

**Ploszajski Lynch
Consulting Ltd.**



Elmbridge Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

November 2019

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) was commissioned by Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the borough.

1.2 Background

EBC is currently preparing a new Local Plan. The Local Plan will set out the level of development required in the Borough to 2035 and where this should be located.

It is widely acknowledged that access to high quality open spaces and leisure facilities can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing for both individuals and wider communities. Planning has a role to play in ensuring the right balance of land use to ensure sustainable development is achieved which includes, amongst other things, leisure pursuits.

EBC has recently undertaken public consultation on its Local Plan Strategic Options document. This set out options for meeting development needs within the Borough. The Council is currently awaiting the Government's consultation on a standardised approach to assessing housing need, in order to understand the impact this would have on housing need identified through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Part of the ongoing plan preparation work will involve producing an Infrastructure Delivery Plan to set out the infrastructure required to support the development.

To inform this work, EBC is seeking to update its previous Playing Pitch Strategies (2006 and 2013) following the updated methodology approved by Sport England. The PPS will form part of the evidence base and inform the new Local Plan for EBC and will provide a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2017 and 2035, in line with population projections.

The PPS will also be used to ensure that there is a good supply of high quality playing pitches and playing fields to meet the sporting needs of local communities as far as possible. By providing valuable evidence and direction, the PPS will be used to help provide significant benefits to a wide variety of interested parties.

1.3 The aim and objectives of the strategy

1.3.1 Aim

The aim of the project is to produce a new PPS for Elmbridge Borough Council, with the evidence and recommendations to encompass all playing pitches in the borough. This will provide a baseline for current and future supply and demand assessments for each of the sports being considered and also set out a strategy towards playing pitch provision in the Borough in the short, medium and long term, with clear sport; area and site-specific recommendations and prioritised action plan.

1.3.2 Objectives

The objectives of the PPS are as follows:

- To gather all available supply and demand data from a range of sources for all sports covered by the PPS and achieve a high response rate from clubs, educational establishments and other community organisations.
- To analyse the current level of pitch provision within the borough, taking into account availability for community usage.
- To assess the quality of all pitches in the borough and understand what improvements could be made to meet the needs of residents and sports clubs.
- To compile a comprehensive database of the location and quality of all playing pitches in the borough.
- To consider how facilities such as changing rooms can be improved.
- To identify the local demand for pitches and understand current trends.
- To provide recommendations to address the key issues around playing pitch provision, protection and enhancement.
- To support and inform the Local Plan and development policies and conform with the requirements of National Policy.
- To identify what opportunities exist to expand the local provision.
- To aid sports development and increase participation in sport/physical activity.
- To support health and wellbeing of residents.
- To provide a robust evidence base that can be used by multiple Council departments and other stakeholders for a wide range of projects.
- To ensure that the PPS is regularly monitored and updated.

1.4 The scope of the strategy

1.4.1 The sports

The sports included in the Strategy are:

- Football.
- Cricket.

- Rugby Union.
- Rugby League.
- Hockey.
- Lacrosse.

1.5 Strategy format

The structure of the Strategy document is as follows:

- Assessing playing pitch needs in Elmbridge.
- The local context.
- Strategic influences.
- Football needs.
- Cricket needs.
- Rugby Union needs.
- Rugby League needs.
- Hockey needs.
- Lacrosse needs.

2 ASSESSING PLAYING PITCH NEEDS IN ELMBRIDGE

2.1 Introduction

This section explains the basis upon which the current playing pitch needs in Elmbridge have been identified, along with the approach for identifying the additional provision that will be needed as a result of population growth.

2.2 The study methodology

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

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

2.3 Assessing current needs

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

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site and how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate over an appropriate period of time without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent sessions' at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches and related facilities are being used during their respective peak periods.
- The key issues with and views on the provision at a site and its use.
- The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are
 - Being overplayed - where use exceeds the carrying capacity.
 - Being played to the level the site can sustain - where use matches the carrying capacity.
 - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play - where use falls below the carrying capacity.

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

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

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

2.4 Assessing future needs

2.4.1 Assessment methodology

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

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

2.4.2 Assessed demand parameters

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

- **Population change:** The '*Strategic Housing Market assessment for Kingston and North-East Surrey Local Authorities*' (2016) includes Elmbridge. The study identifies a need for an additional 9,480 dwellings in the borough by 2035 and quotes the ONS sub-national population projection of 148,700 people in Elmbridge by the same date. This represents a 12.1% increase from the mid-2016 population estimate.
- **Participation trends:** According to Sport England's '*Active People*' survey, participation at a national level in all the pitch sports has remained static or fallen in the period since 2005, in some cases by quite significant margins. This means that future increases in participation in the pitch sports cannot be assumed based upon historic trends and have therefore not been factored in to projected needs.

- **Sports development initiatives:** A limited range of sports development initiatives are delivered in Elmbridge directly involving the pitch sports. There are no firm proposals to expand or amend the current programmes and an increase in participation directly attributable to these activities has therefore not been factored in to projected future needs.
- **Changes in supply:** Any known proposed gains or losses in pitches and related facilities provision will influence the ability to accommodate the additional demand arising from the increased population and this has been included in the capacity assessments.

2.5 Delivering future needs

2.5.1 Process

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

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

2.5.2 Methodology

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

- **Current provision:** The adequacy of current provision and any existing spare capacity was assessed using Sport England's approved methodology, adapted where appropriate to assess informal demand and facilities.
- **Additional needs:** Additional needs were calculated by identifying the existing Team Generation Rates in the borough, to identify the number of people that are currently required to form a team of various types in each of the pitch sports. These figures have then been applied to the projected population increases, to calculate the gross additional team and related pitch needs arising from an extra 16,300 people.
- **Net requirements:** The net requirement for additional provision was calculated by comparing the extra required capacity to the current spare capacity where appropriate, to identify the difference.
- **Location of provision:** The location of additional pitch and related facilities needs was established by comparing the respective levels of projected population growth in each part of the borough.

2.6 Sources of information

2.6.1 Consultation

Information was gathered from a wide range of consultees including:

- **Sport England:** Guidance on the assessment methodology.
- **Elmbridge Borough Council:** Consultation with officers from Leisure, Planning and Grounds Maintenance on their respective areas of responsibility.
- **Active Surrey:** Information on local and wider strategic priorities.
- **Neighbouring local authorities:** Information on their playing pitch assessments and the impact of any cross-border issues.
- **Governing bodies of sport:** Information on local and wider strategic priorities and local supply and demand information.
- **Individual pitch sports clubs:** Information on playing pitch usage patterns, current and future needs and opinions on quality.
- **Schools:** Information on playing pitch needs and aspirations and attitudes towards community use.

2.7 The criteria assessed

2.7.1 Quantity

The number of pitches and related facilities was established and cross checked against other sources provided by local stakeholders and consultees.

2.7.2 Quality

The quality of playing pitches was assessed by visiting every pitch in the borough during the respective playing seasons and assessing quality criteria using the recognised non-technical visual assessment criteria. The ratings for each aspect of each pitch were checked and challenged via the clubs' survey and stakeholder consultation and amended where necessary.

2.7.3 Accessibility

The accessibility of pitches, in particular the extent of secured community use and pricing was assessed, to identify any barriers to use that might impact on the capacity of local provision.

2.7.4 Strategic priority

The assessment of need and priorities for provision was identified by the governing bodies of the respective pitch sports.

2.7.5 Used capacity

The used capacity of existing pitches at each site was assessed using a bespoke supply-demand spreadsheet.

2.8 Summary

Assessing playing pitch needs in Elmbridge borough using the approach advocated by Sport England in its *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013) and *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance'* (2014) has ensured that the exercise is both robust and evidence-based and as a result complies with the provisions of the Government's Planning Policy Framework.

3 THE LOCAL CONTEXT

Key findings:

- **Overall sports participation rates:** Sports participation rates in Elmbridge are well above the national average figures for all measures.
- **Population growth:** Projected growth of 16,000 people by 2035 will create significant additional demand for playing pitches.
- **Playing pitch supply:** Pitches are provided by a mosaic of owners and operators from the public and voluntary sectors, which highlights the need for and benefits of a strategic approach to co-ordinating provision.

3.1 Introduction

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

3.2 Background

The borough of Elmbridge covers 9,634 hectares in north Surrey and is one of the largest local authorities in Surrey. It borders Greater London and enjoys good links to London, the south, the west and the south-east via the M25 and A3. This connectivity makes it relatively easy for Elmbridge residents to access facilities and services in neighbouring areas, as well as facilitating movement into the borough from outside.

The Borough has five main towns - Cobham, Esher, Molesey, Walton-on-Thames and Weybridge. These are interspersed with the eight villages and communities of Claygate, Hersham, Hinchley Wood, Long Ditton and Thames Ditton, Oatlands, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon. 57% of Elmbridge is protected as green belt, which is highly valued by the Borough's residents.

3.3 Population

3.3.1 Current population

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-2014 population estimates for Elmbridge indicate 132,700 residents. This represents an increase of 1,800 people (1.4% growth) since the 2011 Census figure of 130,900.

3.3.2 Age structure

The ONS 2016 broad age and gender estimates for Elmbridge are below, with comparator figures for Surrey and England. The rounded figures show that the borough has a relatively youthful age structure, with proportionately more young people than the county and the country as a whole.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Elmbridge %</i>	<i>Surrey %</i>	<i>England %</i>
0-15	20.1%	18.1%	18.9%
16-64	63.5%	64.7%	64.7%
65+	16.4%	17.2%	16.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%

3.3.3 Ethnicity

Elmbridge's population is relatively homogenous. At the 2011 Census 94.3% of the resident population was White, 2.3% Asian/Asian British, 0.8% are Black/Black British, 2.6% are from mixed/multiple/other ethnic groups.

3.3.4 Population growth

The *'Strategic Housing Market assessment for Kingston and North-East Surrey Local Authorities'* (2016) includes Elmbridge. The study identifies a need for an additional 9,480 dwellings in the borough by 2035 and quotes the ONS sub-national population projection of 148,700 people in Elmbridge by the same date. This represents a 12.1% increase from the mid-2016 population estimate.

3.4 Deprivation

Elmbridge is an affluent area, with the Government's Indices of Local Deprivation showing that the Borough is the fifth least deprived of 326 local authority areas in England in 2016. However:

- 9% of children (around 2,300 young people) live in low income families.
- Life expectancy is 3.6 years lower for men and 2.2 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Elmbridge than in the least deprived areas.

3.5 Health

Local health indices are recorded in Public Health England's *'Health Profile for Elmbridge'* (2017). These show that in general the health of people in Elmbridge is better than England as a whole:

- Life expectancy at birth is much higher than the national averages by 2.8 years for men and 2.2 years for women.
- Only 13.0% of year 6 children in Elmbridge are obese, compared with a national average of 19.8%.
- Only 58.7% of adults in the Borough are overweight or obese, compared with a national average of 64.8%.

3.6 Local playing pitch demand

Sport England's *'Active People'* survey 10 identified the following key measures of adult (16+) participation in sport and physical activity in Elmbridge:

3.6.1 Overall participation

Overall rates of regular adult participation in sport and physical activity (at least one session of 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week) show rates in Elmbridge in 2015/16 were well above the national average at 45.8%, compared with 36.1% for England as a whole.

3.6.2 Organised sport

The percentage of the adult population belonging to a sports club in Elmbridge was 31.3%, well above the national figure of 22.2%.

3.6.3 Volunteering

The percentage of the adult population volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week in Elmbridge was 17.9%, well above the national average of 12.8%.

3.6.4 Club membership

The percentage of the adult population belonging to a sports club in Elmbridge was 31.3%, well above the national figure of 22.2%.

3.6.5 Coaching

The percentage of the adult population receiving sports coaching in Elmbridge in the previous twelve months was 23.4%, well above the national average of 15.5%.

3.6.6 Competitions

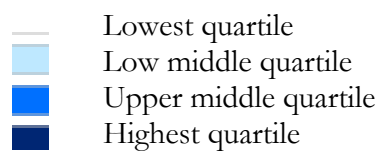
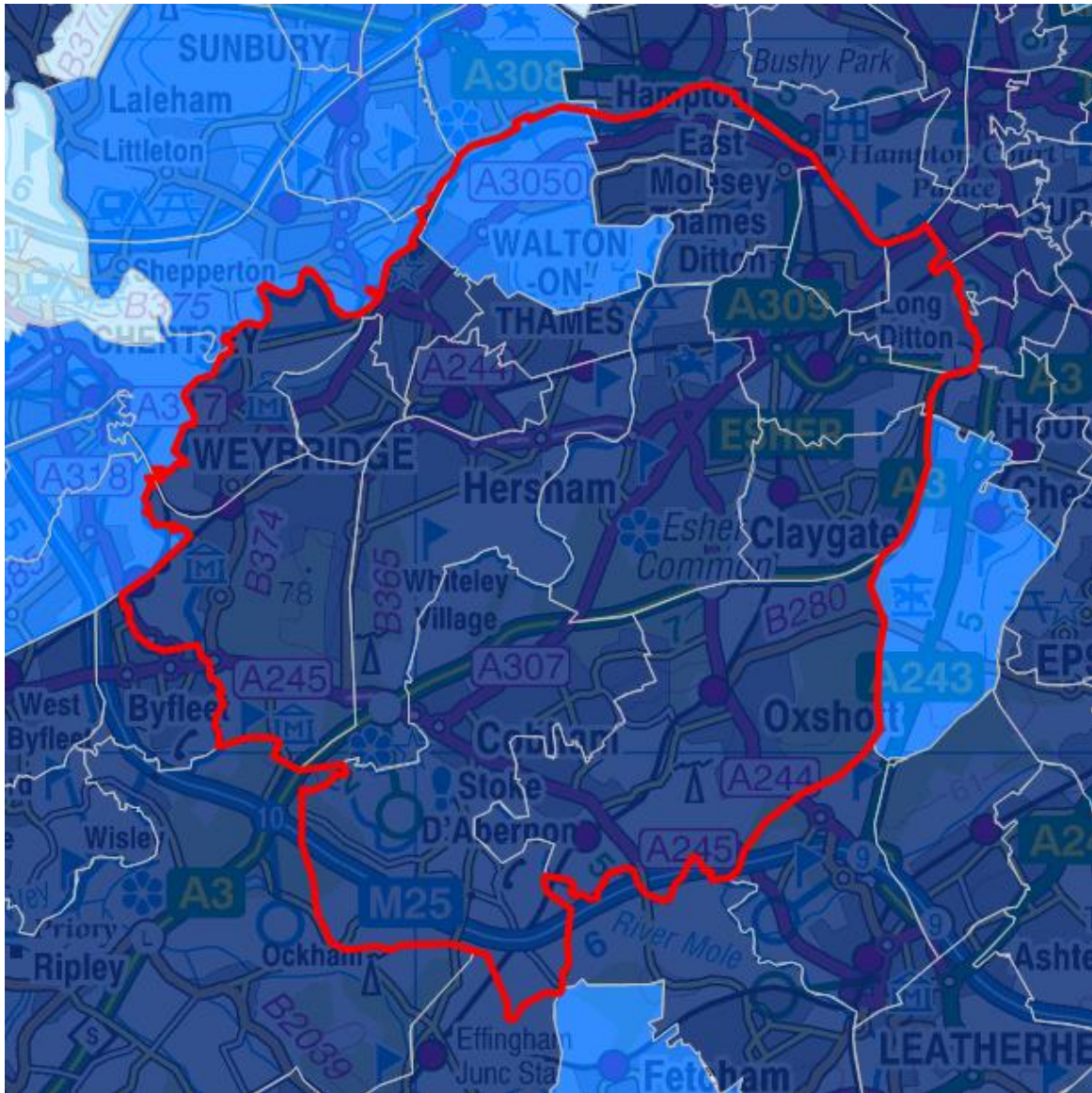
The percentage of the adult population taking part in a competitive sports event in Elmbridge in the previous twelve months was 20.5%, again well above the national average of 13.3%.

3.6.7 Satisfaction

The percentage of adults who are very or fairly satisfied with sports provision in Elmbridge was 64.9%, above the national figure of 62.2%.

3.6.8 Geographical variations

Overall rates of participation in the borough are very high and as the map overleaf identifies, the rates are consistently in the highest quartile in national terms across the whole of Elmbridge, with the exception of Walton North where relative levels of deprivation are greatest. Even there, participation rates are still in the upper middle quartile.



3.6.9 'Active Lives' survey

In 2017, Sport England replaced the 'Active People' survey with the 'Active Lives' survey, which broadens the definition of engagement in sport and physical activity, with a greater focus on measuring inactivity. The definitions used in the survey are as follows:

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

- **Fairly active:** The ‘Fairly active’ population is defined as those doing at between 30 and 149 minutes of the above activities per week.
- **Inactive:** The ‘Inactive’ population is defined as those doing at 30 minutes or less of the above activities per week.

The key data for Elmbridge, with county, regional and national comparators from the initial survey is set out below. The results endorse the ‘Active People’ data, showing activity levels well above the county, regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Active</i>	<i>Fairly active</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
Elmbridge	71.3%	9.7%	19.0%
Surrey	65.9%	12.7%	21.5%
South-east	63.1%	13.6%	23.4%
England	60.6%	13.8%	25.6%

3.6.10 Market segmentation

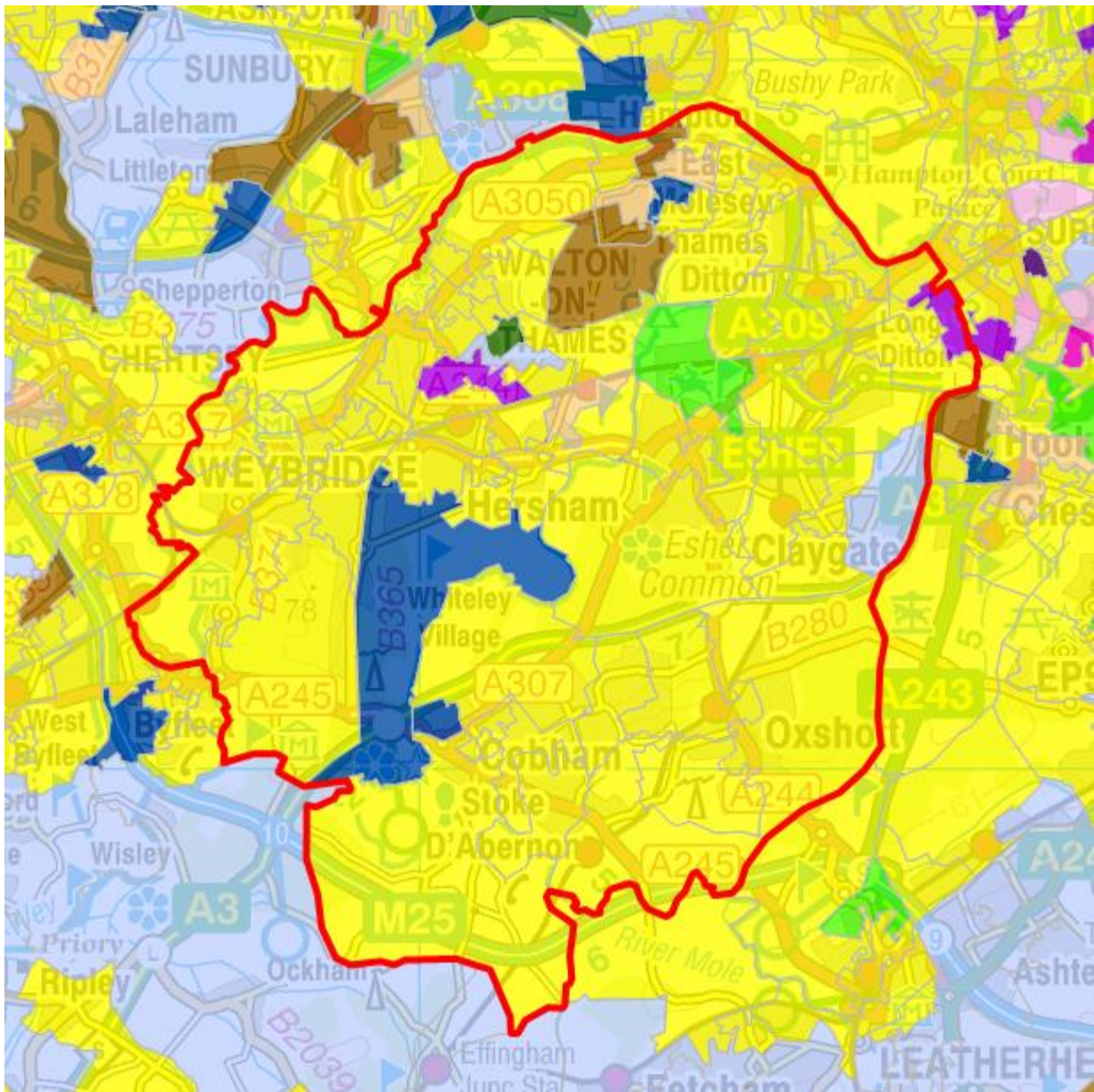
Sport England has analysed 19 adult sporting market segments, to better understand specific motivations for sports participation and barriers to doing more sport and physical activity. The data provides a useful way of anticipating demand for individual types of activity, based upon the extent to which each segment is over or under represented in the local population.

Sport England classifies all market segments with more than 7% of the adult population as ‘dominant’ and their sporting preferences therefore influence facilities demand in the area. The ‘dominant’ market segments in Elmbridge are listed below:

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sports that appeal</i>
Competitive male urbanites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18-25 • Single • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • No children • Social class ABC1 • 40% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 19% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby • Cricket • Squash • Climbing • Windsurfing • Gym • Tennis • Football
Fitness class friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18-35 • Single • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • No children • Social class ABC1 • 28% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 34% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body combat • Netball • Swimming • Pilates • Gym • Running • Tennis • Aqua aerobics

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sports that appeal</i>
Settling down males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 26-45 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • 50% have children • Social class ABC1 • 32% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 27% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canoeing • Skiing • Cricket • Golf • Cycling • Squash • Football
Stay at home mums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 26-45 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed part-time/at home • Children • Social class ABC1 • 25% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 33% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Tennis • Badminton • Cycling • Aerobics • Horse riding • Pilates • Exercise bike
Comfortable mid-life males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 36-65 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • 50% have children • Social class ABC1 • 26% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 39% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sailing • Gym • Football • Jogging • Badminton • Golf • Cycling • Cricket
Empty nest career ladies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 46-55 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • No dependent children • Social class ABC1 • 25% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 44% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Yoga • Walking • Horse riding • Aqua aerobics • Pilates • Step machine • Gym
Early retirement couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 56-65 • Married • Owner-occupied • Retired/employed full-time • No dependent children • Social class ABC1 • 19% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 54% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Sailing • Walking • Golf • Aqua aerobics • Shooting • Bowls • Fishing

- **Geographical variations:** The ‘dominant’ market segment in each MSOA is mapped below. ‘Settling down males’ are the dominant segment in the areas marked in yellow:



3.7 The local playing pitch supply network

Playing pitch provision in Elmbridge comprises a mixed economy involving the public and voluntary sectors. The key providers are as follows:

- **Elmbridge Borough Council:** The Council owns and manages playing pitches at 11 sites in the borough.
- **Schools:** Schools are major playing pitch providers in the borough, although not all provision is community accessible.

- **Sports clubs:** Voluntary sector sports clubs provide and run a range of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.

3.8 The implications for pitch provision

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

- **Population growth:** The population is projected to increase by more than 16,300 people by 2035. This will provide additional demand for football.
- **An affluent population:** The population is relatively affluent, which is traditionally associated with higher than average participation in sport.
- **Participation rates:** As anticipated from the local demography, general adult participation rates in sport and physical activity are high in Elmbridge, being 26.9% higher than the national average. Rates of club-based formal sports activity like football are commensurately high in the borough.
- **Geographical variations:** Participation rates are almost uniformly high across all parts of the borough.
- **Market segmentation:** The pitch sports feature amongst the participation preferences of three of the seven dominant market segments in Elmbridge, in particular ‘settling down males’ who comprise 16.7% of the local adult population, which underlines their wide local appeal.

4 STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

Key findings:

- ***Elmbridge Planning policy:*** A robust, evidence-based assessment of sports facilities needs in the borough is required to inform planning policy and this PPS will provide this to help ensure good future provision.
- ***National sports policy shifts:*** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for sport to ensure that the traditional facilities 'offer' is sufficiently relevant and attractive to engage a wider participation base, including people who are currently inactive.
- ***Governing body of sport priorities:*** There are no major identified strategic facilities needs or opportunities in Elmbridge, but some potential to link with funding programmes that might enhance local provision.

4.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of relevant policies and priorities on sports facilities provision in Elmbridge, including the impact of national strategies.

4.2 Elmbridge Council's Five-Year Vision

The *Elmbridge Council Five Year Vision 2018-23* (2017) sets out the Council's overall priorities and targets. The Plan contains the following material of relevance to sport and physical activity:

- ***Vision:*** The overall vision is of a 'responsive and effective council, protecting and promoting the interests of residents and businesses and safeguarding our environment, while maintaining a community for all'.
- ***Priorities:*** The corporate priorities include:
 - Character and environment.
 - Quality services.
 - Economic development.
 - Community wellbeing.
- The priorities for community wellbeing reflect those of the Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership, in particular:
 - Preventing the growth in adult and childhood obesity through intervention programmes.
 - Supporting increases in physical activity.

4.3 **Elmbridge Local Plan**

The 'Elmbridge Core Strategy' (2011) is the principal planning document that sets out the vision, spatial strategy and core policies that are used for shaping future development in the Borough up to 2026. The key elements of relevance to the pitch sports are as follows:

- **Strategic objectives:** These include an objective for leisure, culture and sport:
 - Promote provision of high quality sports, leisure, cultural and health facilities for all ages across the borough.
 - Enable people to adopt healthy lifestyles.
 - Support the provision of high quality design in public buildings and spaces.
 - Encourage innovative ideas for activities and facilities.
 - Encourage investment in technologies to enable remote access to services.
- **Social and community infrastructure:** Social and community infrastructure includes 'indoor and outdoor recreation and sports facilities'. Policy CS16 states that 'to ensure the provision of accessible and sustainable social and community infrastructure, the Council will work with its partners in order to:
 - Promote the mixed use of social and community infrastructure.
 - Resist the loss of existing social and community facilities or sites, unless it can be demonstrated that
 - The facility is no longer needed for its original purpose or viable for any other social or community use; or
 - An alternative facility will be provided in a location with an equal level of accessibility for the population it is intended to serve.
 - There is no requirement from any other public service provider for an alternative community or social facility that could be met through a change of use or redevelopment.
 - Ensure that any provision of social infrastructure is accessible by public transport, cycling and walking.

4.4 Elmbridge Physical Activity Strategy

The 'Elmbridge Active Every Day Physical Activity Strategy 2015 - 2020' (2015) was launched to show Elmbridge's vision and direction to increase physical activity. The key elements of relevance to football and the other pitch sports are as follows:

- **Vision:** The vision for the strategy is 'working with partners to increase the levels of physical activity within Elmbridge by 1% year on year'.
- **Aims:** The aims are as follows:
 - To increase levels of physical activity throughout the Borough.
 - To focus on certain areas of deprivation and low levels of physical activity within the Borough.
 - To promote the benefits of achieving a healthy and active lifestyle.
 - To widen access to physical activity opportunities for all residents.
- **Themes:** The themes are as follows:
 - **Start moving:** Support children and young people to have an active start in life.
 - **Move every day:** Encourage adults to build activity into their everyday lives.
 - **Stay moving:** Support older adults to live longer and lead more active lives.

4.5 The Government's Planning Policies

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

- **Sustainable development:** 'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' and there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- **Promoting healthy and safe communities:** 'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:
 - Promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other - for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages.

- Are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion - for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs - for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.
- To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:
 - Plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.
 - Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
 - Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs.
 - Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community.
 - Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services'.
- ***Open space and recreation:*** 'Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate'.
- 'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
 - An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements.
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
 - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use'.

The Government also issued *Planning Practice Guidance* in 2014 and the following is of particular relevance to sports facilities and playing pitches:

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

4.6 The Government’s Sports Strategy

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

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

4.7 Sport England Strategy

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

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

4.8 The implications for pitch provision

The implications of the key strategic influences on pitch provision in Elmbridge are:

- **Local corporate priorities:** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role football can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment. The local emphasis on sports activities for the over 50's offers some opportunities in this regard.
- **Planning policy:** Whilst local and national planning policy is supportive of the retention and provision of playing pitches, the current work on the Playing Pitch Strategy will provide a methodologically robust basis for determining current and future needs.
- **National sports policy shifts:** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for the pitch sports to ensure that their 'offer' is sufficiently relevant and attractive to engage a wider participation base, including people who are currently inactive. Recent innovations such as walking and small-sided versions of the sports might prove more attractive than the more traditional models, but this will have implications for facilities needs in the future, because this type of activity does not need to be accommodated on formal grass pitches.

5 FOOTBALL NEEDS IN ELMBRIDGE

5.1 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders delivering football in Elmbridge are:

- **Surrey FA:** All the football clubs in the borough affiliate to the Surrey FA, which administers the game in the county.
- **FA-affiliated clubs:** There are 48 FA-affiliated clubs in Elmbridge, who collectively run 58 adult teams, 149 youth teams and 122 mini-soccer teams.
- **Pitch providers:** A range of organisations provide football pitches in the borough, in particular the borough council, clubs and schools.

5.2 Strategic context

5.2.1 Football Association

The FA's *National Game Strategy for Participation and Development 2018 - 2021* has a number of targets with important implications for football and its facilities needs at grassroots level.

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

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

- 1,000 new '3G' football turf pitches in a mix of sizes and settings, dependent upon local needs, all aimed at enhancing the quality of the playing experience.
- 20,000 improved natural-turf pitches: to help address drop-off due to a poor playing experience.
- 1,000 new changing pavilions/clubhouses all linked to priority sites.
- Small-sided facilities to grow the small-sided game for teams and leagues, recreational and informal play.

5.2.2 Local Football Facility Plan

The Football Association, Premier League and Sport England have embarked upon a process to produce a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for each local authority area in England. The national funding partners have significantly increased investment to accelerate efforts to deliver more and

better football facilities for the grassroots game. The purpose of the LFFP is to identify the priority projects for potential investment in Elmbridge. The key findings are below:

Priorities for investment: The priorities for investment in Elmbridge are as follows:

'3G' football turf pitches:

- The geographic spread of existing '3G' pitches in the borough is uneven, with most located in the north. It is recommended that this is addressed.
- Potential sites to meet the shortfall are identified as Esher College, Cobham FC, Heathside School/Excel Sports Hub and Lower Green Community Centre.

Grass pitches:

- Three priority projects for potential investment were identified. Prioritisation was informed by local partners based on a rationale of selecting sites in the poorest condition that are currently/potentially well-utilised and which reflect the strategic focus to improve football participation.
- Potential sites to meet the shortfall are identified as Elm Grove Arena, Strenue Sports Club and The Wilderness.

