

SOUTH ESSEX PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION	2
PART 2: VISION.....	5
PART 3: RESEARCH FINDINGS.....	6
PART 4: OVERARCHING SPORT-BY-SPORT RECOMMENDATIONS.....	14
PART 5: OVERARCHING STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS	19
PART 6: OVERARCHING ACTION PLAN	30
PART 7: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE	48
APPENDIX ONE: MAPPING.....	51

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ASC	All Stars Cricket
ASELA	Association of South Essex Authorities
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
CSP	County Sports Partnership
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
ECCB	Essex County Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
MUGA	Multi use games area
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PGA	Professional Golfers Association
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the overarching Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the South Essex local authorities of Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock for the period 2018-2037. Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by these councils, together with Essex County Council and Sport England, to assess outdoor sport facility needs across the individual areas, as well as considering these needs in a wider context across the region.

The output has been separate playing pitch needs assessments and strategies across the aforementioned authorities, with the findings fed into this document. The PPS for Thurrock was completed in 2016, with the remaining authorities being completed in 2018 as part of a joint project.

The focus of the overarching strategy is to provide clear direction to all partners so that together they can plan and develop a more modern, efficient and sustainable range of community based outdoor sports facilities, as well as identifying cross-cutting themes that can be addressed across local authority boundaries. This sits alongside the individual assessment reports and strategy and action plan documents, and also sits alongside an overarching Indoor Built Facility Framework and individual reports for the included local authorities. The inter-relationship between both the indoor and outdoor strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also use indoor facilities for matches or training.

The PPS for each local authority has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and under the direction of a steering group led by each council and including National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). Each individual strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy.
- ◀ Informing the protection and provision of playing pitches.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing playing pitch areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches).
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches.
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for playing pitches.
- ◀ Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of playing pitches.

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in both the individual and overarching strategies. This should be led by all of the invested local authorities and supported by the Steering Group. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of each PPS being signed off, Sport England and the NGBs will consider it to be out of date.

If each PPS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, their lifespan can be extended. As such, each 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 that was built up during development. Considering the time to develop a PPS, this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Partners

Whilst Active Essex, Essex County Council and the local authority councils have been the key drivers, it is expected that plans and actions will be delivered through partnership with and between other key stakeholders, including parish and town councils and the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board (and Southend Wellbeing Board for actions based within Southend), and be predicated upon them accepting and taking responsibility for different aspects of its implementation. The partnership approach to delivery is necessary to make best use of the assets and resources available to drive the development of sport and physical activity in South Essex.

Brentwood, although not included within this work, should also be considered when making decisions regarding outdoor sports provision due to its close proximity to those which are included.

Local strategic context summary

The Association of South Essex Authorities

The Association of South Essex Authorities (ASELA) consists of Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Essex County, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea, and Thurrock Councils. All seven Councils have recognised the need to work across borders on strategic issues such as infrastructure, planning and growth, skills, housing and transport connectivity. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 10th January 2018. This recognises that through a collaborative approach, the Councils will be best placed to deliver a vision for South Essex up to 2050, promoting healthy growth for its communities. There is an intention to assist the delivery of this vision through the preparation of a Joint Strategic Plan.

The core purpose of ASELA is to provide place leadership for South Essex. Recognising that, through collaborative approach, it will be best placed to develop and deliver a vision for South Essex up to 2050, promoting healthy growth its communities.

ASELA will focus on the strategic opportunities, regardless of individual local authority boundaries for the South Essex economic corridor to influence and secure the strategic infrastructure that will help individual areas to flourish and realise their full economic and social potential.

South Essex Housing Market Assessment (2016)

This assessment forms an important part of the evidence base used to set future housing requirements in each of the Thames Gateway South Essex authorities as respective local plans are developed, and has been prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) has identified a range of objective assessment of need for the housing market assessment. This recognises that the authorities are undertaking further work through the preparation of an Economic Development Needs Assessment to appraise the anticipated economic potential of the area. In recognising the evidence of strong need for housing of all tenures, as well as the area's stated growth ambitions, this study concludes that weight should be given to the upper end of the objective assessment of need range in the development of housing policy and assessment of housing land supply.

Comment [XP1]: Southend is Unitary and therefore is not covered by the Essex HWB. Please make sure this same line is the same across all other documents – thank you.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

As advocated by the PPG, housing needs have been assessed across the Thames Gateway South Essex housing market area. Consideration has also been given to the scale of need within each of the individual authorities over the period from 2014 to 2037.

Table 1: Summary of objectively assessed need range

Local authority	Lower end of range	Upper end of range
Basildon	763	837
Castle Point	326	410
Rochford	312	392
Southend-on-Sea	953	1,132
Thurrock	919	973
Thames Gateway South Essex	3,272	3,744

In summary, the above has led to the identification of a range of objectively assessed need for between 3,275 and 3,750 dwellings per annum across the Thames Gateway South Essex housing market area with Basildon, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock the areas likely to see the most growth.

Active Essex: Changing One Million Lives to get Essex Active 2017-2021

The Active Essex (County Sports Partnership) target is to get one million people active by the year 2021 by driving up and sustaining sports participation and physical activity. In partnership with a number of key partners and organisations, Active Essex is committed to creating opportunities and resources to achieve this target which will reduce inactivity and develop positive attitudes to health and wellbeing across communities in the County. Although the Strategy applies to the whole county, specific priority is given to the following groups, as those most likely to be underrepresented in both sport and physical activity:

- People aged 65+.
- Unemployed people.
- Females.
- People with a life-long limiting illness or disability.
- People from lower socio-economic groups (NS-SEC 5-8) ¹.
- Black and ethnic minorities.

Essex Health and Wellbeing Board: Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013-2018)

This identifies three key priorities, all of which have specific development areas which need to be achieved through partnership work, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Essex Health and Wellbeing Board key priorities

Priority
Starting and developing well: ensuring every child in Essex has the best start in life.
Living and working well: ensuring that residents make better lifestyle choices and have opportunities needed to enjoy a healthy life.
Ageing well: ensuring that older people are independent for as long as possible.

¹ NS-SEC: National Statistics Socio-economic Classifications

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Summary of local policies

Key local policy messages can be summarised as follows:

- ✦ There is a commitment to work across local authority boundaries in the form of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities.
- ✦ The 2016 SHMA indicates additional housing requirements for the sub region. Specific locations have not been identified but the general increase will lead to additional demand on leisure facilities, especially in Southend, Thurrock and Basildon.
- ✦ There is a commitment to improve the health of all communities in across the South Essex sub region and the need to have good quality sports facilities, which are programmed and priced appropriately.
- ✦ The commitment to protect and enhance the range of services that support healthy and active communities within the sub region.
- ✦ There are a wide range of activities and programmes delivered across the sub-region in line with Active Essex's key strategic priorities. Specific priority needs to be given to groups which are under-represented in both sport and physical activity.

Scope

Each PPS for Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea includes the following outdoor sports facilities:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ✦ Football pitches (including 3G AGPs) | ✦ Outdoor bowling greens |
| ✦ Cricket pitches | ✦ Outdoor athletics tracks |
| ✦ Rugby union pitches | ✦ Golf courses |
| ✦ Rugby league pitches | ✦ Outdoor cycling tracks |
| ✦ Hockey pitches (sand-based AGPs) | ✦ Parkour |
| ✦ Outdoor tennis courts | ✦ Multi-use games areas (MUGAs) |
| ✦ Outdoor netball courts | |

For Thurrock, the same facility types were included with the exception of rugby league (where no supply exists), golf courses, cycling, parkour and MUGAs.

Playing pitch sports (i.e. football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey) were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. For the remaining sports/facilities, the supply and demand principles of Sport England: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) were followed to ensure the process is compliant with the NPPF.

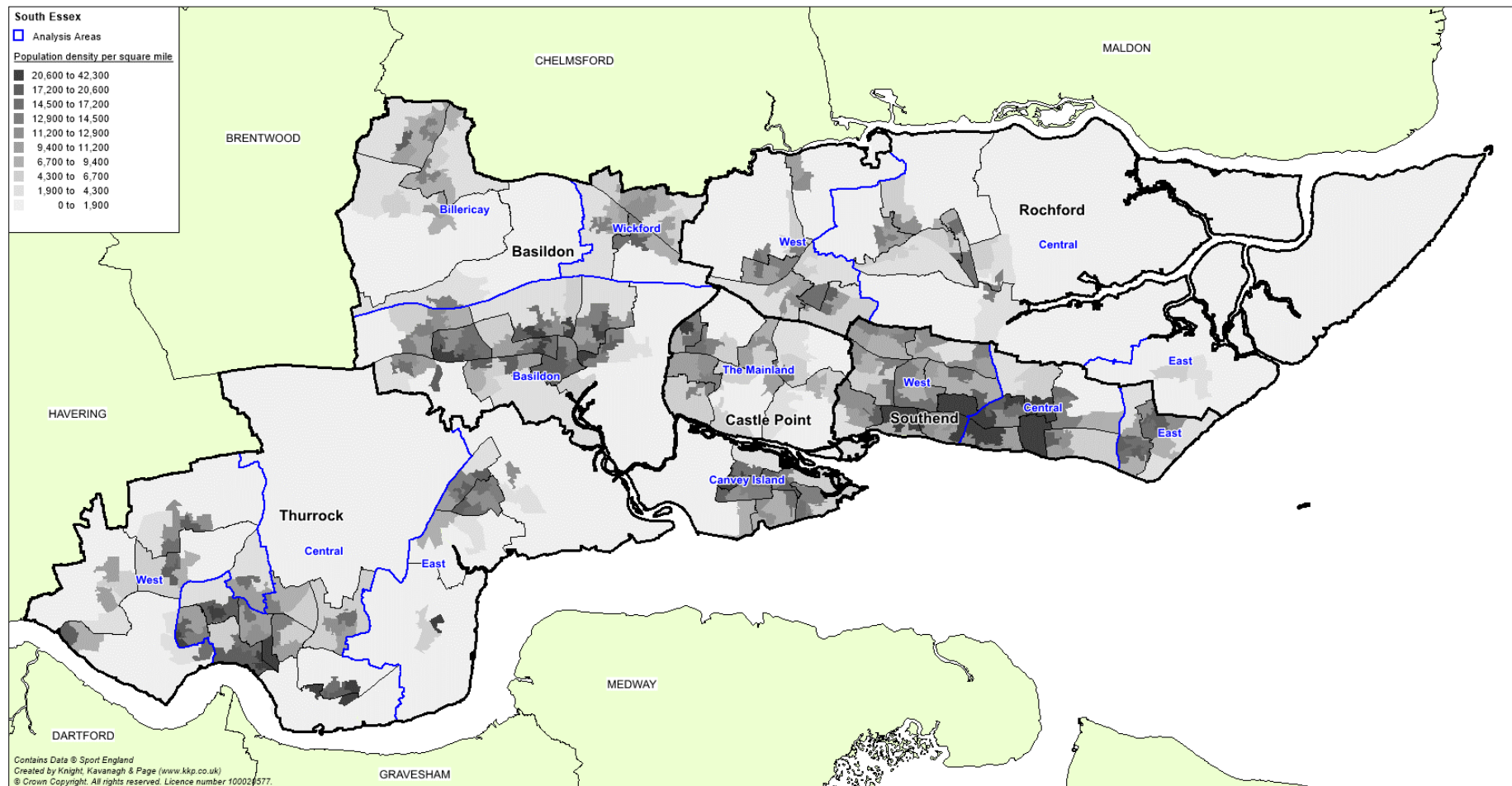
Study areas

The study area for each local authority is considered to be the whole of the respective council's boundary area. Further to this, analysis areas have also been created within each authority to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and the examination of outdoor sport supply and demand at a local level.

Three analysis areas have been agreed upon in Basildon (Basildon, Billericay and Wickford), Rochford (Central, East and West), Southend-on-Sea (Central, East and West) and Thurrock (Central, East and West), whereas two have been agreed upon in Castle Point (Canvey Island and the Mainland). Each analysis area is based on ward boundaries and can be seen overleaf.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 2: VISION

Below is the vision for the South Essex PPS for the period 2018-2037. It sets out to capture the themes within the authority specific visions included within each individual strategy to provide an all-encompassing vision for the wider South Essex region.

