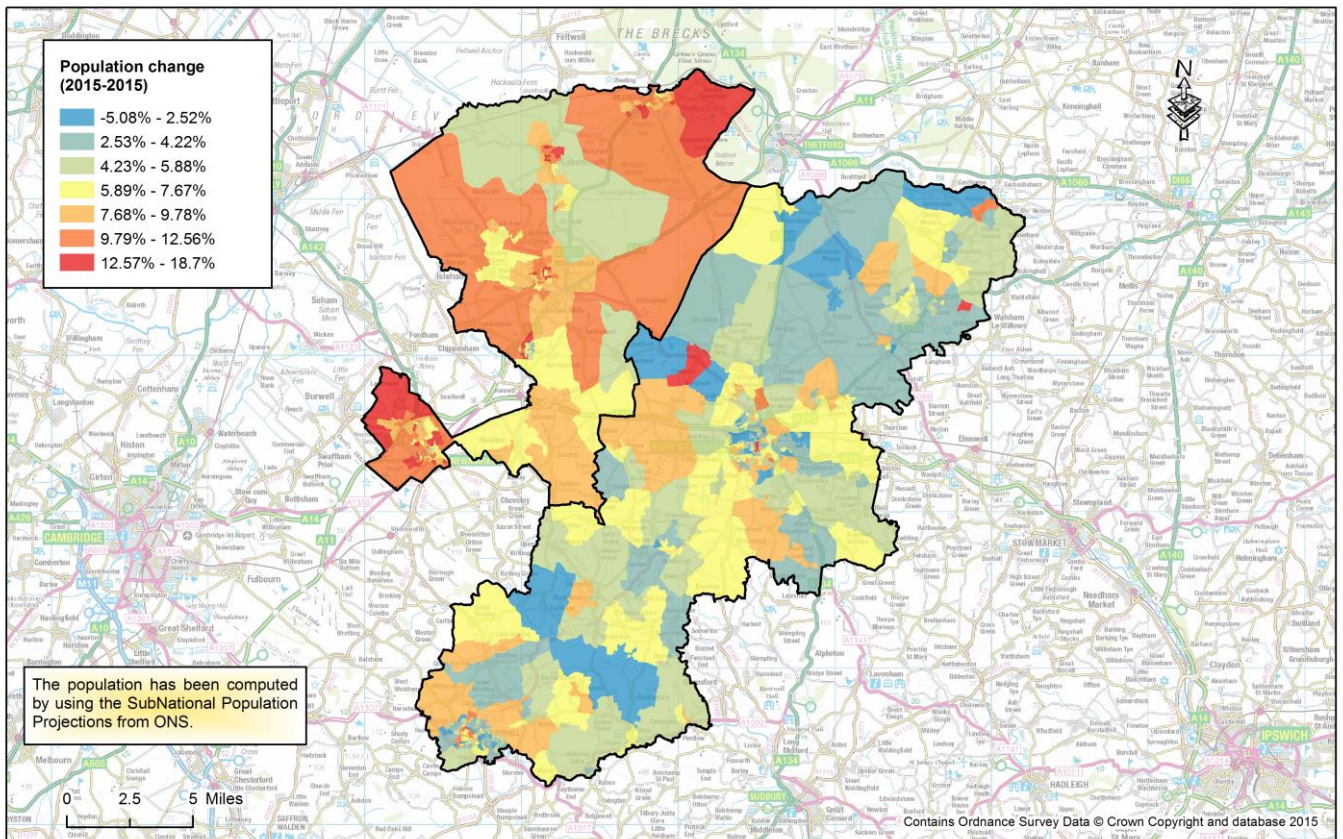
Key Factors	West Suffolk	St Edmundsbury Borough	Forest Heath District
		population smoke and about 24% are obese.	from cardiovascular disease, and reducing smoking levels in routine and manual workers.

2.7.5 In order to accurately predict the level of sports provision that will be required in West Suffolk over the next 15 years, the housing developments summarised above will be used to inform the population projections.

2.7.6 A key finding from the analysis of the location of residents is that both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury are predominantly rural areas, where car travel is required to access the majority of facilities and services. This will be considered as part of the final action plan and recommendations.

2.7.7 In order to understand how the population in West Suffolk will change in the medium to long term, Figure 4 illustrates the population growth forecast for West Suffolk and the locations in which it will occur. The darker the colour shade, the higher the population growth in that specific area. The areas of densest population growth are in the North, West and Northwest (red and orange) or West Suffolk.

Figure 4 – Population growth forecast for West Suffolk by 2025



Population change (2025-2015)

2.8 Local Sports Context

2.8.1 This section summarises the key sports specific strategies and plans for West Suffolk in order to understand the key priorities for sports and leisure in the local and surrounding areas.

Creating an Active Suffolk – Suffolk County Sports Facilities Strategy 2009 – 2016

2.8.2 This strategy is one of six County Sports Facilities Strategies developed in the East of England; it sits underneath ‘Creating Active Places’, the Sports Facilities Strategy for the East of England, and above local district and borough sports facilities strategies. This hierarchy provides an overall context for the current and future provision of sports facilities at a county and local level. The development of the Suffolk Sports Facilities Strategy has been driven by the need to develop a prioritised and strategic framework for future sports facilities provision across Suffolk and to reflect and build upon the recommended priorities in the East of England Sports Facilities Strategy ‘Creating Active Places’.

2.8.3 Ten recommendations were developed for Suffolk, to be reflected in district/borough sports facility strategies:

- Invest in Facility Stock
- Develop New Facility Provision
- Address Unmet Demand
- Negotiate increased Accessibility/ Availability to Existing Facilities
- Resourcing Future Sports Facilities Provision by maximising potential opportunities through Building Schools for the Future (and Planning Framework – identified need)
- Partnerships
- Planning Framework
- Retain elite athletes in the County
- Harness Benefits of 2012
- Multi-sport hubs
- Sports Clubs Security of Tenure
- Major Events

Suffolk – The Most Active County 2012

2.8.4 Most Active County was launched in February 2012 to provide a framework for partners in Suffolk to work together to create, promote and commission sport and physical activity opportunities that promote healthy, active lifestyles, shift inactive behaviours and address the barriers that communities or individuals face in accessing sport, leisure and physical activity. It provided a catalyst to address the physical inactivity epidemic faced by Suffolk, and to make the County the ‘most Active’ in the UK. Key partners include Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils, NHS Suffolk, Suffolk Sport and Sport England.

2.8.5 There is clear evidence to demonstrate the need for the Most Active County initiative:

- Over 50% of adults in Suffolk do no sport or active recreation;
- 1,000 lives are lost every year in Suffolk due to physical inactivity;
- 74% of people with a limiting disability in Suffolk do not undertake any sport or active recreation;
- 55% of women in Suffolk do no sport or physical activity compared to 44.1% of men;
- The health cost of physical inactivity in Suffolk is £12.2 million per year;
- 22.9% of adults and 15.7% of year 6 children in Suffolk are obese;
- An older person remaining active in Suffolk and independent at home defers £11,500 per year from social care costs;
- Reducing falls in Suffolk by 10% would realise £2million in savings annually;
- Physical activity reduces the risk of mental disorders including depression, cognitive decline and dementia and improves self-perception of mental well-being, increases self-esteem, lowers likelihood of sleep disorders and enables a better ability to cope with stress;
- 51% of adult residents in Suffolk want to start playing sport or do a bit more sport.

2.8.6 Many of these issues are mirrored in West Suffolk as illustrated by the low levels of participation and high levels of obesity

Key Aims

2.8.7 The primary aim is to get more people in Suffolk active and raise the county's ranking in Sport England's annual Active People Survey. To achieve this, we have developed a series of key objectives. They are;

- To develop community-led participation in sport and physical activity
- To improve the use of physical assets and the environment for sport and physical activity
- To address sport and health inequality
- To deliver national governing body plans for an active lifestyle
- To increase activity amongst children and young people
- To develop Suffolk as a host for mass participation sports events

2.8.8 Since 2012, participation in sport and active recreation in Suffolk has grown by 2.2% (source: Sport England Active People 9 data). This has lifted the county from the 25th (out of 27) to the 20th most active county in England.

2.9 Sports Profiling

2.9.1 The value of participation in sport and physical activity is significant, and its contribution to individual and community quality of life should not be under-estimated. This is true for both younger and older people; participation in sport and physical activity delivers:

- Opportunities for physical activity, and therefore more 'active living'
- Health benefits - cardio-vascular, stronger bones, mobility
- Health improvement
- Mental health benefits
- Social benefits – socialising, communication, inter-action, regular contact, stimulating

2.9.2 In addition, participation in sport and physical activity can facilitate the learning of new skills, development of individual and team ability/performance, and provide a 'disciplined' environment in which participants can 'grow' and develop.

2.9.3 The benefits of regular and active participation in sport and physical activity will be important to promote in relation to future provision of sport, leisure and physical activity in West Suffolk; critically there is an existing audience in the Borough, who already recognise the advantages of participating, and a latent community who are inclined to take part.

2.9.4 This section summarises the results of the Sport England Active People Survey for West Suffolk, in order to understand the key trends in sports participation across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.

Current Participation Rates

2.9.5 The Active People Survey (APS) 9 (2014/15 Q2) highlights the following key statistics;

- Of those aged 16+, only 29.4% (St Edmundsbury) and 34.9% (Forest Heath) of the population participates once a week in sport; this level in St Edmundsbury is lower than the Suffolk (32.6%), East (34.6%) and England average (35%), and is lower than previous levels of participation in the Borough in APS 1 2005/06 (30.9%).
- The Forest Heath APS9 level is higher than that of the Suffolk and Eastern averages, but lower than that of England, previous levels in APS 1 2005/06 (37.2%).
- 65%- 70% of West Suffolk residents are not physically active at least once a week. This statistic is of significant concern, given the corporate priority and objectives for health and well being in West Suffolk. (Source: APS 9 2014/15 Q2)

2.9.6 Only 20.9% of the St Edmundsbury, and 25.2% of the Forest Heath population take part in 1-2 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week. (Source: APS 9 2014/15 Q2)

2.9.7 The proportion of people taking part in 30 minute’s moderate intensity activity 3 times a week is only 15.9% in St Edmundsbury and 18.3% in Forest Heath, and is lower in St Edmundsbury than the regional (East 16.8%) and England (17.5%) average. Forest Heath has above the East and England average of residents taking part in 30 minutes’ moderate intensity activity 3 times a week. The proportion of people in St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath taking part in 30 minutes’ moderate intensity activity 3 times a week has increased since APS 2005/06, and since APS 8 2014/15 Q1

2.9.8 Overall, participation rates are higher for males than females in West Suffolk. The top 5 participation sports in the local area are:

Table 3 – Top Participation Sports in West Suffolk

	St Edmundsbury	Forest Heath
Top Participation Sports	Cycling	Cycling
	Athletics	Swimming
	Swimming	Fitness
	Gym	Athletics
	Fitness	Gym

2.9.9 APS 9 Q2 also identifies that;

- In terms of Latent Demand, 58.8% of all adults in St Edmundsbury, and 54.4% in Forest Heath want to do more sport
- 7.9% of the identified latent demand in 2012/13 in Forest Heath was for swimming, and for cycling 5.9%. In St Edmundsbury latent demand in 2012/13 for swimming was 10.9%. (APS7; Local Sports Profile updated March 2014)
- 26.3% of adults in St Edmundsbury, and 29.2% of adults in Forest Heath, who are already physically active, want to do more sport
- 34.4% of those who are physically inactive in St Edmundsbury, and 31.4% in Forest Heath, want to do more sport
- Satisfaction with existing sports facilities has decreased from 75.8% to 65% in St Edmundsbury, and from 73.8% to 61.2% in Forest Heath over the last 5 years.

Sport England Key Performance Indicators

2.9.10 Sport England, the Government’s agency for sport, measures five key areas in relation to sport activity. Table 4 and 5 overleaf set out the performance of St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath, compared to the East region and England.

Table 4 – Sport England KPI's for St Edmundsbury. Source: Sport England Local Sports Profile (August 2015)

Note: The blue highlighted figure is the highest and the red is the lowest across the three areas

KPI1 3x30 – Physical Activity per week	Year	St Edmundsbury			East			England				
		All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female		
	2005/06	19.4%	20.9%	17.8%	20.8%	22.8%	18.9%	21.3%	24.0%	18.7%		
	2012/13	23.5%	29.5%	17.9%	23.8%	26.5%	21.1%	24.7%	28.3%	21.3%		
Indicator	St Edmundsbury				East				England			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
KPI2 * - Volunteering at least one hour a week	3.8%	7.2%	*	4.2%	4.8%	8.0%	7.4%	6.8%	4.5%	7.2%	7.6%	6.0%
KPI3 - Club Membership in the last 4 weeks	29.7%	22.3%	21.5%	18.4%	24.3%	23.6%	23.7%	22.2%	23.9%	23.3%	22.8%	21.0%
KPI4 - Received tuition / coaching in last 12 months	17.2%	17.0%	15.2%	11.5%	18.3%	16.8%	17.4%	16.7%	17.5%	16.2%	16.8%	15.8%
KPI5 - Took part in organised competition in last 12 months	18.2%	15.0%	16.2%	12.1%	15.3%	14.5%	15.1%	13.6%	14.4%	14.3%	14.4%	11.2%
KPI6 - Satisfaction with local provision	75.8%	~	~	65.0%	70.2%	~	~	62.5%	69.0%	~	~	60.3%

2.9.11 It can be seen from Table 4 that in 2012/13, St Edmundsbury was below all KPIs in comparison to both the and England averages except satisfaction with sports facilities, and participation levels in organised competition. It is critical that regular participation opportunities continue to be provided, given their health benefits, and are both accessible and affordable.

Table 5 – Sport England KPI's for Forest Heath. Source: Sport England Local Sports Profile (August 2015)

Note: The blue highlighted figure is the highest and the red is the lowest across the three areas

KPI1 3x30 – Physical Activity per week	Year	Forest Heath			EAST			England				
		All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female		
	2005/06	24.9%	26.0%	23.7%	20.8%	22.8%	18.9%	21.3%	24.0%	18.7%		
	2012/13	27.4%	30.0%	24.7%	23.8%	26.5%	21.1%	24.7%	28.3%	21.3%		
Indicator	Forest Heath				East				England			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
KPI2 * - Volunteering at least one hour a week	4.7%	9.8%	*	6.5%	4.8%	8.0%	7.4%	6.8%	4.5%	7.2%	7.6%	6.0%
KPI3 - Club Membership in the last 4 weeks	19.8%	16.5%	19.3%	14.9%	24.3%	23.6%	23.7%	22.2%	23.9%	23.3%	22.8%	21.0%
KPI4 - Received tuition / coaching in last 12 months	16.8%	12.9%	*	10.8%	18.3%	16.8%	17.4%	16.7%	17.5%	16.2%	16.8%	15.8%
KPI5 - Took part in organised competition in last 12 months	17.6%	12.0%	*	18.3%	15.3%	14.5%	15.1%	13.6%	14.4%	14.3%	14.4%	11.2%
KPI6 - Satisfaction with local provision	73.8%	~	~	61.2%	70.2%	~	~	62.5%	69.0%	~	~	60.3%

2.9.12 It can be seen from Table 5 that in 2012/13, Forest Heath has higher average levels of participation in physical activity once a week than both the East region and England. However, there is lower club membership and participation in coaching in Forest Heath than both the East region average, and the England average. Levels of satisfaction with sports facilities are lower in Forest Heath than the East, but higher than the England average. It is critical that regular participation opportunities continue to be provided, given their health benefits, and are both accessible and affordable, as KPIs 2-8 still evidence low participation levels, although they have increased since the initial APS survey in 2005/06.

2.9.13 Table 6 below summarises the participation factors for West Suffolk, comparing Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury in 7 key areas.

Table 6 – Summary of Participation Factors for West Suffolk

Key Factors	St Edmundsbury	Forest Heath
Participation	34.2% (16+, once a week); has been as high as 39%, declined and is now increasing again) APS 8 30.7% (Oct 2014)	33% (16+, once a week); has been as high as 41%) APS 8 35.4% (Oct 2014)
Participation in Physical activity and sport 5 x 30minutes per week	23.5%	16.2%
Participation in Physical activity and sport 1-2 x 30 minutes per week	27.5%	28%
Latent Demand to do more sports	49.4% of all adults; 31% of active adults; 18.4% of inactive adults	54.1% of all adults; 32.7% of active adults; 21.4% of inactive adults
Specific sports adults want to do more of	Swimming	Swimming, cycling
Top participation sports	Cycling Athletics Swimming Gym Fitness	Cycling, Swimming, Fitness, Athletics, Gym
Satisfaction with local provision	Declining	Declining

2.9.14 These key participation factors will be addressed throughout the strategy and action plan, focussing on where the survey has identified latent demand or low satisfaction.

Market Segmentation

2.9.15 Sport England’s market segmentation model comprises 19 ‘sporting’ segments. It is designed to assist understanding of attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to sports participation and to assist agencies involved in delivery of sport and recreation to develop tailored interventions, communicate more effectively with the target market and to better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles. Across St Edmundsbury, Market Segmentation data indicates higher proportions of people in segments two, nineteen, four, nine and eleven (see below) relative to other segments locally, regionally and/or nationally. Segment two ‘Jamie’s – sports team drinkers’ (21.5%) is the most significant.

2.9.16 Table 7 summarises the four dominant segments in West Suffolk and their key characteristics.

Table 7 - Market Segmentation Summary for St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath

Market segment	Key characteristics	% Of St Edmundsbury Population	% Of Forest Heath Population	Activities / sports that appeal to segment
Philip, Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Philip keeps up his love of sport, hindered only by office pressures. He plays badminton in a local team, and if he gets home early enough, enjoys a swim at the health club. He shares football season tickets with his son, and together they play cricket for the local Sunday side –alas, his rugby days are over. Philip also enjoys keep fit/gym, swimming, football, golf and athletics (running). His participation in most of his top sports is above the national average, which is indicative of the priority he places on sport. Reasonably health conscious, Philip wants to stay healthy for later in life so he can keep playing sport for as long as possible. He's not in any hurry to hang up his pads, and anyway, he'd keep up his involvement in the club as fixture secretary.	10.1	9.8	Cycling, keep fit / gym, swimming and football
Tim, Settling Down Males	Tim is an active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. He is aged 26 – 35, may be married or single, is a career professional, and may or may not have children. Tim participates in very active, technical sports, skiing, water sports, team games, individual activities, personal fitness and likely to have private gym membership.	10	8.4%	Cycling keep fit/gym, swimming, football and athletics or running, also football and athletics.
Elsie and Arnold Retirement home singles	Lowest participation rates of the 19 segments. Poor health and disability are major inhibitors. Participation mainly in low intensity activity. Safer neighbourhoods or people to go with would encourage participation. Organised, low-impact, low intensity events would be welcomed.	8	8.6	Walking, bowls and dancing
Roger and Joy Early Retirement Couples	Typically aged 56 – 65 this couple may be in employment, but nearing the end of their careers, or already have taken early retirement. They are slightly less active than the average adult population.	8.2	8.2	Walking, swimming, table tennis, golf and keep fit classes

- 2.9.17 Table 7 illustrates that there is a need to ensure provision of quality facilities for cycling, fitness, keep fit/gym, swimming, football, cricket, athletics or running, table tennis and golf at the local level. There is also a need to ensure opportunities exist for walking and dancing.
- 2.9.18 By undertaking an analysis of the distribution of the dominant segments, the Market Segmentation tool illustrates that the majority of 'Phillips' are in the north of West Suffolk, while 'Tim's are in the south and around Bury St Edmunds.
- 2.9.19 In Forest Heath, the majority of 'Elsie and Arnolds' are in the north, middle and south of the area, whilst 'Rogers and Joys are in the north. This local intelligence will be used to develop and drive the action plan to maximise opportunities at a local level, by providing activities in which people want to take part.

3 FOOTBALL

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section of the report focusses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. At the end of this section there is also a summary of the supply and demand findings for third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches (AGP's) that are becoming increasingly important to service the needs of football for both competitive play and training. The Football Association's (FA's) *National Game Strategy* was published in 2013. A core focus is to develop and improve grassroots facilities. Key headlines in the strategy of relevance to this PPS include;

- On average 52% of football pitches are owned by educational institutions and 31% by local authorities
- Growth in small-sided football is expected to continue (driven by the private but also social enterprise sectors)
- The Football Foundation is committed to funding grass roots community infrastructure improvements and creating sustainable sites is critical
- 49% of teams have five or more games cancelled per season, mainly due to pitches being unplayable
- The cost of pitches and ancillary facilities, as well as quality of maintenance, are a national concern across clubs
- Pitch provision needs to account for environmental sustainability, new formats of the game, changes in society and increased club ownership through long term leases and asset transfers
- The main driver of demand is ease of access, particularly for casual play
- Local authorities should recognise and maximise the social value of provision (health, education and community safety)

3.1.2 In October 2014, the FA announced its intentions to deliver 30 football hubs in cities across the country. The FA intends to increase the number of full size, publicly accessibility 3G AGP's to over 1,000 across England. It also intends to facilitate the delivery of more than 150 new club-owned and managed football hubs to support the deliver of FA, County FA and professional club youth development and coach education programmes. It also aims to ensure that at least 50% of all mini soccer and youth matches are played on good quality 3G AGP's.

3.1.3 The body that governs football in the study area is Suffolk FA and all of the FA's community and development objectives are implemented through this local body

3.2 Consultation Overview

Football Association

- 3.2.1 4global consulted with Suffolk FA to provide an overview of club and facility needs and issues across the West Suffolk Study area.
- 3.2.2 Football participation in Forest Heath is low compared to the rest of the country, as shown **Sports Profiling** above. Coupled with the fact that West Suffolk is an area of low relative population, this means that it is not a priority area for the County FA.
- 3.2.3 St Edmundsbury is seen as more of a priority as it has higher participation rates than Forest Heath, as well as some large and vibrant clubs in the area, such as Sporting 87 FC and Bury Town FC. The clubs in this area have relatively static growth profiles, although there is potential for a club to grow it were based on the site of a new 3G pitch.
- 3.2.4 The key gap in facility provision at present is seen as a full-size 3G AGP, which is a priority for the County FA. There is one 3G across both authorities (Bury RFC – The Haberden), which is not full-size but is home to a football academy (1st step sports development centre).
- 3.2.5 For grass pitches, facility provision for football appears to meet demand sufficiently and is perceived to be of good quality, however it is clear that this needs to be supported by the quantitative analysis of the PPS.
- 3.2.6 The following clubs were highlighted by the FA as being of strategic importance to the area. A detailed consultation was undertaken with each of these clubs, in order to understand their key issues and future development plans. A summary of these consultation records can be found in Technical Appendix A.
- Newmarket Town FC – a large and successful community club wishing to redevelop their playing facilities
 - Bury Town FC – previous plans to build a new stadium, 3G pitch and County FA HQ have been postponed. The club is instead pursuing a new lease at its existing site
 - Brandon Town Youth FC – medium sized club that play at Brandon Leisure Centre. Increased levels of demand expected from nearby housing developments
 - Sporting 87 FC – a very well run Christian football club, operating from the Victory Grounds.