Changing rooms/pavilions/clubhouses:

- Six priority projects for potential investment were identified.
- Potential sites are identified as Elm Grove Arena, Old Tiffinians Sports Association, Strenue Sports Club, The Wilderness, Elm Grove Recreation Ground and Cobham Recreation Ground.

Small-sided facilities:

- **Indoor facilities:** Local consultation indicates that no indoor facilities presently require improvement to develop small-sided football.
- **MUGA:** Provision of a small-sided informal MUGA at Lower Green Community Centre is identified as a priority, based on the site being in an area of deprivation.
- **Parks and open green spaces:** George Froude Park has been identified as a priority to support small-sided informal football, based on it being a popular open space in proximity to three schools and with the space to accommodate small-sided pitches.

5.2.3 Neighbouring local authorities

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

Runnymede

The 'Runnymede Playing Pitch Strategy' (2018) was recently adopted and identifies that there is:

- A current deficit of all types of football pitches, in particular '3G' football turf pitches.
- A projected increase in the deficit in pitches by 2033.

Spelthorne

'A Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne 2013 - 2018' (2013) identifies that there is:

- A collective surplus of 14 adult football pitches in the borough.
- A deficit of 29 youth pitches, three mini-soccer pitches and an unquantified shortfall of '3G' football turf pitches.

Woking

The *'Woking Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy'* (2016) identifies that there is sufficient pitch provision to meet current needs, but that additional demand by 2027 will require:

- Three adult pitches.
- Three youth (11v11) pitches.
- Three junior (9v9) pitches.
- Four mini-soccer pitches.
- Four '3G' football turf pitches.

Guildford

The *'Guildford Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment'* (2017) is the only current evaluation of playing pitch needs in the borough but its needs are assessed based upon a spatial standard of 1.35ha of pitches per 1,000 people, rather than Sport England's recommended methodology.

Mole Valley

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy but bases its needs assessment on a 2007 study of open space, sport and recreation. There is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

London Borough of Richmond

The *'London Borough of Richmond Playing Pitch Strategy'* (2015) identifies that:

- Existing pitch supply broadly meets current demand.
- There is sufficient capacity to accommodate future needs, although there will be a future shortfall of '3G' football turf pitches, primarily to meet training needs.

London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames:

The *'Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames Playing Pitch Strategy'* (2015) identifies that there is a current shortfall of youth (9v9) and mini-soccer (7v7) and (5v5) pitches which leads to significant exported demand to Elmbridge.

5.2.4 Implications of the strategic context

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

- **Participation increases:** The FA's target increases in participation amongst the over 16s need to be set in the context of falling demand locally for adult league football.
- **'3G' pitches:** The increased dependence on '3G' football turf pitches for youth football and mini-soccer matches by 2019 is likely to place stresses on existing provision in the borough.
- **Local Football Facility Plan:** The LFFP identifies a range of priority football projects.

5.3 Football pitch demand in Elmbridge

5.3.1 Expressed demand

The information on football clubs and teams affiliated to the Surrey FA and Amateur Football Alliance based in Elmbridge was supplied by the FA through its 'Whole Game System' database, cross-referenced to a local clubs survey. The survey was circulated by the Surrey FA to all FA-affiliated football clubs in Elmbridge. The following 15 clubs responded, collectively representing 230 teams, or 69.9% of all the 329 affiliated teams in the Borough.

- AFC West End Youth FC
- Claygate Royals FC
- Elm Grove Colts FC
- Hersham FC
- Lower Green FC
- Old Tiffinians FC
- Refresh Veterans FC
- Walton Casuals FC
- Castle Hill FC
- Cobham FC
- Esher Youth FC
- Lighthouse FC
- Metropolitan Police Youth FC
- Oxshott Royals FC
- Surrey Blues Disability FC

Club	Match venue	Training venue	Adult teams	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
<i>AFC Kingston</i>	Old Cranleighan Sp. Grd.	Old Cranleighan Sp. Grd.	1	-	-	-	-
<i>AFC Surbiton</i>	Long Ditton Recn. Grd.	Long Ditton Recn. Grd.	1	-	-	-	-
AFC Westend	West End Common	West End Common	2	-	-	-	-
AFC Westend Youth	West End Recn. Ground	Coronation Recn. Grd.	-	1	1	-	1
Art Brut FC	Esher College	-	1	-	-	-	-
Castle Hill FC	West End Recn. Ground	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ceramica FC	Long Ditton Recn. Grd.	-	1	-	-	-	-
Chelsea Foundation	Cobham Training Ground	Cobham Training Ground	-	-	-	6	-
Chelsea FC Ladies	Cobham Training Ground	Cobham Training Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Chelsea FC Talent ID	Cobham Training Ground	Cobham Training Ground	-	-	-	1	-
Gemini FC	Imber Court Sports Club Hinchley Wood School	<i>Chessington Sports Centre</i>	-	-	1	1	-
Hersham FC	Hersham FC	Hersham FC Coronation Recn. Grd.	3	4	6	1	-
Hersham Royals FC	<i>Kingston Univ. Sp. Grd.</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-
Key Sports FC	Long Ditton Recn. Grd.	<i>Victoria Recn. Ground</i>	-	-	-	1	-
<i>Kingston Ravens FC</i>	Molesey Hurst Recn. Grd.	-	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Lighthouse FC</i>	Coronation Recn. Ground	-	1	-	-	-	-
Lower Green FC	West End Recn. Ground	-	1	-	-	-	-
Manor Athletic FC	Cobham Recn. Ground	-	1	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police FC	Imber Court Sports Club	<i>Goals (Wimbledon)</i> <i>Kingston Univ. Sports Grd.</i>	1	10	6	6	4
Molesey FC	Molesey FC	Molesey FC	3	-	-	-	-

<i>Club</i>	<i>Match venue</i>	<i>Training venue</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini (5v5)</i>
Molesey Juniors FC	The Wilderness	The Wilderness	1	7	6	5	6
Molesey Strollers FC	Molesey Hurst Recn. Grd.	-	1	-	-	-	-
Old Cranleighan FC	Old Cranleighan Sp. Grd.	-	1	-	-	-	-
Old Pauline FC	Colets Health & Fitness	Colets Health & Fitness	5	-	-	-	-
Old Tiffinians	Old Tiffinians Sp. Grd.	Old Tiffinians Sp. Grd.	5	-	-	-	-
Oxshott Royals YFC	Cobham Recreation Grd. Oxshott Village Sp. Club St. Andrew's Primary Sch. <i>St. George's College</i> <i>Surrey Sports Park</i> <i>Ockham Cricket Club</i>	Reeds School, Cobham	-	9	6	7	7
Refresh Veterans FC	Molesey Hurst Recn. Grd.	-	2	-	-	-	-
Sporting Renegades FC	Molesey Hurst Recn. Grd.	-	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Surbiton Eagles FC</i>	Long Ditton Recn. Grd.	-	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Surbiton Lions FC</i>	West Molesey Recn. Grd.	<i>Victoria Recn. Ground</i>	1	-	-	-	-
Surrey Blues FC	Elmbridge Xcel	Elmbridge Xcel	-	-	-	3	-
Thames Ditton Schools	Colets Health & Fitness	-	-	-	1	2	1
Walton & Hersham FC	Elmbridge Xcel	Elmbridge Xcel	2	1	-	-	-
Walton & Hersham JFC	Ashley Primary School	Esher Rugby Club	-	-	-	8	5
Walton Casuals FC	Elmbridge Xcel	Elmbridge Xcel	4	-	-	-	-
Walton Casuals Juniors	Three Rivers Academy <i>St. George's College</i>	Elmbridge Xcel	-	13	7	4	1
Woolpack Eagles FC	Long Ditton Recn. Grd.	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	58	86	63	71	51

The key expressed demand issues are as follows:

- **Team numbers:** 54 men's teams, four women's teams, 77 youth male (11v11) teams, nine youth female (11v11) teams, 54 youth male (9v9) teams, nine youth female (9v9) teams, 71 mixed mini-soccer (7v7) teams and 51 mixed mini-soccer (5v5) teams play in Elmbridge.
- **Charter Standard Clubs:** 23 clubs in Elmbridge have achieved the FA's quality-assured Charter Standard status. This is 47.9% which compares with the national average of 27%. In terms of teams, 81.5% (268 out of 329) play for a Charter Standard club in Elmbridge, compared with the national average of 81.1%. This means that the benefits of belonging to an accredited club with formalised safeguarding procedures and qualified coaches is enjoyed by the majority of youth and mini-soccer players in Elmbridge.
- **Women and girl's football:** Football for women and girls is well-developed in Elmbridge, with four adult women's teams, nine youth 11v11 teams and nine youth 9v9 teams.

5.3.2 Expressed demand trends

- **National trends:** Overall football participation by adults is falling across the country. The 'Active People' survey shows that participation has fallen from 3.15 million adult players in 2010/11 to 2.66 million in 2015/16.

- **Local trends:** Whilst most respondents to the clubs' survey have experienced an increase in membership in recent years, comparison of current football teams' data from Elmbridge with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Elmbridge Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals significant differences for the various age groups:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2018</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult teams	78	58	-25.6%
Youth teams	120	149	+24.2%
Mini-soccer teams	83	122	+47.0%
<i>TOTAL TEAMS</i>	<i>281</i>	<i>329</i>	<i>+17.1%</i>

5.3.3 Displaced demand

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

- **Imported demand from external clubs:** Ten adult teams (whose names are marked in italics in the table in section 5.3.1 above) play their matches on pitches in Elmbridge but are from neighbouring boroughs.
- **Exported demand from internal clubs:** 31 teams from Elmbridge (whose match venues are marked in italics in the table in section 5.3.1 above) play their matches on pitches in neighbouring areas due to a shortfall in supply in Elmbridge. Several more meet their training needs on pitches outside the borough.

The net effect of displaced demand in Elmbridge is an outflow from the borough of 21 teams.

5.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

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

Four local clubs currently operate waiting lists for youth and mini-soccer players (Claygate Royals FC, Cobham FC, Oxshott Royals FC and Walton and Hershaw Youth FC).

5.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist, latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from a population if they had access to more or better provision. Consultation with local clubs indicated that in their judgement the following additional teams could be accommodated in Elmbridge if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. Comments from Walton and Hershaw Youth FC on projected growth were typical. 'We have grown from U7 only up to U7, U8, U9, U10 teams. From two teams in 2013/14 to 13 teams in 2017/18 season. We expect to grow by 2-3 teams each year expanding to the higher age group each

year. Next year we will need 9v9 pitches and potentially more training grounds in addition to what we currently use’.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini (5v5)</i>
AFC West End Youth FC	0	0	0	0	1
Castle Hill FC	0	0	0	0	0
Claygate Royals FC	0	0	0	0	0
Cobham FC	0	1	1	1	1
Elm Grove Colts FC	0	8	4	3	6
Esher FC	5	3	3	3	3
Hersham FC	0	2	1	2	1
Lighthouse FC	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan Police Youth FC	0	0	1	1	2
Lower Green FC	0	0	0	0	0
Old Tiffinians FC	4	0	0	0	0
Oxshott Royals FC	1	0	0	0	0
Refresh FC	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey Blues Disability FC	0	0	0	1	0
Walton Casuals FC	0	0	0	0	0
Walton and Hersham Youth FC	0	12	7	0	0
TOTALS	10	26	17	11	14

5.4 Football pitch supply in Elmbridge

5.4.1 Introduction

This section summarises the detail of football facilities supply in Elmbridge, including:

- ‘3G’ football turf pitches.
- Other artificial grass pitches used for football.
- Grass football pitches.

5.4.2 Full-sized ‘3G’ football turf pitches

The full-sized ‘3G’ football turf pitches in Elmbridge are detailed below. One of the pitches at Xcel and the Three Rivers Academy pitch are both on the FA’s ‘3G’ Pitch Register and therefore can be used for training and matches where competition rules allow.

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Year built</i>
Elmbridge Xcel (Stadium)	Waterside Drive, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2JG	100m x 60m	2017
Elmbridge Xcel (Training)	Waterside Drive, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2JG	100m x 60m	2017
Elmbridge Xcel (Training)	Waterside Drive, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2JG	100m x 60m	2010
Three Rivers Academy	Hersham Rd., Walton-on-Thames KT12 5PY	100m x 60m	2018

- *Not available for community use:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Built</i>
Chelsea FC Training Ground (Arena Pitch)	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	114m x 90m	Unknown
Chelsea FC Training Ground (Full-sized Pitch 1)	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	100m x 60m	Unknown
Chelsea FC Training Ground (Full-sized Pitch 2)	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	100m x 60m	Unknown

5.4.3 Small-sided '3G' football turf pitches

The following '3G' football turf pitches are too small to accommodate competitive play but is used for training purposes:

- *Available for community use and used:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Year built</i>
Hinchley Wood School	Claygate Lane, Esher KT10 0AQ	36m x 26m	2013

- *Not available for community use:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Built</i>
Chelsea FC Training Ground (Dome Pitch)	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	60m x 40m	Unknown
Chelsea FC Training Ground (Lower Pitch)	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	30m x 20m	Unknown

5.4.4 Grass football pitches

Provision of grass pitches with regulation line markings and goalposts for organised football are as follows. Pitches shown in brackets are overmarked onto another pitch with resultant reductions in usage capacity. The dimensions of the pitches are as follows:

<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Pitch length</i>	<i>Pitch width</i>	<i>Size including run-offs</i>
Adult football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U15-U16)	91m	55m	97m x 61m
Youth football (U13-U14)	82m	50m	88m x 56m
Youth football (9v9)	73m	46m	79m x 52m
Mini-soccer (7v7)	55m	37m	61m x 43m
Mini-soccer (5v5)	37m	27m	43m x 33m

- *Available for community use and used:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
Ashley Primary School	Ashley Rd., Walton-on-Thames KT12 1HX	-	-	-	2	1
Claygate Recreation Ground	Dalmore Avenue, Claygate KT10 0HQ	-	1	1	2	3
Cobham Football Club	Downside Bridge Rd., Cobham KT11 3EP	1	-	-	-	-
Cobham Recreation Ground	Oakfield Rd., Cobham KT11 2LL	2	-	-	-	-
Colet's Health and Fitness	St. Nicholas Rd., Thames Ditton KT7 0PW	2	-	-	-	-
Coronation Recn. Ground	Molesey Road, Hersham KT12 4QZ	3	-	1	1	-
Elm Grove Arena	Burwood Road, Hersham KT12 4EL	1	1	1	1	1
Elmbridge Xcel	Waterside Dr., Walton-on-Thames KT12 2JP	1	-	-	-	-
Esher College	Weston Green Rd., Thames Ditton KT7 0JB	2	-	-	-	-
Esher Cricket Club	New Road, Esher KT10 9NU	-	-	-	1	2
Hersham FC	Walton Lane, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1QP	1	1	1	2	-
Hinchley Wood Primary Sch.	Claygate Lane, Esher KT10 0AQ	-	-	1	-	-
Imber Court Sports Club	Ember Lane, East Molesey KT8 0BT	3	2	2	1	-
Leg o' Mutton Field	Downside Bridge Rd., Cobham KT11 3EP	-	1	1	(1)	1
Long Ditton Recn. Ground	Windmill Rd., Long Ditton KT6 5QE	3	-	-	-	-
Molesey Hurst Recn. Ground	Molesham Way, Molesey KT8 1NU	2	-	-	-	-
Molesey FC	Walton Road, West Molesey KT8 2JG	1	-	-	-	-
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	Longmead Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0JF	4	-	-	-	-
Old Tiffinians Sports Club	Summer Avenue, East Molesey KT8 9LU	4	-	(2)	(2)	-
Oxshott Village Sports Club	Steels Lane, Oxshott KT22 0RF	-	-	-	1	1
St. Andrew's Primary School	Lockhart Road, Cobham KT11 2AX	-	-	-	1	3
Strenue Sports Club	Lynwood Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0DN	-	1	(1)	1	1
Three Rivers Academy	Hersham Rd., Walton-on-Thames KT12 5PY	2	1	1	1	1
The Wilderness	Molesey Park, Road, East Molesey KT8 0JT	3	1	1	2	1
West End Common	West End Lane, Esher KT10 8LF	1	-	1	1	-
West End Recreation Ground	West End Lane, Esher KT10 8LA	3	-	1	1	-
West Molesey Recn. Grd.	Walton Rd., West Molesey KT8 2DY	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	40	9	12(3)	18(3)	15

- *Available for community use and not used:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Reasons for non-usage</i>
Ditton Fields	Summer Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0RD	3	-	-	2	-	Kingston Grammar School sports ground, available for community use but no current demand.
Elm Grove Recn. Ground	Hersham Rd. Walton-on-Thames KT12 1LH	1	-	-	-	-	Pitch available but no current demand.
Lower Green Comm. Ctre.	Farm Road, Esher KT10 8AU	1	-	-	-	-	Community Centre currently being refurbished, after which pitch use will be resumed.
Walton Cricket Club	Ashley Park Ave., Walton KT12 1ET	1	-	-	-	-	Pitch available on cricket outfield but no current demand.
TOTALS	-	6	-	-	2	-	-

- *Not available for community use:*

- *'3G' pitches:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Built</i>
Chelsea FC Training Ground (Arena Pitch)	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	117m x 80m	Unknown
Chelsea FC Training Ground (Full Pitch 1)	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	100m x 60m	Unknown
Chelsea FC Training Ground (Full Pitch 2)	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	100m x 60m	Unknown
Chelsea FC Training Ground (Dome Pitch)	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	60m x 40m	Unknown
Chelsea FC Training Ground (Lower Pitch)	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	30m x 20m	Unknown
St. Lawrence's Junior School	Church Road, East Molesey KT8 9DR	40m x 20m	2017

- *Grass pitches:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
ACS Cobham Int. School	Portsmouth Road, Cobham KT11 1BL	3	-	-	-	-
Bell Farm Primary School	Hersham Rd., Walton-on-Thames KT12 5NB	-	-	-	2	-
Burhill Primary School	New Berry Lane, Hersham KT12 4HQ	-	-	1	-	-
Cardinal Newman Pr. Sch.	Arch Road, Hersham KT12 4QT	-	-	-	1	1
Chandler's Field Prim. Sch.	High Street, West Molesey KT8 2LX	-	-	-	2	-
Chelsea FC Training Grd.	Stoke Road, Cobham KT11 8PT	18	4	3	4	-
Claremont Fan Court Sch.	Claremont Drive, Esher KT10 9LY	1	-	1(1)	1(1)	-
Claygate Primary School	Foley Road, Claygate KT10 0NB	-	-	1	-	-
Cranmere Primary School	Arran Way, Esher KT10 8BE	-	-	1	-	-
Cleves Junior Academy	Oatlands Way, Weybridge KT13 9TS	-	-	1	1	-
Danes Hill School	Leatherhead Road, Oxshott KT22 0JG	2	1	1	-	-
Esher C of E High School	More Lane, Esher KT10 8AP	2	-	-	-	-
Esher Church School	Milbourne Lane, Esher KT10 9DU	-	-	1	-	-
Feltonfleet School	Byfleet Rd., Cobham KT11 1DR	-	-	1	2	2
Grovelands Primary School	Terrace Road Walton-on-Thames KT12 2EB	-	-	1	-	-
Heathside School	Brooklands Lane, Weybridge KT13 8UZ	2	-	-	-	-
Hinchley Wood School	Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood KT10 0AQ	3	-	-	-	-
Hurst Park Primary Sch.	Hurst Road West Molesey KT8 1QS	-	-	1	1	-
Long Ditton St. Mary's PS	Sugden Rd., Long Ditton KT7 0AD	-	-	-	1	-
Milbourne Lodge School	Arbrook Lane, Esher KT10 9EG	-	-	1	2	-
Notre Dame School	Convent Lane, Cobham KT11 1HA	-	1	-	1	1
Parkside School	Stoke Rd., Cobham KT11 3PX	-	-	2	2	2
Royal Kent Primary School	Oakshade Road, Oxshott KT22 0LE	-	-	-	1	-
St. Alban's Primary Sch.	Beauchamp Road, East Molesey KT8 2PG	-	-	-	1	-
St. Charles Borromeo Sch.	Portmore Way, Weybridge KT13 8JD	-	-	-	1	-
St. James's Primary School	Grotto Road, Weybridge KT13 8PL	-	-	-	2	-
St. Lawrence's Junior Sch.	Church Road, East Molesey KT8 9DR	-	-	-	2	1
St. Paul's Primary School	Hampton Court Way, Thames Ditton KT7 0LP	-	-	-	1	-
Walton Oak Primary Sch.	Ambleside Ave., Walton-on-Thames KT12 3LN	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	-	31	6	16(1)	29(1)	7

5.4.5 Artificial turf pitch quality

The quality of the full-sized ‘3G’ football turf pitches with community use in Elmbridge was assessed from a site visit, to apply the Non-technical Visual Assessment developed for use in conjunction with the *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*. The assessment generates an overall ‘score’ by evaluating the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision. The scores equate to ratings of ‘Good’ for 80% or more and ‘Standard’ for 79% - 51%:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Elmbridge Xcel (Stadium pitch)	Good	Good
Elmbridge Xcel (Training pitch)	Good	Good
Elmbridge Xcel (Training)	Good	Good
Three Rivers Academy	Good	Standard

5.4.6 Grass pitch quality

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

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

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Ashley Primary School	Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 Pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch	Standard Standard Standard	-	‘Standard’ quality pitches. Changing facilities not available for external hirers.
Claygate Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch 1 Mini 5v5 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch 3	Good Good Good Good Good Good Good	Poor	‘Good’ quality pitches, but ‘poor’ quality temporary changing facilities after the original pavilion burnt down.
Cobham Football Club	Adult pitch	Good	Good	‘Good’ quality stadium pitch and ancillary facilities.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Cobham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2	Standard Standard	Standard	Pitches and changing at the lower end of 'standard' quality.
Colet's Health and Fitness	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2	Good Good	Standard	Pitches 'good' quality but some drainage issues. Changing with no dedicated officials changing,
Coronation Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Adult pitch 3 Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Standard	'Standard' quality pitches with 'standard' quality changing.
Elm Grove Arena	Adult pitch Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch Mini 5v5 pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Poor	Pitches are at the higher end of 'standard' quality, but changing facilities are basic and rated as 'poor'.
Elmbridge Xcel	Adult pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality pitch with 'good' quality changing facilities in the new sports hub buildings.
Esher College	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2	Standard Standard	Standard	'Standard' quality pitches with 'standard' quality changing.
Esher Cricket Club	Mini 7v7 pitch Mini 5v5 pitch 1 Mini 5v5 pitch 2	Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches on the cricket outfield and 'good' quality changing provision in the pavilion.
Hersham FC	Adult pitch Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2	Good Good Good Good Good	Poor	'Good' quality pitches, although some drainage issues and 'poor' quality changing facilities.
Hinchley Wood Primary School	Youth 9v9 pitch	Standard	-	'Standard' quality pitches. Changing not available for external hirers.
Imber Court Sports Club	Stadium pitch Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Youth 11v11 pitch 1 Youth 11v11 pitch 2 Youth 9v9 pitch 1 Youth 9v9 pitch 2 Mini 7v7 pitch	Good Good Good Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good Standard	Stadium and adult pitches are 'good' quality, other pitches towards the higher end of 'standard' quality. 'Standard' quality pavilion with no dedicated changing for officials.
Leg o' Mutton Field	Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch (Mini 7v7 pitch) Mini 5v5 pitch	Poor Poor Poor Poor	-	'Poor' quality pitches with an uneven playing surface. No dedicated on-site changing.

Long Ditton Recn. Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Adult pitch 3	Standard Standard Standard	Standard	Pitches towards the higher end of 'standard' quality (although recently badly damaged by unauthorised use). 'Standard' quality pavilion.
Molesey Hurst Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2	Standard Standard	Standard	'Standard' quality pitches and changing with limited parking.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Molesey FC	Adult pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality pitch and changing.
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Adult pitch 3 Youth 11v11 pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard	Standard	'Standard' quality pitches on a site that now includes Weston Green. Changing facilities are also 'standard' quality.
Old Tiffinians Sports Club	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Adult pitch 3 Adult pitch 4 (Youth 9v9 pitch 1) (Youth 9v9 pitch 2) (Mini 7v7 pitch 1) (Mini 7v7 pitch 2)	Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good	Poor	'Good' quality pitches but poor changing, but changing provision is 'poor', with inadequate car parking.
Oxshott Village Sports Club	Mini 7v7 pitch Mini 5v5 pitch	Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches on the cricket outfield and 'good' quality changing provision in the pavilion.
St. Andrew's Primary School	Mini 7v7 pitch Mini 5v5 pitch 1 Mini 5v5 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch 3	Standard Standard Standard Standard	-	'Standard' quality pitches. Changing facilities not available for external hirers.
Strenue Sports Club	Youth 11v11 pitch (Youth 9v9 pitch) Mini 7v7 pitch Mini 5v5 pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard	Poor	Pitches at the lower end of 'standard' quality but changing is 'poor'.
The Wilderness	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Adult pitch 3 Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Poor Poor Standard	Poor	Most pitches are at the lower end of 'standard' quality, although both mini 7v7 pitches are 'poor'. The changing facilities are also rated as 'poor' quality.
Three Rivers Academy	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch Mini 5v5 pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Standard	'Standard' quality pitches and changing facilities.
West End Common	Adult pitch Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch	Standard Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches, with a 'good' quality new changing pavilion.

West End Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard	Standard	'Standard' quality pitches but changing provision towards the lower end of 'standard' quality.
West Molesey Recreation Ground	Adult pitch	Standard	Standard	'Standard' quality pitches with 'standard' quality changing.

5.4.7 Summary of grass pitch quality

The number and percentage of pitches in each quality band is tabulated below. The summary shows that more than one-third of all pitches are rated as ‘good’ quality, with fewer than one-in-fifteen being assessed as ‘poor’ quality.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Good</i>		<i>Standard</i>		<i>Poor</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult 11v11	14	35.0%	26	65.0%	0	0.0%
Youth 11v11	2	22.2%	6	66.7%	1	11.1%
Youth 9v9	4	26.7%	10	66.7%	1	6.6 %
Mini-soccer 7v7	7	42.9%	9	42.9%	3	14.2%
Mini-soccer 5v5	5	40.0%	8	53.3%	1	6.7%
TOTAL	32	35.0%	59	59.0%	6	6.0%

5.4.8 Summary of changing facilities quality

The number and percentage of pitches of each type that are served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities is tabulated below. The main issues are:

- Badly maintained building exteriors, often exacerbated by vandalism and graffiti.
- Poorly maintained changing rooms, showers and toilets.
- Inadequate disabled access.
- Insufficient car parking.

Whilst youth and mini players frequently do not use changing facilities even where they are provided, it is concerning that almost one-in-two pitches are served by ‘poor’ quality changing facilities. The adverse impact on user experiences makes it more difficult to recruit and retain new players, particularly women and girls.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult 11v11	10	25.6%
Youth 11v11	5	55.6%
Youth 9v9	8	57.1%
Mini-soccer 7v7	14	66.7%
Mini-soccer 5v5	11	73.3%
TOTAL	48	49.0%

5.4.9 Grass pitch maintenance

Football pitch maintenance in the borough is organised as follows:

- **Club-managed pitches:** The pitches owned and managed by local sports clubs, which comprise 45% of the pitches in the borough, are all maintained by the clubs themselves. This involves a combination of paid grounds staff, external contractors and volunteer help.

- **Council-owned pitches:** The council owns 39% of the football pitches in the borough and contracts an external contractor, G. Burley and Sons, to undertake pitch maintenance.
- **Pitches on education sites:** The school sites with community use comprise 16% of the available pitches and all employ or contract their pitch maintenance staff.
- **Elmbridge Xcel:** The ‘3G’ and grass football pitches are maintained by the management contractor Places for People.

5.4.10 Pitch hire charges

The cost of hiring football pitches in Elmbridge and other areas was supplied by pitch providers as follows. All costs are for pitches with changing facilities. The comparison of prices shows that both ‘3G’ and grass pitches in Elmbridge are generally slightly cheaper than those in neighbouring areas and this may have some influence on levels of imported demand.

- **3G’ football turf pitches:**

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Cost per match (£)</i>
<i>Elmbridge Xcel</i>	
Full pitch (Match)	£114.60 (non-member) £95.50 (member)
Full pitch (Peak training)	£97.80 (non-member) £81.50 (member)
One-third pitch (Peak)	£50.40 (non-member) £42 (member)
<i>Royal Holloway University</i>	£168 full pitch
<i>Whitton Sports Centre</i>	
Full pitch	£115
One-third pitch	£58
<i>Frimley Lodge Park (Surrey Heath)</i>	
Full pitch	£128 (public peak) £116 (adult club peak) £108 (junior club peak)
Half pitch	£64 (public peak) £58 (adult club peak) £54 (junior club peak)
One-quarter pitch	£32 (public peak) £29 (adult club peak) £27 (junior club peak)

- **Grass pitches:**

Pitch type	Cost per match (£)
<i>Elmbridge Borough Council</i> Adult pitch	£118 (one-off hire) £73 (regular hire)
Youth Pitch	£53 (one-off hire) £31.50 (regular hire)
Mini-soccer pitch	£23.50
<i>Guildford Borough Council</i> Adult pitch	£83.50
Youth (11v11) pitch	£46.50
Youth (9v9) pitch	£31.00
Mini 7v7 pitch	£28.50
Mini 5v5 pitch	£28.00
<i>Woking Borough Council</i> Adult pitch	£66
Youth 11v11 pitch	£33
Youth (9v9) pitch	£21.50
<i>Surrey Heath Borough Council</i> Adult with changing	£93.50
Junior with changing	£56.50
<i>Runnymede Borough Council</i> Adult pitch	£98
<i>Mole Valley District Council</i> Adult with changing	£127.00
Adult without changing	£63.50
Youth with changing	£80.00
Youth without changing	£40.00

5.4.11 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of access of all football pitch sites in Elmbridge with community use and used is detailed below:

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of access
Ashley Primary School	Surrey County Council	Ashley Primary School	Unsecured
Claygate Recreation Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
Cobham Football Club	Elmbridge BC	Cobham FC	Secured
Cobham Recreation Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
Colet's Health and Fitness	St. Paul's School	Colets Health & Fitness	Unsecured
Coronation Recreation Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
Elm Grove Arena	Whiteley Homes Trust	Elm Grove Colts FC	Secured
Elmbridge Xcel	Elmbridge BC	Places for People	Secured
Esher College	Esher College	Esher College	Unsecured
Esher Cricket Club	Esher Cricket Club	Esher Cricket Club	Secured
Hersham FC	Hersham FC	Hersham FC	Secured
Hinchley Wood Primary Sch.	Hinchley Wood PS	Hinchley Wood PS	Unsecured

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
Imber Court Sports Club	Metropolitan Police	Imber Court Sports Club	Secured
Leg o' Mutton Field	Elmbridge BC	Cobham FC	Secured
Long Ditton Recn. Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
Molesey Hurst Recn. Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
Molesey FC	Molesey FC	Molesey FC	Secured
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	Old Cranleighans SC	Old Cranleighans SC	Secured
Old Tiffinians Sports Club	Tiffinian Assoc. Ltd.	Old Tiffinians SC	Secured
Oxshott Village Sports Club	Oxshott Village SC	Oxshott Village Sports Club	Secured
St. Andrew's Primary School	Surrey County Council	St. Andrew's Primary School	Unsecured
Strenue Sports Club	Elmbridge BC	Strenue Sports Club	Secured
The Wilderness	Elmbridge BC	Molesey Junior FC	Secured
Three Rivers Academy	Three Rivers Academy	Three Rivers Academy	Secured
Walton Cricket Club	Walton Cricket Club	Walton Cricket Club	Secured
West End Common	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
West End Recreation Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
West Molesey Recn. Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured

Security of access for each type of football pitch in Elmbridge is summarised below. It shows that almost 90% of football pitches have secured access:

<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Secured</i>		<i>Unsecured</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult football	36	90.0%	4	10.0%
Youth football (11v11)	9	100.0%	0	0.0%
Youth football (9v9)	14	93.3%	1	6.7%
Mini-soccer (7v7)	19	90.5%	2	9.5%
Mini-soccer (5v5)	11	73.3%	4	26.7%
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	4	100%	0	0.0%
TOTALS	93	89.4%	11	10.6%

5.5 The views of local stakeholders

5.5.1 Surrey FA

Consultation with the Surrey FA highlighted that:

- **'3G' pitches:** 'There is a shortage of '3G' surfaces in Elmbridge and there are a number of large, well-run clubs looking for places to play. It is worth noting the high number of independent schools and therefore working with them to ensure they have a community use agreement would be a priority'.
- **Demand:** 'A lot of the community, youth and development clubs are growing a lot, so whilst there may not be a huge demand for pitches now, if they continue to grow then in a few years there definitely will be'.