“To create high quality, sustainable leisure and sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle health and age issues and provide accessible, inclusive activities for South Essex residents as part of an active lifestyle.”

2.1: Aims

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England planning themes. It is recommended that they are adopted by the respective councils and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

AIM 2

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

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 2.1: Sport England planning themes



Source Sport England (2015)

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 3: RESEARCH FINDINGS

Area by area summaries

Summarised below are the key issues identified for each local authority as part of its individual PPS. These key issues relate to quality issues, site development, overplay, current and future shortfalls and imported and exported demand. These issues are considered most important to the overarching strategy due to the potential impact across local authority boundaries and, as such, across South Essex. For other issues, please see the individual strategy documents.

Basildon summary

Football
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is determined that there are current shortfalls of youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches, which remains the case when accounting for future demand. Security of tenure is a major issue at Barleylands Farm and also a problem in relation to pitches within sites at Gardiners Lane South; if demand attracted to these sites had to use alternative provision, existing shortfalls would be greatly exacerbated, whilst shortfalls would be created on pitch types with current spare capacity. There are currently teams from six Basildon based clubs accessing pitches outside of the study area (exported demand).
3G pitches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a current shortfall of two full size 3G pitches identified and a future shortfall of three. Given rugby union grass pitch shortfalls, evidence exists to support the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
Cricket
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overall shortfall exists for senior cricket both currently and when accounting for future demand amounting to eight match equivalent sessions, primarily due to overplay in the Billericay Analysis Area. For junior cricket, a shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions exists currently and a shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions exists when accounting for future demand.
Rugby union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an overall shortfall of rugby pitches evident in Basildon and as such priority should be placed on alleviating overplay. Given that the majority of overplay is a result of training demand on grass pitches, it is considered that there is a potential need for additional floodlighting, pitch quality improvements and/or access to World Rugby compliant 3G pitches.
Rugby league
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No supply of rugby league pitches exists and no current or future demand is perceived to exist.
Hockey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Basildon is considered sufficient to meet both match play and training demand. Priority should be placed on protecting the AGP at Basildon Sporting Village for continued hockey use.
Golf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered that the current supply of facilities in Rochford can meet current and future demand. Existing facilities should be protected for future golf activity.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Bowls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Meadows Park and Wickford Memorial Park are operating above recommended capacity; however, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand given that no clubs express a need for additional greens. For this to remain the case, it is likely that all greens require protection.
Tennis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock Brook Country Club is currently operating above its capacity; however, the private nature of the Club means it would be unsuitable for an investment to increase provision, as is the case at David Lloyd Club. As all remaining non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play.
Netball
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority should be placed on sustaining court quality at Basildon Sporting Village in order to sustain and increase participation levels.
Athletics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that Basildon AC currently has 688 members, with a further 55 people on the waiting list, the athletics track at Basildon Sports Village is considered to be sustainable. Due to issues around track quality and the impact this is having on the track hosting certain events, resurfacing of the track should be a priority. Precedence should also be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the numerous running events taking place within Basildon as well as exploring the implementation of initiatives not currently serviced.
Cycling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an area of Gloucester Park is used for BMX activity; however, there are no purpose-built facilities within Basildon. There is no clear evidence to suggest that dedicated cycling provision is required within Basildon, especially considering the close proximity of Hadleigh Park.
MUGAs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the concentration of MUGAs within the Basildon Analysis Area, and given the quality issues that exist in regards to a lot of the provision, a case could be made for the rationalisation of the facilities in order to provide a lower number of better quality facilities.

Castle Point summary

Football
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on current demand, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches have minimal spare capacity, whilst adult, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches have identified shortfalls. All pitch types have a future shortfall based on predicted future demand. In total, 42% of responsive clubs report that they have no security of tenure, meaning should unsecure sites fall out of permanent use, existing spare capacity would be eliminated and existing shortfalls would be significantly exacerbated. There is one team from C & K Basildon Ladies FC based outside Castle Point that plays matches within the Borough, whilst there are four adult male teams from within two Castle Point based clubs accessing pitches outside of the study area; South Benfleet United FC and Estuary United FC.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

3G pitches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With 155 teams currently affiliated to Castle Point there is a need for four full size 3G pitches, meaning a current shortfall of three pitches Based on future demand there remains a shortfall of three full size 3G pitches, which equates to one pitch in the Canvey Island Analysis Area and to two pitches in the Mainland Analysis Area.
Cricket
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current and future demand is able to be accommodated; however, an increase in provision may be required to accommodate any future senior demand derived from either Canvey Island CC and Hadleigh & Thundersley CC. Both analysis areas and all clubs have capacity to accommodate both current and future demand for junior cricket.
Rugby union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a current shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent session in the Canvey Island Analysis Area, which could increase to 6.25 match equivalent sessions if future growth aspirations are realised. Further shortfalls will be created if all junior and mini demand is transferred to Benfleet Playing Fields as is desired by Benfleet Vikings RFC.
Rugby league
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that no perceived rugby league demand exists currently or in the future, no action is required in relation to the sport.
Hockey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with EH suggests that it is unlikely for a dedicated club to be created in Castle Point in the near future, meaning immediate priority should be given to clubs and facilities in neighbouring authorities. Notwithstanding the above, the lack of provision is considered detrimental to school-based hockey.
Golf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered that the current supply of facilities in Castle Point can meet current and future demand, although it is imperative that both courses are protected for long-term golfing activity.
Bowls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All three clubs are operating above recommended membership, suggesting a requirement for additional green space. As providing additional outdoor greens is considered unrealistic, consideration should be given to the creation of an indoor bowls facility as this would reduce the pressures on the outdoor greens.
Tennis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a sufficient supply of courts to meet demand from Deanes TC at Deanes School Sports Centre. The supply of courts servicing Hadleigh Park TC is also considered to be sufficient; however, a shortfall will be evident if the Club realises its future demand aspirations, suggesting that floodlight installation is required. For non-club courts, the supply is considered to be insufficient as only four are provided.
Netball
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority should be placed on ensuring courts at Deanes School Sports Centre remain of a good standard to accommodate the Southend & District Netball League.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Athletics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence suggests that sufficient demand exists for the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre to be re-instated and it is worth exploring whether a dedicated athletics club could be created via help from England Athletics. Priority should also be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the running events currently taking place.
Cycling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered that demand for cycling within Castle Point is accommodated for due to Hadleigh Park being situated in the Borough. The priority should be sustaining the quality of this site so that it continues to meet demand.
MUGAs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered that given the breakdown across the two analysis areas, Castle Point is relatively well provided for albeit quality needs to improve. Furthermore, usage is likely to be limited given that none are floodlit.

Rochford summary

Football
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is determined that there is current and future spare capacity on adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, whereas for youth 11v11 pitches, there is current spare capacity but a future shortfall. Six teams from within three clubs are based outside of Rochford despite playing within the District, whilst there are currently three adult male teams from three Rochford based clubs accessing pitches outside of the study area; however, no desire to relocate is expressed.
3G pitches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no full size 3G pitches within Rochford, resulting in a significant shortfall of six 3G pitches.
Cricket
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall spare capacity exists for senior cricket both currently and accounting for future demand amounting to nine match equivalent sessions. For junior cricket, 56 match equivalent sessions of capacity exist currently and 48 match equivalent sessions of capacity exists when considering future demand.
Rugby union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered supply and demand, an overall shortfall is evident for Rochford Hundred RFC given that all three of its senior pitches are overplayed. An overall shortfall is also evident for Westcliff RFC; however, this is considered to be less of an issue as all excess demand is concentrated on its training pitch. Westcliff RFC is a Southend-on-Sea based club that plays within Rochford.
Rugby league
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that no perceived rugby league demand exists currently or in the future, no action is required in relation to the sport.
Hockey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southend HC accesses both Sweyne Park School and King Edmund Business and Enterprise School but expresses imported demand as it deems itself to be a Southend-on-Sea based club. Given that the pitch at Sweyne Park School is not floodlit and is not capable of accommodating four matches on one day, a shortfall of provision for match play is evident. In addition, given the high levels of football usage on the AGP at King Edmund Business and Enterprise School, no capacity is identified for an increase in hockey training activity. It is imperative that both the AGPs at King Edmund Business and Enterprise School and Sweyne Park School are protected for continued hockey use.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Golf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered that the current supply of facilities in Rochford can meet current and future demand, although emphasis should be placed on ensuring the needs of independent golfers can be met given that no courses are currently tailored specifically for such needs.
Bowls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King George V Playing Fields is currently operating above capacity according Bowls England guidance as Rayleigh BC provides 144 members; however, no demand for an additional green has been identified by the Club. Great Wakering (RBL) Bowls Club is operating within recommended membership, meaning the Club does not require access to additional green space, but does require it's green to be protected provided that membership remains stable.
Tennis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a sufficient supply of courts at three out of the four club sites; however, Rayleigh Lawn Tennis Club is currently operating above its capacity. As all remaining, non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play.
Netball
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any competitive demand for netball courts in Rochford is exported to neighbouring local authorities and due to limited demand, providing community available netball courts within Rochford is not considered to be a priority.
Athletics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although no dedicated athletics facilities are currently provided, no demand is expressed for the creation of such provision, with facilities in neighbouring authorities considered close enough to absorb any demand. Precedence should instead be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the running events currently taking place, as well as ensuring the sustainability of Rochford Running Club.
Cycling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no clear evidence to suggest that cycling provision is required within Rochford, especially considering the close proximity of Hadleigh Park. Priority should be on working towards the recommendations and actions derived from the Cycling Action Plan.
MUGAs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although demand for access to MUGAs in Rochford is unclear, it is considered likely that there is an under provision in the East Analysis Area given that none are provided. Usage of current provision is likely to be limited given that neither are floodlit.

Southend-on-Sea summary

Football
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is determined that there are both current and future shortfalls of youth 11v11, youth 9v9 pitches and mini 7v7 pitches, whereas a future shortfall is also evident for mini 5v5 pitches and adult pitches. Should pitches with unsecure tenure be taken out of use, current shortfalls are greatly exacerbated, whilst shortfalls are created on pitch types with current spare capacity. Southend United FC has submitted a planning application proposing to relocate its stadium to Fossetts Farm, whereas Garon Park CIC aspires to develop Norman Garon Trust Football Pitches, Garon Park and the Youth Ground. Based on data collated, there are two teams based outside of Southend-on-Sea that play matches and/or train at venues within the Borough, whilst there are six teams based outside of the Borough that play matches and/or train at venues within neighbouring authority Rochford.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