3.2.7 The following sites were highlighted by the FA as being of strategic importance to the area. All of these sites were assessed as part of the site audits and results of these assessments can be found in Technical Appendix A.

- King Edwards School – a strong football-driven school which creates significant demand and would benefit from a 3G pitch
- The New Croft – A successful site, run by the Haverhill Sports Association and home of the Haverhill Rovers. The site has recently received Football Foundation funding for improved pitches, floodlighting and changing rooms. A new 3G AGP is currently being developed, with circa £300k of football foundation funding contributed by the FA.
- The Victory Ground – good quality football and cricket pitches and the home ground of Sporting 87 FC.

3.2.8 The FA clarified that one of the key outputs of this strategy was to confirm options for a new 3G site. The consultation highlighted the following possible sites

- Bury Leisure Centre (& King Edward School)
- School site near Moreton Hall Industrial Estate
- Mildenhall Hub
- The New Croft Haverhill

3.2.9 While undertaking the strategy, development plans have been confirmed a full-size 3G AGP at the new Moreton School site. This will be operated by Abbeycroft Leisure and the FA have stated that they would like the facility to be built to FIFA 1* standard and therefore able to take 11aside adult football. The FA have also requested that Sporting 87 and Bury Town FC have priority booking as the two largest clubs in the area.

3.2.10 The FA also confirmed that it is key to provide long-term security for Newmarket FC. This ambition will be addressed by the proposed 3G developments on the site of their current pitch. This is a privately funded project and therefore does not have direct input from the FA. It is expected that the build will take place in summer 2016.

3.2.11 The FA indicated that their analysis shows that in addition to the current 3G developments in the area, there is demand for further AGP to satisfy the requirements of Sporting 87 FC and Bury Town FC. They would like to see a small-sided facility would be appropriate, to be used for training and mini/youth matches,

Further Consultations

3.2.12 A number of additional consultations were undertaken with key stakeholders, including but not limited to South Lees School and Haverhill Community Sports Association. This is in addition to the consultations undertaken with all football clubs in the area during the demand capture process. A more detailed record of these consultations can be seen in Technical Appendix B.

3.3 Supply

Quantity Overview

3.3.1 As part of the supply scope for the strategy, a 4 global site assessor visited all football sites in the area and assessed the facilities using the FA's guidelines, as shown in Playing Pitch Strategy Appendix 2 - Football Association (Sport England, 2014).

3.3.2 Table 8 presents the data collected on football pitch supply in the area. Technical Appendix A presents a detailed table of all pitches in the Borough, including capacity and supply and demand balance.

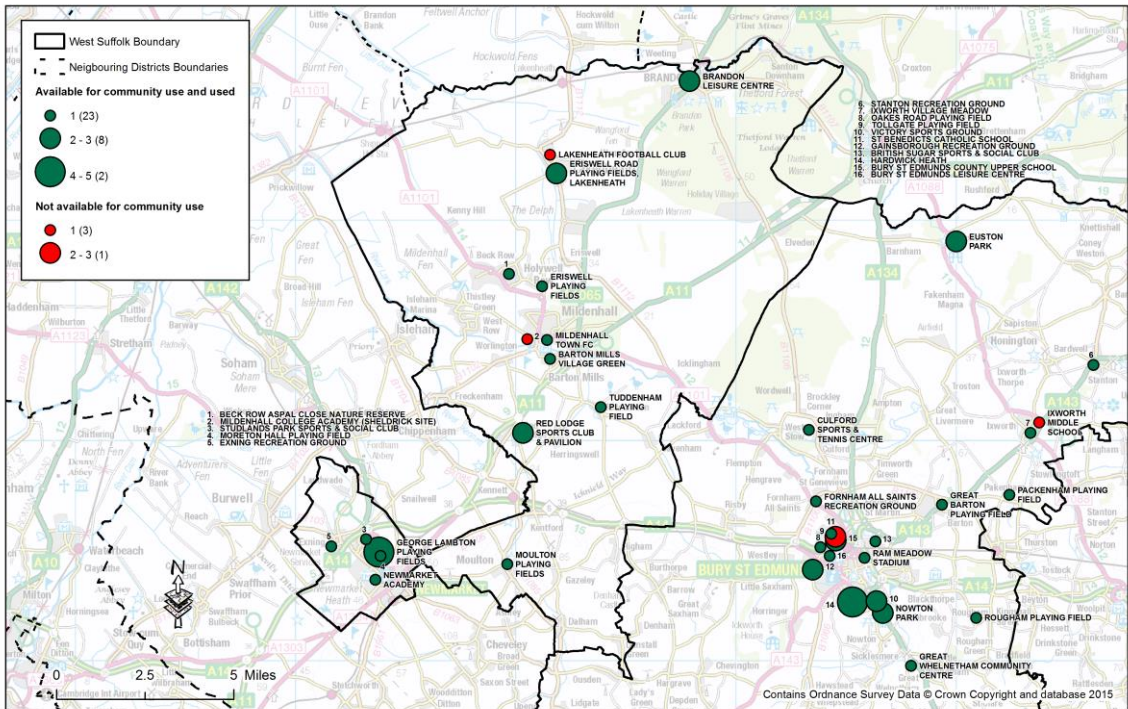
Table 8 – Supply of pitches in the borough. Source: 4 global site assessments

FOREST HEATH	Number of pitches							
	Adult football	Youth football				Mini soccer		
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	Gen ⁵	7v7	5v5	Gen ⁶
Secured	17	0	3	1	2	0	4	0
Unsecured	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
No community use	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
Total	21	3	3	1	4	0	4	3
ST EDMUNDSBURY	Number of pitches							
	Adult football	Youth football				Mini soccer		
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	Gen ⁷	7v7	5v5	Gen ⁸
Secured	44	1	9	1	8	9	0	1
Unsecured	8	1	2	3	5	0	1	4
No community use	1	2	4	8	1	0	2	0
Total	53	4	15	12	14	9	3	5

⁵ Gen = general i.e. pitches are marked out for youth/mini soccer with flexible pitch dimensions

3.3.3 Figure 4 and 5 overleaf illustrate the geographical location of adult football pitches across the two local authorities. The size of dot for each site represents the number pitches at each site and the colour represents availability for community use. Further explanation and analysis of the community use arrangement will be detailed later in the strategy.

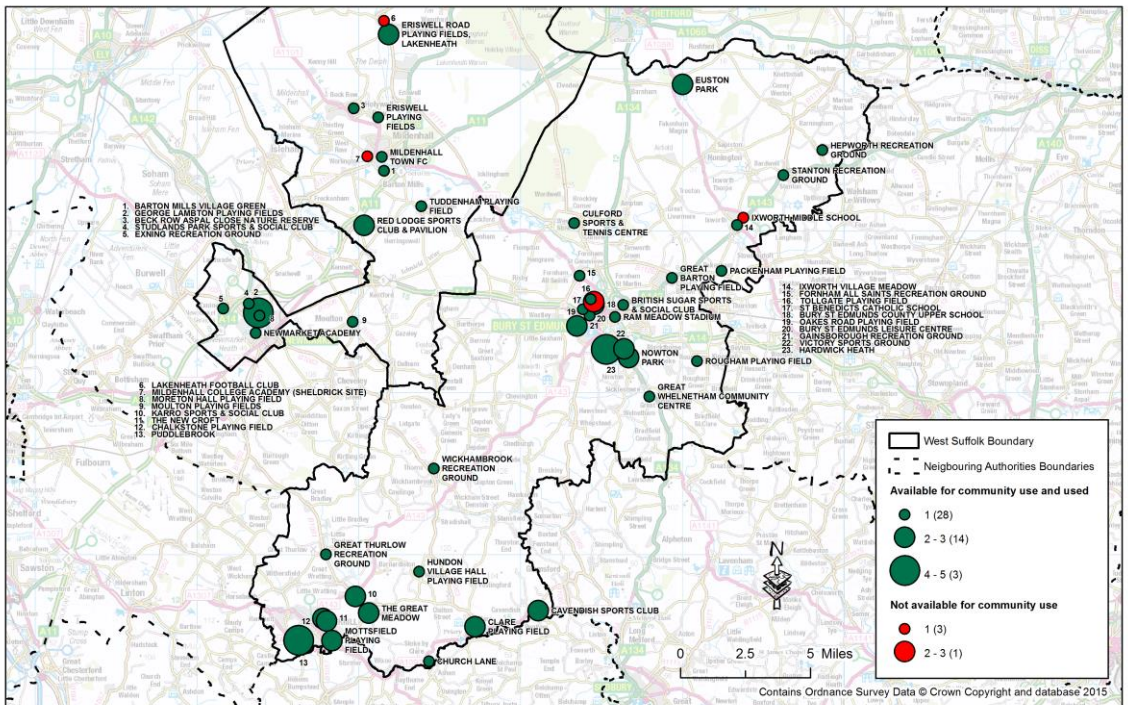
Figure 4 – Site audit for football pitches in Forest Heath



Adult Football pitches by community use availability in Forest Heath



Figure 5 – Site audit for football pitches in St Edmundsbury



Adult Football pitches by community use availability in St Edmundsbury



3.3.4 Figure 4 and 5 illustrates the far greater volume of supply in St Edmundsbury, but also shows how this is focussed heavily around the towns of Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill. The map also indicates relatively low supply in the area between the two major towns, as well as to the north of the borough, however it is likely this is driven by low population density in these areas.

3.3.5 For Forest heath, the highest density of supply surrounds Mildenhall and Newmarket. The rest of the pitches are spread evenly across the district, with all key areas of population serviced by football pitches.

Pitch Ownership

3.3.6 The two local authorities and the respective Parish or County Councils own the majority of the sites across West Suffolk. In addition, there are a number of privately owned pitches that are available to the community, as well as charitable organisations/sports clubs.

3.3.7 The ownership of football pitches in West Suffolk is summarised in Table 9 below

Table 9 – Site ownership in West Suffolk. Source: 4 global site assessments

Type of ownership	Percentage of football pitches owned across St Edmundsbury	Percentage of football pitches owned across Forest Heath
Local Authority	44%	40%
Town/ Parish Council	20%	31%
Private Ownership	15%	5%
Trust/ Charity/ Club	11%	19%
Other	10%	5%

Pitch Quality

3.3.8 Where access was possible, each site and pitch was visited by an independent assessor (the same person for all pitches) in accordance with the non-technical assessment guidance provided by the FA. The assessment scores take into account pitch and changing room quality. In addition to the site visits, club consultations were used to verify the quality ratings. Each pitch is rated as good, standard or poor, which is then linked to its carrying capacity (number of games/matches per week which this standard of pitch should be able to accommodate).

3.3.9 The following sites achieved the best scores from the site assessments undertaken by 4 global.

- **Red Lodge:** This was identified as an impressive site, with flat and well-marked pitches kept in good condition. The large ancillary

facilities are in excellent condition and appear to be more than adequate for the sporting and leisure needs of the growing community. Furthermore, the size and design of the building enabled the sports grounds to be a community hub for local residents.

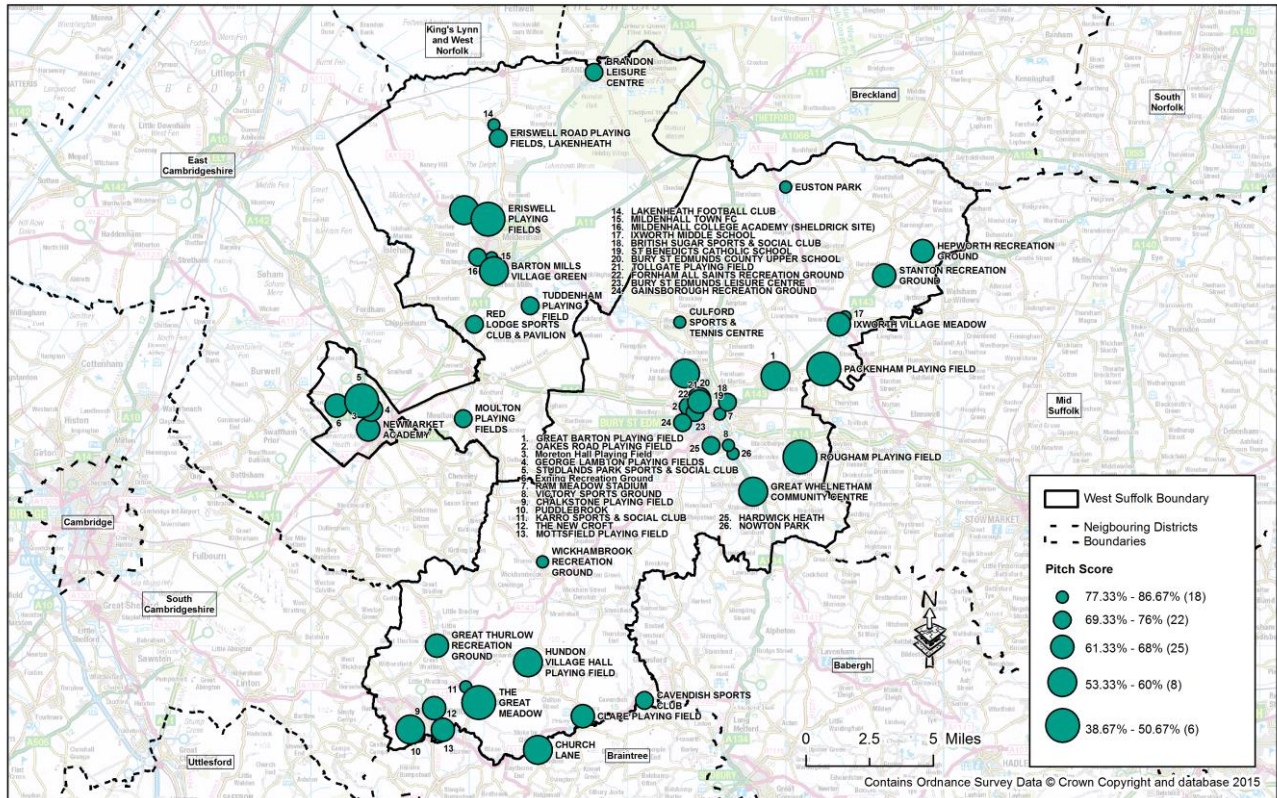
- **Victory Sports Ground:** Identified as the site in the best overall condition by the site assessor. The pitches are in excellent condition and the ancillary facilities could barely be faulted.

3.3.10 The following sites scored particularly poorly;

- **Puddlebrook and Gainsborough Recreation Grounds:** Although the pitches at both of these sites did not score too badly, they have terrible ancillary facilities which have been highlighted by users as being highly unsatisfactory and a potential inhibitor of participation
- **General village pitches:** Although, on the whole the standard of the village sports pitches in the area was relatively good, sites consistently have issues with drainage, pitch undulation and pests such as rabbits and foxes. The standard of ancillary facilities is quite low and many lack the standard of facility required to attract more members. Sites typical of this observation are Pakenham Village rec and Hundon Football Cub.

3.3.11 Figure 6 shows the assessment scoring of adult football sites on a map, in order to identify any trends between location and average score.

Figure 6 – Assessment scores by site. Source: 4 global site assessments.



Adult Football pitches quality score in West Suffolk



Table 10 provides a summary of all site assessment data, showing the spread of football pitches across the 'Poor', 'Standard' and 'Good' pitch rating

Table 10 – Summary of quality ratings by pitch type (Source: 4 global site assessments)

West Suffolk (total) Quality rating	All pitches	Adult pitches	Youth pitches	Mini pitches
Good (80-100%) - carrying capacity: adult 3, youth 4, mini 6 games per week	7	5	0	2
Standard (50-79.9%) - carrying capacity: adult 2, youth 2, mini 4	155	70	46	39
Poor (0-49.9%) - carrying capacity: adult 1, youth 1, mini 2	9	4	4	1
St Edmundsbury Quality rating	All pitches	Adult pitches	Youth pitches	Mini pitches
Good - as above	5	3	0	2
Standard – as above	116	50	36	30
Poor - as above	8	3	4	1
Forest Heath Quality	All pitches	Adult pitches	Youth pitches	Mini pitches
Good - as above	2	2	0	0
Standard – as above	39	20	10	9
Poor - as above	1	1	0	0

3.3.12 In order to provide a benchmark of the site assessment scoring, Table 11 compares the scoring, in terms of proportion of sites in the three rating brackets, against two neighboring local authorities in Suffolk. 4 global is currently working with these two local authorities to deliver their PPS strategies, however their names cannot be disclosed that the strategies are yet to be formally issued.

Table 11 – Benchmarking of site assessment scoring with Neighbouring LA's

Pitch Rating	Average Pitch Score				
	SE	FH	West Suffolk	Neighbouring Local Authority A	Neighbouring Local Authority B
Good (80-100%)	3.5%	4.7%	4%	8%	32%
Standard (50-79.9%)	94.3%	92.9%	90.6%	84%	67%
Poor (0-49.9%)	2.2%	2.4%	4.4%	7%	1%

3.3.13 Table 11 provides a useful comparison against neighbouring local authorities and illustrates that West Suffolk has a higher than usual proportion of standard pitches but a lower proportion of good and poor pitches.

3.3.14 This is likely to be caused by the clay-based soil that is typical in the West Suffolk area. With a relatively flat topography and clay-based soil that holds nutrition well and requires little maintenance, pitches in West Suffolk are unlikely to be Poor, unless in extreme circumstances. Conversely, clay-based pitches are difficult to maintain to a very high standard as they hold a high level of water after extreme rainfall and are subject to undulation in high traffic areas.

3.4 Demand

3.4.1 Football is the most popular team participation sport in West Suffolk, with a total of 147 teams recorded by the study, as shown in Table 12.

Table 12 – Team Profile and demand for pitches in West Suffolk

West Suffolk Total Demand	Adult teams	Youth teams (U11 and above)	Mini teams (U7 to U10)
Number of teams	45	54	44
Match equivalents per week (home games)	22.5	27	22
Equivalent no. of 'Good' match pitches required	7.5	6.75	3.67
St Edmundsbury Demand	Adult teams	Youth teams (U11 and above)	Mini teams (U7 to U10)
Number of teams	35	37	34
Match equivalents per week (home games)	17.5	18.5	17
Equivalent no. of 'Good' match pitches required	5.8	4.6	2.8
Forest Heath Demand	Adult teams	Youth teams (U11 and above)	Mini teams (U7 to U10)
Number of teams	10	17	10
Match equivalents per week (home games)	5	8.5	5
Equivalent no. of 'Good' match pitches required	1.7	2.1	0.8

3.4.2 According to the FA's club affiliation records, the club to team ratio in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury is 1:2.4, i.e. each club runs on average 2.6 teams. This compares to a national ratio of 1:3.3 and a regional ratio of 1:3.5. This shows that there are fewer teams within each club on average compared to national levels.

3.4.3 The participation reports for the two areas also provide the following information, as shown in Table 13.

Table 13 – Club demand data for West Suffolk. Source: FA Participation Reports 2013/14

Measure	St Edmundsbury Clubs	Forest Heath Clubs	National Average
% Of clubs that have adult teams	74.2%	75.9%	72.6
% Of adult only clubs that have only one team	74.2%	86.4%	74.9

3.4.4 The key piece of data from Table 13 is that Forest Heath has a higher proportion of one-team clubs than the national average. This indicates a high level of casual participation but low gross participation figures, as these overall figures are influenced heavily by larger, multi-team clubs. The Action Plan and strategy will evaluate whether greater encouragement of larger, multi-team clubs should be undertaken in Forest Heath, in an attempt to grow overall participation.

Major Club Demand Summary

- 3.4.5 The top 5 largest clubs in terms of the number of teams are summarised below. A more detailed analysis of these clubs can be seen in Technical Appendix A.
- 3.4.6 **Bury Town FC** - 24 teams playing across various locations with an in depth youth setup and aspirations to grow. The club has expressed a need for 3G and additional training facilities to cope with the large number of teams. There is a long-term strategy for the club to relocate; as there are early development plans for the current site. Funds from development on the current site should be used to finance the move to a new facility as and when a suitable site is identified. A new site would co-ordinate a greater number of teams to one site and increase the sustainability of the club by increasing social revenue. The FA has also identified that the current facility is not fit for purpose for a football club of Bury Town's current playing level. The club should have access to high quality grass pitches, as well as a full size 3G AGP developments and a high quality ancillary facility.
- 3.4.7 **Sporting 87** - The club is FA Community Charter Club with 25 teams (as of Feb 2015). Their main facility is the Victory Sports Ground, of which Sporting 87 has directorship. The club also uses St. Benedicts School (S87 Development centre), Nowton Park and Hardwick Heath for matches/training however put an approximate 80% of matches at Victory Sports Ground. The club has identified the severe need for more 3G pitches in the area as a whole and also the need as a club. The club considers itself as a responsible party for providing good youth football in the borough.
- 3.4.8 **Moreton hall Youth** – The club has 13 teams that use a variety of pitches across the borough for matches and training. The club has been increasing rapidly but is worried that it may begin to lose teams to other clubs due to the state of pitches in the area. The club doesn't have any facility plans but this is another reason why they are losing teams to other clubs as they have inferior facility stock. The club has also identified the severe lack of 3G availability across the area of West Suffolk, and that they continually have to compete for pitches and training times.

- 3.4.9 **Red Lodge Ravens** – This club comprises of an adult and youth setup with 9 teams overall. All matches are played at the Red Lodge Sports Club however the club consultation conflicts significantly with the 4 global site assessments, which comments on the adequate pitches and high quality ancillaries. The club cites a lack of grass and describes the pitches as ‘terrible’. The ancillary facilities at the site are good and the club is looking to potentially build an extension to the current clubhouse and create a social hub not only for the club but the local area. The club is actively looking for funding.
- 3.4.10 **Lakenheath Youth** – Lakenheath youth has 5 teams that all use Lakenheath playing fields for matches. The club suggests the pitches are mediocre but not in the best condition however the ancillary facilities at the site are good with a new building. In the previous year, the club lost a team but is always looking to expand wherever possible.
- 3.4.11 Newmarket FC are also important to note as they are currently in the process of developing a full sized 3G pitch on their current site. This is to be funded privately with the build completed by summer 2016.
- 3.4.12 As a general overview across the area, many clubs have identified a severe lack of 3G pitches, however these should have largely been addressed by the recent developments. In terms of pitch costing’s, the more rural teams tend to pay less for the use of parish council facilities, with a few clubs only paying a peppercorn rent to use the facilities. However, in the more populated areas clubs have mentioned that some pitch prices are putting the future of their clubs in doubt and a major problem is having to pay for pitches despite cancelled matches due to conditions.