5.5.2 Castle Hill FC

‘We hire a pitch [at West End Recreation Ground] from Elmbridge Council, but must pay £511 upfront at the start of the season. This is a ridiculous amount of money to ask for a Sunday league team to attain straight away. Council pitch bookings staff are very helpful though’.

5.5.3 Claygate Royals FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We are always looking for more grass pitches, artificial pitches and particular winter training facilities’.
- ‘We want a site to build our own ‘3G’ due to massive demand’.

5.5.4 Cobham FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We are due to submit plans for a new clubhouse that is fit for purpose as our current one is falling apart and has no female changing facilities’.
- ‘We have a demand for places in our teams and would particularly like to cater for the increased demand in female football and keep older Youth players engaged for as long as possible and beat the national dropout. We also have a Juniors pitch that is not fit for purpose and have had to schedule away games for most of the season for users of that pitch. We have growth plans linked to improving our facilities and would also like to continue the good work of providing for the local community (schools, businesses, public) that we have begun to do very well over the last couple of years’.
- ‘We are fortunate that we have what we have, however as our pitches are in public land, it is difficult and too expensive to carry out some of the levelling work that we need to do to make some of the area good’.

5.5.5 Esher Youth FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We are an Elmbridge based club but have to go out of the borough due to lack of pitches’.
- ‘We really struggle for affordable winter training facilities in Elmbridge’.
- ‘Some of our teams have tried training at park pitches to be told they are not to use them without paying’.

5.5.6 Lighthouse FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We are looking for land to build a clubhouse with changing rooms and showers. ‘3G’ training pitches and full-size 11-a-side 3G pitch’.
- ‘Grass pitch hire fees are too expensive - we pay £118 per match to use Coronation Recreation Ground’.

5.5.7 Lower Green FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We used to play our football on Lower Green Community Centre, but the council closed the centre meaning we could not play there as we had no dressing rooms our greatest wish is to return there’.
- ‘There are plans to reopen our community centre for next season, but that still leaves us with no training facilities and it would be great to get a decent training pitch with floodlights’.
- ‘Lack of training facilities means our football has suffered this season. In Elmbridge we desperately need more ‘3G’ pitches with floodlights. We have never had the right facilities for grassroots football to progress in Elmbridge. I am on the Committee of the Kingston and District Football League we have lost division after division of teams over the last 15 years due to the cost of hiring pitches and training facilities in our catchment area’.

5.5.8 Metropolitan Police FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We are looking to bring our Junior section closer to our senior section to create a fully integrated community club. Our ground has an area not used by any sports which we would like to take control of, allowing us to play games all year round’.
- ‘Due to the other usage at our venue [Imber Court] we have restrictions on how many teams can play home games on certain weekends. This ultimately means that we are restricted to the number of teams we can have playing in each format. Having access to football pitches during the summer months and other days rather than just Sundays during the season would help us to grow’.
- ‘It is becoming more difficult to find suitable time slots for teams to train during the winter months’.
- ‘The reduction in groundstaff budget has affected their ability to look after the pitches. Also, the venue needs to earn more money which means that pitches are over played’.
- ‘We would be happy to help maintain our area. Increased pitch and training facilities availability would allow us to cater for further teams. All-weather pitches are important to improve the overall inclusion in grassroots/community football’.

5.5.9 Old Tiffinians FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We are in early talks with Claygate Royals FC to look at options of building a new ‘3G’ pitch onsite as well as rebuilding the dilapidated pavilion. We are currently seeking pre-application advice with other major stakeholders’.
- ‘We currently use the Tiffin School MUGA for training on Monday evenings. Access to a full-sized ‘3G’ pitch at a more convenient slot midweek would greatly increase our numbers at training and be a huge benefit to the long-term development of the club. A full-sized ‘3G’ pitch would help offset the risk of cancelled matches during particularly wet seasons, when some of our grass pitches suffer from the weather. A clubhouse built to Sport England standards would greatly enhance the match day experience at our club and help assist in its long-term development. Extra car parking space would also be beneficial’.

5.5.10 Oxshott Royals FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We want to find a ground of our own ideally. We have use of a ground that needs improving’.
- ‘We have a waiting list but not enough volunteers to run more teams’.
- ‘There are not enough good quality 11 v 11 pitches in the area that are affordable’.
- ‘Better facilities would prevent the club losing players and teams to rival clubs’.

5.5.11 Refresh Veterans FC

‘During adverse weather periods it is difficult to find an all-weather pitch on a Saturday’.

5.5.12 Surrey Blues Disability FC

‘We desperately require indoor facilities especially during winter. For players and volunteers’ health’.

5.5.13 Walton and Hersham Youth FC

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We have grown from U7 only up to U7, U8, U9, U10 teams, from two teams in 2013/14 to 13 teams in 2017/18 season. We expect to grow by 2-3 teams each year expanding to the higher age group each year. Next year we will need 9v9 pitches and potentially more training grounds in addition to what we currently use’.
- ‘We currently do not have enough quality match pitches and certainly won’t next year when we require 9v9 for the first time. Pitches with toilets are definitely required. Floodlit pitches are expensive and difficult to book for times required’.

- ‘There are not enough pitches for Sunday demand - we are left to book pitches which are either poor quality or lacking facilities such as parking, toilets etc.’

5.6 The implications for football in Elmbridge

Analysis of local supply of football pitches in Elmbridge indicates the following:

- **Local clubs:** There is a strong network FA Charter Standard football clubs in Elmbridge, providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Unmet demand:** General participation rates in sport and physical activity are high in Elmbridge and this is reflected in football team generation rates.
- **Imported demand:** Information supplied by local football clubs on where their members live, indicates that there is substantial imported demand to Elmbridge, which in net terms is equivalent to almost 40 teams.
- **Grass pitch supply:** An examination of grass pitch supply suggests that in quantitative terms there is some limited local spare capacity.
- **Grass pitch quality:** Whilst almost all grass pitches in Elmbridge are rated as at least ‘standard’ quality, many pitches in the borough suffer from poor drainage (particularly those in the north of the borough close to the river) which compromises their carrying capacity.
- **‘3G’ football turf pitches:** There are four full-sized ‘3G’ pitches with community access in Elmbridge, plus one small-sided pitch the borough. Whilst providing for some training needs, but many local clubs have identified the lack of floodlit, all-weather pitches as an impediment to the development of the game locally. Based upon the FA calculation of training needs that there should be one full-sized ‘3G’ pitch per 38 teams, there should be 8.66 community accessible full-sized pitches in Elmbridge.
- **Additional ‘3G’ pitches:** The Chelsea FC training ground has four full-sized and two small-sided ‘3G’ pitches, but these have no external community use.
- **Unauthorised use of grass pitches:** With the shortage of training facilities for football, a number of clubs are using council grass pitches and other public open spaces for training on an unauthorised basis. Where council pitches are used, this adds to the wear and tear and adversely affects quality and carrying capacity for authorised users. The sites particularly affected are Coronation Recreation Ground, West End Recreation Ground and Lower Green and the effect of the additional usage has been factored in to the supply-demand assessments in section 5.7 below.
- **Secured community use:** Only one in ten of the pitches with community use and used are on sites without secured community use, meaning that in theory usage could be rescinded at any time. Whilst the spare capacity at sites with community access that are not currently used would meet some additional demand, measures to secure community use at education sites would be advisable.

5.7 Assessment of current needs

5.7.1 Introduction

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

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

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:

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

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

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

5.7.2 Adult pitches

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Cobham FC	1	Cobham FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Cobham Recn. Ground	2	Cobham Village FC Manor Athletic FC Oxshott Royals FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Colets Health and Fitness	2	Old Pauline FC	6.0	5.0	+1.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Coronation Recn. Ground	3	Ditton Dynamo FC <i>Lighthouse FC</i> Unauthorised use	6.0	2.5	+3.5	3.0	2.0	+1.0
Elm Grove Arena	1	Elm Grove Colts FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Elmbridge Xcel	1	Walton and Hersham FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Esher College	2	Art Brut FC Esher College	4.0	2.5	+1.5	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Hersham FC	1	Hersham FC	3.0	2.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Imber Court Sports Club	3	Metropolitan Police FC Esher Youth FC	9.0	6.0	+3.0	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Long Ditton Recn. Ground	3	<i>AFC Surbiton</i> Ceramica FC <i>Epsom Casuals FC</i> Key Sports FC <i>Surbiton Eagles FC</i> Woolpack Eagles FC	6.0	6.0	Balanced	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Molesey Hurst Recn. Ground	2	<i>Kingston Ravens FC</i> Molesey Strollers FC Refresh Veterans FC Sporting Renegades FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Molesey FC	1	Molesey FC	3.0	2.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	3	<i>AFC Kingston</i> Double H FC <i>Epsom Albion FC</i> Old Cranleighan FC	6.0	4.0	+2.0	4.0	2.0	+2.0
Old Tiffinians Sports Club	4	Claygate Royals FC Old Tiffinians FC	12.0	9.0	+3.0	4.0	3.0	+1.0
Three Rivers Academy	2	Walton Casuals Junior FC Three Rivers Academy	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
The Wilderness	3	Molesey Juniors FC	6.0	4.0	+2.0	3.0	2.0	+1.0
West End Common	1	AFC Westend	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
West End Recn. Ground	2	AFC Westend Youth FC Castle Hill FC <i>Epsom & Ewell OB FC</i> Lower Green FC Unauthorised use	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
West Molesey Recn. Ground	1	<i>Surbiton Lions FC</i>	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	40	-	88.0	69.0	+19.0	39.0	35.0	+4.0

The key findings are:

- Adult demand is supplemented by youth (11v11) teams using adult pitches at Cobham Recreation Ground, Elm Grove Arena, Imber Court, Strenue Sports Club, Three Rivers Academy, The Wilderness and West End Recreation Ground.
- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at one site, is balanced at a further 15 sites and there is peak time spare capacity at four sites.

- Collective peak time spare capacity in the borough amounts to 5.0 match equivalent sessions. This figure becomes a surplus of 3.0 match equivalent session if the education sites without secured community access are excluded.

5.7.3 Youth 11v11 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Claygate Recn. Ground	1	Claygate Royals FC	4.0	8.0	-4.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Elm Grove Arena	1	Elm Grove Colts	2.0	4.0	-2.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Hersham FC	1	Hersham FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Imber Court Sports Club	2	Metropolitan Police FC Esher Youth FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Leg o' Mutton Field	1	Cobham FC	1.0	2.0	-1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Strenue Sports Club	1	Esher Youth FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Three Rivers Academy	1	Walton Casuals Junior FC Three Rivers Academy	2.0	4.0	-2.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
The Wilderness	1	Molesey Juniors FC	2.0	3.5	-1.5	1.0	2.0	-1.0
TOTALS	9	-	21.0	30.5	-9.5	9.0	14.0	-5.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at five sites and a balance at three sites.
- The collective peak time supply-demand position in the borough is a deficit of 5.0 match equivalent sessions. The deficit increases to 6.0 match equivalent sessions if the education site without secured community access is excluded.

5.7.4 Youth 9v9 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Claygate Recn. Ground	1	Claygate Royals FC	2.0	3.0	-1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Coronation Recn. Grd.	1	AFC Westend Youth FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Elm Grove Arena	1	Elm Grove Colts FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Hersham FC	1	Hersham FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Hinchley Wood Primary School	1	Gemini FC Hinchley Wood PS	2.0	3.0	-1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Imber Court Sports Club	2	Esher Youth FC Metropolitan Police FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Leg o' Mutton Field	1	Cobham FC	1.0	1.5	-0.5	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Old Tiffinians Sp. Club	(2)	Claygate Royals FC	2.0	2.5	-0.5	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Strenue Sports Club	(1)	Esher Youth FC	1.0	2.0	-1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Three Rivers Academy	1	Walton Casuals Juniors FC Three Rivers Academy	2.0	3.0	-1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
The Wilderness	1	Molesey Juniors FC	1.0	3.0	-2.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
West End Common	1	Claygate Royals FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
West End Recreation Ground	1	AFC Westend Youth FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	12(3)	-	27.0	32.0	-5.0	15.0	20.0	-5.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at five sites and a balance at eight sites.
- The collective peak time deficit in the borough amounts to 5.0 match equivalent sessions which is managed by staggering kick off times. The deficit increases to 6.0 match equivalent sessions if the education site without secured community access is excluded.

5.7.5 Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Ashley Primary School	2	Walton and Hersham JFC Ashley Primary School	8.0	6.0	+2.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
Coronation Recn. Ground	1	No recorded users	4.0	0.0	+4.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Elm Grove Arena	1	Elm Grove Colts FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
Esher Cricket Club	1	Claygate Royals FC	6.0	3.0	+3.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Hersham FC	2	Hersham FC	12.0	3.0	+9.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Imber Court Sports Club	1	Esher Youth FC Gemini FC Metropolitan Police FC	4.0	5.0	-1.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
Leg o' Mutton Field	(1)	Cobham FC	1.0	3.0	-2.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Old Tiffinians Sports Club	(2)	Claygate Royals FC	6.0	4.0	+1.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Oxshott Village Sports Club	1	Oxshott Royals FC	6.0	4.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
St. Andrew's Primary School	1	Oxshott Royals FC St. Andrew's Prim. Sch.	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Strenue Sports Club	1	Esher Youth FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Three Rivers Academy	1	Walton Casuals Juniors FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
The Wilderness	2	Molesey Juniors FC	4.0	5.0	-1.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
West End Common	1	No recorded users	4.0	0.0	+4.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
West End Recn. Ground	1	Claygate Royals FC	4.0	2.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	16(3)	-	75.0	49.0	+26.0	19.0	28.0	-11.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows a deficit at 10 sites, is balanced at two further sites and there is peak time spare capacity at three sites, including two where there is currently no recorded use. The deficit is managed by scheduling two fixtures back-to-back at peak times, which in most cases is sustainable because of the surplus weekly pitch carrying capacity.

- The collective peak time deficit in the borough amounts to 11.0 match equivalent sessions, which is managed by staggering kick off times (there is substantial weekly spare capacity to accommodate this). The deficit increases to 14.0 match equivalent sessions if the education sites without secured community access are excluded.

5.7.6 Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Claygate Recn. Ground	3	Claygate Royals FC	18.0	6.0	+12.0	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Elm Grove Arena	1	Elm Grove Colts FC	4.0	6.0	-2.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
Esher Cricket Club	2	Claygate Royals FC	12.0	4.0	+8.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Leg o' Mutton Field	1	Cobham FC	2.0	4.0	-2.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Oxshott Village Sports Club	1	Oxshott Royals FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
St. Andrew's Primary School	3	Oxshott Royals FC St. Andrew's Prim. Sch.	12.0	6.0	+6.0	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Strenue Sports Club	1	Esher Youth FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Three Rivers Academy	1	Walton Casuals Juniors FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
The Wilderness	1	Molesey Juniors FC	4.0	6.0	-2.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
TOTALS	14		29.0	17.0	+12.0	14.0	19.0	-5.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at three sites and is balanced at all other sites. The deficit is managed by scheduling two fixtures back-to-back at peak times, which in most cases is sustainable because of the surplus weekly pitch carrying capacity.
- The collective peak time deficit in the borough amounts to 5.0 match equivalent sessions, which is managed by staggering kick off times (there is substantial weekly spare capacity to accommodate this). The deficit increases to 9.0 match equivalent sessions if the education sites without secured community access are excluded.

5.7.7 '3G' football turf pitches

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

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

Used capacity: The used capacity of the full-sized '3G' football turf pitches in Elmbridge is as follows:

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Peak hours</i>	<i>Utilised peak hours</i>	<i>Peak utilisation rate</i>
Xcel Elmbridge (Stadium)	18.00 - 22.00 Mon - Fri	18	90%
Xcel Elmbridge (Training)	18.00 - 22.00 Mon - Fri	19	95%
Elmbridge Xcel (Training)	18.00 - 22.00 Mon - Fri	19	95%
Three Rivers Academy	18.00 - 22.00 Mon - Fri	14	70%

FA guidance: An alternative way to assess ‘3G’ pitch needs is to apply the FA’s guide figure for training needs of one full-sized pitch per 38 teams. With 329 football teams in Elmbridge at present, there is a requirement for 8.66 pitches the borough. Existing provision of four community-accessible full-sized pitches leaves an effective shortfall of 4.66 full-sized ‘3G’ pitches.

5.8 Assessment of future needs

5.8.1 Population growth

The ‘Strategic Housing Market assessment for Kingston and North-East Surrey Local Authorities’ (2016) includes Elmbridge. The study identifies a need for an additional 9,480 dwellings in the borough by 2035 and quotes the ONS sub-national population projection of 148,700 people in Elmbridge by the same date. This represents a 12.1% increase from the mid-2014 population estimate.

5.8.2 Potential changes in demand

Changes in demand for football in the in future can also be modelled on a trend-based projection. Two sets of data can help to inform this:

- **‘Active People’ survey:** The national rates of football participation between 2005 and the present, as measured by the ‘Active People’ survey, are as follows:

<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/1</i>	<i>2011/2</i>	<i>2012/3</i>	<i>2013/4</i>	<i>2014/5</i>	<i>2015/6</i>	<i>% Change</i>
4.97%	5.18%	5.08%	4.96%	4.98%	4.94%	4.25%	4.39%	4.34%	4.28%	-0.69%

- **FA strategic targets:** The FA’s ‘National Game Strategy 2016 - 2019’ sets the following participation targets:
 - Maintain the existing numbers of adult male, female and disability teams.
 - Increase female youth participation by 11%.
- **Local trends:** Whilst most respondents to the clubs’ survey have experienced an increase in membership in recent years, comparison of current football teams’ data from Elmbridge with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Elmbridge Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals significant differences for the various age groups:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2018</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult teams	78	58	-25.6%
Youth teams	120	149	+24.2%
Mini-soccer teams	83	122	+47.0%
TOTAL TEAMS	281	329	+17.1%

Local clubs indicated that the following extra teams could be accommodated in Elmbridge if pitch provision was improved. The increase equates to a 31% rise in current team numbers.

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams</i>
Adult teams	10
Youth 11v11 teams	30
Youth 9v9 teams	20
Mini 7v7 teams	14
Mini 5v5 teams	16
TOTAL TEAMS	90

5.8.3 Site-specific pressures

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

5.8.4 Potential changes in supply

The following potential changes in supply have been identified:

- A new school (Heathside-Walton School) is planned to open in 2020 on a site adjacent to Elmbridge Xcel. The Elm Way Trust that sponsors the school has plans to provide grass football pitches.
- A '3G' football turf pitch is currently being proposed for the stadium pitch at Imber Court, which will be available for hire by clubs including Metropolitan Police Youth FC.
- A full-sized World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant pitch with potential for some football usage is proposed at Cobham Sports Association in conjunction with Cobham Free School.
- The LFFP identifies additional priority sites at Lower Green Community Centre, Esher College (for which a planning application has been submitted) and Cobham FC.

5.8.5 Existing spare capacity

Existing surpluses (shown as '+') or deficits (shown as '-') in football pitch peak-time capacity are calculated in section 5.7 and are as follows. The pitch equivalents are based upon the weekly carrying capacity of a 'standard' quality grass pitch. The shortfalls cannot be met by pitch quality improvements, because they relate to peak period demand, which is based on pitch numbers:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Match equivalents</i>	<i>Pitch equivalents</i>
Adult	+4.0	+2.0
Youth 11v11	-5.0	-2.5
Youth 9v9	-5.0	-2.5
Mini-soccer 7v7	-11.0	-2.75
Mini-soccer 5v5	-5.0	-1.25

5.8.6 Future grass pitch needs

Future formal grass pitch needs to 2035 are modelled below using ‘Team Generation Rates’ (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the borough are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future. The match equivalents relate solely to demand for match play on grass pitches. All additional training needs on ‘3G’ pitches are modelled separately in section 5.8.7 below:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Pop. 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>	<i>Match equivalents</i>
Adult male football	17-45	21,660	54	1: 401	24,281	61	7	3.5
Adult female football	17-45	21,510	4	1: 5,378	24,113	5	1	0.5
Boys youth 11v11 football	12-16	4,400	77	1: 57	4,932	87	10	5.0
Girls youth 11v11 football	12-16	4,060	9	1: 451	4,551	10	1	0.5
Boys youth 9v9 football	10-11	1,920	54	1: 36	2,152	60	6	3.0
Girls youth 9v9 football	10-11	1,800	9	1: 200	2,018	10	1	0.5
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	8-9	4,300	71	1: 61	4,820	79	8	4.0
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	6-7	4,100	51	1: 80	4,596	57	6	3.0

5.8.7 Future ‘3G’ pitch needs

Future ‘3G’ pitch needs to 2035 are modelled based upon the projected number of additional teams identified above (40) multiplied by the FA’s guide figure for training needs of 38 teams per pitch, to produce a requirement for 1.05 additional pitches, in addition to the existing assessed shortfall of 4.66 pitches.

5.8.8 Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator

A supplementary way of modelling future playing pitch needs is Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator. The model applies Team Generation rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand but provides helpful context for the site-specific supply-demand assessment in section 5.7 above and the TGR calculations in section 5.8.6 above. The results of applying the Calculator for football needs in Elmbridge are set out below, showing the position based upon current expressed demand. The two sets of projections are closely matched, although the TGR calculation shows slightly higher demand for adult pitches and so it is recommended that the TGR figures be used as the basis for projecting future needs:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand 2035</i>		
	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Youth</i>	<i>Mini</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	2.16	8.84	7.24
Extra training per week on ‘3G’ pitches	39.04		
Extra grass pitches to meet demand	2.16	8.84	7.24
Capital cost of extra pitches	£231,307	£789,027	£215,350
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£48,806	£165,696	£45,223
Extra ‘3G’ pitches to meet demand	1.03		
Capital cost of extra ‘3G’ pitches	£1,204,267		
Annual running costs of extra ‘3G’ pitches	£16,635		

5.9 Key findings and issues

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

- **Demand trends:** There has been a long-term decline in adult football in the borough, mirroring wider national trends. However, participation has grown strongly in the youth football and mini-soccer age groups and this trend seems set to continue.
- **Women and Girls:** Women and girls football is relatively well-developed in Elmbridge, although there is scope for further expansion.
- **Imported demand:** Information supplied by local football clubs on where their members live, indicates that there is substantial imported demand to Elmbridge.
- **Grass pitch supply:** An examination of grass pitch supply identifies that there is no local spare capacity.
- **Grass pitch quality:** Whilst most grass pitches in Elmbridge are rated as at least ‘standard’ quality, some pitches in the borough suffer from poor drainage (particularly those in the north of the borough close to the river) which compromises their carrying capacity.
- **‘3G’ football turf pitches:** There are four full-sized and one small-sided ‘3G’ pitches with community access in Elmbridge. Whilst providing for some training needs, many local clubs have identified the lack of floodlit, all-weather pitches as an impediment to the development of the game locally. Based upon the FA calculation of training needs that there should be one full-sized ‘3G’ pitch per 38 teams, there should be 8.66 community accessible full-sized pitches in Elmbridge.
- **Additional ‘3G’ pitches:** The Chelsea FC training ground has four full-sized and two small-sided pitches, with no external use. The small-sided pitch at St. Lawrence’s Primary School also has no community use.
- **Unauthorised use of grass pitches:** With the shortage of training facilities for football, a number of clubs are using council grass pitches and other public open spaces for training on an unauthorised basis. Where council pitches are used, this adds to the wear and tear and adversely affects quality and carrying capacity for authorised users. The sites particularly affected are Coronation Recreation Ground, West End Recreation Ground and Lower Green and the effect of the additional usage has been factored into the supply-demand assessments
- **Secured community use:** One in ten of the pitches with community use and used are on sites without secured community use, so in theory use could be rescinded at any time. Whilst the spare capacity at sites with community access but not currently used could meet some additional demand, measures to secure community use at education sites is advisable.

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

- **Adult grass pitches:** There is a surplus of 4.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at accessible, community-secured sites, which equates to 2.0 ‘standard’ quality grass pitches.
- **Youth 11v11 pitches:** There is a deficit of 6.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at the community-secured sites, which equates to 3.0 ‘standard’ quality grass pitches.
- **Youth 9v9 pitches:** There is a deficit of 6.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at community-secured sites, which equates to around 3.0 ‘standard’ quality grass pitches.
- **Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches:** There is a deficit of 14.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at community-secured sites, which equates to around 3.5 ‘standard’ quality grass pitches.
- **Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches:** There is a deficit of 9.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at the community-secured sites, which equates to around 2.25 ‘standard’ quality grass pitches.
- **‘3G’ football turf pitches:** Based on the FA’s calculation of training needs, there is no effective peak-time spare capacity at ‘3G’ football turf pitches in the borough and an assessed shortfall of 4.66 pitches.

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

- **Quality:** Pitch quality was rated ‘poor’ at only six out of 100 football pitches in the borough. However, quality is at the lower end of ‘standard’ at a further six pitches, some of which may fall into the ‘poor’ category, without enhanced maintenance.
- **Maintenance:** Most pitches in Elmbridge are appropriately maintained.

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

- **Population growth:** The borough’s population is projected to increase by 16,000 people by 2035, a 12.1% increase over the 2016 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** Projecting future need based on current demand patterns, including local clubs’ estimates of latent demand, is a reasonable basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known development threats to any existing pitch sites, including those that are currently disused. ‘3G’ football turf pitches are currently planned at Imber Court (stadium pitch) and Cobham Sports Association, plus a full-sized World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant pitch at Cobham Free School. The LFFP identifies additional priority sites at Lower Green Community Centre, Esher College and Cobham FC.
- **Existing spare capacity:** The only notional spare capacity is 1.5 adult football pitches.
- **Future needs:** Based on projected population growth and latent demand identified by clubs, these have been assessed as follows:
 - Adult grass pitches: 8 weekly match equivalent sessions.
 - Youth 11v11 grass pitches: 15 weekly match equivalent sessions.
 - Youth 9v9 grass pitches: 10 weekly match equivalent sessions.

- Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches: 11 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches: 10 weekly match equivalent sessions.
- '3G' football turf pitches: 1.05 pitches (40 weekly match equivalent sessions).

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

The situation at community accessible pitches in the borough is summarised below. For illustrative purposes, match equivalent sessions have been converted into pitch requirements, based upon the capacity of a 'standard' quality grass pitch. In cases where the additional need calculations are not a whole number, the figures have been rounded up to the next whole number to produce the actual number of extra pitch needs:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current secured pitches</i>	<i>Current secured peak spare pitch capacity</i>	<i>Current peak needs</i>	<i>Extra peak needs by 2035</i>	<i>Total peak needs by 2035</i>	<i>Additional secured pitch needs</i>
Adult football	36	+2.0	34.0	2.0	36.0	0
Youth 11v11	9	-3.0	12.0	2.75	14.75	6
Youth 9v9	14	-3.0	17.0	1.75	18.75	5
Mini 7v7	19	-3.5	22.5	2.0	24.5	6
Mini 5v5	11	-2.25	13.25	1.5	14.75	4
'3G'	4	-4.66	8.66	1.05	9.71	6

5.10 Scenario Testing

5.10.1 Introduction

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

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

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Reasons for non-usage</i>
Ditton Fields	Summer Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0RD	3	-	-	2	-	Kingston Grammar School sports ground, available for community use but no current demand.
Elm Grove Recn. Ground	Hersham Rd. Walton-on-Thames KT12 1LH	1	-	-	-	-	Pitch available but no current demand.
Lower Green Community Centre	Farm Road, Esher KT10 8AU	1	-	-	-	-	Community Centre currently being refurbished, after which pitch use will be resumed.

Walton Cricket Club	Ashley Park Ave., Walton KT12 1ET	1	-	-	-	-	Pitch available on cricket outfield but no current demand.
TOTALS	-	6	-	-	2	-	-

- The pitches can all be restored to ‘standard’ quality and there are no changing, access and parking issues at the sites. Whilst it would have limited impact on the number of additional pitches that would still need to be provided, it would at least reduce the number required. It would therefore make sense to consider resuming use of these pitches to meet additional future demand, rather than making entirely new provision.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current unused pitches</i>	<i>Match equivalent capacity</i>	<i>Future demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Balance (match equivalents)</i>
Adult football	6	12.0	4.0	+8.0
Youth 11v11	0	0	5.5	-5.5
Youth 9v9	0	0	3.5	-3.5
Mini 7v7	2	4.0	4.0	0
Mini 5v5	0	0	3.0	-3.0

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

5.10.3 Scenario 2: Converting un-used and underutilised adult football pitches to youth football and mini-soccer pitches

- **Rationale:** There are currently six un-used adult football pitches (see scenario 1 above) and spare capacity equivalent to two further adult pitches at utilised sites, which could be converted into youth football and mini-soccer pitches. This additional capacity created is tabulated below for each pitch type, based upon ‘standard’ quality pitches:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Number of pitches fitting in available space</i>	<i>Weekly match equivalent capacity</i>	<i>Peak match equivalent capacity</i>
Adult football	8	16.0	8.0
Youth 11v11	8	16.0	8.0
Youth 9v9	8	16.0	8.0
Mini 7v7	16	64.0	16.0
Mini 5v5	16	64.0	16.0

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:

- There are shortfalls in youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, which could be accommodated in part by converting adult pitches.
- All the sites have secured community access so usage would be assured.

- **Disadvantages:** There are no obvious disadvantages to this scenario.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers some advantages for enhancing local pitch capacity on a cost-effective basis but should still be examined further on a site-by-site basis.