3G pitches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With 285 teams currently affiliated to Southend-on-Sea, there is a need for six full size 3G pitches, meaning a current shortfall of four pitches. Based on future demand, there will be a shortfall of six pitches. A total of 17 teams currently play matches on the 3G pitch stock; however, four of these play at Playfootball which should not be happening as it is not FA approved. Given rugby union grass pitch shortfalls, evidence exists to support the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
Cricket
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall spare capacity exists currently for senior cricket amounting to 198 match equivalent sessions and for junior cricket amounting to 272 match equivalent sessions. Considering future demand, actual spare capacity reduces to 174 match equivalent sessions for senior cricket and to 240 match equivalent sessions for junior cricket Notwithstanding overall spare capacity, there remains a need to alleviate overplay at Chalkwell Park and particularly at Garon Park.
Rugby union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered supply and demand, an overall shortfall is evident to service Southend RFC, meaning priority should be focused on alleviating overplay at Southend RFC. Westcliff RFC is a Southend-on-Sea based club that plays within Rochford; an overall shortfall is evident for the Club although this is considered to be less of an issue as all excess demand is concentrated on its training pitch.
Rugby league
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unlikely that any further dedicated rugby league provision is required, with the pitch at Shoeburyness High School and the stock of rugby union pitches considered sufficient to cater for any future activity.
Hockey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a requirement for two full size, floodlit, hockey suitable AGPs, meaning a shortfall is evident given the quality issues at St Thomas More High School. Given the shortfall, an additional full-size pitch is required, or the AGP at St Thomas More High School needs resurfacing, in order to meet demand from Southend HC. Southend HC is current exported to Rochford due to a lack of provision within Southend-on-Sea.
Golf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered that the current supply of facilities in Southend-on-Sea can meet current and future demand. It is also clear that all three golf courses should be protected given the different profiles attracted to each one of them.
Bowls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greens at Belfairs Park, Cavendish Gardens, Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club and Thorpe Bay Lawn Tennis Club are all currently operating above Bowls England capacity guidance; however, no club express a need for additional greens. That being said, for this to remain the case, it is likely that all greens require protection.
Tennis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thorpe Bay and Westcliff Hard Court tennis clubs are operating above capacity; however, both clubs report that the current number of courts is adequate to meet their needs. As all remaining, non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Netball
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is currently community demand for outdoor netball provision in Southend-on-Sea generating from the Southend and District Netball League, which currently exports to Rochford due to previous quality issues within Southend-on-Sea. Given expressed exported demand, priority should be placed on improving court quality in order to help return the League, particularly at Westcliff High School for Girls.
Athletics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southend-on-Sea Athletics Club is operating above track sustainability threshold of 200 members, therefore the track at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre requires sustaining. Precedence should also be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the numerous running events taking place within Southend-on-Sea as well as the growth of other initiatives.
Cycling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although there is not requirement for a dedicated facility in Southend-on-Sea there is a need for the Councils to continue to engage with key stakeholders and clubs to further develop cycling across the authority. Cycle Southend offers a method for achieving the above.
MUGAs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered likely that there is an under provision, particularly in the Central Analysis Area. Furthermore, usage of current provision is likely to be limited given that the majority are poor quality and are not accompanied by floodlighting.

Thurrock summary

Football
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are current and future shortfalls of adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions, whilst current spare capacity on youth 11v11 pitches will not be sufficient to meet future demand. There are eight teams registered to Thurrock that currently play outside of the local authority area. East Thurrock United FC aspires to purchase Mobil Fields from the Council and has plans to develop a stadia pitch on the site. Aveley Sports & Social Club and Linford Recreation Ground are subject to planning proposals that could result in the loss of pitches.
3G pitches²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently three 3G pitches in Thurrock, leaving demand for six additional pitches based on team numbers.
Cricket
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a current shortfall of pitches in the East Analysis Area which can be attributed to six match sessions of overplay at Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground. When considering future demand, a shortfall is evident in the West Analysis Area and the shortfall worsens in the East Analysis Area, whereas the Central Analysis Area is at capacity.
Rugby union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an overall shortfall of senior pitches amounting to 10.5 match equivalent sessions and a shortfall is evident within each analysis area.

² The summary for 3G pitches has been updated based on work currently being undertaken for the Thurrock Local Football Facility Plan.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Hockey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently three full sized sand based AGPs in Thurrock; however, based on current and future demand only one is required. The AGP at Palmers Sport & Fitness Centre is currently used for hockey and should be protected and improved unless an alternative option comes forward.
Bowls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clubs suggest that an additional bowling green at their ground or in the area would lead to an increase in club membership; the perception is that any planned increases/future demand can be accommodated on existing green. Aveley Sports & Social Club is subject to a planning proposal for a housing development which could result in the loss of its green. Concerns have also been raised over the future of the green at Billet Recreation Ground in relation to the potential sale of the site to East Thurrock United FC.
Tennis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thurrock TC reports future demand of 20 senior and 30 junior members, however, it also reports that it is currently operating at capacity and states a need for access to more courts, preferably that are floodlit. It is considered that all remaining courts have spare capacity for a growth in demand, but poor quality is an issue which deters informal use.
Netball
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The South Essex Thurrock Netball Association accesses the courts at Hassenbrook Academy as a central venue for all of its league matches. The Association considers the number of courts available to be adequate but expresses a need for more floodlit courts and more indoor courts.
Athletics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thurrock Harriers Athletics Club is coming to the end of a 25-year lease of Thurrock Athletics Stadium. The track requires protection and is also in need of refurbishment as it is coming to the end of its lifespan.

South Essex summary

Based on the above individual local authority sport-by-sport summaries, the key issues impacting all, or more than one of the five local authorities have been identified and highlighted in the South Essex summary below.

South Essex Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most significant issue to be addressed in South Essex is a lack of security of tenure for clubs and in particular to mitigate potential loss of key sites such as Barleylands. There are a number of poor quality facilities (often due to a lack of regular and good quality maintenance) and resultant shortfalls. There is an identified need to increase the number of 3G pitches, in particular to service football and rugby union training; the total the shortfall amounts to 21 full size 3G pitches across the five local authorities. Many AGPs, athletics tracks and tennis/netball courts are nearing the end of their lifespan and will need refurbishment; there is often a lack of sinking funds in place to achieve this. There is a requirement for one additional accessible hockey suitable AGP to cater for Southend-on-Sea and Rochford based demand. There is a lack of capacity to develop community use at school sites due to poor provision and a lack of access to ancillary facilities; the pricing of access can also be prohibitive. There is a clear need to adopt a collaborative approach to addressing the overarching issues across South Essex.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 4: OVERARCHING SPORT-BY-SPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand the potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against key issues for each outdoor sport, resulting in sport specific recommendations. These scenarios can be seen in the individual strategies for each local authority.

The recommendations within the individual strategy documents have now, where appropriate, been applied across the South Essex area to enable a joined-up approach to addressing key issues identified. The Steering Group that will look to implement these overarching recommendations should be a sub-regional group made up of the South Essex local authorities and Essex County Council, as well as other partners such as the NGBs and Active Essex. This offers benefits in terms of joint working on strategic and cross-boundary issues and will also be more efficient in terms of administration when compared to each authority having its own individual steering group. This also sits in line with the Association of South Essex Authorities Memorandum of Understanding.

Implementation of these recommendations and actions are discussed further in the delivery section of this report (Part 7).

Football – grass pitches

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ To improve quality, consider involvement in the FA's Pitch Improvement Programme and, for sites not managed by the local authorities, the creation of equipment banks to allow clubs to carry out suggested maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Secure tenure for clubs currently using unsecure sites such as Barleylands Farm; or, if this is not possible, ensure appropriate mitigation should the provision fall out of permanent use via the creation of hub sites (which the wider South Essex region would be required to assist with).
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using education sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration of adult pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 teams, where possible.
- ◀ Consider rationalisation of low value sites if contributions can go towards creating larger, better quality, multi-pitch sites and providing there is no net loss of playing pitch space.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand, as well as expressed imported and exported, unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ If required, explore ground sharing possibilities across the wider South Essex region that can provide a more sustainable long-term future for the senior club network.
- ◀ Review the Local Football Facility Plan for each of the five local authorities regularly, in line with reviewing each PPS, due to the potential for the facilities for football to change significantly.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

3G pitches

- ◀ Look to provide additional full size 3G pitches across South Essex to meet shortfalls based on training demand (21 are required in total).
- ◀ Carry out feasibility study to determine best strategic locations for 3G pitches across South Essex, with preference for pitches that are likely to accommodate demand across authority borders.
- ◀ Prioritise creation of 3G pitch hub sites that can accommodate two or more 3G pitches to increase sustainability.
- ◀ Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy rugby demand as well as football demand; or, explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and rugby appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure ancillary facilities accompanying 3G pitch provision are of a suitable standard or improved make it of an acceptable standard.
- ◀ Ensure all 3G pitches developed allow for community use, with appropriate long-term community use agreements in place.
- ◀ Look to have large, sustainable partner clubs linked to new 3G pitch developments.
- ◀ Ensure all providers put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Review the Local Football Facility Plan for each of the five local authorities regularly, in line with reviewing each PPS, due to the potential for 3G facilities to change significantly.

Cricket

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares, including protection from development that may prejudice the use of a cricket square such as residential development in close proximity to a cricket outfield (ball strike issues).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ For grounds not maintained by the Council, work with clubs and groundsmen to review quality on those pitches assessed as standard or poor to ensure appropriate quality is achieved.
- ◀ Consider use of equipment banks to improve club maintenance across South Essex and work in partnership with clubs to support self-sufficient maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider cricketing offer.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs have access to appropriate training facilities, both outdoor and indoor.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- ◀ For clubs without lease arrangements, explore opportunities for long-term asset transfer or as a minimum ensure community use agreements are entered into to enable long-term access.
- ◀ Look to increasing use of **NTPs** as a way of alleviating overplay, especially in Basildon, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock, potential via the ECB's NTP scheme.

Comment [KA2]: What is this?

Rugby union - grass pitches

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Explore other options to alleviate overplay such as the installation of additional floodlighting on grass pitches/areas or the transfer of play to alternative sites.
- ◀ Explore the creation of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within South Essex that can be utilised by clubs for training; such provision could be developed in partnership with the FA.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider rugby union offer.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- ◀ Retain supply of rugby pitches at school sites for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and encourage secure community availability should demand exist in the future.

Rugby league - grass pitches

- ◀ Ensure any future rugby league activity can be accommodated, preferably via sharing rugby union provision.

Hockey (sand/water-based AGPs)

- ◀ Protect existing sand-based AGPs that are in current use for hockey.
- ◀ Alleviate shortfall in Southend-on-Sea via resurfacing AGP at St Thomas High School or through developing a second AGP at Warners Bridge after carrying out a feasibility study.
- ◀ Resurface AGPs when the carpets are at the end of their lifespan and when quality becomes an issue, such as at Palmers Sports & Fitness Centre currently.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are in place at all sites with a hockey suitable AGP to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider hockey offer, particularly for clubs currently using off-site facilities.
- ◀ Seek to maximise hockey usage at sites where hockey is being played.
- ◀ Ensure that no 3G conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey.

Golf³

- ◀ Retain all current golf courses and facilities.
- ◀ Sustain course quality and seek improvements where necessary through implementation of appropriate maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth.
- ◀ Encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for existing and new players.

Bowls

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens.
- ◀ Sustain good quality greens and explore improvements on greens assessed as poor or standard quality.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Consider creation of an indoor bowls facility as this would reduce the pressures on the outdoor greens.

³ Golf was not included in the Thurrock PPS

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Tennis

- ◀ Retain and sustain club courts for competitive play through implementation of appropriate maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Explore providing additional courts or additional floodlighting to clubs with capacity issues.
- ◀ Improve quality of local authority courts and accompanying ancillary provision at sites that best accommodate informal play.
- ◀ Explore implementation of ClubSpark scheme at appropriate sites and consider rationalisation of existing stock to better enable this.
- ◀ Explore improving court quality at school sites where sufficient demand exists for curricular and extra-curricular activity, potentially in partnership with England Netball.

Netball

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Maintain court quality at key netball hub sites to sustain and increase competitive participation levels.
- ◀ Look to improve court quality and create additional netball hub site at Westcliffe High School for Girls to accommodate the Southend and District Netball League.
- ◀ Explore improving court quality at school sites where sufficient demand exists for curricular and extra-curricular activity, potentially in partnership with the LTA.

Athletics

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of tracks and consider resurfacing provision at Basildon Sporting Village and Thurrock Athletics Stadium due to existing quality issues.
- ◀ Consider re-instating the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre and explore whether a dedicated athletics club could be created via help from England Athletics.
- ◀ Sustain and increase the popularity of the numerous running events taking place across all five local authorities such as Parkrun as well as the growth of other initiatives.

Cycling⁴

- ◀ Protect Hadleigh Park and ensure it is continued to be maintained to a high standard to accommodate cycling demand from across the South Essex area.
- ◀ Continue to engage with key stakeholders and clubs to further develop cycling across South Essex, with organisations such as Cycle Southend offering a method for achieving this.
- ◀ Utilise documents such as Thurrock Council's Active Place Strategy to support sustaining and increasing cycling activity and to provide opportunity for connected cycleways throughout the South Essex authorities.