3.5 Conversion Rates

- 3.5.1 The FA publishes Football Participation Reports for every local authority area on a season-by-season basis. These reports contain information on the current and future trends in participation and how these trends compare to other areas. The source of data in this section will be the 2014/14 report, as this is the most recent version to be released by the FA. It would be favourable to have a more up to date version of this report, however the document still provides valuable insight into the trends for football in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.

3.5.2 A 'conversion rate' is used by the FA as an indicator of the levels of participation in football. The following tables and graphs show football conversion rates for Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury compared to Regional and National rates. These are calculated by comparing the number of persons playing football to the relevant population age group. These numbers are then expressed as a proportion of the relevant population. This creates a percentage of the population at each age group involved in playing football, called a 'conversion rate'. The number of individuals playing football is estimated by multiplying the number of teams by the average number of players involved in the different forms of football, assuming the following:

- 18 players are involved in an 11-a-side squad
- 10 players in a mini-soccer team squad
- 12 players in a 9 v 9 team squad
- 9 players in a 7 v 7 team squad
- 8 players in 6 v 6 and 5 v 5 team squads
- 6 players in a 4 v 4 team squad

3.5.3 Figure 14 shows football conversion rates across West Suffolk, compared to regional and national rates for season 2012/13 and 2013/14. It identifies an increase in the number of Male adult, youth and mini teams in St Edmundsbury. This is in contrast to Forest Heath, which shows a decrease in Male adult teams and youth teams.

3.5.4 As a result, the number of male players has increased slightly in St Edmundsbury but decreased in Forest Heath. While this reduction is disappointing, the table indicates that Forest Heath had less of a decrease than the England average, illustrating that it is not a highly significant change.

3.5.5 Mixed mini soccer has increased across both Local Authorities in both team numbers and player volumes. This increase is particularly significant in St Edmundsbury and supports the case for more fit-for-purpose mini soccer facilities

Table 14 – Conversion rates for football in West Suffolk

	Adult 11-a-side		Youth All Formats		Mini	All Forms
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Mixed	Total
St Edmundsbury						
No. Of teams 13/14	86	2	65	7	50	210
No. Of teams 12/13	84	3	59	6	31	183
Variance	2.4%	-33.3%	10.2%	16.7%	61.3%	14.8%
Players 13/14	1,548	36	1,071	68	500	3223
Players 12/13	1,512	54	1,062	108	310	3046

Conversion Rate 13/14	7.9%	0.2%	21.0%	1.4%	11/0%	6.3%
Conversion Rate 12/13	7.8%	0.3%	19.5%	1.7%	6.8%	5.7%
Variance	0.1%	-0.1%	1.5%	-0.3%	4.2%	0.6%

Forest Heath						
No. Of teams 13/14	22	3	20	4	21	70
No. Of teams 12/13	25	2	22	6	17	72
Variance	-12.0%	50.0%	-9.1%	-33.3%	23.5%	-2.8%
Players 13/14	396	54	318	48	210	1026
Players 12/13	450	36	396	108	170	1160
Conversion Rate 13/14	2.8%	0.5%	11.7%	1.7%	6.3%	2.9%
Conversion Rate 12/13	3.2%	0.3%	13.0%	2.7%	5.1%	3.1%
Variance	-0.4%	0.2%	-1.3%	-1.0%	1.2%	-0.2%

East of England						
Conversion Rates 13/14	6.4%	0.3%	22.8%	2.0%	12.8%	6.0%
Conversion Rates 12/13	6.6%	0.3%	24.8%	2.3%	11.5%	6.2%
Variance	-0.2%	0.0%	-2.0%	-0.3%	1.3%	-0.2%

England						
Conversion Rates 13/14	4.7%	0.3%	18.7%	1.8%	10.1%	4.9%
Conversion Rates 12/13	5.2%	0.3%	20.5%	2.0%	9.6%	5.2%
Variance	-0.5%	0.0%	-1.8%	-0.2%	0.5%	-0.3%

3.5.6 Table 15 compares conversion rates in West Suffolk with ‘similar’ authorities demographically. The table shows a sample of members of the respective ‘sub-groups’ and the ranking indicates how Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury are positioned compared to the rest of the sub-groups. The top and bottom ranked local authorities are included for reference, as well as other local authorities in the East of England.

Table 15 – Conversion rates across ‘similar’ authorities. Source: FA Participation Reports 2013/14

Rank	Local Authority	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Youth Female	Mini-Soccer	Average
1	Rushmoor	7.7	0.2	32.1	0.8	14.1	11.0
7	Ipswich	8.7	0.5	22.3	2.5	13.2	9.5
23	Forest Heath	2.8	0.5	11.7	1.7	6.3	4.6
Rank	Local Authority	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Youth Female	Mini-Soccer	Average
1	South Gloucestershire	6.7	0.6	29.1	5.1	17.3	11.8
7	Mid Suffolk	8.5	0.2	25.2	1.9	14.8	10.1
23	Fenland	6.3	0.7	20.3	2.3	12.2	8.4
24	St Edmundsbury	7.9	0.2	21.0	1.4	11.0	8.3
37	East Northamptonshire	3.1	0.2	10.5	0.9	9.7	4.9

Note: Forest Heath is the lowest ranked local authority in the sub-group

3.5.7 Table 15 illustrates that both St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath are at the lower end of their sub-group in terms of conversion rate. Forest Heath in particular ranks at the bottom of its sub group with a conversion rate of only 4.6.

3.5.8 These findings are supported by Table 16 below, which compares the conversion rates for Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury to the national conversion target, as well as suggesting the growth potential for the area (See note 2 for greater detail).

Table 16: Comparison of conversion rate and growth potential for West Suffolk with similar local authorities. Source: FA Participation Report 2013/14

Football Type		Conversion Target*	Conversion Rate	Variance	Growth Potential**
Forest Heath					
Adult 11-a-side	M	5.62	2.80	-2.82	22
	F	0.31	0.5	0.19	0
Youth (all formats)**	M	22.53	11.70	-10.83	25
	F	1.91	1.70	-0.21	1
Mini-Soccer	Mixed	11.99	6.30	-5.69	19
St Edmundsbury					
Adult 11-a-side	M	5.58	7.90	2.32	0
	F	0.32	0.20	-0.12	2
Youth (all formats)**	M	23.62	21.00	-2.62	12
	F	2.35	1.40	-0.95	4
Mini-Soccer	Mixed	13.07	11.00	-2.07	10

*Note1: The target is the value of the upper quartile (75th percentile) of conversion rates of all local authorities in the same subgroup.

**Note2: Growth Potential represents the number of teams for each football type that the local authority would need to develop to reach the conversion target volume. For Youth (all formats) the growth potential has been calculated on the number of teams required assuming 9x9 format.

3.5.9 The low conversion rates and un-favourable Growth Potential indicate that West Suffolk is unlikely to be a significant target for growth and development from the FA. This means that high-profile development projects are unlikely to get substantial financial backing and West Suffolk should focus on a small number of achievable projects or initiatives that will increase football provision in the area.

3.6 Future Demand

3.6.1 In order to calculate the future demand for football in West Suffolk, a Team Generation Rate has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a football team.

3.6.2 This Team Generation Rate can now be applied to the population projections for the two local authorities to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups.

3.6.3 The St Edmundsbury projections include the impact of the additional planned housing developments in Bury St Edmunds (5,740 new homes) and Haverhill (4,260 new homes) to be completed by 2031. In order to understand the impact on specific population groups, it is assumed that each house has an average of 2.33 persons. The current ratio for each of the population groups (e.g. what percentage of the current population is accounted for by the Males 19-45) is then used to calculate the total projected population for each of the age groups.

Table 19 - Team Generation Rates. Source: FA Participation Reports 2013/14 and 2012 ONS Population Statistics and Projections

Age group	Current popn. Within age group	No. Of teams	TGR (no. Of people per team)	Future population (2031) within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Teams generated by Additional Popn
Forest Heath						
Senior Men (19-45yrs)	12,452	22	566	14,272.70	25.2	3.2
Senior Women (19-45yrs)	11,430	3	3810	12,584.36	3.3	0.3
Youth Boys (12-18yrs)	2,194	15	146	3,447.74	23.6	8.6
Youth Girls (12-18yrs)	2,178	4	545	3,201.15	5.9	1.9
Mini soccer mixed (6-11yrs)	3,887	34	114	5,794.85	50.7	16.7
St Edmundsbury						
Senior Men (19-45yrs)	19,950	85	235	22,441.38	95.6	10.6
Senior Women (19-45yrs)	17,802	2	8901	19,798.10	2.2	0.2
Youth Boys (12-18yrs)	4,764	59	81	5,894.92	73.0	14.0
Youth Girls (12-18yrs)	4,392	5	878	5,445.42	6.2	1.2
Mini soccer mixed (6-11yrs)	7,291	47	155	7,767.74	50.1	3.1

3.6.4 Table 19 illustrates that, in line with ONS 2012 Population Statistics and projections for 2025, additional teams will be required across Forest Heath, especially for Mini-soccer and Youth Boys. As discussed in the following Supply and Demand Balance section, this will not be constrained by pitch supply but will need club development through infrastructure and volunteer numbers.

3.6.5 The impact of the additional planned housing developments has a significant impact on the project demand for St Edmundsbury, with further demand for senior and youth males expected.

3.6.6 In order to provide a more detailed spatial explanation of where these additional teams will be required, Table 20 shows how the total team growth is projected to be split among the major settlements. This is calculated using the data from Table 1.

Table 20 – Projected split of additional teams by settlement

Age group	Additional Teams in Forest Heath	Additional Teams in St Edmundsbury	Total additional teams in West Suffolk
Bury St Edmunds	7.8	7.4	15.2
Haverhill	4.6	4.4	9.0
Newmarket	3.2	3.1	6.3
Brandon	1.8	1.7	3.6
Mildenhall	1.5	1.5	3.0
Villages and Outlying areas	11.6	11.1	22.7

3.7 Supply and Demand Balance

Current Supply and Demand Balance

3.7.1 This section presents the supply and demand balance findings for grass football pitches (both for current and future scenarios) for West Suffolk as a whole).

3.7.2 The pitch balance figures i.e. the relationship between supply and demand, have been calculated using the capacity and pitch quality ratings. The pitch balance figures are presented both in terms of match equivalents and the number of pitches. For the latter we have assumed that a good standard adult football pitch can accommodate 3 matches per week, a good standard youth pitch 4 matches per week and a good standard mini football pitch 6 matches per week.

Table 21 – Overall football balance figures for West Suffolk. Source: 4 global site assessments and demand consultations

West Suffolk Balance	Adult football	Youth football	Mini soccer
Demand (matches + training per week)	27	29	19.5
Overall Balance (match per week)	+107.5	+98	+183
St Edmundsbury Balance	Adult football	Youth football	Mini soccer
Demand (matches + training per week)	19.5	18	14.5
Overall Balance (match per week)	+84	+77	+149
Forest Heath Balance	Adult football	Youth football	Mini soccer
Demand (matches + training per week)	7.5	11	6
Overall Balance (match per week)	+23.5	+21	+34

- 3.7.3 The results in Table 21 indicate that at present, supply significantly exceeds demand for adult football, youth football and mini-soccer. Only 3 sites have a recorded deficiency in terms of demand outstripping the capacity of the site. These sites are listed in Table 22 with comments regarding the capacity issues and potential solutions.
- 3.7.4 The key theme from this section is that none of the major clubs have identified a shortage of grass pitches. The majority of the deficiencies are accounted for by schools offering youth or mini football and they have stated that the current provision is fit for their requirements.
- 3.7.5 Lakenheath FC identified in the consultation that although they have recently lost one of their youth teams, they are still looking to expand the club and increase the amount of youth football. As they currently only play on one adult size 11-a-side pitch, further teams will increase the demand for further pitch provision.

Table 22 – Football sites with deficiencies in supply

SITE NAME	LOCAL AUTHORITY	PITCH TYPE	NO. OF PITCHES	OWNERSHIP	NON TECHNICAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCORE	BALANCE – CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY USE	COMMENTS
Lakenheath Football Club	FH	Youth Football	1	Owned by the club	87.1% (Good)	-1.0	This is clearly a high quality pitch, with the site assessor stating that it may have scored even higher if it had not been assessed after a heavy weekend of play and in wet weather. The deficiency is caused by 5 separate youth teams playing on a single youth pitch. The club has stated that it is looking to expand, and if this is the case further pitch provision will be required.
St James CE VA Middle School	SE	Youth Football	4	Suffolk County Council	68% (Standard)	-1.0	Although the calculation identifies a deficiency, the on-site consultation suggested that the current supply was sufficient for the demands of the school.
Samuel Ward Academy	SE	Adult Football	4	Suffolk County Council	68% (Standard)	-0.5	The on-site consultation suggested that no further provision is required.

Future Supply and Demand Balance

3.7.6 By utilising the Team Generation Rates as explained above, Table 23 shows the projected supply and demand balance for 2031, to illustrate whether West Suffolk currently has the capacity for any expected demands in growth caused by population growth.

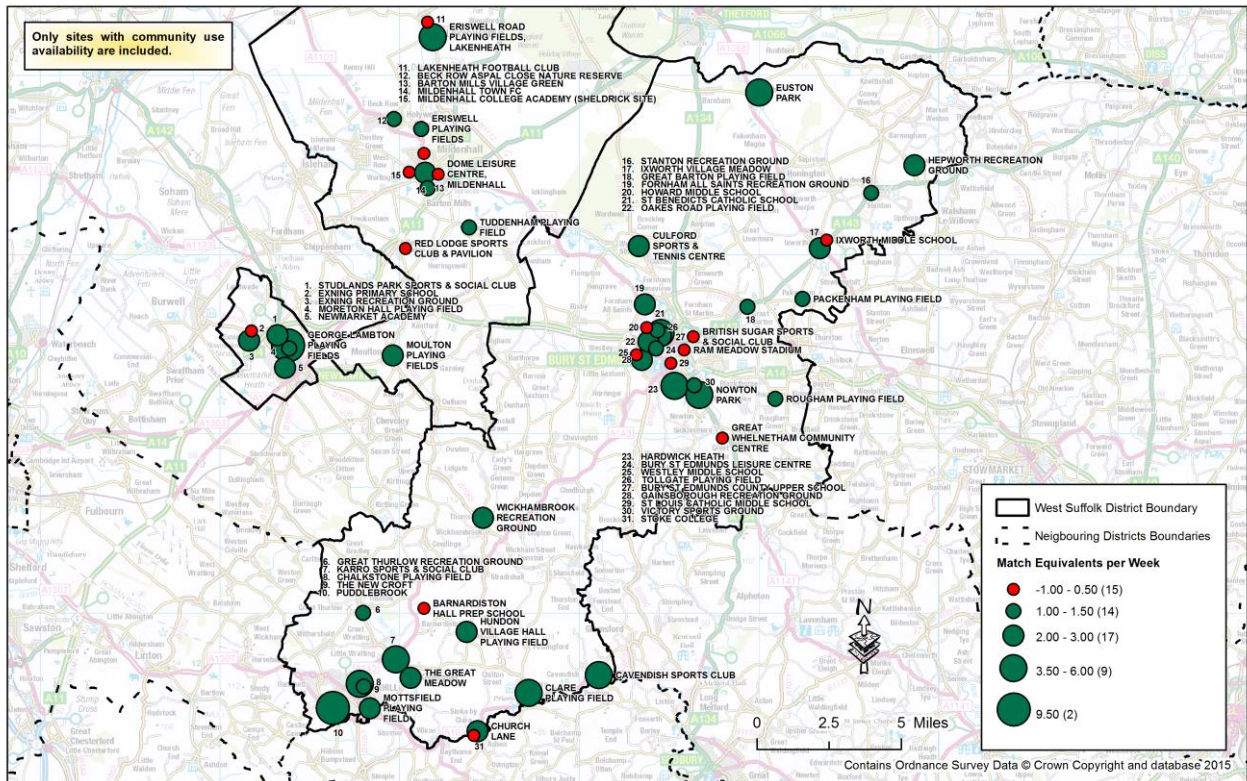
Table 23 – Future supply and demand balance (2031) for West Suffolk

West Suffolk Balance	Adult football	Youth football	Mini soccer
Demand (matches + training per week)	27	29	19.5
Additional Total Projected Demand	14.3	25.7	19.8
Overall Balance (match per week)	+93.2	+72.3	+163.2
St Edmundsbury Balance	Adult football	Youth football	Mini soccer
Demand (matches + training per week)	19.5	18	14.5
Additional Total Projected Demand	10.8	15.2	3.1
Overall Balance (match per week)	+73.2	+61.8	+145.9
Forest Heath Balance	Adult football	Youth football	Mini soccer
Demand (matches + training per week)	7.5	11	6
Additional Total Projected Demand	3.5	10.5	16.7
Overall Balance (match per week)	+20	+10.5	+17.3

3.7.7 This data illustrates that when calculating the projected increase in demand against the current level of supply in West Suffolk, there is sufficient capacity to provide for football across both local authorities.

3.7.8 Figure 6 below shows the balance of individual sites across West Suffolk, illustrating that there is a small number of sites identified as in deficiency, most of which are single pitch clubs.

Figure 6 – Adult football balance by site



Adult Football balance in match equivalents per week in St Edmundsbury

3.8 Strategic sites for Protection, Enhancement and Provision

3.8.1 Based on the evidence collated in the PPS for football pitch provision, it can be concluded that there are certain football pitch sites in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, which, because of a combination of factors, are recorded as high value sites. The factors which contribute towards a site being recorded as a high value site include;

- High number and broad range of types of pitch available
- Available for community use and used
- High quality assessment score
- Good security of tenure for user groups
- Provides pitches within an area where there is calculated to be a deficiency of pitches now or in the future

3.8.2 Table 24 provides a detailed analysis of each football site with a justification, if required, for Protection, Enhancement or Provision. Where applicable, these justifications will then be reflected in the Action Plan and site-by-site strategy.

Table 24 – Recommended football sites for protection in West Suffolk

Site by Site Analysis for Football in West Suffolk						Sub-area coding St Edmundsbury: Bury St Edmunds (BSE), Rural Areas North (RN), Haverhill (HAV), Rural South (RS) Forest Heath: North (N), Central (C), South (S)		
Site Name	Sub Area	Total No. Of pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
FOREST HEATH								
Barton Mills Village Green	C	1	Barton Mills PC	55%	54%	1.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is a good quality single pitch site that is close enough to Mildenhall to provide playing facilities for clubs based in the town.
							E	The football pitch was seen to be of adequate quality for the standard of play as it is reliable and drains well.
							PV	The small changing block is basic but satisfactory for current levels of demand. If demand were to increase this facility would need further investment.
Beck Row Aspal Close Nature Reserve	C	1	FHDC	60%	28%	1.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the local Plan. This is a single pitch site, which is the home ground of Beck Row Football Club, who leases the site from FHDC for a peppercorn rent.
							E	The ancillary facilities are extremely poor and should be invested in, in order to maintain participation at the site.
							PV	A new basic ancillary is required, or the opportunity to share with existing buildings situated in the Nature Reserve
Brandon Leisure Centre	N	7	FHDC (Managed by Anglia Community Leisure)	76%	69%	29	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is one of the largest sites in Forest Heath and located north of Lakenheath where there is not a significant level of additional supply. The facility is available for community use and well used.
							E	The clubhouse has been identified as satisfactory but not of a sufficient standard to attract new members.

							PV	The pitches would benefit from floodlights, allowing Brandon Lads and Lassés AFC to train and play at night.
Eriswell Playing Fields	C	1	Eriswell PC	48%	28%	1	PR	This is a small 1-pitch site that is not heavily used for competitive football. This site could be re-designated as open space, with current demand for competitive football being transferred to the Eriswell Road Playing Fields.
							E	The site is poor, in terms of pitch quality and ancillary condition, both of which should be invested if the site is maintained in the long term.
							PV	A new ancillary facility is required in order to ensure this facility is fit for competitive football.
Eriswell Road Playing Fields, Lakenheath	C	2	Lakenheath Playing Fields Association	73%	85%	4	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is a two-pitch site of reasonable quality and a very good quality ancillary, which could absorb further demand from nearby if required.
							E	A lack of community engagement was identified at the facility, which is likely to be caused by the lack of a resident home team.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Exning Recreation Ground	S	1	Privately Owned	68%	54%	2	PR	This site has a single grass pitch or relatively good quality with an adequate ancillary. This site can be re-designated as open space, with demand displaced to the nearby Severals Pavilion. There is sufficient capacity available at the Severals site to accommodate this increase in demand.
George Lambton Playing Fields	S	5	Privately Owned	65%	48%	9.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. This site is available for community use and secured. Plans have emerged for development on the site however this provides playing pitches and open space for Newmarket that would need to be re-provided if a decision was made to develop.
							E	The changing facility is aged and the pitches are very exposed however provision is adequate.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Lakenheath Football Club	N	1	Privately Owned	81%	83%	-4	PR	This site should be protected for community use. This is a high quality single pitch site owned and used by the football club.
							E	The club has stated that the current facilities are adequate, however the capacity analysis shows a shortfall of pitches. Greater investment is required in the pitch surface to maintain the current level of demand.