5.10.4 Scenario 3: Accessing pitches on education sites

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Local clubs with surplus demand</i>
ACS Cobham Int. School	Cobham	3	-	-	-	-	Cobham Village FC
Bell Farm Primary School	Walton	-	-	-	2	-	Walton & Hersham JFC
Burhill Primary School	Hersham	-	-	1	-	-	Hersham FC
Cardinal Newman Pr. Sch.	Hersham	-	-	-	1	1	Elm Grove Colts FC
Chandler's Field Prim. Sch.	West Molesey	-	-	-	2	-	Molesey Juniors FC
Claremont Fan Court Sch.	Esher	1	-	1(1)	1(1)	-	Esher Youth FC
Claygate Primary School	Claygate	-	-	1	-	-	Claygate Royals FC
Cranmere Primary School	Esher	-	-	1	-	-	Esher Youth FC
Cleves Junior Academy	Weybridge	-	-	1	1	-	Walton Casuals Juniors FC
Danes Hill School	Oxshott	2	1	1	-	-	Oxshott Royals FC
Esher C of E High School	Esher	2	-	-	-	-	Metropolitan Police JFC
Esher Church School	Esher	-	-	1	-	-	Esher Youth FC
Feltonfleet School	Cobham	-	-	1	2	2	Cobham FC
Grovelands Primary School	Walton	-	-	1	-	-	Walton Casuals Juniors FC
Heathside School	Weybridge	2	-	-	-	-	-
Hinchley Wood School	Hinchley Wood	3	-	-	-	-	Esher Youth FC
Hurst Park Primary Sch.	West Molesey	-	-	1	1	-	Molesey Juniors FC
Long Ditton St. Mary's PS	Long Ditton	-	-	-	1	-	Metropolitan Police JFC
Milbourne Lodge School	Esher	-	-	1	2	-	Metropolitan Police JFC
Notre Dame School	Cobham	-	1	-	1	1	Cobham FC
Parkside School	Cobham	-	-	2	2	2	Cobham FC
Royal Kent Primary School	Oxshott	-	-	-	1	-	Oxshott Royals FC
St. Alban's Primary Sch.	East Molesey	-	-	-	1	-	Molesey Juniors FC
St. Charles Borromeo Sch.	Weybridge	-	-	-	1	-	Walton Casuals Juniors FC
St. James's Primary School	Weybridge	-	-	-	2	-	Walton & Hersham JFC
St. Lawrence's Junior Sch.	East Molesey	-	-	-	2	1	Molesey Juniors FC
St. Paul's Primary School	Thames Ditton	-	-	-	1	-	Metropolitan Police JFC
Walton Oak Primary Sch.	Walton	-	-	-	1	-	Walton Casuals Juniors
TOTALS	-	13	2	13(1)	25(1)	7	-

- The table below models the effect of gaining access to school pitches to meet future community demand. It shows that whilst additional pitches would still need to be provided for youth 11v11 and mini-soccer 5v5, the number of new pitches required would be substantially reduced. Whilst match equivalent capacity is reduced by the education use, it would nevertheless make sense to consider negotiating the use of these pitches to meet additional future demand, rather than making entirely new provision.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current School pitches</i>	<i>Match equivalent capacity</i>	<i>Future demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Balance (match equivalents)</i>
Adult football	13	13.0	4.0	+9.0
Youth 11v11	2	2.0	5.5	-3.5
Youth 9v9	13(1)	13.5	3.5	+10.0
Mini 7v7	25(1)	25.5	4.0	+21.5
Mini 5v5	7	7.0	3.0	+4.0

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into use at little or no additional cost.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if community-based clubs were playing on school sites.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - None of the schools has community use at present and there is no obvious mechanism for securing it, so there is no guarantee that they would be prepared to commence such an arrangement.
 - No site has a Community Use Agreement so continued access would be unsecured.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers some advantages for enhancing local pitch capacity on a cost-effective basis and should therefore be examined further on a site-by-site basis.

5.10.5 Scenario 4: De-commission all council-operated football pitches

- **Rationale:** Elmbridge Borough Council provides 37 football pitches at 12 sites in the Borough, all of which ‘standard’ quality. In addition, five further pitches at Council-owned sites are currently unused. Providing pitches is a permissive rather than a statutory requirement for local authorities, therefore the Council is under no obligation to provide them. If alternatives were available therefore, the Council could decommission its pitches. The table below models the effects of removing council pitches, but re-instating un-used and disused pitches, plus those on school sites with no current community access. The numbers in brackets represent overmarked pitches with consequent reduced capacity. The data shows that all current football needs might *theoretically* be met without using council-owned pitches.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Secured non-EBC pitches</i>	<i>Current peak pitch needs</i>	<i>Deficit at non-EBC pitches</i>	<i>Unused non-EBC pitches</i>	<i>Pitches with no access</i>	<i>Position including unused/no access pitches</i>

Adult football	15	18.0	-3.0	1	31	+29.0
Youth 11v11	5	7.0	-2.0	0	6	+4.0
Youth 9v9	4(3)	10.0	-6.5	0	16(1)	+10.5
Mini 7v7	7(2)	7.0	+1.0	0	29(1)	+30.5
Mini 5v5	5	4.75	+0.25	0	7	+7.25

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that there would be significant pitch maintenance cost savings for the Council.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - As indicated in Scenario 1, some of the disused pitches were abandoned because of their poor quality and therefore there would be capital cost implications in re-instating them to a standard that would sustain sufficient use to compensate for the loss of the Council pitches.
 - As indicated in Scenario 2, schools are under no obligation to hire their pitches for community use and many are unwilling to do so for a variety of reasons including wear-and-tear to the playing surfaces that impacts adversely upon education use and logistical problems of accessing school fields out of hours. For this reason, no assumptions could be made about community accessibility to school pitches.
 - As identified in section 5.9.4, all existing pitches are required to meet current and/or future needs, so Council pitches could not be lost without serious detriment to overall local pitch needs.
- **Conclusions:** It would be unacceptably risky to decommission the Council’s football pitches, given the high degree of uncertainty over the quality of the currently unused pitch stock and the difficulties of securing community use of school pitches. However, the Council should keep the position under regular review and could decommission pitches should demand patterns permit. Furthermore, any sites with decommissioned pitches should be kept as public open space, to allow for the re-instatement of pitches in the future, in response to increases in demand.

5.10.6 Scenario 5: Improve existing pitch carrying capacity

- **Rationale:** The following football pitches in Elmbridge are either ‘standard’ or ‘poor’ quality and as such their carrying capacity is compromised. The users of each site are also listed in the table below, to illustrate which clubs might benefit from pitch quality (and related capacity) improvements. Sites identified as priorities for improvement in the LFFP are listed in italics and bold text:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Club users</i>
Ashley Primary School	Walton	-	-	-	2	1	Walton & Hersham JFC
Cobham Recreation Ground	Cobham	2	-	-	-	-	Manor Athletic FC Oxshott Royals JFC
Coronation Recn. Ground	Hersham	3	-	1	1	-	Ditton Dynamo FC Lighthouse FC
<i>Elm Grove Arena</i>	<i>Hersham</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Elm Grove Colts FC</i>

Esher College	Thames Ditton	2	-	-	-	-	Art Brut FC
Hinchley Wood Primary Sch.	Esher	-	-	1	-	-	Gemini FC
Imber Court Sports Club	East Molesey	-	2	2	1	-	
Leg o' Mutton Field	Cobham	-	1	1	(1)	1	Cobham FC

<i>Site</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Club users</i>
Long Ditton Recn. Ground	Long Ditton	3	-	-	-	-	AFC Surbiton Ceramica FC Claygate Royals FC Epsom Casuals FC Key Sports FC Surbiton Eagles FC Woolpack Eagles FC
Molesey Hurst Recn. Ground	Molesey	2	-	-	-	-	Kingston Ravens FC Molesey Strollers FC Refresh Veterans FC Sporting Renegades FC
Old Cranleighans Sp. Ground	Thames Ditton	3	1	-	-	-	AFC Kingston Double H FC Epsom Albion FC Old Cranleighan FC
St. Andrew's Primary School	Cobham	-	-	-	1	3	Cobham Village FC Oxshott Royals JFC
<i>Strenue Sports Club</i>	<i>Thames Ditton</i>	-	1	(1)	1	1	<i>Esher Youth FC</i>
Three Rivers Academy	Walton	2	1	1	1	1	Walton Casuals JFC
<i>The Wilderness</i>	<i>East Molesey</i>	3	1	1	2	1	<i>Molesey Juniors FC</i>
West End Common	Esher	1	-	1	1	-	AFC Westend
West End Recreation Ground	Esher	3	-	1	1	-	AFC Westend YFC Castle Hill FC Claygate Royals FC Epsom & Ewell OBFC Lower Green FC
West Molesey Recn. Grd.	West Molesey	1	-	-	-	-	Surbiton Lions FC
<i>TOTALS</i>	-	26	8	8(1)	11(1)	9	-

- The table below models the effect of upgrading all the pitches to 'good' quality and subsequently maintaining them as such.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Improved pitch capacity (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Future demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Balance (match equivalents)</i>
Adult football	26.0	4.0	+22.0
Youth 11v11	15.0	5.5	+9.5
Youth 9v9	23.0	3.5	+19.5
Mini 7v7	33.0	4.0	+31.0
Mini 5v5	21.0	3.0	+18.0

- ***Advantages:*** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Overall usage capacity would be improved and the boroughwide collective weekly capacity deficiencies would be eliminated. Additional weekly capacity could be created at sites where supply and demand are currently balanced at Cobham Recreation Ground, Elm Grove Recreation Ground, Long Ditton Recreation Ground, Molesey Hurst Recreation Ground, Three Rivers Academy, West End Common and West End Recreation Ground.

- This would be a cost-effective option compared with the expense of providing new pitches, particularly if land acquisition costs are factored in.
- Based on the findings of the LFFP, pitch quality improvements at Elm Grove Arena, Strenue Sports Club and The Wilderness would have the greatest benefits in terms of addressing overall capacity issues.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The main pinch point in the football pitch supply-demand balance is peak time spare capacity, rather than the weekly carrying capacity. Even with some fixture scheduling to allow consecutive youth and mini-soccer matches, it would still not be possible to accommodate all current needs at peak times, other than for adult pitches.
 - The capital cost of pitch improvements may be supported by the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme, the main financial challenge to many pitch providers would be meeting the revenue cost implications of the enhanced works associated with maintaining the pitch quality as ‘good’.
- **Conclusions:** Whilst pitch quality improvements would improve carrying capacity at some sites, it would have only limited effect on availability in the peak period and would therefore not offer the best solution for meeting current and projected future deficits.

5.10.7 Scenario 6: Improve poor quality changing facilities

- **Rationale:** 48 football pitches in Elmbridge (49.0%) are served by either ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities. Whilst youth and mini players frequently do not use changing facilities even where they are provided, it is concerning that almost a half of pitches are served by ‘poor’ quality changing facilities. The adverse impact on user experiences makes it more difficult to recruit and retain new players, particularly women and girls. Improving or providing changing facilities would help to improve efforts to increase participation. The sites that would benefit most from improvements, based upon the current condition of the facilities, the number of pitches served and the usage levels of the site are:
 - Elm Grove Arena
 - Elm Grove Recreation Ground
 - Old Tiffinians Sports Association
 - Strenue Sports Club
 - The Wilderness
- **Advantages:** The main advantage of this scenario is that better quality changing provision would improve the likelihood of retaining existing and attracting new players.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Changing facility enhancements would not impact directly on the usage capacity of the sites, so would not improvements would be qualitative rather than quantitative.

- Youth and mini-soccer players generally make limited use of changing facilities - often toilets are the key requirement rather than changing space and showering facilities *per se*, so the cost of new or improved provision in relation to its benefits would be relatively high.

- **Conclusions:** Improving the changing provision at sites where it is poor or absent at present, in particular the five facilities identified above, when resources allow and with external funding support where available, would support efforts to improve player recruitment and retention.

5.10.8 Scenario 7: Projecting higher demand levels

- **Rationale:** The Elmbridge football clubs survey indicated that in their view 10 additional adult teams, 26 youth 11v11 teams, 17 youth 9v9 teams, 11 mini 7v7 teams and 14 mini 5v5 teams could be accommodated in Elmbridge if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. This would represent a 31% increase in the number of teams in the Borough, so it is therefore sensible to consider alternative projections, based upon existing known team numbers plus unmet and latent demand estimates, to determine the implications of each scenario before establishing which figures to base future needs on. Future grass pitch need projections using Team Generation Rates based upon the number of current teams plus unmet and latent demand estimates are as follows:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Latent teams</i>	<i>Total teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Pop. 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>	<i>Match equivalents</i>
Adult male football	18-45	21,660	54	6	60	1: 361	24,281	67	13	6.5
Adult female football	18-45	21,510	4	4	8	1: 2,689	24,113	9	5	2.5
Boys youth 11v11 football	12-17	4,400	77	20	97	1: 45	4,932	110	33	16.5
Girls youth 11v11 football	12-17	4,060	9	6	15	1: 271	4,551	17	8	4.0
Boys youth 9v9 football	10-11	1,920	54	10	64	1: 30	2,152	72	18	9.0
Girls youth 9v9 football	10-11	1,800	9	7	16	1: 113	2,018	18	9	4.5
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	8-9	4,300	71	11	82	1: 52	4,820	93	22	11.0
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	6-7	4,100	51	14	65	1: 63	4,596	73	22	11.0

- Future '3G' pitch needs to 2035 are modelled based upon the projected number of additional teams identified above (130) multiplied by the FA's guide figure for training needs of 38 teams per pitch, to produce a requirement for 3.42 additional pitches, in addition to the existing assessed shortfall of 4.66 pitches.
- A comparison of the differences in future demand projections based upon expressed and expressed plus latent/unmet demand is tabulated below:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Extra teams expressed demand</i>	<i>Extra teams expressed plus unmet/latent demand</i>	<i>Difference in team numbers</i>	<i>Difference in match equivalents</i>
Adult	60	8	18	10	5.0
Youth 11v11	86	11	41	30	15.0
Youth 9v9	63	7	27	20	10.0
Mini-soccer 7v7	71	8	22	14	7.0
Mini-soccer 5v5	51	6	22	16	8.0
'3G' football turf pitches	331	40	130	90	2.36*

* Figure relates to additional pitch requirements based upon the FA's guide figure.

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Local football team numbers have countered the national trend by increasing by 17% between 2013 and 2018. The projected demand levels involving unmet and latent demand indicate a 39.3% increase in team numbers, but over a much longer period (16 years to 2035).
 - The additional team numbers projected by local clubs are based upon reasoned assumptions regarding waiting lists and the progression of age group teams.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Expressed demand is a known quantity and therefore provides a sounder basis for projecting future need. There is no guarantee that the unmet and latent demand estimated would be deliverable and providing extra facilities to meet such needs would therefore lead to overprovision.
 - Football participation rates have been static or falling at national level and the number of players typically required to sustain a team has increased steadily, so projecting demand increases based on population increases and current TGRs is more in keeping with national trends.
- **Conclusions:** On balance, projecting future needs based upon expressed demand only is the most appropriate way of establishing pitch requirements.

5.11 Policy recommendations

5.11.1 Introduction

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

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

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

5.11.2 Protect

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

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: Whilst only 11% of the football pitches in Elmbridge are on sites without secured community use, the absence of Community Use Agreements at those sites makes it impossible to assume the continued availability of the pitches for the community. It also means that schools cannot apply for external grant funding to improve their facilities, including funds from developer contributions. It is therefore recommended that efforts are made to achieve security of Community Use Agreements at sites without them at present.

5.11.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing 'poor' quality provision, including dis-used sites: 7% of pitches in the borough are rated as 'poor' quality and several more are rated at the lower end of 'standard' quality. Additionally, 48.0% are served by 'poor' quality or no changing facilities. This reduces the quality of playing experience, may present child protection issues in relation to simultaneous adult and junior use of changing provision and may deter some potential participants. Subject to security of tenure issues, it is recommended that:

- The site owners concerned should be supported to apply for external funding for facility enhancements, including the receipt of developer contributions (see below) where the usage capacity would be enhanced.
- If funding is not available, sites could be designated as exclusively adult or youth sites, to avoid the problems of mixed adult-youth changing areas.
- Sites with poor playing surfaces should apply to be part of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme, which will offer a programme to improve the short, medium and long-term maintenance of pitches to improve pitch quality.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions (enhancements): Some additional demand for football arising from the proposed housing development in Elmbridge to 2035, can be accommodated by enhancing existing pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the action plan in the Elmbridge PPS be used as the basis for determining facility enhancements that demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements. To facilitate this, specific playing pitch projects should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123. Larger strategic projects should be exempt from CIL, with funding collected via Section 106 contributions.

5.11.4 Provide

Recommendation 5 - ‘3G’ football turf pitches: Based upon the FA’s guide figure, there is a current shortfall of 4.66 full-sized ‘3G’ pitches in the borough, with demand equivalent to a 1.05 full-sized pitches being generated by population growth by 2035. ‘3G’ pitches are an important component of provision because their all-weather nature and floodlights enable a high volume of play to be accommodated on good quality playing surfaces. The provision of additional ‘3G’ pitches to meet needs identified in the Elmbridge PPS should be supported as a priority in appropriate locations. Sites currently under active consideration include Heathside-Walton School, a World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant pitch with some football use at Cobham Free School (with the Cobham Sports Association), Imber Court Sports Club and ACS Cobham International School. Given the number of additional pitches required, other proposals should also be encouraged, in particular those identified in the LFFP at Esher College, Cobham FC and Lower Green Community Centre.

Recommendation 6 - Developer contributions (new provision): Most of the extra demand for football arising from the proposed housing development in Elmbridge to 2035, will need to be accommodated through the provision of new pitches and facilities. It is recommended that agreement be concluded with developers to provide football pitches to meet the specific future needs identified in the Elmbridge PPS.

5.12 Action Plan

5.12.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the football action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for EBC - Elmbridge Borough Council, FA - Football Association and GANTIP - Grass and Natural Turf Pitch Improvement Programme. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2018* (2018).

5.12.2 Key strategic actions

Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Community access to education pitches	Pursue formal Community Use agreements at all existing and any future proposed pitches on education sites.	EBC	Academies and schools	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	High
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved football facilities.	EBC	Developers	Determined by Sport England’s New Development Calculator	High
Identification of sites for additional ‘3G’ football turf pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm the feasibility of providing pitches at Heathside-Walton School, Cobham Free School, ACS Cobham International School and Imber Court Sports Club. Examine the feasibility of ‘3G’ pitches at additional sites identified in the LFFP at Esher College, Cobham FC and Lower Green Community Centre. 	EBC	Potential host sites S106 funding	£10,000 for feasibility studies	High
Site specific grounds maintenance needs	Review site specific grounds maintenance needs when next reviewing EBC’s grounds maintenance contract specification.	EBC	GANTIP	-	High

5.12.3 Site specific actions

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Ashley Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini 7v7 pitch used to over capacity in the peak period • Changing facilities not available for external hirers • No secured community use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move some 7v7 matches to '3G' • Review the need for on-site changing • Pursue Community Use Agreement 	Ashley Primary School	Walton and Hersham JFC GANTIP	-	Medium
Claygate Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches used to over capacity in the peak period • Poor quality temporary changing facilities after the original pavilion burnt down. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine options for increasing pitch capacity • Resolve outstanding issues regarding pavilion re-provision 	EBC	Claygate Rec. Grd. Trust Claygate Royals FC GANTIP	£750,000 for new pavilion	High
Cobham Football Club	Identified in the LFFP as a site for a '3G' pitch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study. • Provide pitch 	Cobham FC	Football Foundation	£10,000 for feasibility study. £930,000 for '3G' pitch	High
Cobham Recreation Ground	Identified in the LFFP as a priority site for changing improvements.	Upgrade changing facilities.	EBC	Football Foundation	£665,000 for changing upgrade	High
Colet's Health and Fitness	Adult pitches used to over capacity in the peak period	Move some matches to '3G' as capacity expands	Colet's Health & Fitness	Old Pauline FC	-	Medium
Coronation Recn. Ground	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Ditton Fields	Available for community use but no current demand.	Reinstate access to pitches in response to demand	EBC	-	-	Low
Elm Grove Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches over used at peak times - identified in the LFFP as priority site for grass pitch improvements. • Poor quality changing facilities - identified in the LFFP as a priority site for changing improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch capacity • Upgrade changing facilities 	Whiteley Homes Trust	Elm Grove Colts FC Football Foundation	£100,000 for pitch upgrade £665,000 for changing upgrade	High
Elm Grove Recn. Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch available but no current demand. • Poor quality changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstate access to pitch in response to demand • Upgrade changing facilities 	EBC	Football Foundation	£665,000 for changing upgrade	High
Elmbridge Xcel	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Esher College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secured community use • Identified in the LFFP as a site for a '3G' pitch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue Community Use Agreement • Feasibility study. 	Esher College	Football Foundation	£10,000 for feasibility study.	High

		• Provide pitch			£930,000 for '3G' pitch	
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<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Esher Cricket Club	Mini 7v7 pitch used to over capacity in the peak period	Move some 7v7 matches to '3G' as capacity expands	Claygate Royals FC	Esher Cricket Club	-	Medium
George Froude Park	Identified in the LFFP as a priority site for informal small-sided pitches.	Provide informal, small-sided pitches.	EBC	Football Foundation	£20,000 annual maintenance	Medium
Hersham FC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth 9v9 pitch used to over capacity in the peak period Poor quality changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move some 9v9 matches to '3G' as capacity grows Assess the need for changing facility improvements 	Hersham FC	-	-	Medium
Hinchley Wood Primary Sch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth 9v9 pitch used to over capacity in the peak period Changing facilities not available for external hirers No secured community use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move some 9v9 matches to '3G' Review the need for on-site changing Pursue Community Use Agreement 	EBC	Hinchley Wood Primary Sch. GANTIP EBC	£5,000 p.a. grounds maintenance	Medium
Imber Court Sports Club	Mini 7v7 pitch used to over capacity in the peak period	Move some 7v7 matches to '3G' as capacity expands	Esher Youth FC	-	-	Medium
Leg o' Mutton Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches used to over capacity in the peak period Poor quality pitches No dedicated on-site changing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move some matches to '3G' as capacity expands Review the need for on-site changing 	Cobham FC	EBC GANTIP	£5,000 p.a. grounds maintenance	High
Long Ditton Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Lower Green Community Centre	Identified in the LFFP as a site for a '3G' pitch. and a new MUGA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study Provide pitch Provide MUGA 	EBC	Football Foundation	£10,000 for feasibility study. £930,000 for '3G' pitch £150,000 for MUGA	High
Molesey Hurst Recn. Ground	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Molesey FC	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-

Old Tiffinians Sports Club	Changing provision is 'poor' identified in the LFFP as priority site for changing upgrade	Upgrade changing facilities	Old Tiffinians Sports Club	Football foundation	£665,000 for changing upgrade	High
Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Oxshott Village Sports Club	Mini 7v7 pitch used to over capacity in the peak period	Move some 7v7 matches to '3G' as capacity expands	Oxshott Royals FC	-	-	Medium
St. Andrew's Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini 7v7 pitch used to over capacity in the peak period • Changing facilities not available for external hirers • No secured community use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move some 7v7 matches to '3G' as capacity expands • Review the need for on-site changing • Pursue Community Use Agreement 	St. Andrew's Primary School	EBC	-	Medium
Strenue Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini 7v7 pitch used to over capacity in the peak period - identified in the LFFP as a priority site for grass pitch improvements. • Poor quality changing facilities - identified in the LFFP as a priority site for changing improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch capacity • Upgrade changing facilities 	Strenue Sports Club	Football Foundation	£100,000 for pitch upgrade £665,000 for changing upgrade	High
Three Rivers Academy	Youth 11v11 and 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches used to over capacity in the peak period	Move some matches to '3G' pitch on site	-	-	-	-
The Wilderness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth 11v11 and 9v9 and mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches used to over capacity in the peak period - identified in the LFFP as a priority site for grass pitch improvements. • Identified in the LFFP as a priority site for changing improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch capacity • Upgrade changing facilities 	Molesey Juniors FC	Football Foundation	£100,000 for pitch upgrade £665,000 for changing upgrade	High
Walton Cricket Club	Pitch available on cricket outfield but no current demand.	Reinstate access to pitch in response to demand	Walton Cricket Club	-	-	Low
West End Common	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
West End Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-

West Molesey Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
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6 CRICKET NEEDS IN ELMBRIDGE

6.1 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders delivering cricket in Elmbridge are:

- **Surrey Cricket:** Surrey Cricket manages recreational cricket in the county, from its grass-roots foundations through to the interface with the first-class game.
- **Surrey Cricket-affiliated clubs:** There are 17 affiliated clubs in Elmbridge, who collectively run 63 adult and 140 junior teams.
- **British Tamil Cricket League:** Four clubs from the British Tamil Cricket League play their home games on pitches in Elmbridge.
- **Pitch providers:** Pitches in the borough are variously managed and maintained by cricket clubs, Elmbridge Borough Council and some schools.

6.2 Strategic context

6.2.1 National cricket strategy

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

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

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

Make cricket accessible: The following will be prioritised:

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

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

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

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

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

Support our communities: The following will be prioritised:

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

6.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

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

Runnymede

The '*Runnymede Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2018) was recently adopted and identifies that there is:

- There is a peak-time deficit of two pitches and a further three pitches will be needed to cater for additional demand by 2030.
- There is evidence of exported cricket demand from Elmbridge to Runnymede, with two teams from Weybridge Cricket Club playing at Heathervale Recreation Ground and St. George's College.

Spelthorne

'*A Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne 2013 - 2018*' (2013) identifies that there is:

- There is a current deficit of 5.1 cricket pitches in Spelthorne, including provision for a 'strategic reserve'.
- The deficit in cricket pitches is projected to increase to 7.6 pitches by 2018.
- There is some evidence of cricket demand being exported from Spelthorne to Elmbridge, with some Elmbridge-based clubs drawing a proportion of their membership from Spelthorne.

Woking

The '*Woking Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy*' (2016) identifies that: there is enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current and future demand for cricket in Woking.

Guildford

The 'Guildford Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment' (2017) is the only current evaluation of playing pitch needs in the borough but its needs are assessed based upon a spatial standard of 1.35ha of pitches per 1,000 people, rather than Sport England's recommended methodology. Elmbridge exports cricket demand to Guildford with several junior teams from Cobham Avorians and Whiteley Village cricket clubs playing home games at pitches in the borough.

Mole Valley

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy but bases its needs assessment on a 2007 study of open space, sport and recreation. There is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

London Borough of Richmond

The 'London Borough of Richmond Playing Pitch Strategy' (2015) identifies that there is an existing seasonal surplus of 118 match equivalent sessions, which is projected to reduce to 108 match equivalent sessions by 2035.

London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames:

The 'Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames Playing Pitch Strategy' (2015) identifies that there is sufficient cricket pitch capacity to meet current and future needs.

6.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

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

- ***Wider agendas:*** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role that cricket can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment.
- ***Policy shifts:*** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for cricket to demonstrate that it can attract new and lapsed participants. Recent innovations such as 'Last Man Stands', Tape-ball and soft ball tournaments might prove more attractive than the more traditional model.
- ***Neighbouring areas:*** There is evidence of exported demand for cricket from Elmbridge to neighbouring areas.

6.3 Cricket demand in Elmbridge

6.3.1 Affiliated clubs and teams

A questionnaire survey was circulated to all ECB-affiliated Cricket clubs in Elmbridge. 10 clubs responded, collectively representing 165 teams, or 81.3% of all the 203 affiliated teams in the Borough. The questionnaire was followed up by a forum session attended by six clubs.

- **ECB-affiliated clubs:** The following clubs in Elmbridge affiliate to the ECB:

Club	Home Ground(s)	Adult male teams	Adult female teams	Junior male teams	Junior female teams	Veterans /social teams
Claygate CC	Claygate Recreation Ground	3	-	6	-	-
Cobham Avorians CC	Cobham Avorians Cricket Club <i>Ockham Cricket Club, Guildford</i>	4	-	4	-	-
Cypos CC	Old Tiffinians Sports Association	1	-	-	-	-
East Molesey CC	Memorial Cricket Ground Imber Court Coronation Recreation Ground Long Ditton Recreation Ground	5	-	19	4	-
Esher CC	New Road Cricket Ground West End Recreation Ground	4	-	24	2	-
Long Ditton CC	Stokes Field, Long Ditton	3	-	5	1	-
Maori Oxshott CC	Oxshott Village Sports Club	3	-	8	-	-
Old Pauline CC	Old Pauline's Sports Ground	3	-	-	-	-
Old Tiffinians CC	Old Tiffinians Sports Association	1	-	-	-	-
Stoke D'Abernon CC	Stoke D'Abernon Recn. Ground Parkside School	3	1	12	1	-
Surrey Deaf CC	Cobham Avorians Cricket Club	1	-	-	-	-
Thames Ditton CC	Thames Ditton Cricket Club Old Pauline's Sports Ground	5	-	6	1	-
Walton-on-Thames CC	Ashley Park Brownacres	7	-	11	2	1
West End Esher CC	West End Common	2	-	3	1	1
Weybridge CC	Weybridge Cricket Club <i>Pyrford Cricket Club, Woking</i> <i>Heathervale Recreation Ground</i> <i>St. George's College, Runnymede</i>	7	-	20	5	1
Weybridge Vandals CC	Brownacres	4	-	-	-	-
Whiteley Village CC	Whiteley Village Cricket Ground West End Recreation Ground Reeds School <i>George Abbott School, Guildford</i>	4	-	5	-	-
TOTALS	-	59	1	123	17	3

- **British Tamil Cricket League-affiliated clubs:** The following clubs that play their home games in Elmbridge affiliate to the league:

Club	Home Ground	Adult male teams
Koddamunai CC	Old Tiffinians Sports Association	1
Manipay Parish Sports Club	Old Tiffinians Sports Association	1
New Malden CC	Old Tiffinians Sports Association	1
Sky Rose - Rev CC	Molesey Hurst Recreation Ground	1
TOTALS	-	4

6.3.2 Demand trends

- **National demand:** The ECB's most recent 'National Cricket Playing Survey' (2015) identified a 7% decrease in player numbers between 2013 and 2014. Of the 850,000 players nationally, 250,000 are 'core' players (playing at least 12 times per season), 400,000 are 'occasional' players (playing between three and 11 times per season) and 200,000 are 'cameo' players (playing once or twice per season). 5% of all organised fixtures were cancelled in 2014 because at least one of the teams was unable to field eleven players.
- Sport England's 'Active People' survey national data for Cricket indicates that the percentage of adults who played cricket the four weeks prior to each survey has fallen in the period since 2005.

2005/06	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% Change
0.48%	0.49%	0.49%	0.41%	0.51%	0.43%	0.34%	0.37%	0.32%	0.42%	-0.06%

- **Local demand:** Comparison of current Cricket teams' data from Elmbridge with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Elmbridge Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals significant differences for the two age groups:

Team Type	No. Teams 2013	No. Teams 2017	% Change
Adult teams	77	63	-19.2%
Junior teams	107	140	+30.8%
TOTAL TEAMS	184	203	+10.3%

6.3.3 Displaced demand

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

- **Imported demand in Elmbridge-based clubs:** Based upon the results of the clubs' survey, the proportion of members from Elmbridge-based Cricket clubs that are resident outside the borough is equivalent to 33.9 teams.
- **Exported demand from internal clubs:** 15 teams from Elmbridge play their matches on pitches in neighbouring areas.
- **Net effect:** The net effect of displaced demand in Elmbridge is 18.9 teams (33.9 imported minus 15.0 exported).