Parkour⁵

- ◀ Protect Hadleigh Park and ensure it is continued to be maintained to a high standard to accommodate parkour demand from across the South Essex area.
- ◀ Consider how local authorities can encourage further Parkour participation in public spaces.

⁴ Cycling was not included in the Thurrock PPS

⁵ Parkour was not included in the Thurrock PPS

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

MUGAs⁶

- ◀ Ensure that there is an even distribution of MUGAs across the local authority areas, focusing on creating additional provision where gaps are currently identified.
- ◀ Where there are a high number of MUGAs within an area, look at potential to rationalise and enhance quality of remaining provision.
- ◀ Improve quality of MUGAs currently assessed as poor quality that are required.
- ◀ Explore installation of additional floodlighting where possible to increase hours of usage and as such, better accommodate demand.
- ◀ Work alongside the findings of each Local Football Facility Plan, which will make a number of recommendations relating to existing and potential new MUGAs.

⁶ MUGAs were not included in the Thurrock PPS

PART 5: OVERARCHING STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations have been developed via a combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis, which culminated in the production of the individual assessment reports and key drivers identified in the individual strategies. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed across South Essex and apply across all outdoor sports facilities, rather than being specific to one sport.

Whilst the same recommendations apply to each authority, the scale to which the recommendations need to be acted upon and the steps required to achieve the recommendations may differ. As such, for further guidance, please refer to the individual strategy documents, which set out more specific direction.

OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The individual PPS assessment reports show that in each local authority, all currently used outdoor sports sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor-quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to meet the identified shortfalls. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

NPPF paragraph 74 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed, or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

The project should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the local planning authorities on a case by case basis considering site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all playing pitch sports types and sizes.

Policy Exception E1:

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with Sport England policy exception E4.

Policy Exception E4:

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ◆ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◆ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◆ in a suitable location and
- ◆ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Any disused/lapsed sites are included within the individual strategies together with a recommendation in relation to the need to bring the site back into use or mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of some existing outdoor sport sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) in some of the local authorities to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger, better quality sites (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed upon, lost for development.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

A number of education sites are being used across the local authorities for competitive play, predominately for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate community use agreement is in place (including access to changing provision where required).

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

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the councils to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

Councils should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁷. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding.

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

⁷ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

The councils could establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. As an example, outcomes may include:

- ◆ Increasing participation.
- ◆ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◆ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◆ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

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

Community asset transfer

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process: http://archive.sportengland.org/support_advice/asset_transfer.aspx

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Recommendation (c) Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. Pricing policies at facilities can be barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools, especially some academies, to open up provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and the local clubs. Councils and other key partners must work with schools to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address underlying problems. Consideration should be given to a centralised booking system for community use of schools to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

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

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large schools offering numerous pitches. Securing access to these sites will significantly reduce grass pitch shortfalls throughout the local authorities that they are based within. This also ties in with recommendations made in the indoor leisure facilities strategies, which make a recommendation to work with selected schools to increase their availability for community use, particularly relating to sports hall.

Another recommendation made in the indoor leisure facilities strategies is to work with colleagues in Education to ensure that any new schools or improvements to sports facilities in existing schools are accompanied by a community use agreement. This should also apply to outdoor sports facilities in order to provide greater security of tenure to club users.

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

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest). The action plans within the individual strategy documents provide a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality site and/or sites that are overplayed.

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

Addressing quality issues

Quality across the local authorities is variable but generally most pitches are assessed as standard quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

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

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The strategic approach to outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For the purposes of quality assessments, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities are separately reported as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. Some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from litter. For rugby, a good quality pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. For rugby, drainage is natural but adequate. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets.

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing rooms with no showers, no running water and/or old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed, it may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement.

In order to prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the Steering Group within each local authority works up a list of criteria, relevant to the authority and the wider South Essex region, to provide a steer on future investment.

Addressing overplay

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

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

Capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		

For all remaining non-pitch sports (e.g. bowls and tennis) there are no capacity recommendations set out by the NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

A cost-effective way to reduce unofficial use (and therefore overplay), particularly for football, could be to remove goalposts in between match days, principally at open access, high traffic sites that are managed by clubs. This will, however, require adequate, secured storage to be provided.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

Increasing maintenance

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of poor drainage. In some instances, ensuring there is an appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each NGB can help with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

The FA and ECB are part of the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council-maintained sites.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the IoG.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 5: Action Plan in each individual strategy documents for further information.

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

Partners, led by the councils, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision are directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sports facilities.

In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation, the councils should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the councils directly, it is important that they seek to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.

One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health and wellbeing, for example. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

Please refer to Appendix Two for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

It is important that the strategies inform policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

For playing pitches, the councils should use Sport England's new Playing Pitch Demand Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the individual assessment reports to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its life cycle).

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the findings of this work are taken into consideration and that consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused, such as single grass pitch football sites without adequate ancillary facilities or new cricket/rugby grounds located away from existing clubs.

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Most new developments which create net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more or create a new dwelling.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106/CIL Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

OBJECTIVE 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

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

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

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the action plans within each individual Strategy as well as in this overarching Strategy for improvements to each councils' own outdoor sports facilities, whilst recognising the need to support partners. The action plans list improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each local authority and analysis area.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches, NTPs and to a lesser extent sand-based AGPs, where there is significant housing growth, or where sites fall out of use and require mitigation.

For 3G pitches, there is a shortfall of provision within each local authority. As such, the local authorities should work together when installing new provision to ensure that they are at strategically suitable sites that can benefit neighbouring authorities rather than hindering any current or potential future cross border provision.

Recommendation (i) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The councils and their partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding individual assessment reports and strategies.

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the current and future demand for provision identified across the local authorities can be overcome through maximising use of existing stock through a combination of:

- ✦ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ✦ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ✦ The re-designation of facilities.
- ✦ Securing long term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ✦ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of outdoor sports facilities.

PART 6: OVERARCHING ACTION PLAN

The overarching site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified at key sites across all five local authorities. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential at these sites for enhancement. It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make.

The identification of sites within the overarching action plan is based on their strategic importance in a South Essex wide context, e.g. they accommodate demand from more than its own local authority, they accommodate a lot of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the area as a whole. The inclusion of such sites is not to say that the recommendations are more important than the recommendations for sites not included, but is recognition that the recommendations and outcomes are more likely to apply to more than one local authority. For sites not included, please see the individual PPS strategy and action plan documents.

Also included within the overarching action plan is a strategic action plan, providing recommendations required to achieve what is set out in Part 5 of this document. This includes options for consideration in regards to improving quality, improving security of tenure, securing developer contributions and protecting/adding to the existing stock of facilities. These have been chosen as they are considered to relate to each local authority included, although the extent to which may vary.

Management and development

The Steering Group that will look to implement these overarching recommendations should comprise a priority list of actions based on South Essex wide priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the group should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor facility sites and associated provision.

The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related site development or enhancement:

- ✦ Financial viability.
- ✦ Security of tenure.
- ✦ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ✦ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ✦ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ✦ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ✦ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ✦ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ✦ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private hub sites.
- ✦ Football investment programme/3G pitch development with the FA and Football Foundation.

Partners

The overarching action plan is to be delivered as part of a joined-up approach between the South Essex councils. As such, it is designed to be pursued and adhered to by all relevant stakeholders and partners.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The column indicating partners in the site action plan refers to the main organisations that the relevant councils would look to work with to support delivery of the actions. Given the extent of potential actions it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to provide support.

Site hierarchy

The individual strategy documents propose a tiered site hierarchy consisting of hub sites, key centres and local sites and include every site containing outdoor sports facilities. In contrast, the overarching action plan only considers sites with strategic importance to the wider South Essex region, meaning the large majority of sites included are considered to be hub sites, with some key centres also featured.

Furthermore, only sports/facility types that have a wider reach are included, resulting in some sports/facility types at the included sites being discounted. For example, football pitches at a site may be considered to be of strategic importance but a bowling green at the same site may not be, with only the football pitches therefore noted.

Priority

All site and strategic recommendations included are considered to have a high priority level to the wider South Essex region. This is on the basis of the impact that carrying out the recommendations will have on addressing the key issues identified, therefore it is these projects which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

Costs and timescales

For information on the costs and timescales of carrying out the recommendations, please see the individual PPS strategy documents.

Aim

Each action in the site action plan seeks to meet at least one of the three aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect**. However, given the importance of the sites listed, it is likely that the majority meet all three. For such information, please see the individual PPS strategy documents.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Overarching Site Action Plan

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
3	Barleylands Farm Site 1	Basildon	Football	Private	<p>The land is designated for agricultural purposes, meaning the pitches have no security of tenure and can be removed at any time.</p> <p>Five adult, three youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, four mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 pitches assessed as either standard or poor quality. The youth 11v11 and the mini 5v5 pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Actual spare capacity on the remaining pitches are discounted due to unsecure tenure.</p> <p>Serves demand in Basildon.</p>	<p>Explore option of securing tenure or the site with the landowner; if this is not possible, ensure demand can be accommodated elsewhere through a combination of the creation of new grass pitches and new 3G provision.</p> <p>If tenure is secured, improve poor quality pitches to increase carrying capacity and alleviate overplay, and explore options to improve changing provision.</p>	FA
4	Barleylands Farm Site 2	Basildon	Football	Private	<p>The land is designated for agricultural purposes, meaning the pitches have no security of tenure and can be removed at any time.</p> <p>Four adult, five mini 5v5, four mini 7v7, three youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches, all rated as poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week, whilst remaining pitch types have capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.</p> <p>Serves demand in Basildon.</p>	<p>Explore option of securing tenure or the site with the landowner; if this is not possible, ensure demand can be accommodated elsewhere through a combination of the creation of new grass pitches and new 3G provision.</p> <p>If tenure is secured, improve poor quality pitches to increase carrying capacity and alleviate overplay, and explore options to improve changing provision.</p>	FA
5	Barleylands Farm Site 3	Basildon	Football	Private	<p>The land is designated for agricultural purposes, meaning the pitches have no security of tenure and can be removed at any time.</p> <p>One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch rated as poor quality and two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one youth 11v11 pitch rated as standard quality. No pitches are overplayed; however, any remaining capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.</p> <p>Serves demand in Basildon.</p>	<p>Explore option of securing tenure or the site with the landowner; if this is not possible, ensure demand can be accommodated elsewhere through a combination of the creation of new grass pitches and new 3G provision.</p> <p>If tenure is secured, improve poor quality pitches to increase carrying capacity and alleviate overplay, and explore options to improve changing provision.</p>	FA
-	Gardiners Lane South	Basildon	Football Rugby union Cricket Bowls Netball	Sports club	<p>Consisting of Basildon Post Office Club, Basildon Rugby Club, Basildon Sport and Leisure Club, Ford Sports and Social Club and The Stadium (Basildon United FC). A feasibility study concludes that Basildon Post Office Club, Basildon Rugby Club, Basildon Sport and Leisure Club and The Stadium should be amalgamated in situ, whilst Ford Sports and Social Club should be relocated to land in West Basildon. As part of the amalgamation, it is also proposing the creation of 3G pitch to satisfy Basildon Rugby Club and Basildon United FC.</p>	<p>Ensure all clubs at Gardiners Lane South that are remaining on site remain provided for in regards to the development, with any net loss of provision mitigated through the creation of new provision to equal or better quantity and quality.</p> <p>Support proposal for a 3G pitch to alleviate overplay of grass pitches.</p> <p>Improve clubhouse facilities serving clubs.</p> <p>Ensure provision provided for Ford Sports and Social Club is an equal or better quality and quantity if the re-location takes place and secure tenure to provide actual spare capacity.</p> <p>Consider 3G pitch provision as part of the relocation if a robust business plan warrants further development within the Basildon Analysis Area and is approved by the FA.</p> <p>No objection to the loss of the netball court providing contributions are made to improving other provision in the locality; however, the inclusion of the bowling green is required.</p>	<p>FA</p> <p>RFU</p> <p>Bowls England</p> <p>England Netball</p> <p>Sports clubs</p>