							PV	Additional training facilities should be sought,
Moulton Playing Fields	S	1	Moulton PC	75%	74%	2	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. Due to the rural nature of the area it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites. This is a small site that caters for casual play and is adequate for the needs of the village.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Newmarket Academy	S	1	Suffolk County Council	68%	55%	2	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is a one-pitch education site, which is of good quality. In order to protect the site for long-term provision, the council should seek a formal community use agreement, as the site is currently unsecured.
							E	The pitch is of adequate standard, bearing in mind the high level of traffic that is likely to occur due to it being a school site. The ancillary is part of the school building and should be improved if the pitch is to be used as a home ground for a club.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Red Lodge Sports Club & Pavilion	C	7	Red Lodge Parish Council	73%	85%	15.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. It is the designated home team of 18 different teams across Forest Heath and scored well in the site assessment.
							E	The facility was deemed to be excellent by the site assessor, however the football club have identified issues with drainage after heavy rain.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Studlands Park Sports & Social Club	S	1	Privately Owned	51%	57%	2	PR	This site is a privately owned one-pitch site that is guaranteed green space for residents of the estate. If the demand for this site could be satisfied by the proposed Newmarket 3G AGP facility, then this site could be re-designated as open space or for development.
							E	The clubhouse requires refurbishment if the site is to continue functioning.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Tuddenham Playing Field	C	1	Tuddenham PC	73%	54%	1	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. Due to the rural nature of the area it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites. This is a small site that caters for casual play and is adequate for the needs of the village.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study

							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
ST EDMUNDSBURY								
Bardwell Playing Field	RN	1	Bardwell Playing Association	69%	65%	4	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site has a single mini-soccer pitch and is used only for mini-soccer. Due to the rural nature of the location, it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites.
							E	The ancillary has been identified as requiring a refurbishment, however this is not a priority due to the small amount of demand for the site.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
British Sugar Sports & Social Club	BSE	1	Privately Owned	72%	62%	0	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This site is the home ground of three teams and is owned by British Sugar. The maintenance procedure is not efficient and could be improved if it was supported by St Edmundsbury council.
							E	Abbotts '07 FC has stated that the current facilities are adequate for their level of competition and the facilities have deemed to be basic but satisfactory.
							PV	No further provision has been identified for this site
Bury St Edmunds County Upper School	BSE	2	Suffolk County Council	61%	69%	3	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is a school site, which is heavily used and is the home ground to two teams, as well as a number of educational teams.
							E	The pitches are subject to heavy traffic; however remain in relatively good condition throughout the season.
							PV	If extra land were available, this would reduce the wear on the two main pitches.
Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre	BSE	1	SEBC	73%	52%	1.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This site is managed by the Leisure Centre, which is currently having its main facility refurbished. This is the home ground to Moreton Town Youth and provides relatively one relatively high quality football pitch.
							E	This has the potential to become a high quality site, utilising the new leisure centre facilities as an ancillary. The main restricting factor on this would be the pitch quality, which is currently affected on the various field events undertaken on the pitches. Dedicated areas for these sports would be required if the pitch is to improve. There are

								development plans to re-lay the current sand-based AGP with a 3G surface, which would provide additional training capacity for clubs based in the town, as well as additional commercial revenue.
							PV	The FA should support the leisure centre development and ensure that changing facilities are football appropriate with referee specific facilities.
Cavendish Sports Club	RS	1	Privately Owned	72%	63%	4	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. It has two grass pitches and is the home ground of Glemsford & Cavendish FC. Due to the rural nature of the club, demand could not be easily displaced to nearby clubs or settlements.
							E	The ancillary has been identified as requiring further development to improve the kitchen.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Chalkstone Playing Field	HAV	8	Suffolk County Council	63%	92%	20	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is the second largest site in West Suffolk with a variety of adult, youth and mini soccer provision. The site currently uses the adjacent and excellent ancillary facility at New Croft however
							E	The pitches require investment to improve the quality and protect from unwanted community use (dog fouling and broken glass). The quality of the pitches was deemed to be very poor and should be improved.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Cherry Trees Preparatory School & Montessori Nursery	RN	1	Privately Owned	79%	43%	8	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is an education site providing a single mini soccer pitch, which is used primarily by the school.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Clare Playing Field	RS	5	Clare Town Council	63%	85%	22	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This site has a variety of adult, youth and mini pitches but requires improvement in the pitches to address issues with flooding. The site is currently provided to the school free of charge.
							E	Further security measures should be added in order to protect the excellent ancillary facilities, following the move of the Police Station.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.

Euston Park	RN	6	Euston Estate	79%	68%	18	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. Although it has the potential to be a very good facility, significant improvement is needed in terms of ancillary and pitch maintenance. Pitches consist of 3 Senior and 6 Mini Soccer, with an enormous amount of land available for development.
							E	The significant slope of the pitch is a limiting factor for competitive football and further research should be conducted to confirm the likely cost and impact of re-levelling, bearing in mind the ownership status.
							PV	The pavilion is in need of replacement, in order to service the 9 teams currently playing at the facility.
Fornham All Saints Recreation Ground	RN	1	Fornham All Saints PC	56%	60%	2	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. Due to the rural nature of the area it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites. This is a small site that caters for casual play and is adequate for the needs of the village.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Gainsborough Recreation Ground	BSE	2	SEBC	73%	25%	2.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. The 2-pitch site is the home ground for three teams and has a good quality pitch but a very poor ancillary.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study, as long as the ancillary is replaced as part of the 'provide' section below.
							PV	This ancillary is in need of replacement as it is currently not fit to be used as a changing facility. If this is not possible then the pitch should be re-designated as open space with demand being displaced to nearby Bury St Edmunds.
Great Barton Playing Field	RN	1	Great Barton PC	60%	75%	1	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. This site is available for community use and secured for long-term use. It has also recently had a refurbished facility, which has greatly improved the quality of supply.
							E	The pitch has minor drainage issues but is adequate for the current usage.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.

Great Thurlow Recreation Ground	RS	3	Great Thurlow PC	67%	62%	9.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. It is the home ground for AFC Thurlow and has one adult pitch alongside two mini pitches, providing a range of fit-for-purpose supply.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Great Whelnetham Community Centre	RN	1	Community Action Suffolk	57%	62%	0.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. Due to the rural nature of the area it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites. This is a small site that caters for casual play and is adequate for the needs of the village.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Hardwick Heath	BSE	6	SEBC	76%	60%	8.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. It is the designated home team of 10 different teams across St Edmundsbury and scored well in the site assessment.
							E	The pitches can have issues with drainage and improvements to this would see the site rated as Good.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Hepworth Recreation Ground	RS	1	Hepworth PC	65%	72%	2	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. Due to the rural nature of the area it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites. This is a small site that caters for casual play and is adequate for the needs of the village.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Hundon Village Hall Playing Field	RS	1	Hundon PC	55%	58%	2	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. Due to the rural nature of the area it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites. This is a small site that caters for casual play and is adequate for the needs of the village.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.

Ixworth Village Meadow	RN	1	Ixworth Middle School	81%	63%	0	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. Due to the rural nature of the area it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites. This is a small site that caters for casual play and is adequate for the needs of the village.
							E	There currently appear to be no changing rooms on site. A basic ancillary block, or refurbishment of the village hall, should be provided in order to allow changing facilities for the players.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Karro Sports & Social Club	RS	2	Privately Owned	79%	69%	3.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the local plan. This is a two-pitch site that is has a good level of provision and good quality ancillary facilities.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Moreton Hall Playing Field	BSE	1	SEBC	73%	0%	1	PR	This is a single pitch site that could be re-designated as open space or for development if required. Demand from this site can could be displaced to a number of nearby sites in Bury St Edmunds, such as the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre.
							E	The pitch has drainage issues, which will need to be addressed if it is preserved as playing pitches.
							PV	The site currently has no changing facilities, which would need to be provided if the site was preserved as playing pitches.
Moreton Hall Prep School	BSE	2	Privately Owned	60.00%	52.31%	0	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the local plan. This is a two-pitch site that has a youth and mini pitch, which suit the demands of the school.
							E	The pitch quality is not high, however meets the needs for the school. There is no further community use at the site so there is no significant demand to improve the quality of the pitches.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Mottsfild Playing Field	HAV	2	SEBC	68%	31%	3	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the local plan. It is a two-pitch site that is the home ground of AFC Haverhill with adequate pitch quality and ancillary facilities.

							E	The ancillary facilities are in need of refurbishment or replacement, as the provision is very basic. This would need support from the club to demonstrate the need.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Nowton Park	BSE	2	SEBC	79%	62%	3.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This site scores highly for pitch quality and has a relatively modern ancillary facility. Due to its location, this site could be used as overflow facilities for the Victory Sports Ground if demand continues to increase.
							E	If demand were to increase here, the wooden ancillary would require modernisation.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Oakes Road Playing Field	BSE	1	SEBC	76%	48%	2	PR	This is a single pitch site that scored highly for pitch quality but requires further investment in the ancillary facility. This site is in the centre of Bury St Edmunds and as it does not currently have significant demand, it could be re-designated as open space or for development. Due to its central location, it would be a valuable asset in both forms.
							E	If the pitch is to be maintained, the ancillary requires significant development to improve the overall quality. The site has recently had the grass pitches fenced off, which should reduce damage and dog fouling and increase the overall standard of the pitches.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study
Pakenham Playing Field	RN	1	Pakenham PC	39%	40%	1	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. It is the home ground of Bardwell Ash FC but is a poor quality pitch with an ageing ancillary.
							E	This pitch is flat but poor quality. An improved maintenance procedure would benefit the site significantly.
							PV	The site requires a new facility to replace the current ancillary, which is thirty years old and not fit for purpose.
Puddlebrook	HAV	4	SEBC	63%	32%	9.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is a four-pitch site that is secured for community use however the quality should be improved if this provision is to be of benefit to Haverhill and St Edmundsbury.

							E	The pitches suffer from poor drainage and high usage. Investment should be provided to improve the pitch surface and therefore capacity of the facility.
							PV	A new ancillary is required to replace the current metal changing facility. The current facility is likely to deter participants from playing at Puddlebrook, due to the outward appearance and lack of security for valuables and possessions.
Ram Meadow	BSE	1	Bury Town FC	84%	100%	0.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is the home ground of Bury Town FC, which has an adult team playing at the highest level of any club in West Suffolk (Step 3). While the assessment scores the site relatively highly, consultation with the NGB, as well as the visual assessment, have identified that this site is not suitable for a club playing at their current level
							E	The ancillary provision is in need of a full refurbishment or replacement and the grass pitch suffers from drainage issues. Both of these need to be urgently addressed to ensure the club maintains their current league status.
							PV	A replacement ground is needed, with 3G AGP provision to be used for training and/or matches
Rougham Playing Field	RN	1	Rougham PC	51%	68%	1.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. Due to the rural nature of the area it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites. This is a small site that caters for casual play and is adequate for the needs of the village.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Samuel Ward Academy	HAV	1	Suffolk County Council	68%	35%	-0.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is an education site with one adult pitch of adequate quality. Although the calculation identifies a deficiency, the on-site consultation suggested that the current supply was sufficient for the demands of the school.
							E	The ancillary scored poorly and the school owned changing facilities need improving if more football is to be attracted to the site.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study. If the school increases in size, however, more pitches will be required to satisfy the increased demand.

Sebert Wood Community Primary School	BSE	1	Suffolk County Council	75%	28%	8	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is an education site providing a single mini soccer pitch, which is used primarily by the school.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	The school has identified that the current supply is not adequate to satisfy their own education-led demands. An agreement should be sought with Moreton Hall Prep School nearby to share pitches where possible.
Stanton Recreation Ground	RN	3	Stanton PC	63%	82%	9.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is a three-pitch site with a good quality ancillary that services the village and local football team. Due to the rural nature of the area it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites.
							E	The pitch has minor issues with molehills, however the surface is deemed to be adequate by the club. Further support from the council maintenance team would enable the parish council to improve the quality of the pitch and improve football provision.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
St Benedict's Catholic School	BSE	3	Privately Owned	65%	57%	12	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. The school has identified a shortage of pitches that are available to the community, caused by over-use and pitch damage. The school has an AGP, which should be maintained and improved in order to reduce the demand on the grass pitches.
							E	The school has a reduced-size AGP that is used for a wide range of sports, both in school time and for the community. The pitch does not currently have floodlights and therefore significant community use is not possible, however proposed 3G AGP provision elsewhere in Bury St Edmunds will reduce community use demand from the school site.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Stour Valley Community School	RS	3	Suffolk County Council	61%	63%	12	PR	This is a school site that is open to community use but does not currently have any demand for hire, due to the severity of the slope on the grass pitches and the location of the ancillary, which is detached from the pitches and unsecure.

							E	The pitches require investment for levelling and improved maintenance, however this will need to be driven by the school, as there is not external demand for the facilities.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
St James CE VA Middle School	BSE	3	Suffolk County Council	68%	45%	-2	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is an education site with three youth 11x11 pitches of adequate quality. Although the calculation identifies a deficiency, the on-site consultation suggested that the current supply was sufficient for the demands of the school.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study. If the school increases in size, however, more pitches will be required to satisfy the increased demand.
The Great Meadow	RS	3	SEBC	47%	60%	3	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is a three-pitch football site with adequate but an ageing ancillary. Due to the rural nature of the area it would be difficult for demand to be displaced to other sites.
							E	While the club cited the pitch provision as adequate, the site assessment deemed the provision to be poor and requiring additional investment, particularly around the maintenance regime.
							PV	The club has identified a shortage of changing facilities when there are events taking place in the village hall that football teams normally use for changing. It should be noted however that the facility is good and therefore further development is likely to be lower priorities than other parish council pitches.
The New Croft	HAV	4	Haverhill Council	81%	92%	21	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is a good quality site with four pitches of various sizes. The site is secured for community use and has an excellent ancillary.
							E	The pitches are deemed to be of excellent quality but the club identified overuse at peak periods, which are not supported by the PPS calculation. Plans for a new 3G AGP pitch are well developed, with circa £300k football foundation funding committed by the FA.
							PV	The development of a new 3G AGP should be supported, as there is significant demand and this is a priority development for the FA.

Victory Sports Ground	BSE	10	Victory Sports Ground Charity	79%	92%	40	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. This is a very high quality facility with 10 football pitches of various sizes. The changing facilities and clubhouse are modern and provide excellent facilities for football players of all ages.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Wickhambrook Recreation Ground	RN	3	Parish Council	77%	68%	10	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. The site is located between Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill and there is limited additional supply in the surrounding area so removal would leave a deficiency in this area of St Edmundsbury.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
							PV	The site assessment and demand consultation identified lack of storage at the ancillary as an issue. Further semi-temporary storage, such as a container, would provide more space for storage of maintenance equipment and training accessories.
Westley Middle School	RN	7	Suffolk County Council	68%	57%	0	PR	This is a school site that does not have any community use. It is opened up at half term for casual use however it is not a key provider of sports provision in Bury St Edmunds.
							E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study
							PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.

3.9 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) for Football

- 3.9.1 There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitches (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (3G), sand-based (filled or dressed) and water based.
- 3.9.2 The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as essential in promoting coach and player development. These pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training. However, they are increasingly used for competition, which the FA wholly supports. The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England with the opportunity to train once a week on a floodlit 3G surface together with priority access for Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement.
- 3.9.3 Competitive football can take place on all 3G surfaces and the preferred pile length is 60mm. Only competition up to (but not including) regional standard can take place on a 40mm pile. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but this is not preferred to a 3G pitch.

Quantity and Quality Overview

- 3.9.4 Table 24 provides a list of all full size (100m x 60m or bigger) AGP's that are used for football in West Suffolk, either for training or competitive play. These have been separated from the other AGP's in Table 25 as small sided AGP's are not of strategic importance for Sport England or the FA.
- 3.9.5 Overall, West Suffolk has a relatively high number of artificial grass pitches across the area with a total of 16 AGP's. Conversely, there is only one 3G AGP across both local authorities and this is a reduced size facility with a Standard pitch quality rating. The sand-based pitches vary in terms of quality and age, with 2 facilities rated Good but none rated as Poor.
- 3.9.6 Barnardiston Hall Prep School and Red Lodge Sports Club & Pavilion's sand based AGP's are of a good quality and were the only AGP's to score 80% or better in the assessments. Castle Manor Academy is the lowest scoring education site, compounded by the fact that this is a small, unsecured facility with no floodlights.

3.9.7 Both Haverhill Leisure Centre and Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre have relatively low scoring full size sand dressed AGP's (55% and 56% respectively). The surface at both Leisure Centres is over 10 years old with signs of wear from high levels of use. Haverhill in particular has rips and tears in the pitch surface and require replacement.

Table 25 – Full size AGP provision in West Suffolk

Site Name	Local Authority	Pitch Type	Community use category	Security of use	Pitch score/rating
Full size AGP's - match appropriate for competitive 11 v 11					
Barnardiston Hall Prep School	St Edmundsbury	Sand based (70x110m)	Not available for community use	N/A	80 - Good
Newmarket Academy	Forest Heath	Sand based (110x70m)	Available and used	Secured	72 - Standard
Culford Sports and Tennis Centre	St Edmundsbury	Sand based (110x70m)	Available and used	Unsecured	73 - Standard
Haverhill Leisure Centre	St Edmundsbury	Sand based (110x70m)	Available and used	Secured	79 - Standard
Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre	St Edmundsbury	Sand based (110x70m)	Available and used	Secured	56 - Standard
Nowton Park	St Edmundsbury	Sand based (110x 70m)	Available and used	Secured	78 - Standard
Small-sided AGP's - not appropriate for competitive 11v11 football					
Castle Manor Academy	St Edmundsbury	Sand based(50m x 36m)	Available and used	Unsecured	52 - Standard
Bury St Ed's County Upper School	St Edmundsbury	Sand based (32m x 36m)	Available and used	Secured	61 - Standard
Moreton Hall Prep School	St Edmundsbury	Sand based (32m x 36m)	Available and used	Unsecured	62 - Standard
St Benedict's Catholic School	St Edmundsbury	Sand based (70m x 30m)	Available and used	Unsecured	66 - Standard
Samuel Ward Academy	St Edmundsbury	Sand based (50m x 75m)	Available and used	Secured	78 - Standard
Brandon Leisure Centre	Forest Heath	Sand based (32m x 36m)	Available and used	Secured	66 - Standard
Dome Leisure Centre, Mildenhall	Forest Heath	Sand based (32m x 36m)	Available and used	Secured	78 - Standard
Hundon Football Field	St Edmundsbury	Sand based (40m x 30m)	Available and used	Secured	63 - Standard

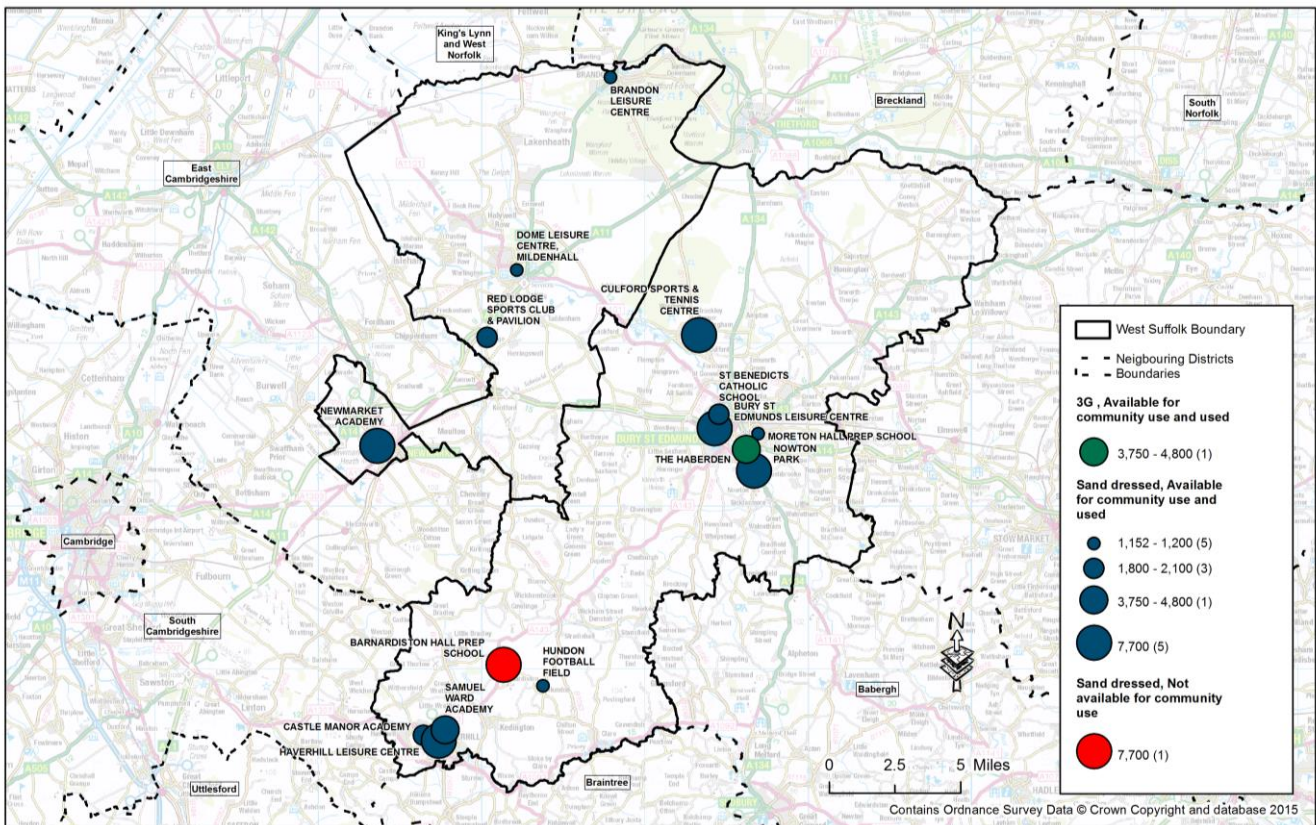
Red Lodge Sports Club & Pavilion	Forest Heath	Sand based (50m x 36m)	Available and used	Secured	80 - Good
The Haberden	St Edmundsbury	3G (60m x 80m)	Available and used	Secured	65 – Standard

3.9.8 Additional 3G AGP's are planned for;

- The new school at Moreton Park
- The New Croft
- Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre (re-lay of existing sand-based surface to be confirmed)
- Newmarket Town FC

3.9.9 The supply of AGP's in West Suffolk is also shown graphically in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7 – AGP Audit Map for West Suffolk



AGP's by community use availability and type in West Suffolk

3.9.10 Figure 7 illustrates that there is good covering of AGP's across both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, with the latter in particular having large provision in the two major towns of Haverhill and St Edmundsbury. As shown by the single green dot, there is only one 3G pitch in St Edmundsbury and this is a reduced size pitch at the Haberden, used by Bury St Edmunds RFC.

Demand

3.9.11 Demand for AGP's is typically at peak times on weekdays between 6pm and 10pm. Feedback from the clubs in the area has indicated that there is significant demand for 3G pitches, as there are currently no full sized 3G facilities to be used throughout the winter period when grass pitches are often unplayable due to poor weather.

Supply and Demand Balance – the FA model

3.9.12 The FA uses an indicative supply and demand model based on the latest Sport England research, AGP's State of the Nation (March 2012). This model assumes that 51% of usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch type per hours from 5pm – 10pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 5pm Saturday and Sundays.

3.9.13 It is currently estimated that one full size AGP can service 60 teams, however following consultation with the FA it is understood that this measure is currently under review and likely to fall to 45 teams per AGP. Guidance from the FA has provided direction that future models should utilise the latest measure so 45 teams per AGP will be used in the West Suffolk calculations.

3.9.14 On the basis that there are 147 teams playing in West Suffolk, there is a recommended need of at least 3 full size 3G pitches. According to this result, and bearing in mind the current supply, there is latent demand for 2 to 3 additional 3G pitches to be provided in the borough. Ideally, this new provision would service both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury however the FA has made it clear that major investment in Forest Heath is difficult due to low participation and conversion statistics. The recommendations section of this report will evaluate whether converting a current sand-based AGP in Forest Heath to a 3G would help to address latent demand.

Sport England Facility Planning Model (August 2015)

3.9.15 The Facility Planning Models (FPM) for football across West Suffolk have been recently drafted and provide further evidence on the supply and demand balance for football-ready AGP's in the area.