6.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

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

Consultation with local clubs identified the following:

- **Claygate CC:** The Club is currently waiting for the Claygate Recreation Ground Trust to make a decision on rebuilding the burnt down clubhouse at Claygate Recreation Ground. The lack of good changing facilities has resulted in the loss of adult members to other clubs. Claygate played occasional games at Coronation Recreation Ground last season but found the quality of both the pitch and pavilion to be poor.
- **East Molesey CC:** The club stated that ‘our biggest challenge is a lack of appropriate facilities for playing our home games’. ‘We are desperate for a second pitch in Molesey. We have attempted to create one at Hurst Park and one at The Pavilion site but both were unsuccessful’. ‘All of our teams would like to play at our main venue. Imber Court is OK and significantly better than anything we can get through Elmbridge [Council]. If neither is available we have no choice but to use council pitches which are appalling’.
- **Esher CC:** The club commented that the ‘quality of pitches for hire in the borough are poor. We believe standards have fallen. We would value better prepared pitches and better maintained changing facilities’.
- **Stoke D’Abernon CC:** The club commented that ‘we’d prefer a second square at Stoke D’Abernon Recreation Ground but Elmbridge Council wouldn’t formally entertain that option. Instead, we have dogs and their faeces to sort out’.
- **Walton-on-Thames CC:** The club commented that ‘we would like our 3rd XI and 4th XI’s to ground share with a school or winter sports club’.
- **Weybridge CC:** The club commented that ‘we would prefer a more local second ground’.

6.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist, latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from a population if they had access to more or better provision. Given the generally high rates of participation in Elmbridge and the current strategic emphasis on developing women and girl’s cricket, it is reasonable to assume that the local clubs’ estimates of additional women and girls’ team formation potential above would be a more accurate assessment of the overall levels of latent demand. Consultation with local clubs indicated that the following additional teams could be accommodated in Elmbridge if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. The numbers represent a 10.8% increase over current teams.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Men’s Teams</i>	<i>Women’s teams</i>	<i>Boys teams</i>	<i>Girl’s teams</i>
Claygate Cricket Club	0	0	0	0
Cobham Avorians CC	0	0	1	1
East Molesey CC	1	1	1	1
Esher Cricket Club	1	1	2	2
Long Ditton CC	0	0	0	0
Maori Oxshott CC	0	0	0	0
Old Tiffinian CC	1	0	0	0
Stoke D’Abernon	0	0	0	0
Walton Cricket Club	1	1	2	2

Weybridge Cricket Club	0	1	1	1
TOTAL TEAMS	4	4	7	7

6.3.6 The views of stakeholders on cricket participation and demand

Consultation with affiliated cricket clubs identified the following issues in relation to Elmbridge:

- ‘All Stars Cricket’ has been a success locally, with 310 young players attracted during the 2018 season and a number of adults have also been attracted to clubs.
- Cricket is expanding rapidly in Elmbridge, including some growth in girl’s cricket.
- Clubs would welcome an inter-club loan system to encourage greater participation for their members, particularly juniors who are unable to play for an adult team within their own club. There is concern about the high drop-out rate amongst juniors at those clubs with large youth sections who are unable to offer sufficient game time.
- The Surrey Slam T20 competition attracted five teams in 2018, which indicates that there is localised midweek demand for cricket in the borough. There is some indoor cricket with scope for increased participation to provide valuable opportunities for young people.

6.4 Cricket supply in Elmbridge

6.4.1 Cricket facilities

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

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Brownacres	Walton Lane, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1QP	2	16(1)
Claygate Recreation Ground	Dalmore Avenue, Claygate KT10 0HQ	2	12(2)
Cobham Avorians Cricket Club	Convent Lane, Cobham KT11 1HB	1	15
Coronation Recreation Ground	Molesey Road, Hersham KT12 4QZ	1	9
East Molesey Cricket Club	Graburn Way, East Molesey KT8 9AL	1	17
Esher Cricket Club	New Road, Esher KT10 9NU	1*	11
Imber Court Sports Club	Ember Lane, East Molesey KT8 0BT	2	20
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Stokes’s Field, Betts way, Long Ditton KT6 5HT	1	12
Long Ditton Recreation Ground	Windmill Lane, Long Ditton KT6 5JT	1	6
Molesey Hurst Recreation Ground	Molesham Way, Molesey KT8 1NT	1	5
Old Paulines’ Sports Club	Speer Rd., Thames Ditton KT7 0PW	2	16
Old Tiffinians Sports Association	Summer Road, East Molesey KT8 9LU	2	24(2)
Oxshott Village Sports Club	Steels Lane, Oxshott KT22 0RF	1	7
Parkside School	The Manor, Stoke D’Abernon KT11 3PX	3	12
Reeds School	Sandy Lane, Cobham KT11 2ES	1	15
Stoke D’Abernon Recreation Ground	Stoke Rd., Stoke D’Abernon KT11 3PS	1	13(1)
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Giggs Hill Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0BT	1	12
Walton-on-Thames Cricket Club	Ashley Park, Ashley Park Ave., Walton KT12 1ET	1	16(1)
West End Common	West End Lane, Esher KT10 8NB	1	12
West End Recreation Ground	West End Lane, Esher KT10 8LB	1	15
Weybridge Cricket Club	Princes Rd., Weybridge KT13 9BU	1	20

Whiteley Village Cricket Club	Coombe Lane, Whiteley Village KT12 4EL	2	16(1)
TOTAL	-	30	301(8)

* Plus two junior pitches (each with four wickets) on the outfield of the main square.

- **Available for community use and not used:** One cricket pitch is available for community use and not used.

Site	Address	Pitches	Wickets	Reasons for non-usage
Coronation Recreation Ground	Molesey Road, Hersham KT12 4QZ	1	8	Drainage issues on the outfield have now been resolved so use of the pitch can be resumed.

- **Not available for community use:**

Site	Address	Pitches	Wickets
Esher High School	More Lane, Esher KT10 8AP	1	(1)
Feltonfleet School	Byfleet Road, Cobham KY11 1DR	1	12
Heathside School	Brooklands Lane, Weybridge KT13 8UZ	1	(1)
Hinchley Wood School	Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood, Esher KT10 0AQ	1	(1)
Old Tiffinians Sp. Assoc.	Summer Road, East Molesey KT8 9LU	2	20
Three Rivers Academy	Hersham Road, Walton-on-Thames KT12 5PY	1	8
TOTAL	-	7	40(3)

- **Pitches decommissioned in the past five years:**

Site	Address	Pitches	Wickets	Reason for de-commissioning
Elm Grove Recn. Ground	Hersham Rd., Walton-on-Thames KT12 1LH	1	8	The site is surrounded by housing which makes it unsuitable for anything other than junior matches.

6.4.2 Cricket facilities quality

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

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

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Wicket</i>	<i>Non-turf</i>	<i>Outfield</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Practice nets</i>
Brownacres	Good	Good	Standard	Good	-
Claygate Recreation Ground	Good	Poor	Standard	-	Good
Cobham Avorians Cricket Club	Good	-	Good	Good	Standard
Coronation Recreation Ground	Poor	-	Poor	Poor	-
East Molesey Cricket Club	Good	-	Good	Good	Good
Esher Cricket Club	Good	-	Good	Good	Good
Imber Court Sports Club	Standard	-	Standard	Good	-
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Good	-	Good	Good	Good
Long Ditton Recreation Ground	Standard	-	Standard	Standard	-
Molesey Hurst Recreation Ground	Poor	-	Poor	Standard	-
Old Paulines’ Sports Club	Good	-	Standard	Good	-
Old Tiffinians Sports Association	Good	Good	Good	Standard	-
Oxshott Village Sports Club	Good	-	Good	Good	Standard
Parkside School	Standard	-	Standard	Good	Good
Reeds School	Good	-	Good	Good	Good
Stoke D’Abernon Recn. Ground	Good	Good	Poor	Standard	Good
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Good	-	Standard	Good	-
Walton-on-Thames Cricket Club	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
West End Common	Good	-	Standard	Good	-
West End Recreation Ground	Poor	-	Poor	Poor	-
Weybridge Cricket Club	Good	-	Good	Good	Good
Whiteley Village Cricket Club	Good	Standard	Good	Standard	Poor

6.4.3 Pitch carrying capacity

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

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Grass wickets</i>	<i>Grass wicket capacity</i>	<i>Artificial wickets</i>	<i>Artificial wicket capacity</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Brownacres	16	80	1	60	140
Claygate Recreation Ground	12	60	2	0	60
Cobham Avorians Cricket Club	15	75	-	-	75
Coronation Recreation Ground	9	0	-	-	0
East Molesey Cricket Club	17	85	-	-	85

Esher Cricket Club	11	55	-	-	55
Imber Court Sports Club	20	80	-	-	80
Long Ditton Cricket Club	12	48	-	-	48
Long Ditton Recreation Ground	6	24	-	-	24
Molesey Hurst Recreation Ground	5	0	-	-	0
Site	Grass wickets	Grass wicket capacity	Artificial wickets	Artificial wicket capacity	Total capacity
Old Paulines' Sports Club	16	80	-	-	80
Old Tiffinians Sports Association	24	120	2	120	240
Oxshott Village Sports Club	7	35	-	-	35
Parkside School	12	48	-	-	48
Reeds School	15	75	-	-	75
Stoke D'Abernon Recn. Ground	13	65	1	60	125
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	12	60	-	-	60
Walton-on-Thames Cricket Club	16	80	1	60	140
West End Common	12	60	-	-	60
West End Recreation Ground	15	0	-	-	0
Weybridge Cricket Club	20	100	-	-	100
Whiteley Village Cricket Club	16	80	1	60	140
TOTALS	308	1,310	8	360	1,682

6.4.4 Pitch maintenance

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

- **Club-managed pitches:** The pitches owned and managed by local sports clubs, which comprise more than 50% of the pitches in the borough, are all maintained by the clubs themselves. This involves a combination of paid grounds staff, external contractors and volunteer help.
- **Council-owned pitches:** The council contracts an external contractor, G. Burley and Sons, to undertake cricket pitch maintenance. A pitch assessment has been arranged with the Surrey Cricket Foundation to advise the contractors on an improvement programme.
- **Pitches on education sites:** The school site with community use employs its own pitch maintenance staff.

6.4.5 Pitch hire charges

The cost of hiring council cricket pitches in Elmbridge and comparisons with other areas are as follows. All costs are for pitch and hire with the use of a pavilion:

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Cost per match (£)</i>
Elmbridge Borough Council	£119 (adult one-off hire) £94 (adult regular hire) £60 (junior one-off hire) £40 (junior regular hire)
Runnymede Borough Council	£102
Woking Borough Council	£95 (adult) £60 (junior)
Surrey Heath Borough Council	£94.50 (adult full day) £50.50 (junior full day)
Guildford Borough Council	£134 (full day) £99 (evening) £32.50 (juniors)

The comparison of prices shows that pitches charges in Elmbridge are generally on a par with those in neighbouring areas, with the exception of Guildford.

6.4.6 Ownership, management and security of access

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
Brownacres	Weybridge Vandals RFC	Weybridge Vandals CC	Secured
Claygate Recreation Ground	Elmbridge BC	Claygate Rec. Ground Trust	Secured
Cobham Avorians Cricket Club	Burhill Estate	Cobham Avorians CC	Secured
Coronation Recreation Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
East Molesey Cricket Club	East Molesey CC	East Molesey CC	Secured
Esher Cricket Club	Esher Cricket Club	Esher Cricket Club	Secured
Imber Court Sports Club	Metropolitan Police	Imber Court Sports Club	Secured
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Long Ditton CC	Long Ditton CC	Secured
Long Ditton Recn. Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
Molesey Hurst Recn. Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
Old Paulines' Sports Club	St. Paul's School	Colets Health & Fitness	Secured
Old Tiffinians Sports Association	Tiffinian Assoc. Ltd.	Old Tiffinians SC	Secured
Oxshott Village Sports Club	Oxshott Village SC	Oxshott Village SC	Secured
Parkside School	Parkside School	Parkside School	Unsecured
Reeds School	Reeds School	Reeds School	Unsecured
Stoke D'Abernon Recn. Ground	Elmbridge BC	Stoke D'Abernon CC	Secured
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Elmbridge BC	Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Secured
Walton-on-Thames Cricket Club	Ashley Park Residents Assoc.	Walton Cricket Club	Secured
West End Common	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
West End Recreation Ground	Elmbridge BC	Elmbridge BC	Secured
Weybridge Cricket Club	Weybridge Cricket Club	Weybridge Cricket Club	Secured
Whiteley Village Cricket Club	Whiteley Homes Trust	Whiteley Village CC	Secured

6.4.7 The views of stakeholders on pitch supply

Consultation with affiliated cricket clubs identified the following issues in relation to Elmbridge:

- **Available capacity:** Elmbridge has high levels of cricket participation which places pressure on the current stock of pitches. Additional capacity is needed to meet current demand. Schools have facilities but these are often difficult to access.
- **Council pitches:** Council pitches need to be significantly improved to meet the demands of clubs. This also applies to the quality of changing rooms and site management. Clubs would be willing to enter into partnership with the council to manage and improve sites.
- **Indoor facilities:** There is good access to indoor nets for winter training. Sites used include Esher High School, Cleaves School and the newly opened indoor cricket centre at Reeds School.
- **Claygate Cricket Club:** The pavilion was badly damaged by fire in November 2016. The club is in discussion with Elmbridge BC and Claygate Recreation Ground Trust to commence rebuilding, but in the meantime the club has had to spend £30,000 on temporary accommodation. The club has lost players as a result of the current situation.
- **Maori Oxshott Cricket Club:** The club needs to upgrade its pavilion to achieve promotion to a higher division. This includes provision of an umpires room. The club is developing plans to install non-turf wicket on its square. In the longer term it could be looking for a venue for a possible 3rd XI.
- **Stoke D'Abernon Cricket Club:** The club plays on a public recreation ground which suffers from inconsiderate dog owners requiring the club to clean up dog faeces before games. The outfield is maintained by an EBC contractor, is uneven and unsatisfactory and has received adverse comments from umpires. The club would like to develop a second ground to the east of the current pitch. This would be big enough for adult games but used primarily for junior cricket. The asset management section of EBC seems to be against this proposal. Development of this pitch could also provide facilities for neighbouring clubs. A non-turf wicket could be an interim solution. The club uses Parkside School but this arrangement is under threat from the school overcharging.
- **Walton on Thames Cricket Club:** The club has a good quality home ground which is under pressure from over-use. Ideally, it would like to build a second square on the EBC park adjacent to their pitch. At present the club uses Brownacres for 3rd XI and junior fixtures. It has stopped using EBC pitches because it considers these dangerous with poor changing facilities.
- **Weybridge Vandals Cricket Club:** The club has plans in place to develop new, permanent lane nets to replace the current portable nets.
- **Whiteley Village Cricket Club:** The club has plans to develop new nets at its ground and will be seeking external funding from the ECB and elsewhere. In the longer term the club is looking to develop a new pavilion with bar on the site to replace the current facilities situated in a former laundry. The club is currently negotiating a 63-year lease to enable it to seek

external funding for this development. The club has a fruitful partnership with Reeds school with facilities being shared on a quid pro quo basis.

6.5 The implications for cricket in Elmbridge

Analysis of local supply of cricket pitches in Elmbridge indicates the following:

- **Participation rates:** General participation rates in sport and physical activity are high in Elmbridge and this is reflected in buoyant levels of cricket activity in the borough. A decline of almost 20% in the number of adult teams since 2013 has been more than offset by a 30% increase in junior teams in the same period.
- **Imported demand:** Club membership data shows that there is significant imported demand for cricket from neighbouring areas, equivalent to a net influx of almost 19 teams. This probably reflects the high standard of play at most clubs in the borough, as well as the well-organised junior sections.
- **Unmet/latent demand:** Local clubs believe that there is unmet demand for a further 22 teams in Elmbridge (an increase of around 11% on the current team numbers).
- **Pitch quality:** There are criticisms from clubs over the quality of council-owned pitches and the booking system. Pitch hire charges in Elmbridge are on a par with those in neighbouring areas.

6.6 Assessment of current needs

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

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

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

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

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

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

6.6.1 Grass wickets

<i>Site</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Seasonal demand</i>	<i>Seasonal capacity</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Brownacres	Walton-on-Thames CC Weybridge Vandals CC	130	80	-50	2	2.0	Balanced
Claygate Recn. Ground	Claygate Cricket Club	53	60	+7	1	1.0	Balanced
Cobham Avorians CC	Cobham Avorians CC Surrey Deaf Cricket Club	80	75	-5	1	1.0	Balanced
Coronation Recreation Ground	East Molesey Cricket Club	27	0	-27	0	1.0	-1.0
East Molesey Cricket Club	East Molesey Cricket Club	115	85	-30	1	2.0	-1.0
Esher Cricket Club	Esher Cricket Club	70	55	-15	1	2.0	-1.0
Imber Court Sports Club	East Molesey Cricket Club	94	80	-14	2	2.0	Balanced
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Long Ditton Cricket Club	90	48	-42	1	1.0	Balanced
Long Ditton Recn. Ground	East Molesey Cricket Club	24	24	Balanced	1	1.0	Balanced
Molesey Hurst Recn. Ground	Sky Rose - Rev CC	10	0	-10	0	1.0	-1.0
Old Paulines’ Sports Club	Old Pauline Cricket Club Thames Ditton CC	60	80	+20	2	2.0	Balanced
Old Tiffinians Sports Assoc.	Old Tiffinians CC New Malden CC	20	120	+100	2	2.0	Balanced
Oxshott Village SC	Maori Oxshott CC	86	35	-51	1	2.0	-1.0
Parkside School	Stoke D’Abernon CC	45	48*	+3	3	1.0	+2.0
Reeds School	Whiteley Village CC	10	75	+65	1	1.0	Balanced
Stoke D’Abernon Recn. Ground	Stoke D’Abernon CC	65	65	Balanced	1	1.0	Balanced

Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Thames Ditton CC	90	60	-30	1	2.0	-1.0
Walton-on-Thames CC	Walton-on-Thames CC	80	80	Balanced	1	1.0	Balanced
West End Common	West End Esher CC	70	60	-10	1	1.0	Balanced
West End Recn. Ground	Esher Cricket Club	70	0	-70	0	1.0	-1.0
Weybridge Cricket Club	Weybridge Cricket Club	100	100	Balanced	1	1.0	Balanced
Whiteley Village CC	Whiteley Village CC	40	80	+40	1	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	-	1,429	1,223	-206	25.0	30.0	-5.0

* The Parkside School pitches are suitable only for junior play because of the small outfields

The key findings are as follows:

- If grass pitch usage alone is considered, there is a collective seasonal deficit of 206 match equivalent sessions.
- 12 sites show a seasonal deficit and seven sites show a peak time deficit. Peak usage reveals a collective peak time deficit of five match equivalent sessions in the borough as a whole.
- Seasonal spare capacity at sites with secured community use reduces by 123 match equivalent sessions if the two unsecured school sites are excluded, leaving a boroughwide seasonal deficit of 329 match equivalent sessions. The collective peak time deficit at secured sites increases to 7.0 match equivalent sessions.

6.6.2 Artificial turf wickets

<i>Site</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Seasonal demand</i>	<i>Seasonal capacity</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Brownacres	Walton-on-Thames CC	30	60	+30	1	1	Balanced
Claygate Recreation Ground	Claygate Cricket Club	60	0	-60	0	0	Balanced
Old Tiffinians Sports Assoc.	Cypos CC Koddamunai CC Manipay Parish SC	30	120	+90	2	2	Balanced
Stoke D'Abernon Recn. Ground	Stoke D'Abernon CC	65	60	-5	1	1	Balanced
Walton-on-Thames CC	Walton-on-Thames CC	60	60	Balanced	1	1	Balanced
Whiteley Village CC	Whiteley Village CC	50	60	+10	1	1	Balanced
TOTALS	-	295	360	+65	6	6.0	Balanced

The key findings are as follows:

- There is a seasonal deficit at two sites, although collectively there is some seasonal spare capacity in the Borough as a whole.
- Peak usage is balanced at all sites.
- Seasonal spare capacity at sites with secured community access remains the same

6.7 Assessment of future needs

6.7.1 Population growth

The ‘*Strategic Housing Market assessment for Kingston and North-East Surrey Local Authorities*’ (2016) includes Elmbridge. The study identifies a need for an additional 9,480 dwellings in the borough by 2035 and quotes the ONS sub-national population projection of 148,700 people in Elmbridge by the same date. This represents a 12.1% increase from the mid-2016 population estimate.

6.7.2 Potential changes in demand

Changes in demand for cricket in the future can be modelled on a trend-based projection. Two sets of data can help to inform this:

- **‘Active People’ survey:** The national rates of cricket participation between 2005 and the present, as measured by the ‘Active People’ survey, are as follows:

2005/06	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% Change
0.48%	0.49%	0.49%	0.41%	0.51%	0.43%	0.34%	0.37%	0.32%	0.42%	-0.06%

- **National cricket playing survey:** The ECB’s most recent ‘*National Cricket Playing Survey*’ (2016) identified a 7% decrease in player numbers between 2014 and 2015.
- **Local demand:** Comparison of current Cricket teams’ data from Elmbridge with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Elmbridge Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals significant differences for the two age groups:

Team Type	No. Teams 2013	No. Teams 2017	% Change
Adult teams	77	63	-19.2%
Junior teams	107	140	+30.8%
TOTAL TEAMS	184	203	+10.3%

Consultation with local clubs indicated that the following additional teams could be accommodated in Elmbridge if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. The numbers represent a 10.8% increase over current teams. Given the generally high rates of participation in Elmbridge and the current strategic emphasis on developing women and girl’s cricket, it is reasonable to assume that the local clubs’ estimates of additional women and girls’ team formation potential above are an accurate assessment of the overall levels of latent demand.

Team Type	No. Teams
Adult men’s teams	4
Adult women’s teams	4
Junior boy’s teams	7
Junior girl’s teams	7
TOTAL TEAMS	22

6.7.3 Site-specific pressures

Elmbridge Borough Council needs to identify sites upon which it can deliver its housing targets. Whilst planning policy offers protection to playing pitches, those sites that do not currently

accommodate formal cricket activity may be vulnerable unless it can be proved that they are needed to meet existing or future shortfalls in supply or serve some other open space needs.

6.7.4 Potential changes in supply

A new school (Heathside-Walton School) is planned to open in 2020 on a site adjacent to Elmbridge Xcel. The Elm Way Trust that sponsors the school has plans to provide a grass cricket pitch as part of the development.

6.7.5 Existing spare capacity

Existing cricket pitch capacity has been calculated in section 6.6 above and indicates a seasonal deficit of 206 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets and collective seasonal spare capacity of 65 match equivalent sessions at artificial grass pitches. If weekly peak time capacity is considered, there is a deficit of 7.0 match equivalent sessions at secured grass wicket sites, which confirms that there is no effective spare capacity as present.

6.7.6 Future cricket pitch needs

Future cricket pitch needs to 2030 are modelled below using ‘Team Generation Rates’ (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the borough are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future. Based on 10 matches per season for adult teams and 7 matches per season for junior teams, there will be demand for an additional 216 seasonal match equivalent sessions.

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Latent teams</i>	<i>Total teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Pop. 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult males	18-55	30,600	62	0	62	1: 494	34,303	70	8
Adult females	18-55	33,200	1	4	5	1: 6,640	37,217	6	1
Junior males	7-18	11,200	123	0	123	1: 91	12,548	138	15
Junior females	7-18	10,200	17	7	24	1: 425	11,434	27	3

6.7.7 Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator

A supplementary way of modelling future playing pitch needs is Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator. The model applies Team Generation rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand but provides helpful context for the site-specific supply-demand assessment in section 6.7 above. The results of applying the Calculator for cricket needs in Elmbridge are set out below. The seasonal match equivalents are marginally below the TGR figure, so it is recommended that the former be used for projecting future needs:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra seasonal match equivalent sessions	207.67
Extra pitches to meet demand	4.24
Capital cost of extra pitches	£1,438,783
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£290,634

6.8 Key findings and issues

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

- **Quantity:** There is a seasonal deficit of 206 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets and collective seasonal spare capacity of 65 match equivalent sessions at artificial grass pitches. If weekly peak time capacity is considered, there is a deficit of 7.0 match equivalent sessions at secured grass wicket sites, which confirms that there is no effective spare capacity as present.
- **Participation rates:** General participation rates in sport and physical activity are high in Elmbridge and this is reflected in buoyant levels of cricket activity in the borough. A decline of almost 20% in the number of adult teams since 2013 has been more than offset by a 30% increase in junior teams in the same period.
- **Imported demand:** Club membership data shows that there is significant imported demand for cricket from neighbouring areas, equivalent to a net influx of almost 19 teams. This probably reflects the high standard of play at most clubs in the borough, as well as the well-organised junior sections.

- **Unmet/latent demand:** There is unmet demand for a further four women's teams and seven girl's teams in Elmbridge.
- **Quality:** The quality of the council-owned pitches at Coronation, Molesey Hurst and West End recreation grounds is poor, which compromises their carrying capacity. The non-turf wickets at Claygate Recreation Ground are also rated as poor.
- **Secured provision:** Only two cricket pitches in the borough do not have secured access, although if community use at either site was rescinded, there would be insufficient collective capacity to meet current demand in the borough.

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

- **Seasonal pitch capacity:** There is a seasonal deficit of 206 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets and collective seasonal spare capacity of 65 match equivalent sessions at artificial grass pitches.
- **Peak time pitch capacity:** Seven sites with grass wickets show a peak time deficit. If sites without secured community use are excluded there is a collective peak time deficit of 7.0 match equivalent sessions in the borough as a whole.

6.8.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **NO** - There are maintenance issues at three council-owned pitches

- **Quality:** The quality of the council-owned pitches at Coronation, Molesey Hurst and West End recreation grounds is poor, which compromises their carrying capacity. The non-turf wickets at Claygate Recreation Ground are also rated as poor.
- **Maintenance:** Local clubs have questioned whether the council-owned pitches in the borough are appropriately maintained.

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

- **Population growth:** The borough's population is projected to increase by 16,000 people by 2035, a 12.1% increase over the 2016 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** Balancing national falling demand against the target increases in participation, including local clubs' estimates of latent demand, suggests that projecting future need based on current demand patterns is a reasonable basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known development threats to any existing pitch sites, including those that are currently disused.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is a seasonal deficit of 206 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets and collective seasonal spare capacity of 65 match equivalent sessions at artificial grass pitches. Seasonal spare capacity at sites with secured community use reduces by 123 match equivalent sessions if the two unsecured school sites are excluded, leaving a boroughwide seasonal deficit of 329 match equivalent sessions. If weekly peak time capacity

is considered, there is a deficit of 7.0 match equivalent sessions at secured grass wicket sites, which confirms that there is no effective spare capacity as present.

- **Future needs:** Based on projected population growth, there will be demand from 27 extra cricket teams (or 234 seasonal match equivalent sessions) by 2035. This is equivalent to 47 good quality grass wickets (equivalent to six pitches) or four artificial turf wickets.

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

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

- **Pitch quality improvements:** If the three existing grass pitches in the borough that are currently rated as 'poor' quality were upgraded to 'standard' quality, it would expand collective seasonal capacity by 112 match equivalent sessions and peak time capacity by a collective total of three match equivalent sessions. If the 'poor' quality artificial turf wicket at Claygate Recreation Ground was upgraded, it would add 60 seasonal match equivalent sessions to overall capacity.
- **Installation of non-turf wickets:** Installing non-turf wickets at some sites would help to expand seasonal carrying capacity, particularly unmet demand for junior matches, although would have little impact on peak time provision if provided as part of an existing square.
- **Re-instating unused pitches:** Re-instating unused or recently decommissioned sites would expand collective seasonal carrying capacity by four pitches and 44 wickets. If all wickets were maintained to a 'good' quality standard, this would increase seasonal carrying capacity by 220 match equivalent sessions. The only site with an issue in re-instating use is Elm Grove Recreation Ground, where the proximity of housing was a contributory factor to discontinuing the use of the site, but it may be suitable for junior play.
- **Negotiating access to pitches on school sites:** Negotiating access to school pitches would add a further 20 grass and three non-turf wickets to the available supply. If all were maintained to a 'good' quality standard, this would increase seasonal carrying capacity by a further 130 match equivalent sessions, excluding existing schools use.

6.9 Scenario Testing

6.9.1 Introduction

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

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

- **Rationale:** Three pitches (at Coronation Recreation Ground, Molesey Hurst Recreation Ground and West End Recreation Ground) are rated as 'poor' quality and therefore have no effective capacity at present. Upgrading these pitches to 'standard' quality would enable each wicket to accommodate up to four matches per season and would collectively provide an extra 112 seasonal match equivalent sessions and three peak-time match equivalent sessions. If the 'poor' quality artificial turf wicket at Claygate Recreation Ground was upgraded, it

would add 60 seasonal match equivalent sessions to overall capacity, which would provide an option for accommodating additional junior matches in particular.

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The collective seasonal deficit of 206 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets in the borough as a whole could be partially eliminated.
 - The collective peak time deficit of 5.0 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets in the borough as a whole could be partially eliminated.
 - The improvements to the pitches could be achieved at relatively low cost.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The outfield at all three sites are also rated as 'poor' quality, so additional investment would be required to improve standards.
 - The changing facilities at Coronation Recreation Ground and West End Recreation Ground are also rated as 'poor' quality, so would also benefit from an upgrade (although this would also benefit football users at both sites).
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers a partial solution to meeting additional cricket pitch demand in Elmbridge.

6.9.3 Scenario 2: Installation of additional non-turf wickets

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

- **Conclusions:** This scenario should be examined further on a site-by-site basis.

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

- **Rationale:** The second pitch at Coronation Recreation Ground is available for community use and not used and Elm Grove Recreation Ground ceased to be used in the past five years, because it was taken out of commission. Re-instating the use of these pitches would collectively provide an additional 64 match equivalent sessions per season and peak time capacity by a collective total of two match equivalent sessions.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The collective seasonal deficit of 206 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets in the borough as a whole could be partially eliminated.
 - The collective peak time deficit of 5.0 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets in the borough as a whole could be partially eliminated.
 - One of the pitches (at Coronation Recreation Ground) is already available for use.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The Coronation Recreation Ground pitch, outfield and changing facilities are all rated as 'poor' quality, so would require additional investment to improve standards.
 - The Elm Grove Recreation Ground site is surrounded by housing which makes it unsuitable for anything other than junior matches.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers a partial solution to meeting additional cricket pitch demand in Elmbridge.