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
7	Bartlett Park	Basildon	Football	Council	Two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all rated as standard quality. The mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitches have actual spare capacity of two and one match equivalent session respectively, whilst the 5v5 pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Aspirations are in place for the creation of an additional four youth 11v11 pitches on adjacent land. Currently serves Basildon but as a 3G site would also serve neighbouring authorities, in particular Rochford.	Utilise actual spare capacity via transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand. Consider installation of a full size 3G pitch in order to reduce shortfalls in both Basildon and Rochford and if successful, consider making the site a double 3G pitch hub site. Support plans for additional pitches to be provided. South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	FA
11	Basildon Sporting Village	Basildon	Football	Council/ Everyone Active	Eight adult and four mini 7v7 pitches all rated as standard quality. The adult pitches have actual spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions; the mini 7v7 pitches have actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session. The site suffers from significant drainage issues. Pitches serve Basildon clubs. Due to spare capacity could accommodate additional adult and mini teams.	Look to improve quality of pitches through addressing drainage issues to further increase capacity.	FA Everyone Active
			3G		Six smaller sized 3G pitches that are floodlit and well used. Pitches serve Basildon as well as being likely to serve areas of Castle Point (e.g. South Benfleet) and Thurrock (e.g. Corringham).	Ensure pitches are maintained to a high standard to continue to meet demand and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	FA Everyone Active
			Cricket		Two standalone NTPs rated as standard quality. Used by one club as well as by Last Man Stands. Serves Basildon as well as serving teams from neighbouring authorities due to being a Last Man Stands venue.	Ensure quality remains sufficient for competitive play and resurface wicket when required.	ECB Everyone Active
			AGP		A full size sand-based AGP that is floodlit and used by Basildon HC for all training and matches. Serves residents from Basildon, Southend-on-Sea and Castle Point. Basildon HC reports that 90% of its members are from other local authorities. Most are from Southend-on-Sea, whilst many others travel from Castle Point.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface. Explore resurfacing in the near future and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Provide Basildon HC with greater security of tenure.	EH Everyone Active
			Netball		Twelve floodlit macadam courts rated as good quality. High netball demand at site, with competitive matches played during both summer and winter months. Courts serve clubs within Basildon due to Basildon & District Netball Association stating that clubs must be within a ten-minute drive time catchment to enter the league.	Sustain court quality and assess current maintenance regimes to prevent moss build up on courts.	England Netball Everyone Active
			Athletics		One eight lane, 400 metre synthetic track that is fully floodlit but assessed as poor quality. Used by Basildon Athletics Club, which has 688 members. Track serves demand in Basildon area; however, due to the track in Castle Point being disused, it is likely to accommodate demand from Castle Point as well. Once track resurfaced, meaning it can host higher level competition again, more imported demand may be generated.	Retain track for continued club use and seek to rectify quality issues through resurfacing the track.	England Athletics Everyone Active

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
13	Beauchamps High School	Basildon	3G	School	A good quality, full size, FA registered 3G pitch with floodlighting. Surface was provided in 2018 and is rated as good quality. Pitch accommodates clubs in Basildon, as well as likely accommodating demand from Rochford, in particular from areas such as Rayleigh.	<p>Ensure pitch is maintained to a high standard to continue to meet demand and prolong carpet life.</p> <p>Ensure a sinking fund is in place for repairs and future refurbishment.</p> <p>Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch can continue to accommodate competitive demand and attempt to maximise usage for this activity.</p>	FA School
16	Billericay Cricket Club	Basildon	Cricket	Sports Club	Two grass squares both rated as good quality, one with 22 wickets and one with 16 wickets. Combined, they are overplayed by 96 match equivalent sessions per season. Used for County matches and tournament finals as well as by Billericay CC. Serves Basildon demand as well as neighbouring authorities. Providing NTP at site on one or both squares would potentially increase use through Last Man Stands activity.	<p>Provide NTPs in situ to reduce overplay.</p> <p>To fully alleviate overplay, look to transfer more play onto Lake Meadows Park following quality improvements and/or seek usage of Hannakins Farm Community Centre.</p> <p>Ensure any new developments within the vicinity of the site do not prejudice cricket activity, especially in relation to ball striking.</p>	ECB Sports Club
18	Billericay Town Football Club	Basildon	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch both rated as good quality. Club plays at Step 3 of the football pyramid, meaning spare capacity is discounted. The Club has an aspiration to improve its clubhouse and to replace the youth 11v11 pitch with a full size 3G pitch. Currently serves Basildon but as a 3G site would also serve neighbouring authorities.	<p>Retain actual spare capacity to protect quality.</p> <p>Support club with plans to develop and 3G pitch ensure it is readily available for wider community demand.</p> <p>South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.</p> <p>If the 3G pitch is successful, consider creation of converting stadia pitch to 3G in order to create a double 3G pitch hub site.</p> <p>Support club with clubhouse plans.</p>	FA Sports Club
24	Eversley Leisure Centre	Basildon	Football	Council	Four adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all rated at poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions, whereas the youth 9v9 pitch and the mini 5v5 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Actual spare capacity on the adult pitches discounted due to quality. Serves demand in Basildon.	<p>Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity on the adult pitches and to reduce overplay on the youth 11v11 pitch and to fully alleviate overplay on the youth 9v9 pitch and mini 5v5 pitch.</p> <p>Re-configure adult pitches to create additional youth 11v11 pitches in order to transfer remaining overplay from existing youth 11v11 pitch.</p>	FA
			3G		A full size 3G pitch rated as good quality having been provided in 2018. FA registered to host competitive football. Pitch accommodates clubs in Basildon, as well as likely accommodating demand from Rochford, in particular from areas such as Rayleigh.	<p>Ensure pitch is maintained to a high standard to continue to meet demand and prolong carpet life.</p> <p>Ensure a sinking fund is in place for repairs and future refurbishment.</p> <p>Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch can continue to accommodate competitive demand and attempt to maximise usage.</p>	

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
32	Hannakins Farm Community Centre	Basildon	Football	Community organisation	Two adult, two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all rated as standard quality. The adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches all have actual spare capacity, whereas the youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Pitches serve Basildon clubs. Due to spare capacity could accommodate additional adult, youth and mini teams.	Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	FA Community Organisation
			3G		One good quality, full size, FA registered 3G pitch with floodlighting. Pitch was resurfaced in 2017 and is rated as good quality. Pitch accommodates clubs in Basildon, as well as likely accommodating demand from neighbouring authorities.	Ensure pitch is maintained to a high standard to continue to meet demand.	FA Community organisation
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for repairs and future refurbishment.	
						Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch can continue to accommodate competitive demand and attempt to maximise usage.	
						South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	
Consider installation of a second full size 3G pitch to create a multi 3G pitch hub.							
34	James Hornsby High School	Basildon	3G		One full size 3G pitch that is floodlit and rated as good quality. Pitch is FA registered and used for home fixtures by six teams. Pitch accommodates clubs in Basildon, as well as likely accommodating demand from neighbouring authorities.	Ensure pitch is maintained to a high standard to continue to meet demand and prolong carpet life.	FA School
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for repairs and future refurbishment.	
						Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch can continue to accommodate competitive demand and attempt to maximise usage for this activity.	
57	Woodlands School	Basildon	3G	School	A good quality, full size, FA registered 3G pitch with floodlighting. Pitch was resurfaced in 2015 and is rated as good quality. Pitch accommodates clubs in Basildon, as well as likely accommodating demand from neighbouring authorities.	Ensure pitch is maintained to a high standard to continue to meet demand and prolong carpet life.	FA School
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for repairs and future refurbishment.	
						Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch can continue to accommodate competitive demand and attempt to maximise usage for this activity.	

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Castle Point	Football	Council	Eight adult, three youth 9v9 and three mini 5v5 pitches all of standard quality. No spare capacity exists in the peak period. The adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams. Canvey Island Youth FC has taken on a lease of the area inside the athletics track and plans to create additional provision in the near future. Changing facilities servicing the Club are considered basic. Serves Castle Point demand, as well as some demand from Basildon and Southend-on-Sea.	Support Canvey Island Youth FC in its aspirations for the grass area inside the athletics track providing that it does not negatively impact athletics participation should the track be re-instated. Improve changing facilities servicing the Club.	FA
			3G		A good quality 3G pitch, converted from a sand-based AGP in 2013. It is FA approved for competitive matches and currently has eight teams using it for this purpose. Pitch accommodates clubs in Castle Point, as well as likely accommodating demand from neighbouring authorities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance and seek to maximise usage, particularly for matches. Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch remains suitable for match play. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Consider creation of a second 3G pitch in order to provide a multi-pitch hub site. South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand. Look at potential of second 3G pitch being WRC to accommodate rugby training demand and alleviate overplay on grass rugby union pitches in the area.	FA RFU
			Athletics		Six lane synthetic track which is rated as poor quality and due to significant quality issues is no longer in use. Significant demand exists for it to be brought back up to standard. Would serve Castle Point demand.	Consider re-instating the track given the demand expressed.	England Athletics
			Football		Two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of standard quality. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure. The adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams. Currently serves Castle Point but as a 3G site would also serve neighbouring authorities. In particular, Rochford.	Provide club users with a community use agreement to improve security of tenure and to provide actual spare capacity. Reconfigure one of the adult pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand. Consider installation of a full size 3G pitch provided that is fully available to the community and has a robust business plan in place. South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	FA School
			Tennis		Six floodlit macadam courts that are assessed as good quality and used by Deanes TC via a community use agreement. Also accompanied by indoor courts. Serves Castle Point demand.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA School
7	Deanes School Sports Centre	Castle Point	Netball	School	Four floodlit courts that are assessed as good quality and in use by the Southend & District Netball League. The League previously used Westcliff High School for Girls in Southend-on-Sea and may return there if court quality improves. Serves both Castle Point and Southend-on-Sea demand due to site being used by Southend & District Netball League.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Ensure courts remain sustainable if league demand transfers off site.	England Netball School

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
27	The Appleton School	Castel Point	Football	School	Two youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches assessed as poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions; the youth 9v9 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. Currently serves Castle Point but as a 3G site would also serve neighbouring authorities.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay. Provide club users with security of tenure via a community use agreement. Consider installation of a full size 3G pitch provided that is fully available to the community and has a robust business plan in place. South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	FA School
-	Hadleigh Park	Castle Point	Cycling	Council	An Olympic mountain bike course consisting of 5km of sandstone track. Used by Hadleigh MTB Club as well as recreational users. Serves South Essex area due to being only purpose-built cycling facility in the area.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and continue to maximise usage.	British Cycling Active Essex
			Parkour		A Parkour facility that caters for a broad spectrum of individuals and is a popular destination for Parkour groups across South Essex and beyond. Serves South Essex area due to being only purpose-built Parkour facility in the area.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and continue to maximise usage.	Parkour UK Active Essex
2	Apex Sports Ground	Rochford	Football	Community Organisation	Three youth 11v11 four youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are standard quality. All pitches are used to capacity at peak time. Hawkwell Athletics FC reports it has received funding to create purpose built ancillary facilities. Site has been recognized as a potential site for a full size floodlit stadia 3G pitch based on identified shortfalls. Currently serves Rochford as a 3G site would also serve neighbouring authorities.	Explore the feasibility of improving car parking facilities on sit in line with existing planning permission. Ensure security of tenure for Hambro Colts YFC via a long-term lease arrangement. Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	FA Community Organisation
8/9	Clements Hall Leisure Centre/ Clements Hall Playing Field.	Rochford	3G	Trust	A good quality smaller sized floodlit 3G pitch which is available for community use. Is some Section 106 money allocated to the site which could contribute towards full size 3G pitch development. Currently serves Rochford as a 3G site would also serve neighbouring authorities.	Retain for continued recreational/ casual demand. Consider site for new 3G pitch. Site may also have potential to be a double 3G pitch hub site. South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	FA Trust
17	Greensward Academy	Rochford	3G		Site has been recognized for a potential full size 3G pitch based on identified shortfalls. As a 3G site would also serve neighbouring authorities.	Explore the feasibility of creating a full size floodlit 3G pitch on site to reduce District shortfalls. South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	FA School