3.9.16 The Facilities Planning Model provides an opportunity to test out possible changes to supply and demand and to identify how closures and new provision could impact on other existing facilities in the area and beyond.

3.9.17 The key findings from the FPM for the **current** (Run 1) supply and demand of Forest Heath are;

- 22% of the existing demand for AGP football remains unmet in the

district. This equates to 274 visits per week in peak period (vpwpp). 57% of this is down to lack of capacity at sites and 43% due the fact that residents live outside of the catchment of any facility regardless of which authority it is placed in. As a result, provision of additional facilities at existing sites would alleviate the problems of access for some of these potential users but almost half would only benefit from access if facilities were located elsewhere in the district or in neighbouring authorities

- This unmet demand is most acute in Newmarket with 1.1 pitches being required now to meet the needs of existing communities. It is lower in Brandon at 0.5 and Mildenhall 0.6. This does suggest that smaller training pitches maybe an appropriate solution to serve the needs of these communities but this should be discussed further with the FA as part of the wider strategic work to ensure that this distribution and mix of scale of provision meets the plans they have for the area and the current club based and community demand that exists
- The current facility with just 20 hours a week available for football use is not surprisingly modelled to be 100% full. The wider strategic work should confirm this. It also has to be noted that as a sand dressed pitch it is not ideal to meet the needs of football and if 3G provision is developed within the catchment there is a risk that any football would migrate to this new site to take advantage of a football specific surface. As a result, careful consideration does need to be given on how any new facilities impact on the sustainability of existing offers.
- It is also important to note that every other AGP modelled in Run 1, based on the hours allocated for football use, are all 100% full. Therefore, no facility in the whole study area is modelled to have any further peak time availability.

3.9.18 The same analysis has been undertaken for St Edmundsbury, with the following key findings;

- 10% of the demand remains unmet in the district. This equates to 188 vpwpp. These figures are low in comparison to all study are authorities. 74% of these unmet visits are down to the fact that the existing supply is completely full and links to the point made above. 26% are due to people being outside the catchment of a facility but as this only equates to around 50 vpwpp across the whole Borough there is no justification for additional provision in alternative locations beyond the major population settlements
- Whilst there is good supply and access in general only one of the facilities is 3G (Haberden) and this is not full size. Football is pushing

for 3G surfaces for football delivery and it may be that as demand increases for football access, subject to the demand placed on facilities for hockey, a way of increasing football capacity would be to change some of the sand filled / dressed surfaces to 3G when the carpets require replacement. Not only would this improve the quality of the experience for users it would also increase the football hours on site up to the maximum 34 hours' peak time usage as they are predominantly used by football.

- 3.9.19 These assessments further support the need for football specific AGP's across West Suffolk. This data will be considered alongside similar reports for hockey AGP's, as this will have a strong impact on recommendations for further development.

Growing the Capacity for Football – Development of 3G AGP's in West Suffolk

- 3.9.20 In line with the FPM calculations discussed previously and the supply and demand balance analysed in the previous section, the FA is supportive of building at least one full size 3G football-ready turf pitch for both Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds.
- 3.9.21 Although development plans are less advanced, there is also potential for levels of demand in Forest Heath to satisfy the requirements for an additional 3G pitch in Newmarket. This must be considered alongside the analysis for hockey, in order to confirm whether the current sand-based facility could be re-laid, or whether an additional pitch can be justified.
- 3.9.22 Haverhill Community Sports Association has identified a need for a 3G pitch and this site is the home of a very strong football club, Haverhill Rovers, which is a priority club for the County FA.
- 3.9.23 With the large number of clubs located close to the Haverhill area, the site has enough teams to justify the provision of a 3G. The site is in the FA's strategic priorities list and therefore the County FA would be very supportive.
- 3.9.24 The FA identified a possible negative impact of demand export from Haverhill Leisure Centre, however with the poor quality sand-based facility identified previously, this site (Haverhill) is not currently able to provide for high football demand.
- 3.9.25 A suitable site is still to be identified in Bury St Edmunds and will involve a consultation process led by Suffolk FA with local Football clubs to ensure that the pitch is financially sustainable for all three clubs.

3.9.26 Total supply and demand balance for all AGP's in West Suffolk will be required before making a decision on the best sites for additional developments or enhancements. Findings from the Hockey and Rugby sections of the report will therefore need to be considered as both of these sports will contribute to the supply and demand of AGP's.

3.9.27 With this in mind and following 4 global site assessments and consultation with the FA and local clubs, a three possible sites have been identified below;

- **Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre:** The current full size sand-dressed AGP requires re-surfacing as it is currently over 10 years old and of a relatively low standard. This could be updated to a 3G facility and managed under the Leisure Centre facility mix in order to service Bury St Edmunds with a full size 3G facility. The site already has floodlights and extensive experience of community use however funding would need to be agreed between the Leisure Operator, the FA and West Suffolk.
- **The Haberdern, Bury St Edmunds RFC:** This is the current site of the only 3G facility in West Suffolk, however it is not suitable for 11v11 football matches at is 60mx80m. If space allowed and with the support of the rugby club, this could be developed into a full size pitch and made more readily available to football clubs in the area. One potential risk with this is the priority that the rugby club may require for trainings nights, potentially Tuesday and Thursday's.
- **Victory Sports Ground:** This is currently one of the best run and managed sites in the area, with excellent ancillaries and high throughput. Sporting 87 currently utilise and own the land however they use the nearby Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre for winter training and has identified the severe need for more 3G pitches in the area as a whole. A more detailed consultation would be required and a commitment from all parties on the funding model for the facility.

3.9.28 After considering the demand for AGP's by rugby and hockey, the Action Plan will provide a summary of potential sites for additional AGP's across West Suffolk.

3.10 Football Summary

3.10.1 A full set of football recommendations is provided in Section 26 but below is a short summary of the key findings from the football analysis

Table 26 – Summary of Football Findings for West Suffolk

Football Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The supply and demand results indicate that on the whole, there is sufficient capacity across West Suffolk for football pitches, with limited deficiency on only a small number of sites ➤ Balance figures for 2012 - adult football +108 match equivalents, youth football +98 match equivalents and mini soccer +183 match equivalents ➤ Projected balance figures for 2031 - adult football +93 match equivalents, youth football +72 match equivalents and mini soccer +163 match equivalents ➤ The FA's key priorities for West Suffolk are to improve the provision of 3G facilities across the two local authorities. There are currently no full size 3G pitches in West Suffolk, however this will change with developments at the New Croft, the new Moreton Park School and Newmarket Town FC. Further supply is still required in Bury St Edmunds. ➤ The FA would like Sporting 87 and Bury Town FC, as the largest clubs in the study area, to have priority booking on the new 3G facilities at Moreton Hall. The FA has also stated that this facility should be built to a FIFA 1* standard, which will enable competitive football to be played by both adults and juniors ➤ A solution is also required for Bury Town FC, as the current facility mix is not fit for purpose for a club playing at Step 4. It's a priority for the FA and councils to assist in developing a new site and the club is also considering plans for a new clubhouse. This is a key priority, as the current ancillary is not fit for use. ➤ As and when a 3G pitch is installed nearby to a Sand-based pitch, there needs to be a co-ordination of pricing policies to ensure competition ➤ The FA have also prioritised finding a long term facility for Newmarket Town FC, which should be addressed by the new privately funded 3G AGP development at the club site. ➤ Both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury have relatively low participation rates across all demographics, compared to neighbouring local authorities. Forest Heath in particular has the worst conversion rate of any local authority in it's sub-group ➤ The quality of grass pitches is STANDARD in the majority, with only a small percentage marked as GOOD or POOR. As West Suffolk is primarily made up of clay-based pitches, there are often issue of waterlogging following extreme weather. ➤ The highest scoring sites were Red Lodge and Victory Sports Ground while many of the recreation grounds and village pitches score poorly. A consistent issue of pests has been identified and supported by the club consultations.

4 CRICKET

4.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

4.1.1 In order to understand the overall objectives and priorities of the ECB, an analysis of key recent strategies and documentation has been undertaken and summarised below.

Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)

4.1.2 The ECB published its strategic plan in 2010. One of the core aims of the strategy is to enhance facilities, environments and participation. The ECB is prioritising the expansion of indoor cricket facilities, better use of school facilities and establishing better school-club links in order to position cricket at the heart of the community. This strategy was followed by the National Club Strategy (2012).

National Club Strategy (2012)

4.1.3 The ECB's National Club Strategy was developed from its Strategic Plan. It focuses on promoting the sustainability of clubs and their facilities. The ECB aims to develop accessible, high quality and innovative facilities which inspire the nation to choose cricket, and create a culture of sustainable development which will leave a legacy for generations to come.

4.1.4 Suffolk County Cricket Board is the local cricket board governing cricket activity in West Suffolk. Its objectives are defined as to:

- Create a robust and sustainable infrastructure that allows the game to be developed and played for years to come
- Provide an inclusive environment which allows the game to be accessed and enjoyed by all in whatever capacity
- Fully support the ECB in ensuring that: "More people play cricket more frequently in teams"
- Work with our clubs, associations and leagues as well as external partners to achieve this

4.2 Consultation Overview

4.2.1 The ECB feels that the general profile of cricket within the borough is good, with a number of multi-team clubs and a small number of major clubs.

4.2.2 There are 18 clubs in the area, four of which have 8 or more teams in total (Bardwell CC, Bury St Edmunds CC, Mildenhall CC and Haverhill CC).

4.2.3 Bury St Edmunds is a major club in the area, with a men's adult team competing at the highest possible club level, a women's team and a thriving junior section.

4.2.4 Mildenhall and Haverhill CC are also large clubs with multiple teams and strong playing membership bases. Bardwell CC has a strong junior section to complement its senior men and women's teams.

4.3 Supply

Quantity Overview

4.3.1 Table 27 below presents the data collected on cricket supply in West Suffolk. Technical Appendix A presents a detailed audit of all cricket sites across the two local authorities including carrying capacity and supply and demand balance.

Table 27 – Supply of cricket in West Suffolk

Study Area	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Total no. of cricket wickets	217	11
St Edmundsbury Total	157	9
Forest Heath Total	60	2

4.3.2 Of the 216 grass wickets, the following have multiple squares;

- Culford Sports and Tennis Centre (4)
- Victory Sports Ground (3)
- Bardwell Playing Field (2)
- Mildenhall Cricket Club (2)

Tenure and Management

4.3.3 There is an even spread of ownership arrangements for cricket sites in West Suffolk. Compared to neighbouring local authorities in West Suffolk, this represents a lower than expected education supply and a higher than usual Private ownership status. This is shown in Table 28 below.

Table 28 – Ownership breakdown for Cricket in West Suffolk

Pitch ownership	Ownership of cricket sites in Forest Heath	Ownership of cricket sites in St Edmundsbury
Parish Council	2	6
Trust/Charity	1	5
Private	2	7
Education	1	7
Local Authority	2	0
Unknown	2	2

Quality Assessment

4.3.4 Each site (where access was possible) was visited and assessed by an independent assessor using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB, taking account of playing surface and maintenance, and quality of changing rooms. In addition to the site visits, the club consultation was used to validate the quality ratings. Each site is rated as good, standard or poor.

4.3.5 Table 29 summarises the quality assessment results. Full details of the subsequent carrying capacity allocations of each site by pitch type can be found in Technical Appendix A. Given the ratings, the overall standard of sites across West Suffolk is good, with 91% of sites scoring standard or better.

Table 29 – Summary of cricket pitch scoring in West Suffolk

Local Authority	Total number of sites per quality rating		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Forest Heath	7	1	2
St Edmundsbury	19	4	4

4.3.6 The top ten scoring sites are summarised below;

- **Bardwell Playing Field (85%):** An excellent two square ground which is the home of Bardwell CC. The site was given full marks for non-turn practice facilities but was scored down slightly for the ancillary facilities
- **Brockley Cricket Club (94%):** A high quality single square site which is the home of Brockley CC
- **Haverhill Bowls & Sports Club (97%):** One of the best grounds in the area and the home of Haverhill CC. A single square site that scored top marks in all areas apart from the ancillaries (91%)
- **Mildenhall Cricket Club (96%):** A high quality two square ground which scored very highly in all areas apart from the ancillary facilities
- **Ousden Playing Field (88%):** A small but high quality local ground that is home to Lidgate and Ousden CC
- **Red Lodge Sports Club & Pavilion (95%):** A single square ground with excellent ancillary facilities on a site shared with a number of other sports
- **The Several Sports Pavilion (86%):** A high scoring but unsecured site. This was marked excellently apart from the outfield, which requires enhancement to make this a highly sought after ground
- **Tuddenham Playing Field (83%):** A small but excellently maintained village ground with consistently good scores and a single square
- **Victory Sports Ground (100%):** The premier ground in the area and the home ground of Bury St Edmunds CC. This is a multi square

ground which scored 100% for all scores on the 1st XI pitch and very highly on the additional squares

- **Whepstead Community Centre (92%):** A small but high quality local ground that is home to Whepstead CC.

4.4 Demand

Club and team profile

4.4.1 Through the demand consultations with clubs, 18 clubs have been identified as playing in West Suffolk. 11 of these clubs are shown in Table 30 below, with details on the team profiles where it was possible to contact them. The additional 7 clubs are included in Appendix A as these were not contactable as part of the demand consultation process.

Table 30– Cricket club profiles for responding clubs. Source: 4 global club consultations

Club	No. Of competitive teams			Total
	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	
Bardwell CC	2	1	5	8
Bury St Edmunds CC	6	1	6	13
Eleven CC	2	0	3	5
Exning CC	3	0	3	6
Horringer CC	1	0	0	1
Lakenheath CC	3	0	0	3
Mildenhall CC	7	1	3	11
Nowton CC	3	0	3	6
Tuddenham St Mary CC	3	0	0	3
Brockley CC	3	0	2	5
Haverhill CC	6	0	3	9
Total	39	3	28	70

4.4.2 It should be noted that no demand (or supply) was identified at George Lambton Playing Fields.

Current, future and latent demand

4.4.3 In order to identify trends in participation over the last 3 years, each cricket club was asked to state whether their number of teams has increased, decreased or stayed the same. Each club was also asked to indicate if there are firm plans in place to increase the number of teams in the future, with the key results showing;

- 27% of clubs have seen an increase in the number of men's teams, compared with 40% seeing an increase in women's teams
- 45% and 60% of clubs have seen static team volumes for men and women respectively
- All clubs that answered the question stated that their junior section had either stayed the same or grown over past 3 years

- Of all clubs that answered the question, there is forecast to be an additional 4 men’s teams within the next 3 years
- Of all clubs that answered the question, there is forecast to be an additional 2 women’s teams within the next 3 years
- Of all clubs that answered the question, there is forecast to be an additional 4 men’s teams within the next 3 years

4.4.4 In order to calculate the future demand for cricket in West Suffolk, a Team Generation Rate (TGR) has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a cricket team.

4.4.5 This TGR can now be applied to the population projections for the two local authorities to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups.

4.4.6 These projections include the impact of the additional planned housing developments in Bury St Edmunds (5,740 new homes) and Haverhill (4,260 new homes) to be completed by 2031. In order to understand the impact on specific population groups, it is assumed that each house has an average of 2.33 persons. The current ratio for each of the population groups (e.g. what percentage of the current population is accounted for by the Males 19-45) is then used to calculate the total projected population for each of the age groups.

Table 31: Impact of population projections on the need for cricket provision (Team Generation Rates). Source: 4 global demand consultation and ONS Population Projections

Age group	Current popn. Within age group	Current no. Of teams	TGR (no. Of people per team)	Future (2031) population within age group	Predict ed future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population	
						Forest Heath	St Edmunds bury
Adult (19-65) – males only	53,391	39	1369.0	60,460	44.2	2.1	3.1
Youth (8-18) – boys only	10,672	28	381.1	14,566	38.2	3.4	6.8

4.4.7 Table 31 illustrates that additional teams are expected to be generated by the projected population increase across all of West Suffolk. This increase is going to be most significant in youth team cricket, with an additional 10 teams expected by 2031.

4.5 Capacity Analysis

- 4.5.1 The capacity to provide for competitive play over a season is mainly determined by the quality of sites. Table 32 below presents the percentage of wickets across West Suffolk that fall under each quality category. There is a carrying capacity across West Suffolk of 915 matches.
- 4.5.2 A detailed capacity of each of the sites across West Suffolk can be seen in Technical Appendix A.

Table 32: Quality ratings for cricket sites in percentages. Source: 4 global site assessments

Quality rating (ECB: grass wickets have a carrying capacity of 5 games per season, non-turf wickets 60 games per season)	Overall Quality Rating
Good (80%-100%)	47%
Standard (60%-80%)	53%
Poor (0%-60%)	6%

4.6 Supply and Demand Balance

- 4.6.1 12 of the 14 cricket sites have been identified as having spare capacity for their grass wickets, with only Haverhill Bowls and Sports Club and Overway Meadow indicating an under-supply.
- 4.6.2 Following consultation with the ECB, it is key to highlight that the reference to under capacity must be balanced with the understanding that any prudent club retains a certain number of wickets on a strip to cater for additional activity beyond that calculated for league games. It should be noted that when calculating five games per strip then the wickets are being used to capacity with no slack for unforeseen circumstances such as unusual weather events, which would reduce capacity. In order to preserve a capacity of 5 matches per season at well-maintained sites continued investment is required to keep the wickets at the required quality.
- 4.6.3 At local authority or recreation grounds the standard of upkeep at the grounds has a significant effect on their carrying capacity and a more realistic figure of 3 games per strip is advisable. With this in mind, the following sites are deemed to have less intensive maintenance and preparation procedures and are therefore calculated as having a 3 game carrying capacity per season.
- Risby Community Trust Playing Field
 - Stansfield Village Hall & Playing Field
 - Whepstead Community Centre
 - Withersfield Parish Sports Ground

- Ousden Playing Field

4.6.4 The final analysis for supply and demand balance, as shown in Table 33, will therefore be calculated using a combination of 3 and 5 match carrying capacity.

Table 33 – Overall Cricket balance figures for West Suffolk

	Supply	Demand	Overall balance (matches)	Pitch balance figure (no. Of grass or artificial wickets)
Total West Suffolk	977.0	679.0	+298	60 grass wickets or 2 artificial
Forest Heath	336.0	256.0	+80	16 grass wickets or 1 artificial
St Edmundsbury	641.0	423.0	+218	44 grass wickets or 1 artificial

4.6.5 The overall results for cricket indicate that, when utilising a capacity measure of 3 and 5 matches per strip per season there is an oversupply across all of West Suffolk.

4.6.6 In order to understand how projected population growth will influence the demand for cricket in West Suffolk, Table 34 illustrates the change in balance caused by increased demand. This is calculated on the assumption that each additional team, as shown in Table 31, will play 10 home games per season and will therefore demand 2 additional wickets each per season.

Table 34 – Future supply and demand balance including projected demand increase

	Supply	Demand	Overall balance (matches)	Pitch balance figure (no. Of grass or artificial wickets)
Total West Suffolk	977.0	710.0	+267	53 grass wickets or 2 artificial
Forest Heath	336.0	267.0	+69	14 grass wickets or 1 artificial
St Edmundsbury	641.0	443.0	+178	36 grass wickets or 1 artificial

4.6.7 This data illustrates that when taking the project population increase and associated Teams Generation Rates; the projected increase in demand can still be satisfied by the current level of supply.

4.7 Strategic sites for Protection, Enhancement and Provision

4.7.1 Based on the evidence collated in the PPS for cricket pitch provision, it can be concluded that there are certain cricket facilities across West Suffolk that are recorded as high value sites, for a number of reasons.

4.7.2 Table 35 analyses each of the cricket sites in West Suffolk and provides justification for their Protection, Enhancement or Provision. The outputs of these justifications will then be reflected in the Action Plan.

Table 35 – Strategic cricket sites for protection and enhancement

Site by Site Analysis for cricket in West Suffolk						Sub-area coding St Edmundsbury: Bury St Edmunds (BSE), Rural Areas North (RN), Haverhill (HAV), Rural South (RS) Forest Heath: North (N), Central (C), South (S)	
Site Name	Sub Area	No. Of squares	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Score	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
FOREST HEATH							
Eriswell Road Playing Fields	C	1	Unsecured	78%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan. This is a high quality site that is the home ground of Lakenheath CC (3 teams). In order to protect long-term cricket provision at this site, a community use or Section 106 agreement should be signed with Lakenheath Playing Fields association.
						E	The pitch and ancillary are good quality, with a council provided contractors providing maintenance to an acceptable standard. The priority for this site should be a long-term tenancy agreement.
						PV	The club has identified reducing membership levels; therefore further provision is not required. This trend is not in line with the rest of West Suffolk and should therefore be treated with caution
IES UK Breckland, Brandon	N	1	Unsecured	67%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan in order to maintain cricket provision at education facilities. This is a school site that is used very little for school cricket. If demand can be demonstrated from other sports on the same site, this could be re-designated to another playing pitch.
						E	If the cricket pitch is to be retained, the AstroTurf should be replaced, as it scored 28% on the assessment.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Mildenhall Cricket Club	C	2	Available for community use and used	96%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan. This is a high quality 2 square site with excellent ancillary facilities and a thriving club
						E	Parking is identified as an issue, especially on junior match and training days.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Red Lodge Sports Club	C	1	Secured	95%	Currently under	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch in the Local Plan. It is an excellent shared site alongside a number of additional sporting provisions.

Site by Site Analysis for cricket in West Suffolk						Sub-area coding St Edmundsbury: Bury St Edmunds (BSE), Rural Areas North (RN), Haverhill (HAV), Rural South (RS) Forest Heath: North (N), Central (C), South (S)	
Site Name	Sub Area	No. Of squares	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Score	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
					capacity for grass wickets		The shared ancillary is in excellent condition and the pitch is a good standard.
						E	In order to provide volunteer help and funding to improve this site, formal agreement should be sought with a local cricket club to make this their home ground and social base.
						PV	No further provision is required at this site.
The Severals Sports Pavilion	S	1	Unsecured	86%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch in the Local Plan. It is a single square with a single men's team. The site could provide opportunity for expansion or adoption by a larger/expanding club, due to the excellent ancillary facilities.
						E	Long-term community use to be secured. In order to complement the excellent ancillary facilities, investment is required in the pitch surface.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Tuddenham Playing Fields	C	1	Secured	83%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan. The site is the home of a well-run three club site and due to the rural nature of the club, it would be unlikely that demand could be displaced to nearby clubs and the club has clear potential to develop its playing base and facilities
						E	The club has worked hard, through volunteers, to improve the quality of the playing pitch. Further investment would assist the club in improving the overall standard of facilities.
						PV	An AstroTurf pitch would allow the club to conduct training off the square, thus saving the area for match days.
ST EDMUNDSBURY							
Bardwell Playing Fields	RN	2	Secured	85%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan. This is a good quality site that is well used by Bardwell CC. The site is under-capacity but is a key cricket site for West Suffolk and the club is currently progressing through the Clubmark process.
						E	Refurbishment of ageing ancillary will allow the club to make the most of their excellent pitch provision. This should follow the Clubmark process and club development planning.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Brockley Cricket Club	RN	1	Secured	94%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan. This is a high quality site that is the home ground of Brockley CC (3 teams).
						E	The quality of ancillary facilities was deemed to be adequate, with separate refreshment and changing room buildings negating the appeal of the facility.
						PV	The club has identified reducing membership levels; therefore further provision is not required.