6.9.5 Scenario 4: Negotiating access to school pitches

- **Rationale:** Five schools in Elmbridge have cricket pitches with no community access (Esher High School, Feltonfleet School, Heathside School, Hinchley Wood School and Three Rivers Academy), collectively providing 20 grass wickets and three non-turf pitches. If community use could be negotiated it would collectively provide an additional 40 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wickets 90 match equivalent sessions per season on non-turf wickets (taking account of the schools' use of the pitches). It would also add to peak time capacity by a collective total of four match equivalent sessions.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The collective seasonal deficit of 206 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets in the borough as a whole could be partially eliminated.
 - The collective peak time deficit of 5.0 match equivalent sessions on grass wickets in the borough as a whole could be partially eliminated.
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into use at little or no additional cost.

- Feltonfleet School is already discussing potential community access with Surrey Cricket.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if community-based clubs were playing on school sites.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - None of the schools has community use at present and there is no obvious mechanism for securing it, so there is no guarantee that they would be prepared to commence such an arrangement.
 - None of the sites has a formal Community Use Agreement, so continued access would not be secured.
 - Existing use by the respective schools reduces the overall seasonal carrying capacity of the pitches.
 - **Conclusions:** This scenario offers some possibilities for meeting additional cricket pitch demand in Elmbridge from junior teams.

6.10 Policy recommendations

6.10.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to cricket are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

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

6.10.2 Protect

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

of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development’.

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: Only two of the 22 pitch sites with community use in Elmbridge do not have security of tenure. However, clubs using council-owned pitches are typically offered seven to eight-year leases which in the absence of a long-term lease makes it impossible to apply for external funding to improve their facilities. Elmbridge Borough Council is prepared to provide letters of support with an option to extend leases to 25-years in support of significant funding bids, in cases where longer-term leases is a requirement. It is therefore recommended that this is formalised into policy by EBC.

6.10.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing ‘poor’ quality provision: Three sites in the Borough have a ‘poor’ quality grass pitches, one has a ‘poor’ quality non-turf wicket, four have ‘poor’ quality outfield, two have ‘poor’ quality changing facilities and one site has ‘poor’ quality practice nets. This reduces the quality of playing experience and may deter some potential participants. Subject to security of tenure issues, it is recommended that the clubs concerned should be supported to apply for external funding for facility enhancements, including the receipt of developer contributions (see below) where the usage capacity would be enhanced.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions (enhancements): Some of the additional demand for cricket arising from the proposed housing development in Elmbridge to 2035 can be accommodated through enhancements to existing pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the Elmbridge PPS be used as the basis for determining facility enhancements that demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements. To facilitate this, specific playing pitch projects should be listed as ‘relevant infrastructure’, under CIL Regulation 123. Larger strategic projects should be exempt from CIL, with funding collected via Section 106 contributions.

6.10.4 Provide

Recommendation 6 - Developer contributions (new provision): Much of the extra demand for cricket arising from the proposed housing development in Elmbridge to 2035, will need to be accommodated through the provision of new pitches and facilities. It is recommended that agreement be concluded with the developers of larger sites to provide cricket facilities to meet the specific future needs identified in the Elmbridge PPS. New pitch provision is key to address deficit of pitches during peak periods (currently two extra pitches are required).

6.11 Action Plan

6.11.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the cricket action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for EBC - Elmbridge Borough Council, ECB - England and Wales Cricket Board and SC - Surrey Cricket. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2018* (2018).

6.11.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved cricket facilities.	EBC	Developers Local clubs	Determined by Sport England's New Development Calculator	High
Improving council-owned pitches	EBC to work in partnership with clubs to improve the quality of pitch maintenance	EBC	Local clubs	£5,000 pa for additional pitch maintenance	High
Access to school sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach schools regarding access Secure Community Use Agreements 	EBC	Schools Local clubs	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	Medium

6.11.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Brownacres	Seasonal deficit on the grass pitches only partially offset by spare capacity on the non-turf wicket.	Investigate additional grass wicket provision on the existing squares.	Weybridge Vandals CC	-	£10,000 per wicket £5,000 pa for additional pitch maintenance	Medium
Claygate Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Poor' quality non-turf pitch 'Poor' quality temporary changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide new non-turf pitch Resolve outstanding issues regarding pavilion re-provision 	EBC	Claygate Rec. Grd. Trust Claygate CC	£10,000 for non-turf pitch £750,000 for new pavilion	High
Cobham Avorians Cricket Club	Small seasonal deficit on the grass pitches	Investigate additional non-turf wicket provision for junior play.	Cobham Avorians CC	Burhill Estate	£10,000 for non-turf pitch	Medium
Coronation Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Poor' quality pitch 'Poor' quality outfield 'Poor' quality changing Second square is currently unused Seasonal and peak pitch capacity shortfall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade pitches and outfield to at least 'standard' quality. Upgrade changing facilities. Re-instate the second square 	EBC	GANTIP CIL	£5,000 pa for additional pitch maintenance £250,000 for changing upgrade £40,000 to bring grass square back into use	High

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
East Molesey Cricket Club	Seasonal and peak pitch capacity shortfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate additional non-turf wicket provision Expand capacity at Coronation Recreation Ground as above. 	East Molesey CC	EBC	£10,000 for non-turf pitch As above for Coronation Recreation Ground	High
Elm Grove Recreation Ground	Pitch is currently unused	Convert to football pitch use	EBC	-	-	Low
Esher Cricket Club	Seasonal and peak pitch capacity shortfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate additional grass wicket provision on the existing square. Investigate additional non-turf wicket provision Expand capacity at West End Recreation Ground Explore community use at Esher College 	Esher CC	EBC GANTIP	£10,000 per grass wicket £10,000 for non-turf pitch £5,000 pa for additional pitch maintenance	High
Esher High School	No current community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate community use based on demand. Seek community use agreement 	EBC	Esher CC	-	Low
Feltonfleet School	No current community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate community use based on demand. Seek community use agreement 	EBC	Cobham Avorians CC	-	Low
Heathside School	No current community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate community use based on demand. Seek community use agreement 	EBC	Walton CC	-	Medium
Hinchley Wood School	No current community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate community use based on demand. Seek community use agreement 	EBC	East Molesey CC	-	Low
Imber Court Sports Club	Small seasonal pitch capacity deficit	Investigate additional non-turf wicket provision	Imber Court Sports Club	East Molesey CC	£10,000 for non-turf pitch	Medium
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Seasonal pitch capacity shortfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate additional non-turf wicket provision Expand capacity at Long Ditton Recreation Ground 	Long Ditton CC	EBC GANTIP	£10,000 for non-turf pitch	High

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Long Ditton Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Standard’ quality provision • Seasonal supply and demand balanced 	Upgrade pitches and outfield to ‘good’ quality.	EBC	Long Ditton Cricket Club GANTIP	£5,000 pa for additional pitch maintenance	Medium
Molesey Hurst Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Poor’ quality pitch • ‘Poor’ quality outfield • Seasonal and peak pitch capacity shortfall 	Upgrade pitch and outfield to at least ‘standard’ quality.	EBC	GANTIP	£5,000 pa for additional pitch maintenance	Medium
Old Paulines’ Sports Club	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Old Tiffinians Sports Association	Significant seasonal spare capacity currently on pitches used by the school.	Promote use by other Cricket Clubs subject to approval by the school	Old Tiffinians Sports Association	-	-	Medium
Oxshott Village Sports Club	Seasonal and peak pitch capacity shortfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate additional grass wicket provision on the existing square. • Investigate additional non-turf wicket provision 	Oxshott Village Sports Club	Maori Oxshott CC	£10,000 per grass wicket £10,000 for non-turf pitch	High
Parkside School	Unsecured community use	Seek community use agreement	EBC	Parkside School	-	Medium
Reeds School	Unsecured community use	Seek community use agreement	EBC	Reeds School	-	Medium
Stoke D’Abernon Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Poor’ quality outfield • Seasonal supply and demand balanced on grass wickets. • Small seasonal deficit on the non-turf pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve outfield • Investigate additional grass wicket provision on the existing square. 	Stoke D’Abernon CC	EBC GANTIP	£20,000 for outfield improvement £10,000 per grass wicket £5,000 pa for additional pitch maintenance	Medium
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Seasonal and peak pitch capacity shortfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate additional grass wicket provision on the existing square. • Investigate additional non-turf wicket provision • Explore use at old Tiffinians 	Thames Ditton CC	-	£10,000 per grass wicket £10,000 for non-turf pitch	High
Three Rivers Academy	No current community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate community use based on demand. • Seek community use agreement 	EBC	Walton CC	-	Low

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Walton-on-Thames Cricket Club	Seasonal and peak supply and demand balanced	Negotiate community use at Three Rivers Academy and the proposed grass wicket at Heathside School	Walton CC	Three Rivers Academy Heathside School	-	Medium
West End Common	Small seasonal pitch capacity deficit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate additional grass wicket provision on the existing square. Investigate additional non-turf wicket provision 	EBC	West End Esher CC	£10,000 per grass wicket £10,000 for non-turf pitch	Medium
West End Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Poor' quality pitch 'Poor' quality outfield 'Poor' quality changing Seasonal and peak pitch capacity shortfall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade pitches and outfield to at least 'standard' quality. Upgrade changing facilities. 	EBC	GANTIP	£5,000 pa for additional pitch maintenance £250,000 for changing upgrade	High
Weybridge Cricket Club	Seasonal and peak supply and demand balanced	Investigate non-turf wicket provision	Weybridge CC	-	£10,000 for non-turf pitch	Low
Whiteley Village Cricket Club	Poor quality practice nets	Provide new nets	Whiteley Village CC	-	£20,000 for new nets	Medium

7 RUGBY UNION NEEDS IN ELMBRIDGE

7.1 Organisational context

- **Rugby Football Union:** The RFU is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in Elmbridge.
- **RFU-affiliated Rugby Clubs:** There are nine clubs based in the borough, which collectively field 28 adult teams 28 junior teams and 37 mini-rugby teams.

7.2 Strategic context

7.2.1 National rugby facilities strategy

The RFUs *National Facilities Strategy for Rugby Union in England 2013 - 2017* (2013) provides a framework for facility provision.

- Increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club.
- Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches.
- Increase the number of Artificial Turf Pitches.
- Improve social, community and catering facilities, which can support diversification and the generation of additional revenues.
- Invest in facility upgrades which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs.

7.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

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

Runnymede

The *Runnymede Playing Pitch Strategy* (2018) was recently adopted and identifies that there is:

- There is a collective surplus of grass pitches of 0.75 match equivalent sessions on a weekly basis and a surplus of 0.5 match equivalent session at peak periods.
- There is insufficient accessible and secured provision to meet future demand at present

Spelthorne

A Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne 2013 - 2018 (2013) identifies that there is a current collective deficit of 2.25 adult rugby pitches in the borough, which is projected to rise to 4.3 pitches by 2018.

Woking

The '*Woking Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy*' (2016) identifies that there is sufficient pitch provision to meet current and future needs, although poor quality changing facilities at the main site in the borough need to be addressed to accommodate future growth.

Guildford

The '*Guildford Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment*' (2017) is the only current evaluation of playing pitch needs in the borough but its needs are assessed based upon a spatial standard of 1.35ha of pitches per 1,000 people, rather than Sport England's recommended methodology.

Mole Valley

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy but bases its needs assessment on a 2007 study of open space, sport and recreation. There is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

London Borough of Richmond

The '*London Borough of Richmond Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2015) identifies that there is no overall shortage of pitch capacity, but there is a need to address shortfalls and issues of overplay at some sites through retention of sites with spare capacity and addressing access to midweek training provision.

London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames:

The '*Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2015) identifies a current and future shortfall in rugby pitch provision in the borough.

7.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

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

- ***Existing deficits:*** The lack of spare pitch capacity in several neighbouring areas means that there is no prospect of accommodating any demand from Elmbridge.
- ***Future deficits:*** In all cases where a detailed assessment has been undertaken, rugby pitch shortfalls are projected to increase in the future.

7.3 Rugby Union demand

7.3.1 RFU-affiliated clubs and teams

The following clubs affiliate to the RFU and play in Elmbridge:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Junior Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Cobham Rugby Club	Old Surbitonians Memorial Ground Covenham Ground	5	9	8
Esher Rugby Club	Molesey Road, Hersham	5	5	8
Old Cranleighans RFC	Old Cranleighan Sports Club	3	3	8
Old Oundleians RFC	Old Cranleighan Sports Club	1	0	0
Old Paulines RFC	Old Paulines Sports Club	2	0	0
Old Tiffinians RFC	Old Tiffinians Sports Association	2	0	0
Metropolitan Police RFC	Imber Court Sports Club	3	0	0
Reeds Weybridge RFC	Reeds Weybridge RFC	3	5	7
Weybridge Vandals RFC	Brownacres	3	6	6
Worth Old Boys RFC	Reeds Weybridge RFC	1	0	0
TOTAL	-	28	28	37

7.3.2 Demand trends

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

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

- **Local trends:** Whilst most respondents to the clubs' survey have experienced an increase in membership in recent years, comparison of current rugby union teams' data from Elmbridge with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Elmbridge Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals a small decline in adult teams numbers, but increases at the junior and mini age groups:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2017</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult teams	31	28	-9.7%
Junior teams	27	28	+3.7%
Mini teams	30	37	+23.3%
TOTAL TEAMS	88	93	+5.7%

7.3.3 Displaced demand

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

- **Imported demand in Elmbridge-based clubs:** Based upon the results of the clubs' survey, the proportion of members from Elmbridge-based rugby union clubs that are resident outside the borough is equivalent to 44.2 teams. This is split evenly between adult and age grade teams.
- **Exported demand from internal clubs:** None of the rugby union clubs from Elmbridge play their home matches on pitches in neighbouring areas and all also meet their training needs within the borough.

- The net effect of displaced demand in Elmbridge is 44.2 teams.

7.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

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

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

7.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Consultation with local clubs indicated that 11 additional teams could be accommodated in Elmbridge if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. The numbers represent a 12.6% increase over current teams.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Men's Teams</i>	<i>Women's teams</i>	<i>Boys teams</i>	<i>Girl's teams</i>	<i>Mini teams</i>
Cobham Rugby Club	0	1	2	2	2
Esher Rugby Club	1	0	0	1	0
Old Cranleigh RFC	0	0	0	0	0
Weybridge Vandals RFC	1	0	1	0	0
TOTALS	2	1	3	3	2

7.4 Rugby union supply in Elmbridge

7.4.1 Quantity

Provision of rugby union pitches in Elmbridge is set out below:

- *Available for community use and used:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Floodlit pitches</i>	<i>Unlit pitches</i>
Brownacres	Walton Lane, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1QP	2	3
Covenham Grounds	Portsmouth Road, Fairmile, Cobham KT11 1BW	2	0
Esher Rugby Club	Molesey Road, Walton KT12 3PF	2	3
Imber Court Sports Club	Ember Lane, East Molesey KT8 0BT	1	0
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	Portsmouth Rd., Thames Ditton KT7 0HB	0	2
Old Paulines Sports Club	Speer Rd., Thames Ditton KT7 0PW	0	2
Old Surbitonians Memorial Grd.	Fairmile Lane, Cobham KT11 2BU	2	1
Old Tiffinians Sports Assoc.	Summer Rd., East Molesey KT8 9LU	0	1
Reeds Weybridge Rugby Club	North Avenue, Whiteley Village KT12 4EJ	2	2

TOTAL	-	10	14
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- **Available for community use and not used:** There are no rugby union pitches available for community use that are not used.
- **Not available for community use:** The following rugby union pitches on school sites are not available for community use:

Site	Address	Pitches
Claremont Fan Court School	Claremont Drive, Esher KT10 9LY	3
Esher C of E High School	More Lane, Esher KT10 8AP	1
Heathside School	Brooklands Lane, Weybridge KT13 8UZ	1
Hinchley Wood School	Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood KT10 0AQ	1
Tiffin School	Grist Memorial Ground, Summer Rd., East Molesey KT8 9LU	3
TOTALS	-	9

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

7.4.2 Quality

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

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

The scores for each pitch in Elmbridge are as follows. ‘Good’ ratings are highlighted in green, ‘standard’ in yellow and ‘poor’ in red.

Site	Maintenance	Drainage
Brownacres Pitch 1 (‘First Team’)	M2	D1
Brownacres Pitch 2 (‘Owls’)	M2	D1
Brownacres Pitch 3 (‘South Downs’)	M2	D1
Brownacres Pitch 4 (‘Training’)	M2	D1
Brownacres Pitch 5 (‘Training’)	M2	D1
Covenham Grounds Pitch 1	M2	D1
Covenham Grounds Pitch 2	M2	D1
Esher Rugby Club Stadium Pitch	M2	D1
Esher Rugby Club Pitch 2 (‘Expendables’)	M1	D1
Esher Rugby Club Pitch 3 (‘Cardinals’)	M1	D1
Esher Rugby Club Pitch 4 (‘Priors’)	M0	D0
Esher Rugby Club Pitch 5 (‘Training’)	M0	D0

Imber Court Sports Ground	M2	D1
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<i>Site</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Drainage</i>
Old Cranleighans Sports Club Pitch 1	M1	D1
Old Cranleighans Sports Club Pitch 2	M1	D1
Old Paulines Sports Club Pitch 1	M1	D1
Old Paulines Sports Club Pitch 2	M1	D1
Old Surbitonians Memorial Grd. Pitch 1	M2	D2
Old Surbitonians Memorial Grd. Pitch 2	M2	D2
Old Surbitonians Memorial Grd. Pitch 3	M2	D2
Old Tiffinians Sports Association	M1	D0
Reeds Weybridge Rugby Club Pitch 1	M1	D1
Reeds Weybridge Rugby Club Pitch 2	M1	D1
Reeds Weybridge Rugby Club Pitch 3	M1	D1
Reeds Weybridge Rugby Club Pitch 4	M1	D1

7.4.3 Grass pitch carrying capacity

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

<i>Drainage</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>		
	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Good</i>
Natural inadequate	0.5	1.0	2.0
Natural adequate	1.5	2.0	3.0
Pipe drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and slit drained	2.0	3.0	3.5

The weekly collective carrying capacity of the rugby union sites in Elmbridge, expressed as ‘match equivalents’ is therefore as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Brownacres	15.0
Covenham Grounds	6.0
Esher Rugby Club	8.0
Imber Court Sports Club	3.0
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	4.0
Old Paulines Sports Club	4.0
Old Surbitonians Memorial Ground	9.75
Old Tiffinians Sports Association	1.0
Reeds Weybridge Rugby Club	8.0
TOTAL	68.75

7.4.4 Changing quality

The quality of the changing facilities at each of the rugby union sites in Elmbridge is as follows. Changing for the Covenham Grounds is at the adjacent Memorial Ground site:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Brownacres	Standard
Covenham Grounds	Good
Esher Rugby Club	Good
Imber Court Sports Club	Standard
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	Standard
Old Paulines Sports Club	Standard
Old Surbitonians Memorial Ground	Good
Old Tiffinians Sports Association	Poor
Reeds Weybridge Rugby Club	Standard*

* Overall 'standard' quality but changing room dimensions do not meet RFU guidelines.

7.4.5 Pitch maintenance

All rugby union pitch maintenance in the borough is carried out by grounds staff employed directly by the clubs.

7.4.6 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of community access of rugby union pitch sites is detailed below. Security of access refers to the extent to which community use is protected (through public ownership, community use agreements etc.), rather than the security of tenure of specific club users.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
Brownacres	Weybridge Vandals RFC	Weybridge Vandals RFC	Secured
Covenham Grounds	Cobham Sports Assoc.	Cobham Sports Association	Secured
Esher Rugby Club	Esher Rugby Club	Esher Rugby Club	Secured
Imber Court Sports Club	Metropolitan Police	Imber Court Sports Club	Secured
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	Old Cranleighans SC	Old Cranleighans SC	Secured
Old Paulines Sports Club	St. Paul's School	Colets Health & Fitness	Secured
Old Surbitonians Memorial Grd	Cobham Sports Assoc.	Cobham Sports Association	Secured
Old Tiffinians Sports Assoc.	Tiffinian Assoc. Ltd.	Old Tiffinians Sports Assoc.	Secured
Reeds Weybridge Rugby Club	Whiteley Homes Trust	Reeds Weybridge RFC	Secured

7.4.7 The views of stakeholders on pitch supply

- **Cobham Rugby Club:** The club is working with Cobham Free School, which is moving to an adjacent site, to provide a World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant artificial grass pitch for joint use. This may be funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- **Esher RFC:** The club has 'planning permission for a new stand on our 1st XV pitch. We have sought to exempt some of our land from Green Belt to allow full development of two 3G pitches and a new club complex on the remaining part of our land'.
- **Old Cranleighans RFC:** The main points from the consultation were as follows:
 - 'Having recently acquired the lease to Weston Green playing fields, we have a chance of maintaining Mini and Youth rugby for the foreseeable future. Any change in the use of

- Weston Green playing fields will materially impact on this, leaving the Mini and Youth section untenable’.
- ‘We have also obtained the lease on the Weston Green playing fields adjacent to Old Cranleighans for the next 12 years’.
 - ‘Car park and floodlighting improvements need addressing, also the retention of the Weston Green pitches beyond the current lease period’.
- **Weybridge Vandals RFC:** The club commented that ‘our pitches are constantly in need of attention and we try to manage their use by rotation. The main problem is drainage at a site close to the river’. The changing facilities do not comply with the RFU specification.

7.5 The implications for rugby union in Elmbridge

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

- **Local clubs:** There are nine clubs in Elmbridge, providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Unmet demand:** General participation rates in sport and physical activity are high in Elmbridge and this is reflected in rugby union team generation rates.
- **Imported demand:** Information supplied by local rugby union clubs on where their members live, indicates that there is substantial imported demand to Elmbridge equivalent to more than 44 teams.
- **Pitch supply:** There is no immediate evidence of a shortage of rugby union pitch supply in the borough. A number of sites, in particular Brownacres, are able to accommodate mini-rugby pitches on areas not occupied by adult pitches, which further supplements capacity.
- **Pitch quality:** Many pitches in the borough suffer from poor drainage (particularly those in the north of the borough close to the river) which compromises their carrying capacity.
- **Changing facilities:** The changing facilities at several sites, although rated overall as ‘standard’ quality, are quite dated, are not appropriately configured for simultaneous male-female or adult-junior usage and some lack dedicated changing provision for match officials.

7.6 Assessment of current needs

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

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

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:

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

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

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Brownacres	5	Weybridge Vandals RFC Elmbridge Eagles RLFC*	15.0	15.0	Balanced	5.0	3.0	+2.0
Covenham Grounds	2	Cobham Rugby Club	6.0	4.5	+1.5	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Esher Rugby Club	5	Esher Rugby Club	8.0	9.5	-1.5	5.0	5.0	Balanced
Imber Court Sports Club	1	Metropolitan Police RFC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Old Cranleighans SC	2	Old Cranleighans RFC Old Oundleians	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Old Paulines Sports Club	2	Old Paulines RFC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Old Surbitonians Mem. Gd.	4	Cobham Rugby Club	9.75	9.5	+0.25	4.0	3.0	+1.0
Old Tiffinians Sp. Assoc.	1	Old Tiffinians RFC	1.0	2.0	-1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Reeds Weybridge RFC	4	Reeds Weybridge RFC Worth Old Boys RFC	8.0	7.5	+0.5	4.0	3.0	+1.0

* Elmbridge Eagles play between April and September, so mostly outside the Rugby Union season. Their demand equates to 4.0 weekly match equivalent sessions and 2.0 peak match equivalent sessions.

The key findings are that the weekly supply and demand figures indicate only very limited spare capacity at three sites, with provision balanced at four sites and a deficit at two sites. The peak demand figures show a little more spare capacity, although there is still a deficit at one site.

7.7 Assessment of future needs

7.7.1 Population growth

The ‘Strategic Housing Market assessment for Kingston and North-East Surrey Local Authorities’ (2015) includes Elmbridge. The study identifies a need for an additional 9,480 dwellings in the borough by 2035 and quotes the ONS sub-national population projection of 149,000 people in Elmbridge by the same date. This represents a 12.3% increase from the mid-2016 population estimate.

7.7.2 Potential changes in demand

Sport England’s ‘Active People’ survey national data for rugby union indicates that the percentage of adults who played rugby the four weeks prior to each survey has remained static in the period since 2005. However, local teams’ data shows strong growth in the mini-rugby age groups. On balance, projecting needs based on current demand patterns is a reasonable basis for forecasting.

7.7.3 Site-specific pressures

The retention of the Weston Green pitches adjacent to Old Cranleighans RFC is key to maintaining junior and mini-rugby activity at the club.

7.7.4 Potential changes in supply

The following factors may affect rugby union pitch supply in the borough:

- Esher RFC is seeking to develop two World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant artificial grass pitches at its site.
- Cobham RFC is seeking to develop a World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant all-weather rugby pitch in conjunction with Cobham Free School.

7.7.5 Existing spare capacity

There is no effective spare capacity at rugby union pitches in the borough at present. In many instances those sites like Brownacres with notional spare capacity need a ‘strategic reserve’ of pitches to enable rotation of use to manage drainage site drainage issues.

7.7.6 Future rugby pitch needs

Future rugby pitch needs are modelled below using ‘Team Generation Rates’ (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the borough are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future. The projected number of additional teams will increase peak demand by 4.0 match equivalent sessions:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Pop. 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult males	19-45	20,500	26	1: 788	22,977	29	3
Adult females	19-45	21,900	2	1: 10,950	24,549	2	0
Junior males	13-18	4,900	22	1: 223	5,525	25	3
Junior females	13-18	4,600	6	1: 767	5,121	7	1
Mini-rugby	7-12	11,300	39	1: 290	12,678	44	5

7.7.7 Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator

A supplementary way of modelling future playing pitch needs is Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator. The model applies Team Generation rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand but provides helpful context for the site-specific supply-demand assessment in section 7.7 above. The results of applying the Calculator for rugby union needs in Elmbridge are set out below. The peak demand figure is very close to the TGR calculation, so it is recommended that the TGR figure be used as the basis for projecting future needs:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Extra needs</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	3.9
Extra weekly match equivalent sessions	4.48
Extra pitches to meet demand	3.9
Capital cost of extra pitches	£626,720
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£134,118

7.8 Key findings and issues

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

- **Local clubs:** There are nine clubs in Elmbridge, providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Unmet demand:** General participation rates in sport and physical activity are high in Elmbridge and this is reflected in rugby union team generation rates.
- **Imported demand:** Information supplied by local rugby union clubs on where their members live, indicates that there is substantial imported demand to Elmbridge equivalent to more than 44 teams.
- **Pitch supply:** There is no immediate evidence of a shortage of rugby union pitch supply in the borough. A number of sites, in particular Brownacres, are able to accommodate mini-rugby pitches on areas not occupied by adult pitches, which further supplements capacity.
- **Pitch quality:** Many pitches in the borough suffer from poor drainage (particularly those in the north of the borough close to the river) which compromises their carrying capacity.
- **Changing facilities:** The changing facilities at several sites, although rated overall as 'standard' quality, are quite dated, are not appropriately configured for simultaneous male-female or adult-junior usage and some lack dedicated changing provision for match officials.

7.8.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **YES** - Although supply and demand are very closely balanced.

The weekly supply and demand figures indicate only very limited spare capacity at three sites, with provision balanced at four sites and a deficit at two sites. The peak demand figures show a little more spare capacity, although there is still a deficit at one site. Ensuring that pitch maintenance levels are at least sustained at the current levels is therefore key to preserving capacity.

7.8.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **NO** - Several pitches have poor quality drainage

Pitch drainage is poor at two pitches at Esher Rugby Club and one at Old Tiffinians but is also problematic at several other sites including Brownacres. This compromises the pitch carrying capacity.

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

- **Population growth:** The borough's population is projected to increase by 16,300 people by 2035, a 12.3% increase over the 2016 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** Balancing past trends that identify falling demand against the target increases in participation suggests that projecting future need based on current demand patterns is a reasonable basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known development threats to any existing pitch sites. There are active proposals for artificial grass rugby pitches at Esher RFC and Cobham RFC.
- **Existing spare capacity:** The weekly supply and demand figures indicate only very limited spare capacity at three sites, with provision balanced at four sites and a deficit at two sites. The peak demand figures show a little more spare capacity, although there is still a deficit at one site. There is therefore no effective spare capacity at present.
- **Future needs:** Additional future needs involve demand from 12 additional teams for 14.5 match equivalent session per week. This equates to 8 standard quality grass pitches.

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

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

- **Pitch quality improvements:** If all existing grass pitches in the borough were upgraded to 'good' quality for maintenance and drainage, it would expand collective seasonal capacity by 22.25 match equivalent sessions per week, although there would still be issues with peak period availability.
- **Installation of artificial grass pitches:** Providing artificial grass pitches that are compliant with World Rugby Regulation 22 would expand capacity. The RFU is supporting such a facility at Cobham RFC.
- **Negotiating access to pitches on school sites:** Negotiating access to school pitches with no community use at present could add a further nine pitches to the available supply.

7.9 Scenario testing

7.9.1 Introduction

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

7.9.2 Scenario 1: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity with maintenance and drainage improvements

- **Rationale:** Improving the drainage and maintenance of the pitches at the sites where the drainage and/or maintenance is sub-optimal at present would add the following capacity (in match equivalent sessions) at each site:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Extra capacity</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Brownacres	15.0	2.5	17.5
Covenham Grounds	6.0	1.0	7.0
Esher Rugby Club	8.0	9.5	17.5
Imber Court Sports Club	3.0	0.5	3.5
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	4.0	3.0	7.0
Old Paulines Sports Club	4.0	3.0	7.0
Old Surbitonians Memorial Ground	9.75	0	9.75
Old Tiffinians Sports Association	1.0	2.5	3.5
Reeds Weybridge Rugby Club	8.0	14.0	22.0
TOTAL	68.75	36.0	104.75

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The additional capacity would theoretically be sufficient to meet all overall projected extra pitch capacity needs to 2035.
 - The extra capacity could be achieved at the existing sites without the need for additional land acquisition costs.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - The main pinch points are in the peak usage periods on Saturdays and since these are defined by the number of pitches rather than pitch capacity, apart from improvements in pitch quality, the current peak capacity position would remain unchanged.
 - The cost of grounds maintenance to sustain the enhanced pitch capacity may be problematic for some of the smaller clubs.
- **Conclusions:** There would be merit in exploring the potential for drainage and maintenance improvements at those sites with an overall capacity deficit (Esher Rugby Club and Old Tiffinians Sports Association) and those where overall supply and demand are currently balanced (Brownacres, Imber Court, Old Cranleighans Sports Club and Old Paulines Sports Club). However, to maximise the benefits of this, the review will also need to consider the issue of floodlighting to maximise the benefits in the midweek evening period (see below).

7.9.3 Scenario 2: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity by providing floodlights

- **Rationale:** Whilst improved maintenance and drainage would add overall capacity, to achieve the maximum benefits floodlighting will be required to facilitate use during midweek evenings. Ten pitches are already floodlit, but 12 are not.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Floodlighting additional pitches will increase their availability on midweek evenings when training sessions take place.