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
25	King Edmund Business & Enterprise School	Rochford	Football	School	Two youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches, all of which are standard quality with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. The School has been gifted land adjacent to its site and has aspirations to develop an adult pitch that will be available to the community. The site has also been recognised as a potential site for a full size floodlit 3G pitch based on identified shortfalls. As a 3G site would also serve neighbouring authorities.	Pursue security of tenure for club users via a community use agreement, potentially linking it to a 3G pitch funding agreement.	FA School
			Support the School in its aspirations to develop an additional pitch.				
			Explore the feasibility of creating a full size floodlit 3G pitch on site to reduce District shortfalls.				
			South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.				
			Sand AGP		A full size floodlit sand-based AGP that is assessed as standard quality albeit is now at the end of its lifespan having been installed in 2006. Used by both Southend & Benfleet and Rochford hockey clubs, as well as by Southend HC occasionally. Clubs report issues accessing appropriate ancillary facilities after matches and state that the current changing rooms are insufficient. Serves Rochford and Southend-on-Sea demand.	Explore funding options to refurbish the pitch and ensure it remains hockey suitable.	EH School
						Encourage the provider to establish a mechanism for long-term sustainability such as a sinking fund.	
Pursue security of tenure for clubs through community use agreements.							
Explore providing appropriate ancillary facilities including changing rooms.							
33	Rayleigh Town Sports and Social Club	Rochford	Football	Sports club	Two adult, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. The two adult pitches are good quality; the mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches are standard quality. All mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time, whereas the adult pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. The Club has been granted planning permission to create a new club car park which will result in the loss of one of the mini pitches. The Club has issues regarding security of tenure but has been recognised for a potential full size floodlit 3G pitch based on identified shortfalls. Serves Rochford demand. As a 3G site would also serve neighbouring authorities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Sports club
						Ensure the Club continues to be provided for following the loss of one its mini pitches.	
						Pursue security of tenure through a long-term lease extension without any break clauses.	
						Explore the feasibility of creating a full size floodlit 3G pitch on site to reduce District shortfalls.	
						South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	
39	Sweyne Park School	Rochford	Sand AGP		A full size standard quality sand-based AGP that is used by Southend HC (imported demand). The pitch has reached the end of its lifespan having been installed in 2007. Pitch is not floodlit and therefore has limited community accessibility. Serves Rochford and Southend-on-Sea demand.	Explore funding options to refurbish the pitch and ensure it remains hockey suitable.	EH School
						Encourage the provider to establish a mechanism for long-term sustainability such as a sinking fund.	
						Pursue security of tenure for club users via a community use agreement.	
						Work in partnership with Southend-on-Sea Council to alleviate pitch shortfalls for Southend HC.	
6	Boots and Laces Training Ground	Southend-on-Sea	Football	Sports Club	Four good quality adult pitches which are available for community use and have minimal spare capacity. Planning application has part full and part outline consent for a phased development for the relocation of Southend United FC. The footprint for the proposal would result in the replacement of the four adult pitches as well as Cecil Jones Academy's unattached playing fields, which are disused. The mitigation for the proposed development would be a new training ground (four adult pitches), a new stadia pitch, one small sized indoor 3G pitch and one full size community available 3G pitch. Serves Southend-on-Sea demand but as a 3G site would likely also serve neighbouring authorities, in particular Rochford due to very close proximity.	Support the proposed developed and ensure facilities are provided to a good, sustainable quality.	FA Sports club School
						Ensure long term secure community use of the full size 3G pitch.	
						South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	
27	Playfootball (Southend)	Southend-on-Sea	3G	Commercial	A full size floodlit 3G pitch which is of standard quality having been built in 2008. Pitch is not FA registered despite being used	Resurface the full size pitch in the near future before quality deteriorates and ensure a sinking	FA

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
					for matches. In addition, there are eight smaller sized 3G pitches which are also floodlit. Site is used by Chase High School. Due to significant supply of 3G pitch provision likely to serve Southend-on-Sea and neighbouring authorities.	fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Pursue FA testing every so it can accommodate competitive demand and remove existing demand if this does not take place. Retain smaller sized pitches for continued unaffiliated, recreational and informal activity.	Commercial company
41	Southend Rugby Club	Southend-on-Sea	Rugby union	Sports Club	Four poor quality senior pitches, three of which are floodlit and are overplayed by an accumulative 11 match equivalent sessions; the remaining pitch has spare capacity discounted due to quality issues. Served by poor quality ancillary facilities. The Club rents the pitches from the Council on an annual basis. Whilst this does provide some security of tenure, there is a need for a longer-term lease so that it can minimise expenditure and attract funding for site improvements. The RFU indicates that the site has the potential to receive funding for a World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch in the future. The Club aspires for a long-term lease of the pitches.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, primarily through improved maintenance and the installation of an effective drainage system where appropriate. Provide the Club with a long-term lease of the pitches to aid it to attract the required funding. A lease of over 25 years is recommended to enable this. Identify funding opportunities to improve ancillary facilities. Explore the feasibility of the creation of an RFU World Rugby compliant 3G on site (in the context of potential proposals for an AGP pitch on adjoining Warners Bridge Park). If this is not possible, the RFU should work in partnership with the FA so that a new 3G pitch is also compliant for rugby usage when alleviating football shortfalls.	RFU Sports Club
44	St Thomas More High School	Southend-on-Sea	AGP		A full size poor quality hockey suitable AGP. Floodlight restrictions after 8pm. The pitch was built in 2001 and was previously accessed by Southend HC until quality issues forced the Club to relocate. The Club reports that if the surface was resurfaced and it had secured community access it would return to the site. Serves Southend-on-Sea demand, as well as demand from other areas such as Castle Point and Rochford due to individuals travelling across boundaries to play for Southend-on-Sea HC.	Consider resurfacing the pitch to alleviate hockey shortfalls or provide a new full-size AGP at Warners Bridge Park. If the AGP is resurfaced, ensure long-term security of tenure for hockey club users.	EH School
47	The Len Forge Centre	Southend-on-Sea	Football	Community Organisation	Four good quality adult pitches which have actual spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Clubs report the site has inadequate car parking. Serves Southend-on-Sea and Castle Point demand.	Sustain pitch quality through an appropriate maintenance regime. Utilise actual spare capacity to accommodate future demand or to alleviate over play from another site. Consider utilising actual spare capacity to increase stock of youth 11v11 pitches, given local shortfalls. Explore potential funding streams to improve car parking facilities.	FA Community Organisation
			3G		A full size floodlit 3G pitch which is of good quality. Pitch was built in 2015 and is FA registered. Serves Southend-on-Sea demand as well as serving Castle Point and Rochford demand.	Ensure pitch is maintained to a high standard to continue to meet demand and prolong carpet life. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch can continue to accommodate competitive demand Explore the opportunity to create a second full size 3G pitch onsite to alleviate identified shortfalls.	FA Community Organisation

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
51	Warners Bridge Park	Southend-on-Sea	AGP	Sports club	A full size good quality sand-based AGP that was refurbished in 2012. Old Southendians HC has a long-term lease of the pitch and ancillary facilities, with the site also used by Southend HC which is currently using three separate sites to meet its demand. Serves Southend-on-Sea demand, as well as demand from other areas such as Castle Point and Rochford due to individuals travelling across boundaries to play for Southend-on-Sea HC.	<div>Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.</div> <div>Consider providing a second full size AGP in this location or elsewhere to alleviate hockey shortfalls (in the context of potential proposals for a 3G pitch on the site to service Southend RFC), or resurface the pitch at St Thomas More High School.</div>	EH Sports club
53	Westcliff High School for Girls Playing Fields	Southend-on-Sea	Netball		<p>Four poor quality macadam courts which are floodlit. Courts are unavailable for community use due to quality, although the School reports that it is in the process of obtaining relevant funding to enable refurbishment. Previously accessed by the Southend & District Netball League, however, due to their quality the League decided to relocate.</p> <p>Currently serves Southend-on-Sea demand. If site became a venue for the Southend & District Netball would likely bring in imported demand.</p>	Support the School in its refurbishment aspirations and explore return of demand from Southend & District Netball League.	England Netball LTA School
54	Youth Ground	Southend-on-Sea	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, one youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches that are all assessed as poor quality. The adult pitches are overplayed by one match equivalent session, the youth 11v11 pitch by 5.5 match equivalent sessions, the youth 9v9 pitches by four match equivalent sessions and the mini 7v7 pitches by two match equivalent sessions (the mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity). Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. Garon Park CIC has aspirations to acquire a long-term lease of the site and plans to develop a cricket square <i>in situ</i> .	<div>Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.</div> <div>Explore the funding options to improve ancillary facility quality, particularly in regards to changing rooms and car parking.</div> <div>Support aspirations of Garon Park CIC but ensure the creation of a cricket square does not have a detrimental effect on football activity.</div>	FA Sports Club
84	Norman Garon Trust Football Pitches	Southend-on-Sea	Football	Trust	Two adult pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch, two youth 9v9 pitches, two mini 7v7 pitches and two mini 5v5 pitches all of which are standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions, whereas all remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Garon Park CIC is currently in negotiations with Norman Garon Trust to formalise a long term lease the site. If successful, the CIC has aspirations to develop a full size floodlit 3G pitch to replace one of the adult grass pitches. Serves Southend-on-Sea demand and due to close proximity to Rochford, likely to serve residents from Rochford as well.	<div>Improve youth 11v11 pitch quality to alleviate overplay.</div> <div>Support Garon Park CIC in its lease aspirations and assist is the creation of a full size floodlit 3G pitch to alleviate identified shortfalls.</div> <div>If the full size floodlit 3G pitch is created and successful, explore the opportunity to create a second full size 3G pitch.</div> <div>South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.</div>	FA Trust
1	Aveley Football Club	Thurrock	3G	Sports Club	Club moved to a new site for the 2017-2018 season. Site has an adult and two youth pitches, as well as a stadia 3G pitch with limited community use. The Club plays at Step 4 of the football pyramid. Grays Athletic also use this site through a ground share. Currently serves Thurrock demand; however, with increased community use could serve neighbouring authorities as well as further Thurrock demand.	<div>Explore potential of increased community access on 3G stadia pitch.</div> <div>Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.</div>	FA Sports Club