Site by Site Analysis for cricket in West Suffolk						Sub-area coding St Edmundsbury: Bury St Edmunds (BSE), Rural Areas North (RN), Haverhill (HAV), Rural South (RS) Forest Heath: North (N), Central (C), South (S)	
Site Name	Sub Area	No. Of squares	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Score	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Castle Manor Academy	HAV	1	Unsecured	81%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan in order to maintain cricket provision at education facilities. It is managed by the Academy and there are no grass wickets as cricket is not a key sport.
						E	The AstroTurf wicket scored well as part of the assessment and therefore no further enhancement is required.
						PV	The school did not identify a requirement for grass wickets and therefore it is unlikely that the school or ECB would welcome a development of this type.
Cavendish Sports Club	RS	1	Unsecured	96%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch in the Local Plan. It is an excellent single site but is used only by a single team club.
						E	This site could be used as a second ground for larger, nearby clubs.
						PV	Due to the small playing membership numbers and high quality nature of the site, no further provision is required.
Culford Sports & Tennis Centre	BSE	4	Unsecured	77%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This is a privately education-owned site, which offers high quality, unsecured community use.
						E	In order to formalise the supply of cricket from the school, there should be an effort to seek a formal community use or Section 106 agreement signed with Culford School.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Hardwick Middle School Sports College	BSE	1	Unsecured	64%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan in order to maintain cricket provision at education facilities. It is managed by the Academy and there are no grass wickets as cricket is not a key sport. This pitch should be protected in order to maintain cricket provision at education facilities.
						E	The AstroTurf wicket scored poorly and is in need of replacement.
						PV	The school did not identify a requirement for grass wickets and therefore it is unlikely that the school or ECB would welcome a development of this type.
Haverhill Bowls & Sports Club	HAV	1	Secured	98%	Currently over capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan. This is a very high quality site with good quality ancillary and is the home ground to Haverhill CC, one of the main grounds in the area
						E	The ground and ancillary are high quality and further enhancement is unlikely to be possible without significant investment.
						PV	One of the few sites that are over capacity for grass wickets – potential ground sharing or expansion to be explored. Should look to ground share with Withersfield Parish CC
Ousden Playing Fields	RN	1	Secured	88%	Currently under capacity for	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan. It is home to a small, informal club however due to the rural nature of the location, it is unlikely that demand can be absorbed by nearby clubs

Site by Site Analysis for cricket in West Suffolk						Sub-area coding St Edmundsbury: Bury St Edmunds (BSE), Rural Areas North (RN), Haverhill (HAV), Rural South (RS) Forest Heath: North (N), Central (C), South (S)	
Site Name	Sub Area	No. Of squares	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Score	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
					grass wickets	E	No further potential enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Samuel Ward Academy	HAV	1	Unsecured	48%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan in order to maintain cricket provision at education facilities. This is a school site that is used very little for school cricket.
						E	If the cricket pitch is to be retained, the AstroTurf should be replaced, as it scored 28% on the assessment.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Risby Community Trust Playing Field and Village Hall	RN	1	Secured	73%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch in the Local Plan. This is secured for community use and can therefore provide long-term provision for more informal cricket participation. The site is currently under capacity for cricket and could therefore be used as a second ground for larger clubs in nearby Bury St Edmunds.
						E	No further potential enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Rougham Playing Field	RN	1	Secured	77%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitch. The site is currently under capacity for cricket and could therefore be used as a second ground for larger clubs in nearby Bury St Edmunds.
						E	The club is currently looking for support for new nets and this should be supported in order to maintain rural cricket provision.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Stansfield Village Hall and Playing Field	RS	1	Secured	79%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This is a small village site that is used by the local village team and provides for a small number of players in the local area. The provision is small and could therefore demand could be absorbed by clubs in Bury St Edmunds, which is 7 miles away.
						E	No further potential enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
St James CE VA Middle School	RS	1	Unsecured	74%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan in order to maintain cricket provision at education facilities. This is a school site that is used very little for school cricket.
						E	No further potential enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Stour Valley Community School	RS	1	Unsecured	57%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan in order to maintain cricket provision at education facilities. It is managed by the school and there are no grass wickets as cricket is not a key sport.
						E	The pitch slopes severely however the capital investment required to re-level a pitch is likely to mean enhancement will not be possible.

Site by Site Analysis for cricket in West Suffolk						Sub-area coding St Edmundsbury: Bury St Edmunds (BSE), Rural Areas North (RN), Haverhill (HAV), Rural South (RS) Forest Heath: North (N), Central (C), South (S)	
Site Name	Sub Area	No. Of squares	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Score	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Victory Sports Grounds	BSE	3	Secured	100%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch in the Local Plan. It is home to one of the premier cricket clubs in East Anglia. This is a very high quality site with multiple squares and excellent ancillary facilities.
						E	The facilities are among the highest quality in the region and therefore enhancement is not required.
						PV	In order to allow the club to continue growing, additional practice nets are required.
Whepstead Community Centre	RN	1	Secured	92%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch in the Local Plan. This site is used by a club that play only socially and therefore suits future plans of the ECB to create more informal, low barrier to entry, playing opportunities.
						E	No further potential enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Withersfield Parish Sports Ground	RS	1	Secured	79%	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch in the Local Plan. This is a small village site that is used by the local village team and provides for a small number of players in the local area. The site could be used as an additional pitch for nearby Haverhill CC, which is one of the only clubs in the study area that is currently over capacity.
						E	A fungal infection has been identified on the outfield, which should be addressed if the club is to be used by additional clubs.
						PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.

4.8 Cricket Summary

4.8.1 A full set of cricket recommendations is provided in Table 34 but below is a short summary of the key findings from the cricket analysis

Table 36 – Summary of Cricket Findings for West Suffolk

Cricket Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ There is a general surplus of cricket wickets across the West Suffolk and there is still a surplus even with future demand taken into account➤ Team generation rates for West Suffolk suggest that by 2031, 5 new adult teams and 10 new youth teams are likely to exist➤ Balance figures for 2012 - +298 wickets (individual strips)➤ Projected balance figures for 2031 - +267 wickets (individual strips)➤ There are some large and high performing clubs in the area, including Bury St Edmunds CC, Mildenhall CC and Haverhill CC. All of these have well maintained and managed club grounds, which scored excellently during site assessments.➤ The proposed Mildenhall Hub is likely to have an impact on provision for Mildenhall CC, however this could lead to improved ancillary facilities through a sharing use agreement.➤ The Severals pavilion in Newmarket is a good facility however the cricket provision (pitch quality and maintenance) is not satisfactory for a large club.

5 Rugby Union

5.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

- 5.1.1 The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body responsible for grassroots and elite rugby in England. Suffolk RFU administers the sport across the sub-region. The rugby union playing season operates from September to April.
- 5.1.2 The RFU published its Facility Strategy (2013) for 2013 - 2017. The strategy includes the following relevant objectives and priorities relevant to the PPS:
- The core aims of the RFU are to create effective and efficient facilities, management and governance along with community integration
 - Facility priorities include improving changing provision, natural turf pitch quality, AGPs and floodlighting for both matches and training. These affect commercial opportunities within community clubs

5.2 Consultation Overview

General Overview of Participation

- 5.2.1 Participation in rugby is quite strong in the area and the RFU anticipates further growth once new housing developments come to fruition

Major Clubs

- 5.2.2 **Bury St Edmunds RFC:** This site has had significant investment in recent years including FF investment that has contributed towards the 3G training pitch, upgraded changing rooms and new floodlights. The club has strong potential to grow further teams (one more adult team and two more junior teams by 2018).
- 5.2.3 **Newmarket RFC:** This club is identified in the RFU's East Region Strategy as a priority club. This club is based at Scaltback School, which currently has an uncertain future and is subject to a separate strategy to confirm lease arrangements and future developments (the lease is currently held by the Community Sports Association). The club does not wish to relocate and is uncomfortable with the uncertain future. The club also suffers from a sub-standard clubhouse, which needs to be replaced or upgraded.

5.2.4 **Haverhill RFC:** Another large club with lots of teams across all age groups, youth and adult. Their site only has 2 pitches and both of these have poor drainage. The club has identified a need for additional crass pitches or better quality ones.

5.2.5 **Mildenhall and Red Lodge RFC** – a small club that the RFU does not have significant contact with.

Key Facility Priorities

- A secure home and future for Newmarket RFC
- Support for Haverhill to identify new pitches or address drainage issues

Further Points of Note

- A key development area is mid-week match play demand that is increasing but this demand needs floodlit grass pitch provision, which is under-provided for in West Suffolk.
- Mid-week training demand is also an issue across sites with the majority of clubs using their weekend match surfaces for midweek training due to the positioning of floodlights. This demand has increased in recent years.
- The possible solutions to increasing capacity are 1) programming 2) pitch maintenance regimes and drainage and 3) floodlights. AGPs are a welcome solution in areas where overplaying on grass is a problem.

5.3 Supply

Quantity overview

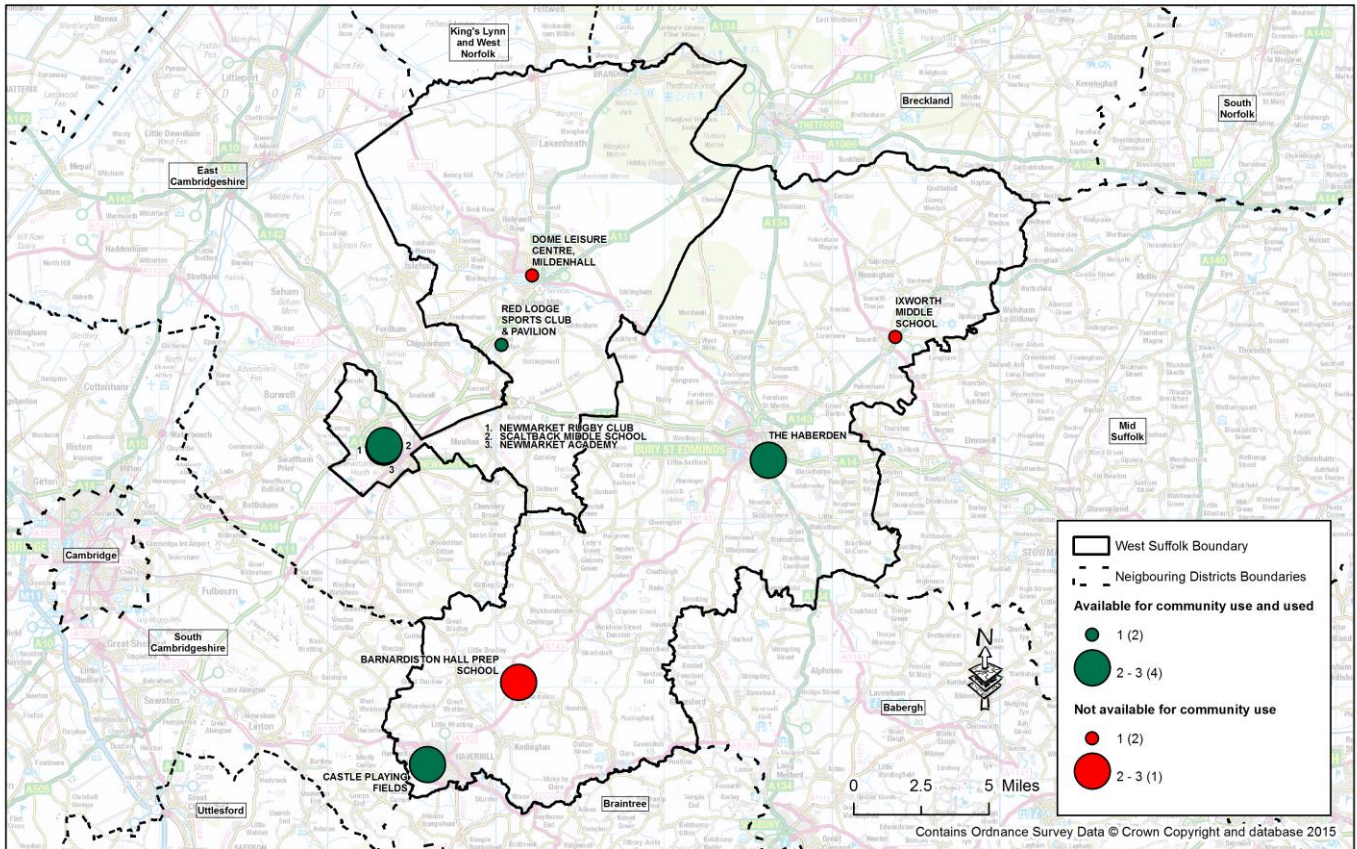
5.3.1 Table 37 below summarises the pitches that are provided in West Suffolk.

Table 37 – Rugby pitch supply in West Suffolk

ST EDMUNDSBURY	Number of pitches	
	Senior Rugby	Junior
Secured	6	7
Unsecured	0	11
Total	6	18
FOREST HEATH	Number of pitches	
	Senior Rugby	Junior
Secured	3	1
Unsecured	0	0
Total	3	1

5.3.2 Figure 8 shows the geographic location of the rugby pitches in the two local authorities.

Figure 8 – Rugby pitch audit in West Suffolk



Senior Rugby Union pitches by community use availability in West Suffolk

5.3.3 Figure 8 illustrates that the rugby sites available for community use are largely concentrated around the key settlements of Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and Newmarket. The three clubs located in each of these towns are relatively large clubs with a large catchment area, therefore explaining the low volume of total clubs.

Tenure and Management

5.3.4 Primarily, rugby clubs or education facilities run rugby pitches across the borough. The only exceptions to this are the Victory Sports Ground (charity run), Dome Leisure Centre and Red Lodge Sports Club (both run by local authority/parish council).

Quality Assessment

5.3.5 Each site (where access was possible) was visited and assessed by an independent assessor using non-technical assessments as determined by the RFU. The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements - the maintenance programme and level of drainage.

5.3.6 Each is scored and classified in one of three categories. These represent actions required to improve site quality. A breakdown for each of the two scoring elements and three respective categories is provided in the following two tables.

Table 38 – Rugby pitch maintenance quality assessment specifications. Source: RFU PPS Guidance

Category	Overall Quality Rating
M0	Action requires significant improvements to the maintenance programme
M1	Action requires minor improvements to the maintenance programme
M2	Action requires no improvements to the maintenance programme

Table 39 – Rugby pitch drainage quality assessment specifications. Source: RFU PPS Guidance

Category	Overall Quality Rating
D0	Action on pipe draining system is needed on pitch
D1	Action on silt drainage system is needed on pitch
D2	No action is needed on pitch drainage

5.3.7 These scores are then combined to provide a match equivalent capacity, as calculated in Table 40 below

Table 40 – Match equivalent calculation for rugby pitches. Source: Appendices 4a to 4c – Rugby Football Union

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

5.3.8 Table 41 summarises the quality assessment results. Full details of the subsequent carrying capacity allocations of each site by pitch type can be found in Technical Appendix A. A total of 15 pitches require significant improvements to the maintenance programme, while 9 pitches require urgent action on their draining systems.

Table 41 – Quality summary by pitch type

	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Total number of pitches	Carrying capacity (games per week – accumulated)
M0/D0	3	0	3	1.5
M0/D1	6	6	12	18
M1/D0	0	6	6	9
M1/D1	3	1	4	10
M2/D1	0	6	6	18

- 5.3.9 Castle Playing Fields were identified as having the worst pitches, while Scaltback Middle School, the Haberden and Red Lodge Sports Club & Pavilion also scored poorly. This is significant as all three of the major clubs in the area have poorly drained and or maintained pitches, which could have the effect of limiting demand in the medium to long term.

5.4 Demand

Current Demand

- 5.4.1 As part of the club consultation process four major clubs were contacted, with the following key issues;
- 5.4.2 Bury St Edmunds RFC:
- Large club that would like to increase in size but doesn't physically have any more room for pitches on the site.
 - The 3G facility is heavily used and seen as a brilliant asset by the club
 - Ancillary facilities are more than adequate, with a relatively new changing block
 - Draining at the site is only natural but the site drains well and has had irrigation systems installed to prevent the pitches drying out
- 5.4.3 Haverhill and District RFC
- Site has drainage problems causing several cancellations per year
 - Poor maintenance due to council provided maintenance contractor
 - Well maintained clubhouse owned by the rugby club
- 5.4.4 Newmarket RFC
- The Clubhouse is old and in serious need of repair or rebuild
 - The site is restricted by housing on three sites of the site therefore expansion is not possible. This leads to a large amount of use on a small site, especially the small floodlit training area.
- 5.4.5 Mildenhall and Red Lodge RFC
- Poor pitches with good changing facilities.
 - Note: the site assessor identified the quality of pitches as relatively good, however the maintenance regime reduced the official rating
 - The club would like to be a more significant part of the local rugby community, but needs an improved administrative system to facilitate this.

- 5.4.6 Table 42 shows the number of teams and match equivalents (demand only) in West Suffolk. This illustrates that with M1/D1 pitches (or better), a small number of total pitches would be required. Additionally, the data indicates that youth teams contribute a high proportion of the overall demand in the area.
- 5.4.7 A potential solution to this would be to increase the provision of youth specific pitches, however the RFU have stated that additional provision should focus on adult pitches, as these provide the greatest flexibility and quality of supply.

Table 42 – Demand summary for rugby in West Suffolk

	Adult teams	Youth teams (U13 and above)
Match equivalent demand per week	11.5	21
Equivalent number of M1/D1 match pitches	6	11

Future Demand

- 5.4.8 In order to calculate the future demand for rugby in West Suffolk, a Team Generation Rate (TGR) has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a rugby team.
- 5.4.9 This Team Generation Rate can now be applied to the population projections for the two local authorities to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups.
- 5.4.10 The St Edmundsbury projections include the impact of the additional planned housing developments in Bury St Edmunds (5,740 new homes) and Haverhill (4,260 new homes) to be completed by 2031. In order to understand the impact on specific population groups, it is assumed that each house has an average of 2.33 persons. The current ratio for each of the population groups (e.g. what percentage of the current population is accounted for by the Males 19-45) is then used to calculate the total projected population for each of the age groups.

Table 43 – Future demand projections for rugby teams in West Suffolk. Source: 4 global demand consultations and 2012 ONS Population Projections

	Current popn. Within age group	Current no. Of teams	TGR	Future (2031) population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population	
						FH	SE
Mini/Midi (6-12) - Mixed	13043	11	1186	18,911	15.9	1.9	3.0
Junior Rugby – (13-17)	4969	16	311	9,281	29.9	4.5	9.4
Senior Rugby – (18-45)	33400	10	3340	45,865	13.7	2.0	1.7

5.4.11 Table 43 illustrates that, in line with population projections for 2031, West Suffolk will require an additional 5 mini teams and 14 junior teams, as well as an additional 4 senior rugby teams.

5.4.12 In terms of pitches, if it assumed that any new pitches will be at least M2/D1 with a carrying capacity of 3 matches per week, this means that an additional 4-5 full size pitches will be required to allow for 13.5 match equivalents of demand. If it is not possible to provide this in grass pitches due to land restrictions, further World Rugby 22 provision may be required to supplement the current supply.

5.5 Supply and Demand Balance

5.5.1 Table 44 illustrates supply and demand figures for rugby sites in West Suffolk.

Table 44 – Supply and Demand Balance by Club

Club	Site	No. Of pitches	Supply		Demand (matches and training)		Overall balance
			Senior	Junior	Senior	Junior	
St Edmundsbury							
Bury St. Edmunds RFC	The Haberden	3 senior – 6 junior	6.0	9.0	5.0	5.5	4.5
Haverhill and District RFC	Castle Playing Fields*	3 Senior	1.5	0.0	2.0	5.5	-4.0
Forest Heath							
Newmarket RFC	Scaltback Middle School	2 Senior	3.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	-5
Mildenhall and Red Lodge RFC	Red Lodge Sports Club	1 Senior	1.5	0.0	1.5	0	0

- 5.5.2 As shown, the balance for Bury St Edmunds indicates that it has sufficient supply to meet its current demand. This should be considered, however, in line with the findings from the club and RFU consultation, which identified a desire to increase the number of teams by 2 in the near future.
- 5.5.3 Haverhill RFC is identified as having a significant undersupply, which is influenced heavily by the poor nature of their pitch and low carrying capacity. As identified in the earlier consultation, either further work is required to increase the standard of the pitches at Castle Playing Fields, or further pitches should be provided to meet the clubs demand.
- 5.5.4 Newmarket RFC is also identified as being significantly under supplied, which is primarily influenced by the significant junior section in the club. Further pitches are required to address this, as well as a solution to the long-term uncertainty regarding the clubhouse.
- 5.5.5 Mildenhall and Red Lodge has a neutral balance, indicating that supply meets demand. This should be considered in conjunction with the club's ambition to grow its footprint in the local area, as this may increase future demand and therefore a requirement for a greater number of pitches.

5.6 Strategic Sites for Protection, Enhancement and Provision

- 5.6.1 As shown above, it is recommended that all four sites are protected as they;
- Have greater demand than supply, therefore creating latent demand that can increase participation if provision is improved, or
 - Are a major club in the area, with significant junior sections and an adult teams playing in the National Leagues, or
 - Are placed in such a position that, should any be closed or moved, a large proportion of residents would not have access to a rugby club without significant travel.
- 5.6.2 With this recommendation of protection in mind, Table 45 provides further recommendations on potential areas of enhancement for each of the four rugby clubs.