- Six out of nine sites in the borough already have some floodlit pitches, which should simplify obtaining planning consent and in some cases reduce installation costs if some of the services infrastructure is already in place.
- **Disadvantage:** The only disadvantage of this scenario is that its effectiveness is contingent upon the pitch capacity enhancements achievable through the drainage and maintenance improvements, so it needs to be considered in conjunction.
- **Conclusions:** The greatest benefits of floodlighting will be at sites where there is existing spare capacity, or it is combined with an improvement in pitch maintenance or drainage ratings, specifically impacting those sites exhibiting a mid-week match equivalent sessions deficit. The maximum benefit of floodlighting pitches in conjunction with capacity enhancements would be at Brownacres, Esher Rugby Club and Old Cranleigh Sports Club (where there are already some floodlit pitches on site) and Old Paulines Sports Club where there are no floodlit pitches at present.

7.9.4 Scenario 3: Enhancing pitch carrying capacity by providing rugby-compliant artificial grass pitches

- **Rationale:** Another option for providing additional pitch carrying capacity is to install World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant artificial grass pitches, of which there are none in Elmbridge at present.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - There are currently two active proposals for artificial grass pitch provision in the borough at Cobham Free School (in conjunction with Cobham Rugby Club) which is identified by the RFU as a local priority and at Esher Rugby Club (two pitches).
 - The pitch at Cobham would add 10.0 midweek match equivalent sessions and 4.0 weekend match equivalent sessions (offset by the loss of the grass pitch which it would be sited on) which would meet their planned expansion of seven teams.
 - The pitches at Esher would add 20.0 midweek match equivalent sessions and 8.0 weekend match equivalent sessions (offset by the loss of the grass pitches which they would be sited on) which would meet their planned expansion of two teams.
 - The pitches could additionally contribute to meeting identified deficiencies in '3G' Football Turf Pitches in Elmbridge.
- **Disadvantage:** The only disadvantage of this scenario is that to achieve maximum peak-time benefits will involve scheduling matches at non-traditional kick-off times which is a relatively new concept for many teams.
- **Conclusions:** Both the current proposals for World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant artificial grass pitches should be supported and any subsequent proposals should be assessed on their merits.

7.9.5 Scenario 4: Negotiating access to rugby pitches on school sites

- **Rationale:** There are nine rugby pitches on school sites with no community use at present and accessing these facilities would provide some additional capacity.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into use at little or no additional cost.
 - Three of the pitches are on the site used by Old Tiffinians RFC, so there should be scope to investigate the potential for extra use of the other on-site pitches.
- **Disadvantage:** The only disadvantage of this scenario is that some capacity is already used by the schools to meet their educational needs, so the potential net availability for community use is around half the total number of match equivalent sessions.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers the best way to meet the overall capacity shortfall at Old Tiffinians RFC on a cost-effective basis and should therefore be examined further.

7.9.6 Scenario 5: Projecting higher demand levels

- **Rationale:** The rugby clubs' survey indicated that in their judgement three additional adult teams six colts teams and two junior teams could be accommodated in Elmbridge if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. This would represent a 12.6% increase in the number of teams in the borough. There is a degree of risk in basing projections of future need on conjectural estimates, so it is therefore sensible to consider alternative projections, based upon existing known team numbers plus any unmet and latent demand estimates, to determine the implications of each scenario before establishing which figures to base future needs on. Future need projections using Team Generation Rates based upon the number of current teams plus any unmet and latent demand estimates are as follows:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Latent teams</i>	<i>Total teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Pop. 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult males	19-45	20,460	26	2	28	1: 731	22,977	31	5
Adult females	19-45	21,860	2	1	3	1: 7,287	24,549	3	1
Junior males	13-18	4,920	22	3	25	1: 197	5,525	28	6
Junior females	13-18	4,560	6	3	9	1: 507	5,121	10	4
Mini-rugby	7-12	11,289	39	2	41	1: 275	12,678	46	7

- A comparison of the differences in future demand projections based upon expressed and expressed plus latent/unmet demand is tabulated below:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Extra teams expressed demand</i>	<i>Extra teams expressed plus unmet/latent demand</i>	<i>Difference in team numbers</i>
Adult males	26	3	5	2
Adult females	2	0	1	1
Junior males	22	3	6	3
Junior females	6	1	4	3
Mini-rugby	39	5	7	2

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:

- Local rugby team numbers have countered the national trend by increasing by 5.7% between 2013 and 2018. The projected demand levels involving unmet and latent demand indicate a 12.8% increase in team numbers, but over a much longer period (16 years to 2035).
- There is clear evidence from the PPS that a lack of pitch supply is inhibiting team formation in Elmbridge and therefore improving capacity will enable the additional unmet demand to be accommodated.
- The additional team numbers projected by local clubs are based upon reasoned assumptions regarding waiting lists and the progression of age group teams.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Expressed demand is a known quantity and therefore provides a sounder basis for projecting future need.
 - Rugby participation rates have been static or falling at national level and the number of players typically required to sustain a team has increased steadily, so projecting demand increases based on population increases and current TGRs is more in keeping with national trends.
- **Conclusions:** On balance, projecting future needs based upon expressed demand only is the most reliable way of establishing pitch requirements.

7.10 Policy recommendations

7.10.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to rugby union are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

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

7.10.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The Elmbridge PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for rugby union in the borough. The PPS has identified a need to increase local rugby pitch capacity and to this extent, it will be important for all current community used rugby pitch sites to be retained. It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If proposals to redevelop rugby pitches do come forward, this will only be permissible they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. This states that 'the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development'.

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: All the rugby pitch sites in Elmbridge at present have security of tenure. If the proposed artificial grass pitch proceeds at Cobham Free School however, it is recommended that external clubs' use is secured through a formal Community Use Agreement.

7.10.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing pitch capacity: Additional pitch capacity would best be developed by improving the quality of pitch drainage and maintenance at Brownacres, Imber Court, Old Cranleighans Sports Club and Old Paulines Sports Club, with related floodlighting provision at Brownacres, Old Cranleighans Sports Club and Old Paulines Sports Club.

7.10.4 Provide

Recommendation 4 - Artificial grass pitches: There are currently two active proposals for artificial grass pitch provision in the borough at Cobham Free School (in conjunction with Cobham Rugby Club) and at Esher Rugby Club (two pitches). Both proposals for World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant artificial grass pitches should be supported and any subsequent proposals should be assessed on their merits.

Recommendation 5 - Developer contributions: All the additional demand for rugby arising from the proposed housing development in Elmbridge to 2035, should be accommodated through the developments outlined above. It is recommended that the action plan in the Elmbridge PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements. To facilitate this, specific playing pitch projects should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123. Larger strategic projects should be exempt from CIL, with funding collected via Section 106 contributions.

7.11 Action Plan

7.11.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the rugby union action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for EBC - Elmbridge Borough Council, RFU - Rugby Football Union, CRFC - Cobham Rugby Football Club, ERFC - Esher Rugby Football Club, OCRFC - Old Cranleigh Rugby Football Club, OPRFC - Old Paulines Rugby Football Club, OTRFC - Old Tiffinians Rugby Football Club, MPRFC - Met Police Rugby Football Club, RWRFC - Reeds Weybridge Rugby Football Club and WVRFC - Weybridge Vandals Rugby Football Club. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2018* (2018).

7.11.2 Key strategic actions

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

7.11.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Brownacres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard quality drainage. • Weekly usage is balanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch drainage • Provide floodlights to One additional pitch 	WVRFC	RFU Developers	£25,000 for drainage improvements £25,000 for floodlights	Medium
Covenham Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard quality drainage. • Peak usage is balanced 	Provide additional capacity through a floodlit artificial grass pitch at the adjacent Cobham Free School	CRFC	Cobham Free School RFU Developers	£1,200,000	High
Esher Rugby Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard or poor-quality drainage. • Weekly pitch capacity shortfall • Peak usage is balanced 	Provide additional capacity through two floodlit artificial grass pitches	ERFC	RFU Developers	£2,400,000	High
Imber Court Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard quality drainage. • Weekly usage is balanced • Peak pitch capacity shortfall 	Improve pitch drainage	MPRFC	RFU Developers	£15,000 for drainage improvements	Medium
Old Cranleighans Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard quality drainage. • Weekly usage is balanced 	Provide floodlights to one additional pitch	OCRFC	RFU Developers	£25,000 for floodlights	Medium

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Old Paulines Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peak usage is balanced 	Provide floodlights to one additional pitch	OPRFC	RFU Developers	£25,000 for floodlights	Medium
Old Surbitonians Memorial Grd	No current issues	Provide additional capacity through a floodlit artificial grass pitch at the adjacent Cobham Free School	CRFC	Cobham Free School RFU Developers	£1,200,000	High
Old Tiffinians Sports Assoc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality clubhouse • Poor quality drainage. • Weekly pitch capacity shortfall • Peak usage is balanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve clubhouse • Improve pitch drainage • Provide floodlights to One additional pitch 	OTRFC	RFU Developers	£250,000 for clubhouse improvements £15,000 for drainage improvements £25,000 for floodlights	Medium
Reeds Weybridge Rugby Club	Changing rooms do not comply with RFU guidance	Improve clubhouse	RWRFC	RFU Developers	£250,000 for clubhouse improvements	Medium

8 RUGBY LEAGUE NEEDS IN ELMBRIDGE

8.1 Organisational context

- **Rugby Football League:** The RFL is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in Elmbridge.
- **London Rugby League Foundation:** The Foundation is a charitable trust established to increase participation and engagement in rugby league in London and the surrounding counties.
- **Elmbridge Eagles Rugby League Club:** Elmbridge Eagles is the only rugby league club in Elmbridge and is based at Oaken Lane (although it has temporarily relocated to Brownacres whilst the pitch drainage is being improved). It has one adult team, four junior teams and three mini teams.

8.2 Strategic context

8.2.1 National rugby league facilities strategy

The RFL's '*Community Rugby League Facilities Strategy - England*' (2011) sets out the priorities and targets for developing facilities provision.

- The need for clubs to acquire security of tenure to secure grant funding.
- The need to improve club management.
- The need to improve pitch and clubhouse quality.
- The need to access economically priced '3G' pitches.
- The need to develop the appropriate facilities to develop the game in primary and secondary schools.

8.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

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

Runnymede

There is no current rugby league activity in the borough.

Spelthorne

There is no current rugby league activity in the borough.

Woking

There is no current rugby league activity in the borough.

Guildford

The Surrey Sharks Rugby League Club is based at the Surrey Sports Park in Guildford. It has one men's team and three junior teams.

Mole Valley

There is no current rugby league activity in the Borough.

London Borough of Richmond

Richmond Rugby League Club is based in Hampton and has one men's team, four junior teams and two mini teams.

London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames:

There is no current rugby league activity in the borough.

8.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

The RFL is currently commissioning a new national strategy to lead its facilities development programme. This is seeking to maximise the anticipated legacy arising from them winning the rights to stage the 2021 World Cup. As part of the award the RFL have secured a £10 million capital legacy infrastructure fund which should enable investment into the community game. Elmbridge is one of the RFL's 'Emerging Affinity Areas' and it is therefore possible that investment will be made to support development in the borough.

8.3 Rugby League demand

8.3.1 RFL-affiliated clubs and teams

Elmbridge Eagles has the following teams:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Junior Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Elmbridge Eagles RLFC	Oaken Lane, Claygate	1	4	3

8.3.2 Demand trends

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

<i>2005/06</i>	<i>2013/14</i>	<i>2014/15</i>	<i>2015/16</i>	<i>% Change</i>
0.18%	0.09%	0.09%	0.12%	-0.06%

- ***Local trends:*** Comparison of current rugby league teams' data from Elmbridge with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Elmbridge Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals a small reduction overall:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2017</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult teams	1	1	-

Junior teams	4	4	-
Mini teams	5	3	-40%
TOTAL TEAMS	10	8	-20%

8.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by rugby league teams from within Elmbridge which takes place outside of the area, or vice versa. There is no evidence of displaced demand in the borough.

8.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

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

Elmbridge Eagles do not believe that there is any unmet demand for rugby league in the borough.

8.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Elmbridge Eagles do not believe that there is any latent demand for rugby league in the borough.

8.4 Rugby League supply in Elmbridge

8.4.1 Quantity

Provision of rugby league pitches in Elmbridge is set out below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
Elmbridge Eagles RLFC	Oaken Lane, Claygate KT10 9BZ	2

8.4.2 Quality

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

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

The scores for both pitches in Elmbridge are as follows (although both are currently being improved which will upgrade the ratings to D2 and M2):

<i>Site</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Drainage</i>
Oaken Lane Pitch 1	M1	D1
Oaken Lane Pitch 2	M1	D1

8.4.3 Grass pitch carrying capacity

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

<i>Drainage</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>		
	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Good</i>
Natural inadequate	0.5	1.0	2.0
Natural adequate	1.5	2.0	3.0
Pipe drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and slit drained	2.0	3.0	3.5

The weekly collective carrying capacity of the two pitches at Oaken Lane is therefore 4.0 match equivalents.

8.4.4 Changing quality

The quality of the changing facilities at Oaken Lane was rated as ‘standard’.

8.4.5 Pitch maintenance

The pitches at Oaken Lane are maintained by Elmbridge Eagles RLFC, who employ a grounds maintenance contractor.

8.4.6 Ownership, management and security of access

The Oaken Lane site is owned by Elmbridge Borough Council, managed by Elmbridge Eagles RLFC and the club has secured use through a 25-year lease.

8.4.7 The views of stakeholders on pitch supply

- ***The London Rugby League Foundation:*** Consultation with the LRLF’s Managing Director identified that the club formed in its current guise in 2006, having previously operated under other names at venues as widespread as Wokingham, Surrey Heath and Kingston. The club’s main emphasis is on junior development, although it also runs one adult team.
- ***Elmbridge Eagles:*** The club has received approval from the Environment Agency for the go ahead to proceed with proposed remediation of the Oaken Lane pitches. This will involve the installation of drainage and surface levelling that will improve the carrying capacity of the site. Given the summer playing season for rugby league, the improved capacity may provide

opportunities for rugby union or even football use during the winter months. It also received funding from Sport England’s Inspired Facilities Fund to improve the clubhouse.

8.5 The implications for rugby league in Elmbridge

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

- **Elmbridge Eagles RLFC:** The club provides high-quality coaching and playing opportunities and meets all current demand for rugby league in the borough.
- **Facilities:** Facilities provision is adequate, although both the pitches and clubhouse are rated as only ‘standard’ quality.

8.6 Assessment of current needs

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

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

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:

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

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Oaken Lane	2	Elmbridge Eagles RLFC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced

The key findings are that both the weekly and peak time supply and demand figures indicate that supply and demand are balanced, with no current spare capacity.

8.7 Assessment of future needs

8.7.1 Population growth

The 'Strategic Housing Market assessment for Kingston and North-East Surrey Local Authorities' (2015) includes Elmbridge. The study identifies a need for an additional 9,480 dwellings in the borough by 2035 and quotes the ONS sub-national population projection of 149,000 people in Elmbridge by the same date. This represents a 12.3% increase from the mid-2016 population estimate.

8.7.2 Potential changes in demand

Sport England's 'Active People' survey national data for rugby league indicates that the percentage of adults who played rugby the four weeks prior to each survey has fallen slightly in the period since 2005. The local teams' data also shows a fall in the period since 2013, but projecting needs based on current demand levels is a reasonable basis for forecasting.

8.7.3 Site-specific pressures

Elmbridge Eagles have a 25-year lease on the Oaken Lane pitches, so there is no pressure on the site.

8.7.4 Potential changes in supply

The planned improvements in the drainage and levelling of the Oaken Lane pitches will increase the weekly carrying capacity of the site to 7.0 match equivalent sessions per week.

8.7.5 Existing spare capacity

There is no effective spare capacity at the Oaken Lane site at present.

8.7.6 Future rugby league pitch needs

Future rugby league pitch needs are modelled below using 'Team Generation Rates' (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the borough are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future. The projected number of additional teams will increase peak demand by 0.5 match equivalent sessions:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Population 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult males	19-45	20,460	1	1: 20,460	22,977	1	0
Adult females	19-45	21,860	0	-	24,549	0	0
Junior males	13-18	4,920	4	1: 1,230	5,525	5	1
Junior females	13-18	4,560	0	-	5,121	0	0
Mini-rugby (mixed)	7-12	11,289	3	1: 3,763	12,678	4	1

8.7.7 Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator

A supplementary way of modelling future playing pitch needs is Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator. The model applies Team Generation rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand but provides helpful context for the site-specific supply-demand assessment in section 8.6 above. The results of applying the Calculator for rugby league needs in Elmbridge are set out below. The peak demand figure is very close to the TGR calculation, so it is recommended that the TGR figure be used as the basis for projecting future needs:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Extra needs</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	0.34
Extra weekly match equivalent sessions	0.39
Extra pitches to meet demand	0.34
Capital cost of extra pitches	£44,659
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£9,870

8.8 Key findings and issues

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

- **Elmbridge Eagles RLFC:** The club provides high-quality coaching and playing opportunities and meets all current demand for rugby league in the borough.
- **Facilities:** Facilities provision is adequate, although both the pitches and clubhouse are rated as only ‘standard’ quality.

8.8.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **YES** - Although supply and demand are exactly balanced.

The weekly and peak time figures both show that supply and demand are exactly balanced, so there is no scope to accommodate additional usage at present, although the planned improvements in the drainage and levelling of the Oaken Lane pitches will increase the carrying capacity of the site by 3.0 match equivalent sessions per week.

8.8.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **NO** - The existing pitches have poor quality drainage

Pitch drainage is poor at both pitches at Oaken Lane, although a project has commenced to improve drainage and to level the pitches, which will make them of suitable quality.

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

- **Population growth:** The borough’s population is projected to increase by 16,300 people by 2035, a 12.3% increase over the 2016 population estimate.

- **Changes in demand:** Balancing past trends that identify falling demand against the potential increases in participation suggests that projecting future need based on current demand levels is a reasonable basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** The improvements to pitch drainage will increase carrying capacity to accommodate additional demand.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is no effective spare capacity at present.
- **Future needs:** Additional future needs involve demand from two additional teams for three match equivalent sessions per week. This could be accommodated by carrying capacity improvements relating to the pitch drainage project.

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

Whilst there is insufficient accessible and secured provision to meet future demand at present, but additional capacity provided by the pitch drainage improvements will meet all future needs.

8.9 Policy recommendations

8.9.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to rugby league are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

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

8.9.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The Elmbridge PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for rugby league in the borough. The PPS has identified a need to safeguard local rugby league pitch capacity and to this extent, it will be important for the Oaken Lane site to be retained. It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of the site, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If proposals to redevelop the pitches do come forward, this will only be permissible they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater

quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development’.

8.9.3 Enhance

Recommendation 2 - Improving existing pitch capacity: The existing pitches at Oaken Lane are currently being improved and upgraded and this will provide sufficient capacity to meet all current and future needs.

8.9.4 Provide

Recommendation 3 - Developer contributions: All the additional demand for rugby league arising from the proposed housing development in Elmbridge to 2035, should be accommodated through the developments outlined above. However, further funding may be needed for future improvements so it is recommended that the action plan in the Elmbridge PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of any enhancements. To facilitate this, specific playing pitch projects should be listed as ‘relevant infrastructure’, under CIL Regulation 123. Larger strategic projects should be exempt from CIL, with funding collected via Section 106 contributions.

8.10 Action Plan

8.10.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the rugby league action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for EBC - Elmbridge Borough Council and EERLC - Elmbridge Eagles Rugby Football Club. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2018* (2018).

8.10.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards improved rugby league facilities.	EBC	Developers	Determined by Sport England’s New Development Calculator	High

8.10.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Oaken Lane	Pitches currently being upgraded	No action required after upgrade completion	EERLC	-	-	-

9 HOCKEY NEEDS IN ELMBRIDGE

9.1 Organisational context

- **England Hockey:** England Hockey is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in Elmbridge.
- **England Hockey-affiliated clubs:** There are three affiliated clubs in Elmbridge, who collectively provide 38 adult and 41 junior teams.

9.2 Strategic context

9.2.1 National hockey strategy

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

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

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

Club Participation

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

9.2.2 Hockey facilities strategy

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.2.3 Neighbouring local authorities

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

Runnymede

The '*Runnymede Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2018) was recently adopted and identifies that existing collective peak time spare capacity in the borough amounts to the equivalent of 1.45 pitches. Future demand from Runnymede will be equivalent to another 0.82 hockey pitches by 2030, all of which can be accommodated by identified spare capacity.

Spelthorne

'*A Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne 2013 - 2018*' (2013) identifies that there is a current deficit of artificial grass pitches suitable for hockey in the Borough.

Woking

The '*Woking Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy*' (2016) identifies current demand for artificial grass pitches suitable for hockey is being met in the borough, but that an additional pitch will be required by 2027.

Guildford

The '*Guildford Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment*' (2017) is the only current evaluation of playing pitch needs in the borough but its needs are assessed based upon a spatial standard of 1.35ha of pitches per 1,000 people, rather than Sport England's recommended methodology.

Mole Valley

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy but bases its needs assessment on a 2007 study of open space, sport and recreation. There is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

London Borough of Richmond

The '*London Borough of Richmond Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2015) identifies that existing pitch supply broadly meets current demand and that existing club sites should be protected.

London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames:

The '*Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2015) notes that 'Surbiton Hockey Club is situated just outside of the Kingston boundary in Surbiton. It offers hockey up to elite level and subsequently draws players from inside Kingston and beyond'. It also notes that Old Kingstonian HC meets most of its needs at the Ditton Fields pitches in Elmbridge. It concludes that 'local supply and demand analysis highlights the need for at least one additional pitch suitable for hockey within Kingston as the current pitch is at capacity'.

9.2.4 Implications of the strategic context

Most current needs for hockey are being met in neighbouring areas, but additional pitches will be needed to cater for future demand.

9.3 Hockey demand

9.3.1 England Hockey-affiliated clubs and teams

The following clubs are affiliated to England Hockey and are based in Elmbridge:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Men's teams</i>	<i>Women's teams</i>	<i>Boy's teams</i>	<i>Girl's teams</i>
Old Cranleighan HC	Old Cranleighan Club Surbiton High School	6	4	3	4
Old Kingstonian HC	Ditton Fields <i>Tiffin Girls' School</i>	4	4	5	9
Surbiton HC	Surbiton Hockey Club Ditton Fields Surbiton High School (Oaken Lane) Reeds School	10	10	8	12
TOTALS	-	20	18	16	25

9.3.2 Demand trends

- **National trends:** Sport England's 'Active People' survey national data indicates that the percentage of adults who played hockey in the four weeks prior to each survey has fallen in the period since 2005.

<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/1</i>	<i>2011/2</i>	<i>2012/3</i>	<i>2013/4</i>	<i>2014/5</i>	<i>2015/6</i>	<i>% Change</i>
0.23%	0.23%	0.24%	0.23%	0.21%	0.19%	0.25%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	-0.03%

- National affiliation data for hockey club members provided by England Hockey reveals a different picture compared with the 'Active People' survey, recording successive increases in the period since 2010 as follows:

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

- **Local trends:** Comparison of current hockey teams data from Elmbridge with the number of teams playing in the borough when the Elmbridge Playing Pitch Strategy was last reviewed in 2013 reveals a small increase overall:

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams 2013</i>	<i>No. Teams 2017</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult teams	39	38	-2.6%
Junior teams	38	41	+7.9%
<i>TOTAL TEAMS</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>+2.6%</i>

9.3.3 Displaced demand

There is evidence of significant imported demand for hockey to Elmbridge from neighbouring areas, largely due to the wide catchment from which players for some of the higher levels teams are drawn. Additionally, Leatherhead Hockey Club plays some matches at the Reeds School and Notre Dame School pitches in Elmbridge.

9.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

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

Whilst there is some evidence of unmet demand for hockey in Elmbridge. All clubs are at, or close to full capacity, with limited scope to accommodate additional members.

9.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to exist, latent demand is demand that may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is some evidence of any latent demand for hockey in Elmbridge from the clubs' estimates of additional team formation potential.

9.4 Hockey pitch supply in Elmbridge

9.4.1 Quantity

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

- Water-based pitches are the preferred surface for elite-level hockey. The sports turf uses a denser pile than other surface types which, combined with the water layer, provides the truest ball roll of any artificial turf system.
- Sand-dressed artificial turf is a higher specification surface designed specifically for fast-paced hockey.
- With sand-filled pitches, the playing surface is only partially filled (usually about two-thirds of the pile height) so the game is played on the sports carpet, not the sand infill.
- Both types of sand-based pitches can also be used for football, but the rubber crumb-filled, long-pile surface of '3G' football turf pitches and/or World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant pitches are not suitable of hockey use. There is five hours of football use of the Old Cranleighan Club pitch for football on midweek evenings, but hockey has priority use.

- Several of the pitches with community access are on independent school sites, which causes some restrictions on their availability for community use on Saturday mornings. This is detailed in section 9.5 below.
- Neither of the pitches at Ditton Fields is floodlit, which limits their effective community usage period to weekends. The floodlights at both Surbiton High School pitches cannot be used after 8.30pm due to planning restrictions, which limits their midweek capacity.
- **Pitches with community use and used:** These are as follows.

- **Full-sized pitches:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>School site</i>	<i>Built/resurfaced</i>
Ditton Fields	Summer Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0RD	Sand-dressed	100m x 60m	No	Yes	2014
Ditton Fields	Summer Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0RD	Sand-filled	100m x 60m	No	Yes	2002
Notre Dame School	Convent Lane, Cobham KT11 1HA	Sand-dressed	100m x 60m	Yes	Yes	2014
Old Cranleigh Club	Portsmouth Rd., Thames Ditton KT7 0HB	Sand-dressed	98m x 61m	Yes	No	2018
Reeds School	Sandy Lane, Cobham KT11 2ES	Sand-dressed	100m x 60m	Yes	Yes	2015
Surbiton High School	Manor Road South, Esher KT10 0QA	Sand-filled	102m x 60m	Yes	Yes	2014
Surbiton High School	Oaken Lane, Claygate KT10 9PD	Sand-dressed	100m x 60m	Yes	Yes	2012
Surbiton Hockey Club	Sugden Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0AE	Water-based	92m x 54m	Yes	No	2010
Surbiton Hockey Club	Sugden Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0AE	Sand-dressed	92m x 54m	Yes	No	2013

- **Small-sided pitch:** England Hockey does not officially include small-sided pitches as part of demand/supply model as competitive fixtures cannot be catered for, but the following pitch may have some applications for junior training purposes.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Hinchley Wood School	Claygate Lane, Esher KT10 0AQ	Sand-filled	36m x 26m	No	2013

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

- **Full-sized pitches:**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Danes Hill School	Leatherhead Rd, Oxshott KT22 0JG	Sand-filled	104m x 65m	No	2013

- *Small-sided pitch:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>School site</i>	<i>Built/ resurfaced</i>
St. George's Junior School	Thames Street, Weybridge KT13 8NL	Sand-filled	61m x 48m	Yes	Yes	2000

9.4.2 Hockey pitch quality

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Ditton Field	Good	Good
Ditton Field	Standard	Good
Notre Dame School	Good	Good
Old Cranleighan Club	Good	Good
Reeds School	Good	Good
Surbiton High School (Manor Road)	Good	Good
Surbiton High School (Oaken Lane)	Good	Good
Surbiton Hockey Club	Good	Good
Surbiton Hockey Club	Good	Good

9.4.3 Pitch maintenance

The maintenance of pitches suitable for hockey use in the borough is organised by the managers of each facility.

9.4.4 Ownership, management and security of access

This is summarised in the table below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
Ditton Field	Kingston Grammar School	Kingston Grammar School	Secured
Notre Dame School	Notre Dame School	Notre Dame School	Secured
Old Cranleighan Club	Old Cranleighan Club	Old Cranleighan Club	Secured
Reeds School	Reeds School	Reeds School	Unsecured
Surbiton HS (Manor Road)	Surbiton High School	Surbiton High School	Secured
Surbiton HS (Oaken Lane)	Surbiton High School	Surbiton High School	Secured
Surbiton Hockey Club	Surbiton Hockey Club	Surbiton Hockey Club	Secured

9.4.5 The views of stakeholders on pitch supply

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

- **Participation trends:** Since 2012, hockey has seen a 65% increase of U16 players taking up Hockey within the club environment. This is increase across all age groups expected to continue especially with the success of Rio Olympics. England Hockey hosted the Vitality Hockey Women’s World Cup in July 2018 and it is hoped that the event will also create a springboard for the game across all ages, but especially amongst young females.
- **Pitches suitable for hockey:** Unlike some sports, hockey can only be played competitively on sand or water-based artificial grass pitches. Water-based pitches are not common and only found at elite sites, whereas as in Elmbridge sand-based/sand dressed pitches can be found on school sites, leisure centres and higher education establishments.
- **Pitch re-surfacing:** The popularity of artificial grass pitches on school sites is due to the surface being able is used for a number of sports to be played and taught. However, many schools do not financially plan to replace the pitch surface, or carpet as it is called. A carpet has roughly a 10-year life span dependant on use.
- **The impact of ‘3G’ pitches:** Since the introduction of the Third Generation (‘3G’) artificial grass pitches catering for football and rugby, some pitch providers have been attracted by the concept of replacing sand-based/filled carpets with a ‘3G’ surface, to generate greater income levels from hire to football clubs/commercial football providers. Because hockey cannot be played on ‘3G’ surfaces, it has had a detrimental effect on the game in some areas causing teams to be displaced to different areas or even to disband completely.
- **Pitch surface conversion:** Any providers proposing to change the type of surface on their artificial grass pitch should take advice from the appropriate sports’ governing bodies or refer to Sport England’s guidance. Due to the impact on hockey, it is important to ensure that sufficient sand-based pitches are retained for playing and developing hockey within each local authority area. To that end, any proposed change of an artificial grass pitch’s surface or carpet should require a planning application and as part of the process, the applicants will need to show that there is sufficient alternative provision available for hockey in the locality if the surface is changed. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should be sought prior to any planning application being submitted

Hockey clubs:

- **Surbiton Hockey Club:** The club has an extensive junior (‘Colts’) programme involving 900 6-18 year olds with sessions run every midweek evening and Sunday mornings, with some sessions at Ditton Fields and Reeds School. The club commented on facilities issues as follows:
 - **Pitch usage:** ‘On Saturday’s our pitches are fully utilised, we use the Surbiton High pitch at Oaken Lane if we do not have sufficient home slots. If there is not enough space on a Sunday, we use the pitches at Ditton fields and Reeds School. In an ideal world we would have a third pitch but do not have the space or resources for this. The water-based pitch needs replacing shortly and we are currently fundraising for this’.