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
4	Blackshots Recreation Ground	Thurrock	Football	Council	Six adult pitches assessed as poor quality. Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Changing facilities are poor quality and in danger of being condemned. Serves Thurrock demand. If site becomes a 3G pitch site, likely to serve demand from neighbouring authorities.	Improve pitch quality to increase carrying capacity and to attract increased demand.	FA
						Refurbish changing facilities to ensure adult football can remain at the site and explore relocation.	
						Explore feasibility of providing a full size 3G pitch on site.	
			Cricket		Two poor quality squares, both with eight grass wickets. Actual spare capacity of 0.5 pitches exists during peak time for senior cricket. Poor quality changing facilities. Serves Thurrock demand. If NTP installed, likely to serve demand from neighbouring authorities due to potential of Last Man Stands activity.	Improve maintenance to improve overall quality.	ECB
						Explore use of equipment banks.	
						Use actual spare capacity to accommodate future demand.	
						Consider installation of a non-turf wicket to create a possible LMS venue.	
Improve changing facilities.							
17	Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	Thurrock	AGP	School	A full size, floodlit sand-based AGP. Last resurfaced in 2002 meaning it has reached the end of its lifespan. No club hockey use is recorded, with the majority of use being from football teams for training purposes. Serves Thurrock demand. If site becomes a 3G pitch site, likely to serve demand from neighbouring authorities	Resurface pitch and assess suitability for conversion to a 3G pitch in order to reduce local 3G shortfalls.	FA EH School
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	
						South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	
20	Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park)	Thurrock	Football	Commercial	Five adult, two 9v9, one 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches assessed as standard quality. All pitches are played to capacity. Adult pitches are well used by youth 11v11 teams (as well as by adult teams). Changing facilities are rated as poor. Serves Thurrock demand. If site becomes a 3G pitch site, likely to serve demand from neighbouring authorities	Review maintenance regime to sustain and improve quality and current usage.	FA Commercial organisation
						Consider pitch reconfiguration to better accommodate youth 11v11 users and to increase local youth 11v11 pitch stock.	
						Improve changing facilities and consider incorporation into recommended improvements to onsite leisure centre.	
						Explore feasibility of providing a full size 3G pitch on site.	
						Explore feasibility of extending site to provide more pitches or to reduce shortfalls identified in the Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy.	
						South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	
48	William Edwards School	Thurrock	AGP	School	A small sized sand-based AGP. Provided in 2005, meaning it is has reach the end of its lifespan. No recorded hockey use. Serves Thurrock demand. If site becomes a 3G pitch site, likely to serve demand from neighbouring authorities	Resurface pitch and assess 3G suitability given lack of hockey demand.	School FA EH
						South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Local authority	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners
46	Thurrock Rugby Club	Thurrock	Rugby union	Sports Club	Three senior pitches have good maintenance, whilst remaining pitches have adequate maintenance. Drainage is natural (adequate). One senior pitch is floodlit and overplayed by four match equivalent sessions. Another senior pitch is also overplayed by four match equivalent sessions. Serves Thurrock demand. If site becomes a WRC 3G pitch site potential to serve rugby demand from neighbouring authorities.	Seek to install additional floodlighting to spread out training demand and to reduce overplay. Consider installation of a drainage system to reduce overplay and increase carrying capacity. Assess suitability for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch or explore off-site 3G options in partnership with the FA. Explore asset transfer of all pitches to Thurrock RUFC. Support club in its demand to develop its clubhouse facilities.	RFU Sports Club
49	Mobil Fields	Thurrock	Football	Council	One adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality. The 9v9 pitch is played to capacity, whilst 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity on the adult pitch is discounted due to quality issues. Changing facilities rated as poor quality. East Thurrock United FC reports aspirations to purchase the site to develop a stadia pitch and a 3G pitch. Serves Thurrock demand. If site becomes a 3G pitch site, likely to serve demand from neighbouring authorities	Improve pitch quality to increase carrying capacity of the 9v9 pitch and to provide actual spare capacity on the adult pitch. Improve changing facilities. Consider aspirations of East Thurrock United FC but ensure there is no overall net loss of pitches. Any loss will require replacement provision to an equal or greater quantity and quality. Assess sites suitability to provide a 3G pitch. South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	FA Sports Club
52	Ockendon Academy	Thurrock	Football	School	Two poor quality adult pitches which are unavailable for community use. The School aspires to develop additional pitches on its land, which will be made available to the community. The School also aspires to develop a 3G pitch. Serves Thurrock demand. If site becomes a 3G pitch site, likely to serve demand from neighbouring authorities	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options with the School in order to reduce local shortfalls. Support the School in its aspiration to develop new pitches. Assess sites suitability to provide a 3G pitch. South Essex 3G pitch feasibility study needed to assess best 3G pitch locations to accommodate demand.	FA School

Strategic Action Plan

Action	Recommendation	Timescale ⁸	Lead	Importance
A collaborative approach across South Essex to deliver the recommendations and actions identified in this strategy and the individual strategies that all partners are committed to	Create a Memorandum of Understanding between relevant partners which should as a minimum include each of South Essex local authorities, Sport England, the relevant NGBs, Active Essex and Essex County Council.	Short	South Essex local authorities Sport England	High
	Explore potential of creating a new role for an individual with both planning and sporting knowledge to enforce and oversee the South Essex PPS Strategy. A key part of this role would also be to mitigate loss around key sites such as Barleylands. This individual would work closely with the Steering Group, working to deliver and monitor this strategy. Examples of individuals best placed to undertake this job include employees on a secondment from organisations such as Sport England or Essex County FA.			
	Keep each individual PPS up to date via an annual review, utilising the Playing Pitch Database for each local authority and involving all relevant partners and stakeholders.			
Protect existing outdoor sports facilities	Retain land where any sports facilities are out of current use (lapsed/disused) or are taken out of use so that it can be brought back into use in the future.	Short - Long	South Essex local authorities	Medium
	Ensure any net loss of provision is mitigated as per Sport England's Policy Exception E4.			
Rationalisation of sites	Consider loss of low value sites (i.e. those that contain one or two pitches with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards the development of bigger, better quality sites. Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed upon, lost for development.	Short - Long	South Essex local authorities NGBs	Medium
Secure tenure	Ensure used education have robust community use agreements in place. For those that do not, explore options to create such an agreement, potentially linked in to future funding.	Short - Medium	South Essex local authorities NGBs	High
	For clubs with lease agreements in place with less than 25-years remaining, explore options to extend the arrangement.			
	Where tenure cannot be secured, ensure an appropriate mitigation package is in place to offset any permanent loss.			
Community asset transfer	Work towards adopting a policy that supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts, thus providing an opportunity for such entities to take ownership of facilities.	Long	South Essex local authorities	Low
Maximise use of education facilities	Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools, prioritising the largest school that provide the most facilities.	Medium	Essex County Council	Medium
	Ensure any new schools allow for community use via a secured agreement.			
	Ensure pricing policies due to not deter access.			
	Look to improve quality at school sites that do not currently offer community use due to quality issues, potentially tying in a community use agreement to the funding arrangement.			
Securing developer contributions	Utilise Sport England's new Playing Pitch Demand Calculator as the basis for negotiation with developers. This should be used to ascertain the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean there is no need for further provision or improvements, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage. Where new provision is required, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute to alleviating local shortfalls.	Short - Long	South Essex local authorities	High

⁸ Scale: Short (1-2 years); Medium (3-5 years); Long (5+ years).

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Action	Recommendation	Timescale ⁸	Lead	Importance
Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding	Ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, focusing on sites that need quality improvements or additional provision. There should be a co-ordinated approach to direct investment, ensuring that there is no duplication of provision and ensuring that sites do not attract funding that do not benefit the wider sporting offer as much as a different site in the locality would.	Short - Long	South Essex local authorities NGBs	High
Improve quality of provision, particularly where overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality	For football and cricket, local authorities to consider engaging with the FA's and ECB's pitch improvement programme. This programme sees local authorities being subsidised to carry out increased maintenance regimes above that of the current basic maintenance programme.	Short - Long	South Essex local authorities NGBs	High
	Look at the best strategic locations for maintenance equipment banks for clubs to access for improved maintenance regimes on non-council managed sites.			
	Resurface AGPs, athletics tracks and macadam tennis/netball courts when the current surface nears the end of its lifespan (estimated to be ten years, depending on usage) and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			
	Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities servicing key sites, particularly those used for club cricket, rugby and hockey as well as multi-pitch football sites. Changing facilities should be of an adequate size, able to accommodate both males and females as well as referees/umpires and should have separate enclosed shower and toilet facilities.			
Addressing overplay	Where sites are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, improve quality to increase capacity.	Short	South Essex local authorities NGBs	High
	Where overplay cannot be fully alleviated via quality improvements, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to sites not currently available for community use but that could be in the future.			
Adding to the overall facility stock	In the main, creating additional provision is not required as the majority of shortfalls can be overcome through other means, such as improving quality, securing tenure and alleviating overplay; however, an increase in 3G pitches is required, as is an increase in NTPs and potentially sand-based AGPs. Additional provision may also be required following housing growth.	Short - Long	South Essex local authorities Essex County Council NGBs	High
	Create additional full size 3G pitches in order to alleviate the existing shortfall of 21 pitches. Give preference to multi-pitch sites and sites that have the ability to cater for more than one local authority. Also consider installation of at least one World Rugby compliant 3G to accommodate rugby training demand away from grass pitches.			
	Create additional NTPs at existing cricket sites that are overplayed in order to eliminate the shortfall.			
	Consider creation of a second AGP to alleviate all hockey shortfalls, or resurface the pitch at St Thomas More High School providing that secure community use can be offered.			
	Utilise Sport England's new Playing Pitch Demand Calculator to determine the level of new provision required where there is significant housing growth.			
ClubSpark scheme	The LTA advocates that sites with a minimum of four courts are likely to be more sustainable, with provision of accompanying changing facilities and floodlighting preferred. As such, the councils should look to improve non-club courts and sites to conform with the requirements, as this will enable them to secure the provision via the membership scheme.	Medium	South Essex local authorities LTA	Low
	Consider rationalisation and re-designation of courts at some sites in order to create additional, better quality courts at more popular sites as well as improving the existing courts.			
	Ensure income generation from the scheme contributes towards the ongoing maintenance of the provision.			

PART 7: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The overarching PPS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across the included South Essex authorities. By addressing issues identified in the individual strategies and by using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the authorities can be met. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

Production of the individual strategies and this strategy is the start of the planning process. Successful Strategy implementation and the benefits to be gained depend upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a mutually bought into, strategic approach. It is important that each document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

Each member of the Steering Group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the Steering Group should not end with the completion of the PPS document.

To help ensure that each PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within each study area guiding the improvement and protection of outdoor sports provision. It needs to be the document to which people and agencies regularly turn to for information in respect of how current demand should be met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. To ensure that this is achieved the Steering Group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of PPS development has already led to a number of benefits that assist its application and delivery. These include enhanced partnership work across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthened relationships and understanding between stakeholders, members of the Steering Group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the Steering Group to understand, the key areas to which its influence should be applied and strategy delivered enhanced.

Following sign off of the PPS, a short-term Action Plan should be prepared by the councils, in consultation with relevant partners, in order to distil the existing action plans and to give the Steering Group a short-term focus. This would then need to be revised through regular meetings.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in each strategy. This should be led by the councils 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 be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the steering group.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Steering Group that takes the PPS forward should be a sub-regional group made up of the five local authorities included within the study (potentially as well as Brentwood) as well as other partners such as the NGBs, Active Essex and Essex County Council. This offers benefits in terms of joint working on strategic and cross-boundary issues and will also be more efficient in terms of administration when compared to each authority having its own individual Steering Group.

KKP will provide the tools used to produce the PPS to the councils as well as training on how to use such tools, such as the PPS database used to hold all information gathered. This will enable the monitoring and updating process to be carried out.

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for outdoor sports facilities will likely to have changed over three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

Ideally each 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 during its development. 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.

A review should not be regarded as a particular resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How 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 or reduce following the delivery of others)
- ◀ How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs 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.

Once each PPS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

- ◀ Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of each PPS and outdoor sports provision in the area
- ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how each PPS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- ◀ Ensures that each PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ◀ Maintains links between relevant parties with an interest in local outdoor sports provision;
- ◀ Reviews the need to update each PPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
 - ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
 - ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
 - ◀ Lead a full review and update of each PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Alongside regular Steering Group meetings a good way to keep each PPS up to date and maintain relationships is to hold annual sport specific meetings with pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These could be part of a process of updating key supply and demand information plus, if necessary, amending assessment work, tracking progress in respect of implementing action plan recommendations and highlighting new issues and opportunities.

Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes. This would help to signal changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites should also feed into these meetings.