Table 45 – Rugby sites for enhancement in West Suffolk

Site by Site Analysis for Rugby in West Suffolk						Sub-area coding St Edmundsbury: Bury St Edmunds (BSE), Rural Areas North (RN), Haverhill (HAV), Rural South (RS) Forest Heath: North (N), Central (C), South (S)	
Site Name		No. Of Pitches	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Score	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
FOREST HEATH							
Mildenhall and Red Lodge RFC - Red Lodge Sports Club	C	1 Snr	Secured	M0/D0	0	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This site has use of a strong multi-use site and should look to benefit from the excellent ancillary facilities.
						E	Funding and support required for training equipment and pitch improvements at Red Lodge.
						PV	No further provision identified as part of this study.
Newmarket RFC - Scaltback Middle School	S	2 Snr	Unsecured	M0/D1	-5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. Signature of a long-term lease for Scaltback Middle School Site would provide long-term stability and ensure security of tenure.
						E	A full refurbishment/replacement of the existing clubhouse is required in order to satisfy the social demands of the club and attract new members. Improved floodlighting should be explored at the site, in order to provide greater training space and a capability to play mid-week or evening matches if required
						PV	Utilise additional (recommended as part of this strategy) 3G facility for winter training.
ST EDMUNDSBURY							
Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club - The Haberden	BSE	3 Snr 6 Jnr	Secured	M1/D0	4.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is the premier rugby club in the area, with a growing youth section and an improving adult section.
						E	Current 3G provision to be increased to a full size (110x70m) pitch to increase rugby training capability and also satisfy community use demands. Work with the club to develop their training and playing facilities as they seek additional sites. THIS IS A TRAINING SOLUTION AND THEREFORE DOES NOT

							<p>If the club continues to grow and an additional 3G pitch is not possible, further floodlights will be required to create more training space. These floodlights do not necessarily need to be attached to a specific pitch as the need is likely to be for training space rather than match capacity.</p>
						PV	Utilise additional (recommended as part of this strategy) 3G facility for winter training.
Haverhill and District RFC - Castle Playing Fields	HAV	3 Snr	Secured	M0/D0	-4	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. It is a strong club with significant adult membership and an ambition to grow.
						E	Investment in a new drainage system for Castle Playing Fields is required in order to increase carrying capacity and reduce cancellations. Dog fouling is a key issue on the site. The club currently has inadequate floodlit provision and therefore this should be improved to provide greater training capacity.
						PV	Utilise additional (recommended as part of this strategy) 3G facility for winter training.

5.7 Rugby Summary

5.7.1 A full set of rugby recommendations is provided in Table 46 but below is a short summary of the key findings from the rugby analysis

Table 46 – Summary of Rugby Findings for West Suffolk

Rugby Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ There are four main rugby clubs in West Suffolk; Bury St Edmunds RFC, Haverhill & District RFC, Newmarket RFC and Mildenhall & Red Lodge RFC.➤ There is a mixture of deficiency and surplus across these sites, with Haverhill RFC and Newmarket RFC showing a deficiency due to the poor carrying capacity of their pitches.➤ The RFU has prioritised finding a long-term home for Newmarket RFC, as well as improving the quality of pitches at Castle Fields (Haverhill RFC).➤ Bury St Edmunds RFC owns and manages the only 3G facility in the area and this is a valuable asset to the club. The club would like to increase the number of playing teams but feels it is unable to do so due to capacity.➤ There is an opportunity to re-develop the Newmarket RFC site in the future, taking advantage of potential development plans on the former Scaltback Middle School site. The club has identified that it does not want to relocate and would like to refurbish the clubhouse and agree a long-term lease.➤ Investment is required to improve draining and maintenance at Castle Fields, due to the amount of cancellations of matches from waterlogging.➤ Mildenhall and Red Lodge RFC have made it clear they would like to be integrated more closely with the RFU.

6 Hockey

6.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

6.1.1 In order to understand the overall objectives and priorities of the England Hockey Board (EHB), an analysis of key recent strategies and documentation has been undertaken and summarised below.

The National Hockey Facility Strategy – The Right Facilities in the Right Places (2012).

6.1.2 The EHB published its facility strategy in 2012. The main points in this strategy relevant to the PPS are;

- EHB are looking to grow the sport by 10,000 adults and 32,500 children
- The EHB is looking to invest in supporting clubs, that understand what they call their 'Single System' involving equal opportunities to access the sport for all, Club First accreditation, a commitment to sustainability and secure partner funding
- As of 2011, hockey was utilising around two thirds of sand and water based AGPs in England, typically from September to April
- The development of AGPs must be done on the basis of evaluating supply and demand balance, strategic considerations, and type, level and extent of use

6.2 Consultation Overview

6.2.1 This section summarises the consultations with England Hockey and key facility providers for hockey

England Hockey

6.2.2 Consultation with England Hockey (EH) has indicated that West Suffolk is a relatively strong hockey area with three main clubs based in Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket and Haverhill.

6.2.3 The key points for the major clubs across the two local authorities can be summarised as;

- Bury St Edmunds has recently confirmed its intention to move all activity onto the Culford school site, with the club part funding a new sand-based facility in return for a formal community use agreement and lease.
- EH would like to maintain the presence of a hockey club in Bury so would like to encourage satellite clubs and informal play where

facilities allow.

- The Haverhill Leisure Centre is having its sand-based AGP re-laid, despite demand from within Haverhill for a 3G facility. The demand for a 3G facility is likely to be satisfied by the planned provision at the New Croft.
- EH is keen to protect hockey in Newmarket. Newmarket Hockey Club has a need for its own club's house and is looking to take up an opportunity to use part of an old school building. The club has capacity for growth.

6.2.4 The key facilities issues highlighted by EH can be summarised as;

- The future of Nowton Park AGP is to be debated further as an output of the PPS strategy. The key issue with this facility is that it is one of the least accessible in the area.
- It is believed that the preference of Abbeycroft Leisure will be a 3G pitch at the Moreton Hall School Site
- EH would prefer the Bury Leisure Centre and King Edward School sites to be retained for hockey as this is a key priority for the school and Abbeycroft Leisure
- The AGP in Haverhill is a priority to be resurfaced this year

King Edward School

6.2.5 Bury Hockey Club are in discussion with the school about creating a satellite club which would be focused primarily on young hockey players in the hours immediately after school (after 6pm Abbeycroft Leisure have secured use of the AGP) – the site would act as a feeder centre to recruit young hockey players from Bury into the club.

6.2.6 The level of hockey use of the AGP is only about 10-20% of the overall use but this kind of use is only what it is fit for as its very hard.

6.2.7 There is a contract with Abbeycroft to share use of the AGP and so any discussions about how the pitch may be used in future i.e. more for football than hockey if converted to 3G would need to be jointly decided.

6.2.8 The school would be interested in discussing the future of its AGP with Abbeycroft and with its wider users but would tend to see a better fit with the current profile of use at the site if the AGP was turned into a 3G.

6.3 Supply

6.3.1 Table 47 and 48 provide a summary of the provision of sand-based AGP's across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. It is key to note the size of the facilities, as pitches that are unsuitable for hockey will not be included in the balance data.

Table 47 – Quantity overview for sand-based AGP's in Forest Heath

FOREST HEATH	Artificial Grass Pitches	
	Full Size (70m x 110m)	Reduced Size
Secured	1	3
Unsecured	0	0
No community use	0	0
Total	1	3

Table 48 – Quantity overview for sand-based AGP's in St Edmundsbury

ST EDMUNDSBURY	Artificial Grass Pitches	
	Full Size (70m x 110m)	Reduced Size
Secured	3	3
Unsecured	1	3
No community use	1	0
Totals	5	6

6.3.2 The following table provides a more detailed breakdown of sand-based AGP pitches across West Suffolk and also identifies sand-based pitches that are unsuitable for hockey use because of surface issues or size. Pitches that have been identified as unsuitable for hockey have not been used in supply and demand calculations. Following consultation with England Hockey, the AGP at Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre has been downgraded to POOR.

6.3.3 This data illustrates that there is a single secured full size facility in Forest Heath and a further three in St Edmundsbury. There is further provision at education facilities but these are largely reduced size pitches that are used for small-sided football or general school sports activity.

6.3.4 Table 49 provides a summary of pitches, split by quality rating. The detailed record of all site assessments is shown in Table 50 overleaf. Note this only includes full size, hockey-ready pitches.

Table 49 – Supply summary for Hockey-ready AGP's

Quality rating	Number of AGP's
Good (80-100%) - carrying capacity: adult 3, youth 4, mini 6 games per week	1
Standard (50-79.9%) - carrying capacity: adult 2, youth 2, mini 4	4
Poor (0-49.9%) - carrying capacity: adult 1, youth 1, mini 2	1

Table 50 – Full audit of Sand-based Artificial Grass Pitches in West Suffolk

Site Name	Local Authority	Pitch Type	Community use category	Security of use	Pitch score	Appropriate for Hockey (included in Supply/Demand calculation)
Barnardiston Hall Prep School	SE	Sand filled (70mx110m)	Not available for community use	N/A	80 - Good	Y
Castle Manor Academy	SE	Sand dressed (50m x 36m)	Available for community use and used	Unsecured	52 - Standard	N
Bury St Edmunds County Upper School	SE	Sand filled (32m x 36m)	Available for community use and used	Secured	61 - Standard	N
Moreton Hall Prep School	SE	Sand dressed (32m x 36m)	Available for community use and used	Unsecured	62 - Standard	N
St Benedict's Catholic School	SE	Sand dressed (70m x 30m)	Available for community use and used	Unsecured	66 - Standard	N
Culford Sports & Tennis Centre	SE	Sand filled (110m x 70m)	Available for community use and used	Unsecured	73 - Standard	Y
Samuel Ward Academy	SE	Sand dressed (50m x 75m)	Available for community use and used	Secured	78 - Standard	N
Haverhill Leisure Centre	SE	Sand filled (110m x 70m)	Available for community use and used	Secured	55 - Standard	Y
Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre	SE	Sand dressed (110m x 70m)	Available for community use and used	Secured	49 - Poor	Y
Nowton Park	SE	Sand filled (110m x 70m)	Available for community use and used	Secured	78 - Standard	Y
Hundon Football Field	SE	Sand dressed (40m x 30m)	Available for community use and used	Secured	63 - Standard	N
Red Lodge Sports Club & Pavilion	FH	Sand dressed (50m x 36m)	Available for community use and used	Secured	80 - Good	N
Newmarket Academy	FH	Sand filled (110m x 70m)	Available for community use and used	Secured	72 - Standard	Y
Brandon Leisure Centre	FH	Sand dressed (32m x 36m)	Available for community use and used	Secured	66 - Standard	N
Dome Leisure Centre, Mildenhall	FH	Sand dressed (32m x 36m)	Available for community use and used	Secured	78 - Standard	N

- 6.3.5 The data in the table above illustrates that all of the sand-based pitches that are suitable for hockey are rated as STANDARD. Haverhill Leisure Centre and Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre are rated as the worst of these, which supports the earlier argument that these are in need of refurbishment.
- 6.3.6 Nowton Park, which may be subject to a reduced level of demand should Bury St Edmunds Hockey club relocate, is one of the highest scoring sites, with the assessor commenting on how well maintained this is considering the high level of traffic.
- 6.3.7 Newmarket Academy scores well but is downgraded by poor ancillary facilities and the lack of a dedicated clubhouse.

Tenure and Management

- 6.3.8 The majority of AGP's are on and/or run by educational sites (53%). The local authority owns five sites that are run by leisure centres or trusts. Parish Councils or Sports Clubs run the remaining sites.

Planned Developments

- 6.3.9 As discussed in Section 3 – Football, there are existing plans for at least one new AGP in Haverhill, with the recommendation for further provision in Bury St Edmunds and potentially Newmarket. While it should be noted that these are likely to be 3G, in order to satisfy demand for football and rugby, this provision will have a significant impact on Hockey provision due to the impact it will have on demand for sand-based AGP's for football.
- 6.3.10 Furthermore, there are current plans to refurbish the existing AGP at King Edward School, with the possibility of this either staying as a sand-based pitch or being refurbished as a 3G facility, depending on the outputs of this strategy and the decisions of West Suffolk.

6.4 Demand

Current Demand

- 6.4.1 There are only three hockey clubs in West Suffolk as identified previously. Through responses to the online survey, the following hockey clubs have provided team numbers: Newmarket Hockey Club (7 teams), Bury St Edmunds Hockey Club (11 teams) and Haverhill Hockey Club (2 teams)
- **Bury St Edmunds Hockey Club:** The club is currently planning to totally relocate to the Culford site following the construction of a new pitch. Currently there is unmet demand for 'mini' teams where they

cannot accommodate the interest at Nowton Park

- **Newmarket Hockey Club:** The club is currently looking into potential clubhouse development, but only at a very early stage.
- **Haverhill Hockey Club:** The club would like a clubhouse and believe the Haverhill Leisure Centre pitch is in desperate need of replacement

6.4.2 The team profile and demand for pitches in the borough is summarised in Table 51 below

Table 51 – Team profile for Hockey in West Suffolk

WEST SUFFOLK TOTAL	Adult teams	Youth teams (U11 and above)	Mini teams (U7 to U10)
Number of teams	18	2	0
Match hours per week (home games)	36	4	0
Equivalent number of 'Good' pitches	1	1	1
FOREST HEATH	Adult teams	Youth teams (U11 and above)	Mini teams (U7 to U10)
Number of teams	5	0	0
Match hours per week	10	0	0
Equivalent number of 'Good' pitches	1	1	1
ST EDMUNDSBURY	Adult teams	Youth teams (U11 and above)	Mini teams (U7 to U10)
Number of teams	13	2	0
Match hours per week (home games)	26	4	0
Equivalent number of 'Good' pitches	1	1	1

6.4.3 Table 51 indicates that with the current level of demand for Adult teams, only one full size pitch would be required to satisfy the need of residents. This analysis must take into consideration the impact of football, however, as currently a significant amount of demand comes from football clubs playing on sand-based AGP's. This will be analysed in the hockey supply and demand balance section of the report.

Future Demand

6.4.4 In order to calculate the future demand for Hockey in West Suffolk, a Team Generation Rate (TGR) has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a hockey team.

6.4.5 This Team Generation Rate can now be applied to the population projections for the two local authorities to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups.

6.4.6 The projections include the impact of the additional planned housing developments in Bury St Edmunds (5,740 new homes) and Haverhill (4,260 new homes) to be completed by 2031. In order to understand the impact on specific population groups, it is assumed that each house has an average of 2.33 persons. The current ratio for each of the population groups (e.g. what percentage of the current population is accounted for by the Males 19-45) is then used to calculate the total projected population for each of the age groups.

Table 52 – Future hockey demand for West Suffolk

Age group	Current popn. Within age group	Current no. Of teams	TGR	Estimated future population for West Suffolk	Predicted future number of teams	Additional provision needed to accommodate new teams	
						FH	St Eds
Adult – M (16-45)	35396	11	3218	50243.0	16	2	3
Adult – F (16-45)	32507	11	2955	45534.2	15	1	3

6.4.7 Table 52 illustrates that, in line with population projections for 2031, West Suffolk will require an additional 5 male hockey team and 4 female hockey teams should the popularity and availability of hockey remain consistent.

6.5 Supply and Demand Balance

Sport England Facility Planning Model (August 2015)

- 6.5.1 The Facility Planning Models (FPM) for hockey across West Suffolk have been recently drafted and provide further evidence on the supply and demand balance for hockey-ready AGP's in the area.
- 6.5.2 The Facilities Planning Model provides an opportunity to test out possible changes to supply and demand and to identify how closures and new provision could impact on other existing facilities in the area and beyond.
- 6.5.3 The key findings from the FPM for the **current** (Run 1) supply and demand of Forest Heath are;
- The unmet demand in the district is relatively evenly spread across the main towns of the district with all of them demonstrating an unmet demand of 0.1 of a pitch.
 - Where there are no facilities, like Mildenhall and Brandon there is very little that can be done other than building facilities, which cannot be justified on this evidence but in Newmarket part of the solution, could

be the increasing of hours allocated to Hockey at the site. However, this may have a detrimental impact on football so should only be done so with full consultation and clarity of impact on current users.

- The current facility with just 14 hours a week available for hockey use is not surprisingly modelled to be 100% full. The wider strategic work should confirm this.

6.5.4 This analysis supports the conclusion that there is not currently enough hockey demand to require a dedicated sand-based AGP in Forest Heath. The FPM report supports this by explaining that the data in Run 3 only highlights unmet demand of 0.2 of a pitch, therefore illustrating that the focus should be on balancing the split of use between hockey and football, rather than building a new hockey facility.

6.5.5 The same analysis has been undertaken for St Edmundsbury, with the following key findings;

- If St Edmundsbury were looked at as an island the residents are estimated to generate a demand for Hockey provision of about 505 vpwpp. The current supply can accommodate just 830 vpwpp if they are 100% full.
- This creates an indicated oversupply of 0.44 pitches. However, this does need to be viewed with caution as users do not see the local authority as an island they will access their most appropriate facility and St Edmundsbury is a major importer of activity (191 vpwpp) which equates to 0.26 of a pitch.

6.5.6 This information indicates that no further sand-based AGP's are required in St Edmundsbury, which supports the PPS analysis summarised below.

Playing Pitch Strategy Analysis

6.5.7 Table 53 shows the supply and demand balance figures for Hockey on full sized AGP's split by local authority.

Table 53 – Supply and demand balance for West Suffolk, in hours per week at peak

	Supply	Demand	Overall Balance	Pitch balance figure (assuming 40 hours per week per AGP)
West Suffolk	60	56.5	+127.5	+0.1
Forest Heath	16	16	+0	-
St Edmundsbury	44	40.5	+3.5	+0.1

6.5.8 Table 53 indicates that both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury have only a marginally adequate supply of sand-based AGP's that are suitable for competitive hockey matches and training.

6.5.9 It should also be noted that with the proposed potential plans to resurface Nowton Park and Bury St Edmunds Leisure centre as 3G AGP's, this is likely to move to an under-supply of sand based facilities.

6.5.10 On the other hand, the proposed plans to build 3G AGP's at the New Croft and the new Moreton Hall School site will reduce the amount of football demand on the current sand-based sites.

Future Supply and Demand Analysis

6.5.11 Using the project team growth figures in Table 52, Table 54 below shows the projected supply and demand balance for Hockey in 2031, assuming the current provision of facilities is consistent and the clubs continue to grow at their current rate. This calculation also assumes that each new team will increase demand by 2 hours for matches and training.

6.5.12 In order to make this calculation realistic, the capacity of the new sand-based AGP at Culford School (currently under construction) is also included in the future supply projections. This is modelled at 25 hours of available community use to allow for school use.

Table 54 – Future supply and demand balance for West Suffolk, in hours per week at peak

	Supply	Demand	Overall Balance	Pitch balance figure (assuming 40 hours per week per AGP)
West Suffolk	87	74.5	+12.5	+0.2
Forest Heath	16	22	-6	-0.15
St Edmundsbury	71	52.5	+18.5	+0.5

6.5.13 Table 54 illustrates that with the projected growth of teams in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, the current level of provision is marginally adequate for projected hockey use across the two local authorities.

6.6 Strategic sites for Protection, Enhancement and Provision

6.6.1 Based on the evidence collated in the PPS for hockey pitch provision, it can be concluded that there are certain hockey pitch sites in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, which, because of a combination of factors, are recorded as high value sites. The factors which contribute towards a site being recorded as a high value site include;

- Available for community use and used
- High quality assessment score
- Good security of tenure for user groups
- Provides pitches within an area where there is calculated to be a deficiency of pitches now or in the future

6.6.2 Table 55 provides a detailed analysis of each hockey site with a justification, if required, for Protection, Enhancement or Provision. Where applicable, these justifications will then be reflected in the Action Plan and site-by-site strategy.

Table 55 – Future supply and demand balance for West Suffolk, in hours per week at peak

Site by Site Analysis for Hockey in West Suffolk						Sub-area coding St Edmundsbury: Bury St Edmunds (BSE), Rural Areas North (RN), Haverhill (HAV), Rural South (RS) Forest Heath: North (N), Central (C), South (S)	
Site Name	Sub area	Pitch Type and Size	Pitch assessment score	Supply and Demand Balance for Hockey (hours at peak)	Total Supply and Demand Balance including football use (hours at peak)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
FOREST HEATH							
Newmarket Academy	S	Sand-dressed (110m x 70m)	72 - Standard	+24	+24	PR	This site should be protected as a hockey appropriate AGP in the Local Plan. This is the home ground of Newmarket HC and they have stated an ambition to expand. The pitch is of adequate quality but could be utilised more effectively
						E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study
						PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
ST EDMUNDSBURY							
Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre	BSE	Sand-dressed (110m x 70m)	49 - Poor	+44	+39	PR	There are currently proposals to develop a 3G AGP at the Leisure centre to service the demand for football and rugby in Bury St Edmunds. Currently the supply and demand analysis for the sand-based pitch does not identify a need for this surface; therefore the current pitch could be re-surfaced as a 3G pitch. In order to protect hockey provision in Bury St Edmunds, England Hockey would like any 3G developments to be 30mm (short pile) to enable recreational hockey to be played.
						E	If the sand-based surface it to be retained, then it requires refurbishment. It rated as poor during the site assessment and is over 10 years old.
						PV	No further provision has been identified as part of this study.
Culford Sports and Tennis Centre	BSE	Sand-dressed (110m x 70m)	73 - Standard	-9	-10.5	PR	This site should be protected as an AGP in the Local Plan. This is the home ground of Bury St Edmunds HC, who would like to relocate all of their training and matches to the school if the capacity was available. There is currently no long term agreement for community use at the site and this must be negotiated and agreed as a priority
						E	The current sand-based pitch at the school requires replacement in the next

Site by Site Analysis for Hockey in West Suffolk						Sub-area coding St Edmundsbury: Bury St Edmunds (BSE), Rural Areas North (RN), Haverhill (HAV), Rural South (RS) Forest Heath: North (N), Central (C), South (S)	
Site Name	Sub area	Pitch Type and Size	Pitch assessment score	Supply and Demand Balance for Hockey (hours at peak)	Total Supply and Demand Balance including football use (hours at peak)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
							three to 5 years.
						PV	There are development plans to invest in another sand-based AGP at the site. This would address the over-demand for the facility and allow a greater proportion of Bury St Edmunds Hockey Club to play here.
Haverhill Leisure Centre	HAV	Sand-dressed (110m x 70m)	79 - Standard	+36	+34	PR	This site should be protected as an AGP in the Local Plan. This has recently been resurfaced and is the home ground for Haverhill Hockey Club.
						E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study
						PV	The hockey club have identified a requirement for a clubhouse, however the club would need to lead in the funding of this.
Nowton Park	RN	Sand-dressed (110m x 70m)	78 - Standard	+32.5	+25	PR	Current demand at Nowton park is dominated by a subset of Bury St Edmunds HC, with a small amount of additional football demand. If the planned additional pitch is built at Culford School and Bury St Edmunds HC relocates, then this pitch is unlikely to be required for community hockey use. COMMENT ON CARPET- discussion when required
						E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study
						PV	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study

6.7 Hockey Summary

6.7.1 A full set of hockey recommendations is provided in Table 56 but below is a short summary of the key findings from the hockey analysis

Table 56 – Summary of Hockey in West Suffolk

Hockey Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are three main hockey clubs in West Suffolk; Bury St Edmunds HC, Haverhill HC and Newmarket HC ➤ There are 5 full sized sand-based AGP's across the study area, 4 of which were rated as STANDARD and the other as POOR. ➤ England Hockey is keen to support Bury St Edmunds Hockey Club in their proposal to move all playing activity to Culford School, however would like to maintain a hockey presence in Bury St Edmunds. If the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre Sand-based AGP is to be retained, then it requires re-surfacing as it is over 10 years old and scored poorly in the assessment. ➤ If the pitch at the leisure centre is resurfaced as a 3G pitch, then England Hockey would like this to be a short pile (30mm) surface so that recreational hockey can be maintained at the site. ➤ The Culford school site is the only AGP that is over-demand, which will be addressed by the current development of an additional sand-based pitch at the school. The school and club should also work together to re-surface the current pitch within 3 – 5 years. ➤ A key priority for Hockey in West Suffolk is to ensure that both pitches at Culford School have a robust and long-term community use agreement. There is a large amount of hockey played at the site and it is key to secure this access in the long term. ➤ The recent re-surfacing of the sand-based Haverhill AGP has addressed the concerns of Haverhill HC on the quality of their provision.