- **Unmet demand:** ‘With the use of the School pitches we are not faced with any restrictions’.
- **Clubhouse facilities:** ‘The Clubhouse does meet our current needs, again, in an ideal world two additional changing rooms would be useful when the Premier League teams play at home’.
- **Old Cranleighans Hockey Club:** The club has its own sand-dressed artificial turf pitch in Thames Ditton (which was resurfaced in 2018) with a clubhouse shared with Old Cranleighans Rugby Club and also hires the Surbiton High School pitches (Oaken Lane and Manor Road) on Sunday mornings. The club commented on facilities issues as follows:
 - ‘Our pitch is managed by the Old Cranleighan Club and therefore other schools and clubs use the pitch on weekday afternoons for hockey and some evenings for football’.
 - ‘The adult and colts sections are continuing to grow. By the end of this season the adult section will most likely expand from 10 to 12 regular playing teams. The result of which we will have to hire pitches regularly away from our club house on a Saturday. Furthermore, our Colts section grows by approx. 50+ children annually again putting pressure on us to hire additional pitches’.
 - ‘We have to restrict all our age groups. We double up many of the age groups for all of the Sunday training sessions. i.e. U9s one half of the pitch/U10s the other half. More space would improve the quality coaching and meet demand’.
 - ‘The club house is sufficient at the moment as it has enough changing rooms but should we need to expand further we would need to review the current provision. The Old Cranleighan Club operates a rugby section too which means Saturday’s have both Rugby and Hockey operating at the same time’.
 - ‘We have just re-laid our existing astro pitch and part of ensuring the longevity of that pitch we have had to fence it off. This is currently with the planning committee at Elmbridge. In an ideal world we would consider a second pitch on site but we are fully aware of space, cost and planning constraints. We know we could fulfil its usage weekdays and weekends. The demand is there, especially from local schools and university hockey clubs who do not have their own facilities. We continually get requests for long term usage but cannot fulfil the requests’.
 - ‘Old Cranleighan Hockey Club has 700+ members from Aged 5 through 75+, the majority (500+) being Colts members. However, our Colts section is heavily reliant on the being able to hire two additional pitches for coaching on a Sunday. If access to those two pitches was removed, we as a Colts section would not be able to operate and the clubs in the area would not be able to take our members’.
- **Old Kingstonian Hockey Club:** The club uses the two artificial grass pitches at the Ditton Fields and also hires the sand-dressed pitch at Tiffin Girl’s School in the neighbouring borough of Kingston. The club commented on facilities issues as follows:

- ‘The school uses the [Ditton Fields] pitches Saturday mornings for school games so we can’t access the pitches until 1.00pm, sometimes 1.30pm. During the middle of winter this means we can only play one home game on each pitch as there are no floodlights. This is a major issue for us as this is supposed to be our home ground but a late start and early finish due to poor light is very restrictive. We would also like to run all our junior training on Sundays at Ditton Fields but the pitch is block-booked for the season by Surbiton HC even though it’s not always used, so we can’t access it’.
- ‘Our clubhouse facilities are inadequate. As it’s the school pavilion, we don’t have a licensed bar and although we have a fridge and storage it’s not easy to run. A club the size of OKHC should really have a clubhouse and we have tried various options over the years but it’s not ideal. We can offer hot teas after games but there is no social aspect. In addition, we have to be careful over times the changing rooms can be used. We have liaised with the school who are helpful and have worked a system with them to ensure safeguarding is met but it’s not ideal. It is also proving difficult over storage of equipment - again a proper clubhouse would help with many of these types of issues’.
- ‘Access to pitches that were more communal rather than tied to certain clubs would benefit this area as there are a lot of very big clubs and a few smaller clubs all requiring space and there’s not enough to go around. A more independently run facility may offer help for the smaller clubs’.

9.5 Assessment of current needs

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

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

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

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

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Ditton Fields (sand-dressed)	Old Kingstonian Hockey Club Surbiton Hockey Club <i>Kingston Grammar School</i>	4.0	4.0	Balanced
Ditton Fields (sand-filled)	Old Kingstonian Hockey Club Surbiton Hockey Club <i>Kingston Grammar School</i>	4.0	4.0	Balanced
Notre Dame School	<i>Leatherhead Hockey Club</i>	9.0	3.0	+6.0
Old Cranleighan Club	Old Cranleighan Hockey Club	18.0	18.0	Balanced
Reeds School	Surbiton Hockey Club	6.0	3.0	+3.0
Surbiton High School (sand-filled)	Old Cranleighan Hockey Club	12.0	9.0	+3.0
Surbiton High School (sand-dressed)	Old Cranleighan Hockey Club Surbiton Hockey Club	12.0	9.0	+3.0
Surbiton Hockey Club	Surbiton Hockey Club	12.0	12.0	Balanced
Surbiton Hockey Club	Surbiton Hockey Club	12.0	12.0	Balanced
TOTALS	-	89.0	74.0	+15.0

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Midweek used hours</i>	<i>% capacity</i>	<i>Weekend used hours</i>	<i>% capacity</i>
Ditton Field (sand-dressed)	0	-	4.0	100.0%
Ditton Field (sand-filled)	0	-	4.0	100.0%
Notre Dame School	0	-	3.0	33%
Old Cranleighan Club	10*	30.0%	18.0	100.0%
Reeds School	6**	20.0%	3.0	50%
Surbiton High School (sand-filled)	3	20.0%	9.0	75%
Surbiton High School (sand-dressed)	3	20.0%	9.0	75%
Surbiton Hockey Club	15	75.0%	12.0	100%
Surbiton Hockey Club	15	75.0%	12.0	100%
TOTALS	52.0	57.0%	74.0	83.9%

* Includes football training use by Claygate Royals FC and AFC Kingston

** Includes football training use by Oxshott Royals FC

The assessment shows that there is collective spare peak-time capacity equivalent to 15 hours per week. Based upon 12 hours per week peak capacity, this equates to 1.25 artificial grass pitches.

9.6 Assessment of future needs

9.6.1 Population growth

The 'Strategic Housing Market assessment for Kingston and North-East Surrey Local Authorities' (2015) includes Elmbridge. The study identifies a need for an additional 9,480 dwellings in the borough by 2035 and quotes the ONS sub-national population projection of 149,000 people in Elmbridge by the same date. This represents a 12.3% increase from the mid-2016 population estimate.

9.6.2 Potential changes in demand

Notwithstanding the data from the ‘Active People’ survey, which shows a fall in adult participation in the game since 2005, England Hockey’s national membership figures show an increase of 13% in the past four years although local club membership has increased by only 2.6% in the same period

9.6.3 Site-specific pressures

The pitch surface at the older pitch at Ditton Fields is more than 10 years old, which is the normal life expectancy of a pitch carpet and the carpet at the water-based pitch at Surbiton Hockey Club is also due to be replaced. They will need to be refurbished in the near future to ensure their continued availability.

9.6.4 Potential changes in supply

There are no known proposals to change local hockey pitch supply.

9.6.5 Existing spare capacity

Existing collective spare capacity in the borough in the peak period amounts to 15 hours, which equates to 1.25 pitches.

9.6.6 Future hockey pitch needs

Future hockey pitch needs are modelled below using ‘Team Generation Rates’ (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the borough are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future. Mixed teams have been apportioned between male and female teams.

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Pop. 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult males	17-55	31,400	20	1: 1,570	34,349	22	2
Adult females	17-55	34,800	18	1: 1,933	37,957	20	2
Junior males	5-16	11,600	16	1: 725	14,629	18	2
Junior females	5-16	13,400	25	1: 536	15,048	28	3

Projected future demand by 2035 amounts to nine additional teams, equivalent to 0.6 artificial grass pitches in the peak period.

9.6.7 Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator

A supplementary way of modelling future playing pitch needs is Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator. The model applies Team Generation rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand but provides helpful context for the site-specific supply-demand assessment in section 9.5 above. The results of applying the Calculator for hockey needs in Elmbridge are set out below. The peak demand figure is very close to the TGR calculation, so it is recommended that the TGR figure be used as the basis for projecting future needs:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	4.68
Extra weekly match equivalent sessions	6.76
Extra pitches to meet demand	0.56
Capital cost of extra pitches	£536,609
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£37,444

9.7 Key findings and issues

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

- Demand for hockey in the borough is very buoyant, with a recent increase in junior team numbers.
- A lack of facility capacity affects Old Kingstonian HC, principally due a combination of schools usage on Saturdays impinging on the peak demand period and a lack of floodlighting at the Ditton Fields pitches.
- Existing collective spare capacity in the borough in the peak period amounts to 15 hours, which equates to 1.25 pitches.

9.7.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **YES** - Although there are site-specific capacity issues at Ditton Fields

The pitches with community use are all accessible and have secured use, but five of the pitches are on independent school sites which means that in some cases Saturday morning schools' use impinges on the peak demand period.

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

With the exception of the older pitch at Ditton Field, the pitches are all high quality. The older pitch at Ditton Field is more than 10 years old, which is the normal life expectancy of a pitch carpet. It will need to be refurbished in the near future to ensure its continued availability. The water-based pitch at Surbiton Hockey Club will also need resurfacing in the next year or two and the club is currently fundraising to meet the costs of this.

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

- **Population growth:** The borough's population is projected to increase by 16,300 people by 2035, a 12.3% increase over the 2016 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** The projected increase in population will generate nine additional teams by 2035.
- **Changes in supply:** It has been assumed there will be no changes to hockey pitch supply.

- **Existing spare capacity:** Current collective peak time spare capacity is equivalent to 1.25 pitches.
- **Future needs:** Additional future needs equate to demand equivalent to 0.6 artificial grass pitches for hockey.

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

Existing collective peak time spare capacity in the borough amounts to the equivalent of 1.25 pitches. Future demand from Elmbridge will be equivalent to another 0.6 hockey pitches by 2035.

9.8 Scenario testing

9.8.1 Introduction

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

9.8.2 Scenario 1: Consolidating clubs' use at single sites

- **Rationale:** At present, all three clubs in the borough have to meet their needs by accessing pitches at more than one site. This undermines club cohesion and England Hockey has identified that the optimum operational model would be for the clubs to be able to meet all their pitch needs at a single site each. Their current needs and the ability of each club's primary site to deliver these is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>
Old Cranleighan Club	18.0	30.0	-12.0
Ditton Fields (Old Kingstonian HC)	6.0	12.0	-6.0
Surbiton Hockey Club	12.0	27.0	-15.0

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - If additional peak-time pitch capacity could be created at the clubs' respective primary sites, it would enable all their current activities to be accommodated at a single site each.
 - There would be a more cohesive operating structure with all teams from each club playing at their respective main sites.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - There is insufficient space to make additional hockey pitch provision at the Surbiton Hockey Club site, although there is an area of 'poorly performing' greenbelt adjacent, so there may be opportunities to sell the site for housing, provided a replacement site capable of accommodating four artificial grass pitches can be identified.

- There is space at Ditton Fields and the Old Cranleighan Club to install an additional pitch at each, but only at the expense of football and cricket pitches at Ditton Fields and rugby and football pitches at the Old Cranleighan Club. At the latter site, there is spare capacity equivalent to two adult football pitches.
- **Conclusions:** There are no straightforward solutions to adding pitch capacity at any of the three main club sites. Providing floodlighting at Ditton Field would create additional peak time capacity of three hours, which would partially meet some of Old Kingstonian HC's surplus demand at the site so would be worth pursuing (subject to planning considerations).

9.8.3 Scenario 2: Utilising spare capacity at schools' pitches

- **Rationale:** There is currently 15 hours of unused peak-time spare capacity at schools' artificial grass pitches in Elmbridge so the potential for using this should be examined as an alternative to providing additional capacity elsewhere.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The pitches already exist and as such this represents the lowest cost solution to providing additional peak-time capacity.
 - Three of the four schools with full-sized artificial turf pitches for hockey (Kingston Grammar, Reeds School and Surbiton High School) already accommodate some community use, so negotiating additional access should be straightforward.
 - Notre Dame High School already has a Community Use Agreement so additional hockey use would be secured.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - Fragmenting clubs' usage across several sites undermines a cohesive club ethos.
 - With the exception of the Surbiton High School pitches, the location of the other pitches is at the other end of the borough to the clubs' main bases, so they are geographically remote.
- **Conclusions:** Whilst it is not the ideal operating model, utilising existing spare peak-time pitch capacity at school sites would be a pragmatic response to the current shortage of capacity at the clubs' main sites. This would then provide some time to develop longer-term solutions to meeting clubs' needs on a more consolidated basis at single main sites (to be identified).

9.8.4 Scenario 5: Projecting higher demand levels

- **Rationale:** The survey of hockey clubs in Elmbridge indicated that in their judgement five additional adult teams and five junior teams could be accommodated in Elmbridge if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. This would represent a 12.7% increase in the number of teams in the borough, so it is therefore sensible to consider alternative projections, based upon existing known team numbers, plus unmet and latent demand estimates to determine the implications of each scenario before establishing which figures to base future needs on.

- Future need projections using Team Generation Rates based upon the number of current teams plus unmet and latent demand estimates are as follows:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Latent teams</i>	<i>Total teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Pop. 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult males	17-55	33,300	20	3	23	1: 1,665	36,297	26	6
Adult females	17-55	34,800	18	2	20	1: 1,740	37,957	22	4
Junior males	5-16	11,600	16	2	18	1: 644	14,629	20	4
Junior females	5-16	13,400	25	3	28	1: 579	15,048	31	6

- A comparison of the differences in future demand projections based upon expressed and expressed plus latent/unmet demand is tabulated below:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Extra teams expressed demand</i>	<i>Extra teams expressed plus unmet/latent demand</i>	<i>Difference in team numbers</i>
Adult males	20	2	6	4
Adult females	18	2	4	2
Junior males	16	2	4	2
Junior females	25	3	6	3

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Local hockey team numbers have increased by 2.6% between 2013 and 2018. The projected demand levels involving unmet and latent demand indicate a 12.7% increase in team numbers, but over a much longer period (16 years to 2035).
 - There is clear evidence from the PPS that a lack of pitch supply is inhibiting team formation in Elmbridge and therefore improving capacity will enable the additional unmet demand to be accommodated.
 - The additional team numbers projected by local clubs are based upon reasoned assumptions regarding waiting lists and the progression of age group teams.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Expressed demand is a known quantity and therefore provides a sounder basis for projecting future need.
 - Projecting demand increases based on population increases and current TGRs is more in keeping with national trends.
- **Conclusions:** On balance, projecting future needs based upon expressed demand only is the most reliable way of establishing pitch requirements.

9.9 Policy recommendations

9.9.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to hockey are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

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

9.9.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The Elmbridge PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for hockey in the borough. The PPS has identified a need to increase local hockey pitch capacity and to this extent, it will be important for all current community used hockey pitch sites to be retained. It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If proposals to redevelop hockey pitches do come forward, this will only be permissible they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development’.

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: Only the Reeds School pitch does not have secured community use and it is therefore recommended that external clubs’ use is secured through a formal Community Use Agreement.

9.9.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing pitch capacity: Additional pitch capacity would be created by installing floodlighting at the pitches at Ditton Fields (subject to planning considerations), thereby extending the usable peak period during the winter months. It is recommended that this be investigated further.

9.9.4 Provide

Recommendation 4 - Artificial grass pitches: Whilst there are no active proposals for additional artificial grass pitches for hockey in the borough at present, it is recommended that the concept of making additional pitch provision at the main site used by each of the three clubs should be explored further.

Recommendation 5 - Developer contributions: It is recommended that the action plan in the Elmbridge PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of providing additional hockey pitches to meet the needs of the additional population arising from housing

growth by 2035. To facilitate this, smaller projects should be listed as ‘relevant infrastructure’ under CIL Regulation 123. Larger strategic projects should be exempt from CIL, with funding collected via Section 106 contributions.

9.10 Action Plan

9.10.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the hockey action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for EBC - Elmbridge Borough Council, EH - England Hockey, OCHC - Old Cranleigh Hockey Club, OKHC - Old Kingstonian Club and SHC - Surbiton Hockey Club. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2018* (2018).

9.10.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved hockey facilities.	EBC	Developers	Determined by Sport England’s New Development Calculator	High

9.10.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Ditton Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No floodlights. Peak-time demand shortfall 	Provide additional capacity by floodlighting both artificial grass pitches	OKHC	EH Developers	£50,000	High
Notre Dame School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current use by Elmbridge clubs. Peak-time spare capacity 	Investigate the potential for use by Elmbridge clubs	Local clubs	Notre Dame School	-	Medium
Old Cranleigh Club	Peak-time demand shortfall	Investigate the potential to develop a second artificial grass pitch, given space based on adult football spare capacity at the site.	OCHC	EH Developers	£10,000 for feasibility study £800,000 for an additional pitch	High
Reeds School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No secured community use. Peak-time spare capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate Community Use Agreement. Investigate the potential for additional use by Elmbridge clubs 	EBC	Reeds School Local clubs	-	Medium
Surbiton High School (Manor Road)	Peak-time spare capacity	Investigate the potential for additional use by Elmbridge clubs	Local clubs	Surbiton HS	-	Medium
Surbiton High School (Oaken Lane)	Peak-time spare capacity	Investigate the potential for additional use by Elmbridge clubs	Local clubs	Surbiton HS	-	Medium
Surbiton Hockey Club	Peak-time demand shortfall	Investigate the options for to developing additional pitch capacity on the site.	SHC	EH Developers	£10,000 for feasibility study	High

10 LACROSSE NEEDS IN ELMBRIDGE

10.1 Organisational context

- **England Lacrosse** England Lacrosse is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in Elmbridge.
- **Cobham Lacrosse Club:** The club affiliates to England Lacrosse and is the only club in Elmbridge.

10.2 Strategic context

10.2.1 National Lacrosse strategy

England Lacrosse's strategic plan '*National Lacrosse Strategy: Delivering More 2016 - 2020*' (2016) contains the following priorities of relevance to Elmbridge:

Vision: 'For Lacrosse to be recognised as a major team sport in England'.

Market positioning: England Lacrosse will focus on male and female participation in the age range 10 - 30. This will encompass:

- School lacrosse to age 18, including after-school INTO programmes.
- Community Club expansion, using the INTO programmes on a 12-month a year basis.

Key priorities:

- Raising the profile of lacrosse.
- Expanding the lacrosse community.
- Improving world-level competitive performance.

Facilities Issues: There is an identified action to develop greater access to appropriate facilities.

10.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Runnymede

The '*Runnymede Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2018) was recently adopted and identifies that existing pitch capacity is capable of meeting current and future needs.

Spelthorne

There is no current lacrosse activity in the borough.

Woking

Woking Lacrosse is based at Westfield Football Club in Woking.

Guildford

Guildford Gators Lacrosse Club is based at the Stoke Park in Guildford and the University of Surrey Lacrosse Club is based at the Surrey Sports Park.

Mole Valley

There is no current lacrosse activity in the Borough.

London Borough of Richmond

Centaurus Lacrosse Club is based in Hampton and St. Mary's University College Lacrosse Club is based near Twickenham.

London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames:

There is no current lacrosse activity in the borough.

10.3 Lacrosse demand

10.3.1 England Lacrosse Association-affiliated teams

Current lacrosse activity in Elmbridge is as follows:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Junior Teams</i>
Cobham LC	Covenham Grounds, Cobham	1	4

- ***Teams:*** The Club has one adult team and four junior teams at Under 15, Under 13, Under 12 and Under 11 levels, plus a mini-section for Under 9 and Under 10.
- ***Schools programme:*** The club provides lacrosse coaching in four primary schools and one secondary school in Elmbridge.

10.3.2 Demand trends

- ***National trends:*** Sport England's '*Active People*' survey does not record adult participation levels in Lacrosse but the number of members nationally affiliating to England Lacrosse increased from 8,000 in 2009 to 17,000 in 2017.
- ***Local trends:*** Cobham Lacrosse Club was established in 2007 with just 12 members, by 2013 this increased to 80 members and the club now has 215 members, so local participation figures have exceeded national growth trends.

10.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by lacrosse teams from within Elmbridge which takes place outside of the area, or vice versa. 40% of Cobham Lacrosse Club's membership is drawn from outside Elmbridge borough.

10.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

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

Cobham Lacrosse Club believes that there is some unmet demand for lacrosse in Elmbridge, because it is already operating at over capacity at its current pitch.

10.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Cobham Lacrosse Club believes that there is some latent demand for lacrosse in Elmbridge, given the upward pressure on membership numbers.

10.4 Lacrosse pitch supply in Elmbridge

10.4.1 Quantity

Pitch provision used for Lacrosse in Elmbridge is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
Covenham Grounds	Portsmouth Road, Fairmile, Cobham KT11 1BW	1

10.4.2 Grass pitch carrying capacity

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

<i>Drainage</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>		
	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Good</i>
Natural inadequate	0.5	1.0	2.0
Natural adequate	1.5	2.0	3.0
Pipe drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and slit drained	2.0	3.0	3.5

The weekly carrying capacity of the pitch at Covenham Grounds is therefore 3.0 match equivalent sessions, although the limited usage period on Sunday mornings reduces the peak-time capacity to 2.0 match equivalent sessions.

10.4.3 Quality

The qualitative analysis involved a visit to the lacrosse pitch in Elmbridge with community use and used, to undertake a non-technical visual inspection. In the absence of a bespoke assessment for lacrosse pitches, the methodology produced by the RFU and RFL for Sport England's *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* (2013) was applied. The assessment generated 'scores' for each pitch by evaluating the condition of:

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

The scores for the pitch at Covenham Grounds is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Drainage</i>
Covenham Grounds	M2	D1

10.4.4 Changing quality

The quality of the changing facilities at the adjacent Old Surbitonians Memorial Ground site that serve the Covenham Grounds pitch is 'good'.

10.4.5 Pitch maintenance

The pitch at Covenham Grounds is maintained by the Cobham Sports Association grounds staff.

10.4.6 Ownership, management and security of access

Both the Memorial Ground and the Covenham Grounds are owned and managed by the Cobham Sports Association and both have secured community access.

10.4.7 The views of stakeholders on pitch supply

England Lacrosse: Consultation with the England Lacrosse identified that:

- Lacrosse generally has problems developing junior and recreational programmes, because of the lack of affordable floodlit facilities to use on winter evenings. Cobham Lacrosse Club is an exception, because as a member of the Cobham Sports Association, it has access to floodlit rugby pitches at its base at the Old Surbitonians Memorial Ground.
- England Lacrosse has a new University Lacrosse Officer programme which aims to ensure that more students playing lacrosse at university continue to play in community clubs when they graduate. As a prominent regional club, Cobham LC will be well-placed to benefit from the programme in the future.

Cobham Lacrosse Club: Consultation with the club identified the following:

- The club confirmed that ‘we have one pitch marked for lacrosse at the Memorial Grounds which we also share with rugby. We are constrained in terms of matches we can run, as we only have 10am to 12pm available on a Sunday for matches (our leagues run on Sundays). This means that we can only have two matches each weekend even though we have five teams’.
- The club stated that there is also a strong need for an all-weather pitch that would benefit several of the sports at Cobham Sports Association. ‘Although our pitches are good quality, the number of members we have across Cobham Sports Association means that we have significant unmet demand in the case of bad weather. The development of the Cobham Free School on the Munro House site [adjacent to the Cobham Sports Association site] gives a great opportunity to reevaluate the sports provision in the area to the benefit of all’.

10.5 Assessment of current needs

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

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

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

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

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Covenham Grounds	1	Cobham LC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	2.0	3.0	-1.0

The assessment shows that weekly supply and demand are balanced, but that there is a peak-time deficit.

10.6 Assessment of future needs

10.6.1 Population growth

The ‘Strategic Housing Market assessment for Kingston and North-East Surrey Local Authorities’ (2015) includes Elmbridge. The study identifies a need for an additional 9,480 dwellings in the borough

by 2035 and quotes the ONS sub-national population projection of 149,000 people in Elmbridge by the same date. This represents a 12.3% increase from the mid-2016 population estimate.

10.6.2 Potential changes in demand

The rapid increases in participation in lacrosse in the past decade suggest that demand for the sport is likely to continue to increase, albeit from a low base.

10.6.3 Site-specific pressures

There are no known site-specific pressures at either Covenham Grounds or the Old Surbitonians Memorial Ground.

10.6.4 Potential changes in supply

The proposal in conjunction with Cobham Free School to develop on an adjacent site a ‘3G’ pitch that would be suitable for Lacrosse, would significantly enhance pitch supply.

10.6.5 Existing spare capacity

There is no current spare capacity, with a peak-time deficit.

10.6.6 Future lacrosse pitch needs

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

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Population 2035</i>	<i>Teams 2035</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult male	18-45	21,240	0	-	23,853	0	0
Adult female	18-45	22,589	1	1: 22,589	25,367	1	0
Juniors	8-17	17,240	4	1: 4,310	19,361	5	1

Projected future demand by 2035 is for one additional team.

10.7 Key findings and issues

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

Cobham Lacrosse Club is the only club in Elmbridge and is the largest and fastest growing women’s Lacrosse club in the south of England. The club was founded in 2007 and currently has 215 female members, up from 80 in 2013.

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

The pitch at Covenham Grounds is used to over-capacity in the peak periods and is constraining further team development.

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

The existing provision is adequately drained and well-maintained.

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

- **Population growth:** The borough's population is projected to increase by 16,300 people by 2035, a 12.3% increase over the 2016 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** The projected increase in population will generate one additional team by 2035.
- **Changes in supply:** The proposal in conjunction with Cobham Free School to develop on an adjacent site a '3G' pitch that would be suitable for Lacrosse, would significantly enhance pitch supply.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is a current deficit in lacrosse pitch provision in the peak period at Covenham Grounds.
- **Future needs:** Additional future needs will increase current team numbers, which will require extra pitch capacity.

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

There is insufficient provision to meet future lacrosse needs.

10.8 Policy recommendations

10.8.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to lacrosse are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

10.8.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The Elmbridge PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for lacrosse in the borough. The PPS identifies a need to increase lacrosse pitch capacity and it is therefore important that the current site is retained. It is recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of the site, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If proposals to redevelop pitches do come forward, this

will only be permissible they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development’.

10.8.3 Provide

Recommendation 2 - Artificial grass pitch: The proposed provision of an artificial grass pitch at the adjacent Cobham Free School site will provide the additional capacity required by the club to sustain current and future needs. It is therefore recommended that this development be pursued as a priority, particularly given the related benefits for rugby.

Recommendation 3 - Developer contributions: It is recommended that the action plan in the Elmbridge PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of providing additional pitches to meet the needs of the additional population arising from housing growth by 2035. To facilitate this, artificial grass pitch projects should be listed as ‘relevant infrastructure’ under CIL Regulation 123.

10.9 Action Plan

10.9.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the lacrosse action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for EBC - Elmbridge Borough Council, EL - England Lacrosse and CSA - Cobham Sports Association. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2018* (2018).

10.9.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved hockey facilities.	EBC	Developers	Determined by Sport England’s New Development Calculator	High

10.9.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Cobham Free School	Proposal to provide an artificial grass pitch	Support the proposed provision	Cobham Free School	CSA Developers	£1,200,000	High
Covenham Grounds	Peak-time demand shortfall	Maintain current provision until the Cobham Free School pitch is provided	CSA	-	-	High

11 APPLYING AND REVIEWING THE STRATEGY

11.1 Introduction

This section identifies the applications of the Elmbridge PPS and the mechanisms for reviewing it to ensure that it remains robust and up-to-date.

11.2 Strategy applications

The success of the PPS will be determined by how it is used. While the use of the PPS should be led by Elmbridge Borough Council, its application and delivery should be the responsibility of the project steering group involving other key local stakeholders including Sport England and the governing bodies of the pitch sports. The PPS has a number of applications:

11.2.1 Sports development planning

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Highlight, justify and make the case for sports development activities with particular sports, groups and clubs and in particular areas.
- Identify current and future trends and changes in the demand for individual sports and how they are played.
- Inform the work, strategies and plans of sporting organisations active in the area.
- Advocate the need to work with specific educational establishments to secure community use of their site(s).
- Develop and/or enhance school club links by making the best use of school sites where they have spare capacity and are well located to meet demand.

11.2.2 Planning policy

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Develop new, and review the effectiveness of existing, local planning policy (e.g. Local and Neighbourhood Plans) in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The implementation of local planning policy to meet the needs of the community in line with the NPPF.

11.2.3 Planning applications

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Inform the development of planning applications which affect existing and/or proposed new sports facilities provision.

- Inform pre-application discussions to ensure any subsequent planning applications maximise their benefit to sport and are developed in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sports clubs and other organisations provide the strategic need for development proposals thereby potentially adding support to their application(s) and saving them resources in developing such evidence.
- The Council to assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposed new playing pitch provision in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sport England and other parties respond to relevant planning application consultations.

The PPS can also be applied to help the Council to meet other relevant requirements of the NPPF including:

- Taking account of and supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.
- Delivering the social, recreational, cultural facilities and services the community needs.
- Planning positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the framework.
- Working with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being).

11.2.4 Section 106

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Advocate the need for playing pitch provision to be taken into account when the local authority is developing and/or reviewing an approach to Section 106 contributions and the wider benefits of doing so (e.g. improving health and wellbeing).
- Provide prioritised infrastructure requirements for playing pitch provision including deliverable sport, area and site-specific projects with costings (where known).

11.2.5 Funding bids

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base and strategic need to support funding bids by a range of parties to a variety of potential funding sources.
- Inform potential bidders of the likely strategic need for their project.

11.2.6 Facility and asset management

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Ensure a strategic approach is taken to the provision and management of playing pitches.
- Inform the current management, strategies and plans of playing pitch providers e.g. the Council, leisure trusts and educational establishments.
- Share knowledge of how sites are managed and maintained, the lessons learnt and good practice.
- Highlight the potential of asset transfers and ensure any proposed are beneficial to all parties.
- Provide additional protection for particular sites over and above planning policy, for example through deeds of dedication.
- Resolve issues around security of tenure.

11.2.7 Public health

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Understand how the community currently participates in sport, the need for playing pitches and how this may evolve.
- Raise awareness of and tackle any barriers to people maintaining and increasing their participation.
- Highlight and address any inequalities of access to provision within the study area.
- Provide evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.

11.2.8 Co-ordinating resources and investment

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Raise awareness of the current resources and investment (revenue and capital) going into the management, maintenance and improvement of playing pitch provision.
- Co-ordinate the current and any future resources and investment to ensure the maximum benefit to sport and that value for money is secured.
- Ensure the current and any future resources and investment are complimentary and do not result in their inefficient use.

11.2.9 Capital programmes

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base to justify the protection and investment in playing pitch provision.
- Influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes (e.g. school refurbishment and new build programmes).

11.3 Monitoring delivery

A process should be put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered. This monitoring should be led by Elmbridge Borough Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery.

11.4 Keeping the strategy robust and up-to-date

Along with ensuring that the PPS is used and applied, a process should be put in place to keep it robust and up to date. This will expand the life of the PPS, providing people with the confidence to continue to both use it and attach significant value and weight to its key findings and issues, along with its recommendations and actions.

Sport England advocates that the PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

The annual review should highlight:

- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- Any changes to particularly important facilities and/or sites in the area (e.g. the most used or high-quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

11.5 Strategy implementation

To support the delivery of the actions in all the pitch sport-specific chapters, Elmbridge Borough Council in consultation with stakeholders will prepare a short-term action plan identifying priorities and actions for year one of the strategy delivery. The action plans in the PPS provide a long list of prioritised actions, but many will not be applicable, appropriate or manageable to deliver initially. This is the first stage of delivering the PPS and essential that this is undertaken as this initiates the delivery and provides momentum following completion of the work.