7 Additional Sports

7.1.1 As part of the PPS scope, West Suffolk requested that the following sports are also included in the analysis for West Suffolk;

- Tennis
- Bowls
- Netball
- Athletics
- Golf
- Archery
- Cycling

7.1.2 As these sports do not have a signed off guidance from the National Governing Body and Sport England, it is not possible to undertake a detailed supply and demand analysis as previously shown for the four key PPS sports.

7.1.3 The following sections therefore utilise Sport England data sources, as well as the results from a non-PPS club survey undertaken with clubs across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. A detailed consultation has also been undertaken with each of the national governing bodies for each sport, providing greater information on supply and demand issues in West Suffolk.

7.2 Tennis

Supply

7.2.1 The provision of tennis courts in West Suffolk is relatively poor with 29 courts in total, as shown in Table 57 below. While the volume of facilities is poor, of the 10 facilities 7 are owned by the local authority and offer full pay and play access or free community access. Only Stoke College has fully private facilities, with the remaining courts being owned and managed by local tennis clubs.

Table 57 – Tennis court provision in West Suffolk. Source: Sport England Active Places Power (August 2015)

Site Name	Access Type	Ownership Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished	Number of Courts
Forest Heath					
Brandon Remembrance Sports & Social Club	Pay and Play	Community Organisation	Unknown	N/a	2
Newmarket Lawn Tennis Club	Pay and Play	Sport Club	1947	N/a	7

St Edmundsbury					
Abbey Gardens	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Unknown	N/a	3
Culford Sports and Tennis Centre	Pay and Play	Other Independent School	1992	N/a	9
Haverhill Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	Local Authority – leased to the club with community use required	1971	2008	4
Ickworth Hotel & Apartments	Pay and Play	Commercial	2002	2012	1
Risbygate Sports Club	Sports Club	Sports Club	1985	N/a	4
Stanton Recreation Ground	Free Public Access	Local Authority	1965	N/a	1
Stoke College	Private Use	Other Independent School	1972	2008	3
Victory Sports Ground	Sports Club	Local Authority	Unknown	N/a	2

7.2.2 In addition to 29 courts representing a relatively low gross provision, the ratio of courts to local residents is also low, indicating that local residents do not have the level of access to courts that their neighbouring local authorities do, as shown in Table 58 below.

Table 58 – Ratio of tennis courts to residents in West Suffolk and comparison to neighbouring authorities. Source: Sport England Active Places Power

Measure	West Suffolk	Ipswich	Babergh	Mid Suffolk	Suffolk Coastal
Tennis Courts	36	51	22	26	35
Ratio of courts to residents (number of courts: local residents (k's))	1:4.3	1:2.6	1:3.9	1:3.7	1:3.6

7.2.3 Table 58 illustrates that there is a higher ratio of courts per resident in West Suffolk, compared with other authorities in Eastern England. This shows that there are fewer courts per person and provision can be deemed to be poor.

Demand

- 7.2.4 Data (2013/14) published by Sport England's Active People Survey indicates that 0.93% of people play tennis in Suffolk regularly (data for Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury is not available due to the sample size). This has dropped from levels registered in 2012/13 of 1.28%. Participation in tennis in Suffolk is comparable with national levels with participation nationally in 2013/14 being 0.97%.
- 7.2.5 Consultation was undertaken with the LTA to help provide a view on the levels of demand for tennis in West Suffolk and how well supply of courts is meeting current demand.
- 7.2.6 The LTA did not see West Suffolk as an area of strategic importance. In terms of geographical areas of priority, the LTA is currently focussing on areas where there is high population and where there is evidence that there is a major need and a strong commitment from local authorities to support tennis delivery in park settings.
- 7.2.7 A key priority for the LTA is to increase access to recreational and easy-access pay and play courts, in line with trend in people not wanting to be tied into a club membership.
- 7.2.8 The LTA is currently prioritising its investment and development focus on trying to stimulate greater participation in parks tennis – i.e. casual and not club-led tennis. It aspires to have a network of good quality and sustainable tennis courts with a proactive coaching programme in place.

Club Consultations

- 7.2.9 In order to further understand the demand for non-PPS sports in West Suffolk, a survey has also been issued to each of the clubs in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. A detailed analysis of these survey results can be seen in Appendix B.
- 7.2.10 Of all Tennis clubs across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, only Wickhambrook Tennis Club responded to this survey, identifying the following key themes and issues;
- Membership at the club has fallen over the past 3 years
 - This fall in membership has been attributed to a general fall in demand for Tennis as an activity
 - Very poor ancillaries, namely changing facilities, toilets and clubhouse/bar facilities
 - NPS (Net promoter score) of 8, representing a high level of satisfaction with the facility.

- The current facilities for tennis are more than sufficient for local residents and demand is not forecast to increase in the next three years

Summary and Analysis

7.2.11 Table 59 below summarises the supply and demand analysis for tennis under the sub-areas of Quantity, Quality and Accessibility.

Table 59 – Summary of Tennis analysis for West Suffolk

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	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
Quality	Unfortunately, due to the poor survey response from tennis clubs, only quality data is available from one tennis club. This data shows that the current facilities are fit for purpose however a greater sample size is required before making firm conclusions and recommendations.
Accessibility	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.
Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues West Suffolk could consider the benefits of investing in the upgrading or reinstatement of tennis courts at local parks. This could follow the example set by Christchurch Park (in nearby Ipswich LA). The LTA has indicated that it is unlikely to provide investment until it can see West Suffolk working more proactively on tennis development initiatives.

7.3 Bowls

Supply

7.3.1 The provision of bowls facilities in West Suffolk is relatively good with 16 indoor and outdoor facilities in total. This is a good spread across St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath with a high concentration of clubs and facilities in Bury St Edmunds.

7.3.2 There appears to be a 'gap' in provision in the north of Bury St Edmunds for indoor bowls, therefore creating seasonal latent demand in the winter months.

Table 60 – Bowls clubs in West Suffolk. Source: 4global satellite audit and Sport England Active Places Power

Bowls Clubs in Forest Heath	
Forest Heath	St Edmundsbury
Brandon Town BC – 1 x outdoor bowling green	Barnham BC – 1 x outdoor bowling green
Hengrave BC – 1 x outdoor bowling green	British Sugar B – 1 x outdoor bowling green
Mildenhall BC - 1 x outdoor bowling green	Coney Weston Swan BC – 1 x outdoor

	bowling green
Tuddenham St Mary BC - 1 x outdoor bowling green	Great Barton BC – 1 x outdoor bowling green
West Row BC - 1 x outdoor bowling green	Greene King BC - 1 x outdoor bowling green
	Ixworth BC – 1 x outdoor bowling green
	Risbygate BC – 2 x outdoor bowling green
	St Edmundsbury BC – 1 x outdoor bowling green
	Stanton BC – 1 x outdoor bowling green

Demand

- 7.3.3 In terms of participation and demand for bowl facilities, the Active People Survey provides some useful information, which indicates that bowls is popular in Suffolk with participation levels higher than national levels although rates are decreasing. In 2011/12 participation in Suffolk at least once a week was 1.63% compared to national levels of 0.61%. More recently in 2013/14 participation levels in Suffolk have reduced to 0.99%. This is line with national levels as participation has also reduced to 0.57%.
- 7.3.4 These figures indicate that the popularity of bowls is high in Suffolk and this is illustrated by the high number of bowls clubs in West Suffolk, as well as the consultation records with England Bowls and local clubs.
- 7.3.5 Consultation was undertaken with Bowls England to help provide a view on the levels of demand for bowls in West Suffolk and how well supply of bowls is meeting current demand.
- 7.3.6 Bowls England stated that they do not define areas as high and low priority, however they understand that areas of the country with ageing populations are typically areas of high bowls participation.
- 7.3.7 Ixworth Bowling Club was identified as the major bowls club in West Suffolk, with 45 members and several players gaining county and national level honours for both males and females.

Club Consultations

- 7.3.8 In order to further understand the demand for non-PPS sports in West Suffolk, a survey has also been issued to each of the clubs in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. A detailed analysis of these survey results can be seen in Appendix B.
- 7.3.9 Of all bowls clubs across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, two clubs responded to this survey, identifying the following key themes and issues;
- West Row BC projected a fall in membership over the next three years

- Ixworth Bowls Clubs had a high Net Promoter Score of 9 (likelihood to recommend their facility)
- Both clubs believed they had sufficient facilities for projected levels of demand

Summary and Analysis

7.3.10 Table 61 below summarises the supply and demand analysis for bowls under the sub-areas of Quantity, Quality and Accessibility.

Table 61 – Summary of bowls analysis for West Suffolk

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There is strong level of supply across West Suffolk, with a large concentration of bowls clubs in Bury St Edmunds.
Quality	Unfortunately due to the poor survey response from tennis clubs, quality data is only available from two bowls clubs. This data shows that the current facilities are fit for purpose however a greater sample size is required before making firm conclusions and recommendations.
Accessibility	There is good accessibility to bowls club across West Suffolk, with supply across St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath, however there is a gap to the north of Bury St Edmunds for indoor facilities.
Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues It is recommended that West Suffolk continues to provide some financial support for bowls clubs, which are struggling to raise money to cover their costs, but where it is clear that membership is declining significantly and there is no sustainable future then West Suffolk should review its investment commitments.

7.4 Netball

Supply

7.4.1 In order to understand the supply of outdoor netball courts in West Suffolk, a detailed consultation has been undertaken with Netball England (NE) and a number of the local clubs. This information is used to supplement the data from the Indoor Facilities Strategy, which focusses on indoor courts only.

7.4.2 The Indoor Facility Strategy states that ‘Netball highlights the need and demand for additional indoor sports hall space in West Suffolk, due to growing participation and the establishment of new clubs.’ It is therefore assumed that supply of outdoor netball is also under pressure, however the demand is unlikely to be as strong for indoor netball.

Demand

7.4.3 A detailed consultation has been undertaken with NE to help provide a view on the levels of demand for netball in West Suffolk and how well supply of courts is meeting current demand.

- 7.4.4 EN emphasised that within the last year netball has seen an increase in participation rates, with more than 150,000 netballers across the county who are playing the sport for at least half an hour every week. The junior area of West Suffolk has also seen significant participation rates compared to other areas.
- 7.4.5 EN identified a lack of floodlit courts as a major issue, as there are limited indoor facilities and many courts are looking at new AstroTurf surfaces.
- 7.4.6 There is currently a nationwide initiative in the summer months called Big Summer of Netball, run by EN. The initiative encourages netballers of all ages to play throughout the summer with games for all types of players. 'Back to Netball' is another successful initiative, which is being run to encourage people to get back into playing the game.
- 7.4.7 EN is aiming to increase participation rates in Suffolk through intramural sport delivered by the university or partners. There is a target to deliver accessible and affordable pay and play sessions throughout the county.
- 7.4.8 EN have highlighted the following key issues with netball in West Suffolk
- Only 12 primary schools in Suffolk are affiliated to EN, which is a small percentage of the schools across the county
 - It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract and retain volunteers to help with delivery
 - Halls are being built but they are not large enough to be able to fit any netball courts

Club Consultations

- 7.4.9 In order to further understand the demand for non-PPS sports in West Suffolk, a survey has also been issued to each of the clubs in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. A detailed analysis of these survey results can be seen in Appendix B.
- 7.4.10 Of all netball clubs across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, four responded to this survey;
- Burwell Netball Club
 - Cockfield Netball Club
 - Jubilee Netball Club
 - Jetts Netball Club.
- 7.4.11 The following key themes and issues were identified
- Jubilee Netball Club stated that the cost of facilities is expensive but there are no cheaper options available

- Cockfield Netball club have a projected growth of three teams in the next three years
- There are very few local indoor facilities available to run further clubs within the West Suffolk region
- The summer league run by Jetts Netball clubs is growing and it is difficult to accommodate such growth. Teams are now being turned away due to lack of supply.

Summary and Analysis

7.4.12 Table 62 below summarises the supply and demand analysis for netball under the sub-areas of Quantity, Quality and Accessibility.

Table 62 – Summary of netball analysis for West Suffolk

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	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.
Quality	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.
Accessibility	There is not currently a central venue in West Suffolk and there are minimal indoor courts across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.
Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues It is recommended that West Suffolk work with Netball England to increase the supply of outdoor floodlit netball courts across West Suffolk. Increased provision should be focussed on the four market towns, with Bury St Edmunds become a central venue.

7.5 Athletics

Supply

7.5.1 There are 2 athletics tracks in West Suffolk, 1 in Forest Heath and 1 in St Edmundsbury. The latter is an 8 lane, all weather track, with floodlights on the site of the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre. The track at RAF Lakenheath is only available for private use. Full details are in Appendix B.

Demand

7.5.2 Consultation was undertaken with the British Athletics to help provide a view on the levels of demand for athletics in West Suffolk and how well supply of facilities is meeting current demand.

7.5.3 British Athletics identified West Suffolk Athletics club as the main club in the area. This club is based in Bury St Edmunds at the arena track and is currently trying to get more volunteers to help run sessions.

7.5.4 The West Suffolk Tigers athletics club is a new disability athletics club based at Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre.

7.5.5 Despite the fact that the only publicly accessible athletics track is in Bury St Edmunds, there is no identified demand for additional athletics facilities in West Suffolk at this time.

Summary and Analysis

7.5.6 Table 63 below summarises the supply and demand analysis for athletics under the sub-areas of Quantity, Quality and Accessibility.

Table 63 – Summary of athletics analysis for West Suffolk

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There are two athletics tracks in West Suffolk, one of which is available to the public.
Quality	The West Suffolk arena track is seen as a high quality facility, which is suitable for all levels of amateur athletics.
Accessibility	With only one facility across both local authorities, participants in Forest Heath are forced to travel in order to access the track in Bury St Edmunds.
Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues No latent demand has been identified as part of the assessment. The recommendation is therefore to maintain the current levels of supply.

7.6 Golf

Supply

7.6.1 The provision of golf in West Suffolk has been identified as six courses, as shown below;

- Haverhill Golf Club
- Bury St Edmunds Golf Club
- Suffolk Golf & Country Club
- Flempton Golf Club
- Royal Worlington & Newmarket Golf Course
- West Suffolk Golf Centre

Demand

7.6.2 Data (2014/15) published by Sport England’s Active People Survey indicates that 1.89% of people play golf in Suffolk at least once a week (data for Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury is not available due to the sample size). This has dropped from levels registered in 2010/11 of 2.35%. Participation in golf in Suffolk is higher than national averages with participation nationally in 2014/15 being 1,67%.

7.6.3 Consultation was undertaken with the England Golf (EG) to help provide a view on the levels of demand for golf in West Suffolk and how well supply of courses is meeting current demand.

7.6.4 EG suggested that they do not have priority areas or regions, instead focussing on specific clubs. With this in mind, a lot of time has been spent working with West Suffolk Golf Centre. The key clubs in the area West Suffolk GC and Bury St Edmunds GC.

7.6.5 The general level of participation is believed to be in line with the national trend, which is currently going down slightly in terms of participation and memberships.

7.6.6 EG suggested that there are limited golf clubs for the large surface area of West Suffolk. This could be addressed by additional courses however the low population is unlikely to create sufficient demand for additional provision.

Club Consultations

7.6.7 In order to further understand the demand for non-PPS sports in West Suffolk, a survey has also been issued to each of the clubs in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. A detailed analysis of these survey results can be seen in Appendix B.

7.6.8 Of all golf clubs across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, three responded to this survey, identifying the following key themes and issues;

- Haverhill and Flempton stated that they had seen falling membership levels, influenced by a falling demand for the sport
- All three courses stated that they had more than sufficient capacity to provide facilities for the current level of demand
- West Suffolk Golf Centre stated that their membership had increased over the previous year, influenced by an improved coaching capacity.
- There was an average Net Promoter Score (likelihood to recommend the facility) of 9, which is very high and demonstrates a high level satisfaction with the current facility provision

Summary and Analysis

7.6.9 Table 64 below summarises the supply and demand analysis for golf under the sub-areas of Quantity, Quality and Accessibility.

Table 64 – Summary of golf analysis for West Suffolk

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There are six courses across West Suffolk, which does not represent a high level of supply for the total area, but is sufficient for the low density of population.
Quality	The quality of the golf courses appear to be high, with an average Net Promoter Score of 9 across the three clubs that were consulted.
Accessibility	There is a good spread of golf courses across the two local authorities.

Summary	<p>Provision requirements – needs and issues</p> <p>It is recommended that West Suffolk work with England Golf to continue supporting clubs in their programming and coaching provision, as this has clearly benefited the operational performance of the West Suffolk Golf Club. No further golfing provision is required and West Suffolk could consider a more detailed supply and demand analysis to understand if there are any opportunities to rationalise underperforming courses</p>
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7.7 Archery

Supply

- 7.7.1 There is limited dedicated provision for archery in West Suffolk, however two organisations use consistent outdoor areas for practicing and matches.
- Suffolk Woodland near Bury St Edmunds (Kings Forest Bowmen). Three permanent 14 target courses laid out within a pine forest as well as a practice range
 - Hall Farm in Whepstead (St Edmunds Archers).

Demand

- 7.7.2 Consultation was undertaken with the England Archery Federation (EAF) to help provide a view on the levels of demand for archery in West Suffolk and how well supply of outdoor space is meeting current demand.
- 7.7.3 For the last decade the EAF has seen a dramatic increase in participation and membership nationally

Club Consultations

- 7.7.4 A need has been identified for the development of improved archery facilities, led by St Edmunds Archers. The Club is based in Whepstead, just south of Bury St Edmunds. The Club focuses on archery for those with a disability, and needs improved facilities to develop both their club and participation.
- 7.7.5 The Club aims to develop a single story archery building and outdoor range, to provide a stand-alone facility. The Club has received planning permission for the development, but is now seeking funding support

Summary and Analysis

- 7.7.6 Table 65 below summarises the supply and demand analysis for archery under the sub-areas of Quantity, Quality and Accessibility.

Table 65 – Summary of archery analysis for West Suffolk

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There are two areas of provision for archery across West Suffolk,

	which is sufficient for the current level of demand.
Quality	A need has been identified by one of the clubs to improve its facilities to allow for greater disabled participation.
Accessibility	The only provision for archery is in Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding area. This means that participants for the rest of West Suffolk may have to travel significant distances to participate in archery.
Summary	<p>Provision requirements – needs and issues</p> <p>It is recommended that West Suffolk works with the EAF to assist the St Edmunds Archers develop a permanent facility, similar to the King Forest Bowmen. This could increase accessibility for otherwise hard-to-reach demographics and participant groups such as disabled and the elderly.</p>

7.8 Cycling

Supply

7.8.1 There are three existing cycle facilities in West Suffolk, two of which are in Bury St Edmunds on school sites, with the other located in Haverhill at a club facility.

7.8.2 There are currently no cycling facilities in Forest Heath

Demand

7.8.3 Data from the Active People Survey shows that cycling is popular in Suffolk where the percentage of people taking part in the sport once a week in 2013/14 (Q2) was 5.82% which is much higher than the national level of 4.86%.

7.8.4 Consultation was undertaken with British Cycling to help provide a view on the levels of demand for cycling in West Suffolk and how well supply of specific cycling facilities is meeting current demand.

7.8.5 British Cycling identified a growing national trend in participation, boosted by the developing population of triathlon across the UK.

7.8.6 The West Suffolk Wheelers were identified as one of the biggest clubs in the region, alongside Mildenhall Cycling Club and Newmarket Triathlon Club.

7.8.7 The preferable development for British cycling would be a closed road, 6m wide facility with a minimum length of 1km - floodlighting is preferable. There are currently no firm plans for this as the cost is extremely high.

7.8.8 Supply of this type of facility would provide a safe opportunity to cycle, given that so many of the local roads are very narrow or are fast moving dual carriageways. A specific off-road facility would also complement the planned investment in safe cycle routes set out in the Local Plans and Vision 31 for the main towns and growth areas in West Suffolk.

Club Consultations

7.8.9 In order to further understand the demand for non-PPS sports in West Suffolk, a survey has also been issued to each of the clubs in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. A detailed analysis of these survey results can be seen in Appendix B.

7.8.10 Of all cycling and triathlon clubs across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, three clubs responded to this survey, identifying the following key themes and issues;

- West Suffolk Wheelers and Mildenhall Cycling Club identified that the current level of supply was insufficient for the level of demand they are experiencing.
- West Suffolk Wheelers projected a growth of 100 members within three years, which is the greatest increase of any of the clubs consulted with across West Suffolk.
- In total, cycling and triathlon clubs had a project growth of 125, which represents over a third of projected member growth rates in West Suffolk
- The St Edmund Pacers believed that increased facilities would allow them to increase their membership base.

Summary and Analysis

7.8.11 Table 66 below summarises the supply and demand analysis for cycling under the sub-areas of Quantity, Quality and Accessibility.

Table 66 – Analysis for West Suffolk

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There are currently 3 cycling facilities in West Suffolk, two in Bury St Edmunds and one in Haverhill. None of these are close loop tracks, as required for road cycling
Quality	The clubs consulted could not comment on the road surfaces but explained that the ancillaries at their meeting locations were poor, namely Abbeycroft Leisure Centre
Accessibility	There are currently no closed loop circuits to access
Summary	<p>Provision requirements – needs and issues</p> <p>It is recommended that West Suffolk work with British Cycling to undertake a detailed feasibility study for a closed loop cycling track near to Bury St Edmunds. This would increase provision for a growing sport, as well as achieving goals set out as part of the Local Plans.</p> <p>4 global has recently undertaken a Playing Pitch Strategy for</p>

	<p>Ipswich Borough Council, where it was recommended that a closed loop cycling circuit be built to satisfy growing demand. It is unlikely that both West Suffolk and Ipswich would need their own facility, so it is recommended that the three councils work together to build a facility in either Ipswich or Bury St Edmunds.</p>
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