NGBs will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area. Discussion with league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings may be useful to attend to pick up on specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

The Steering Group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

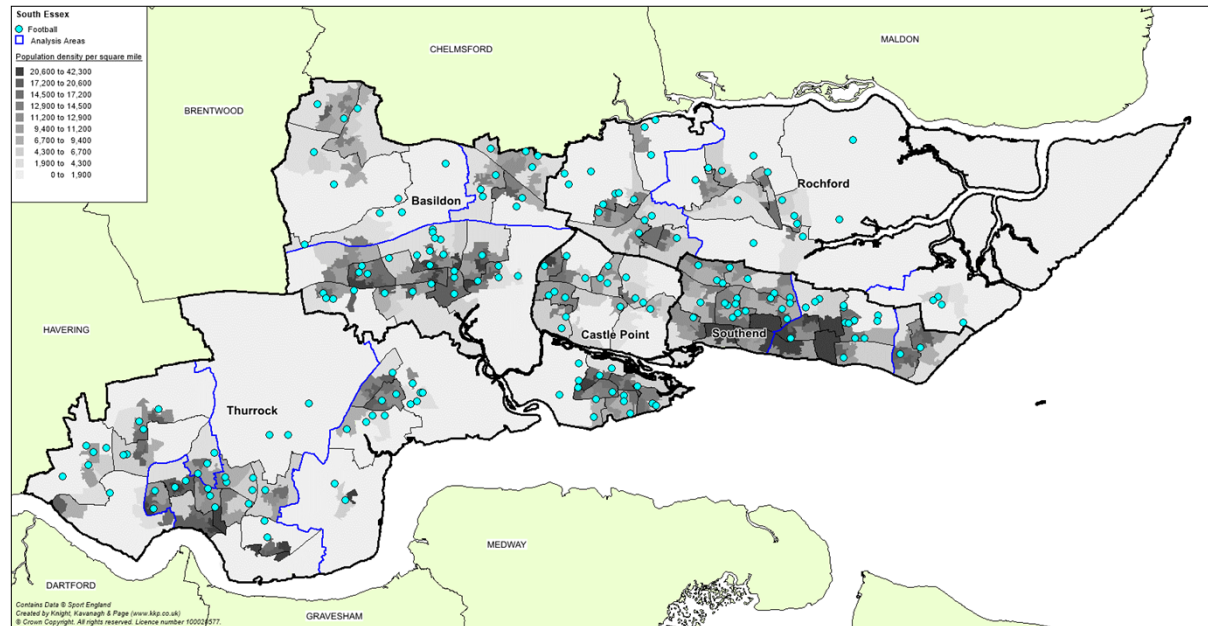
It is important that the councils maintain the data contained with each accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable them to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental work encompassing, for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

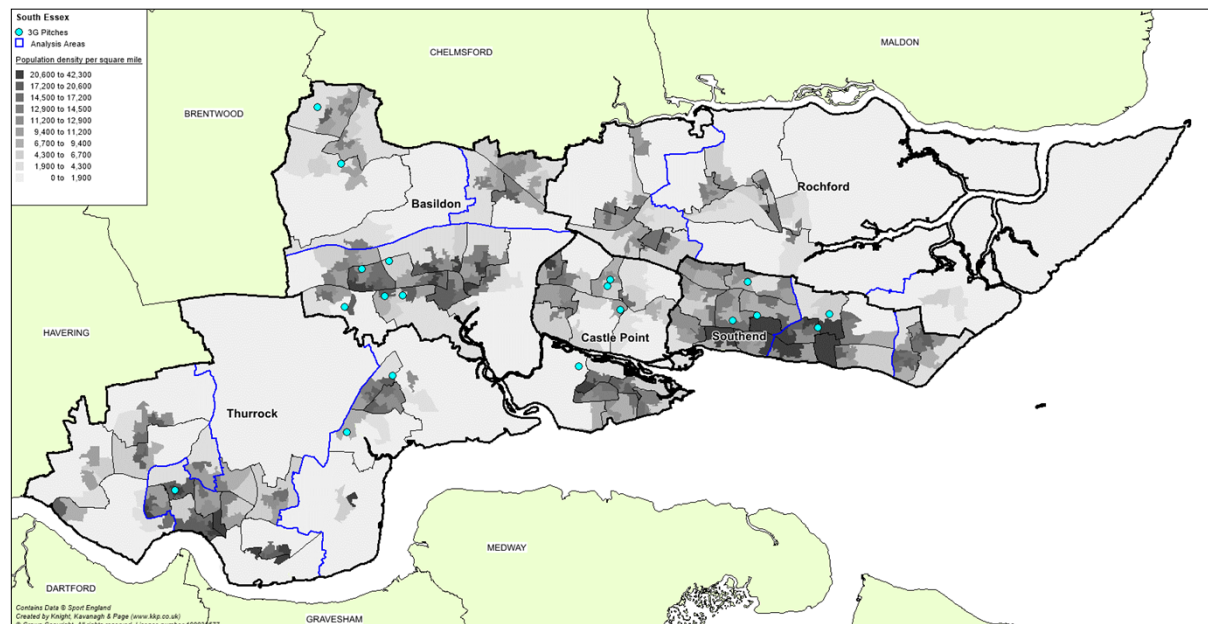
APPENDIX ONE: MAPPING

The below maps show the distribution of facilities for each sport included within the overarching PPS.

Football

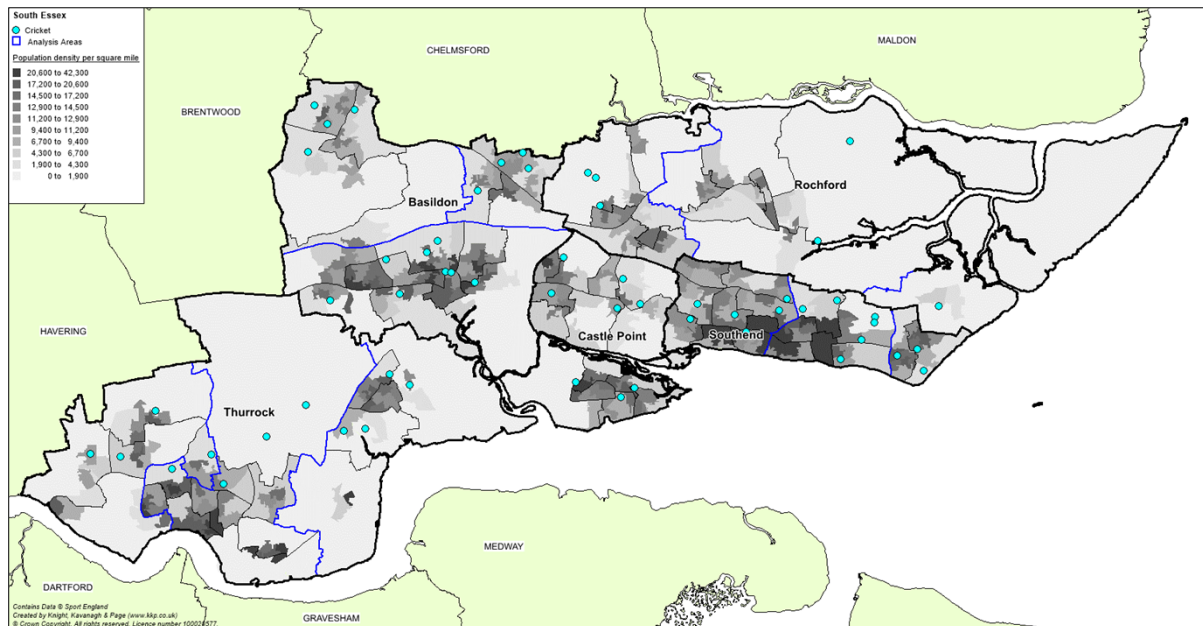


3G Pitches

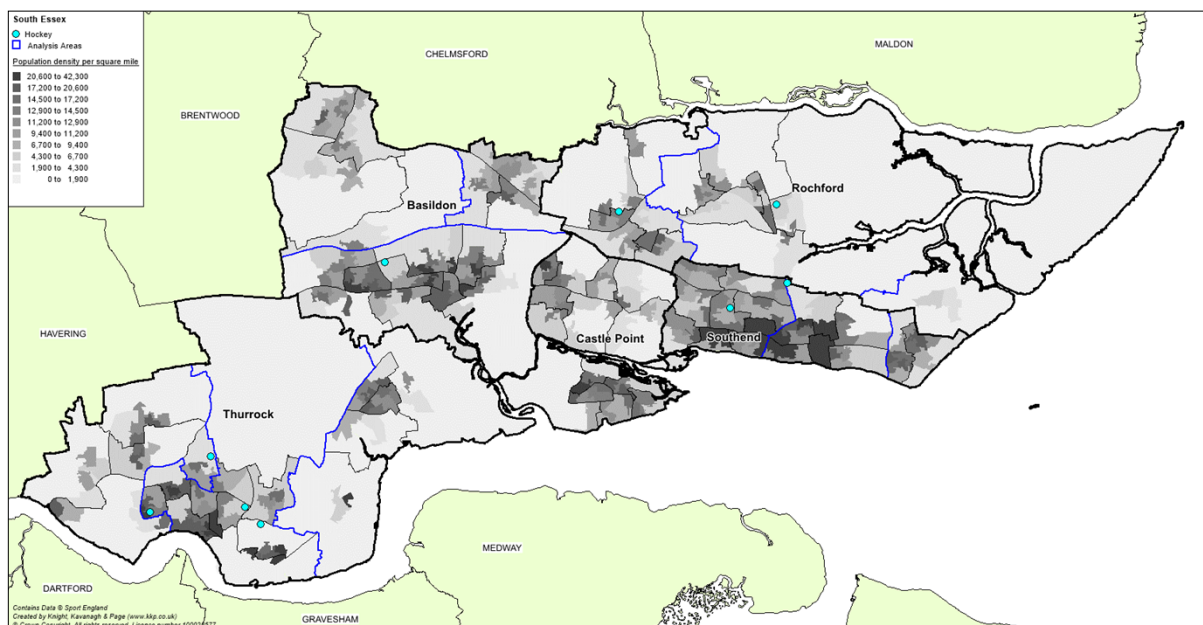


SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Cricket

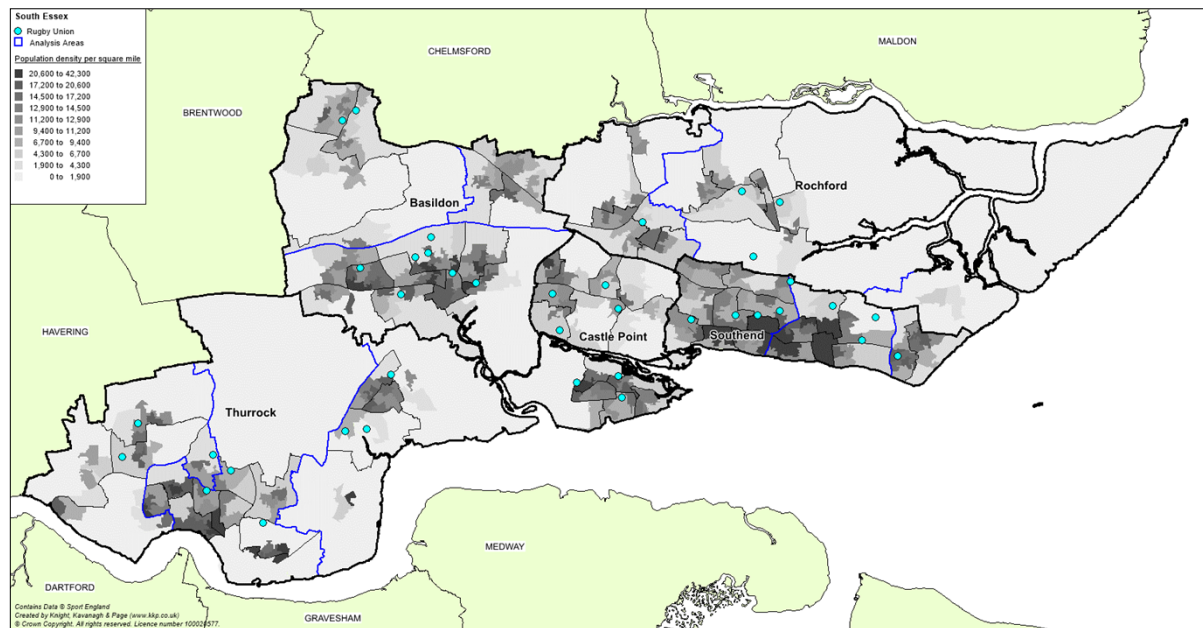


Hockey

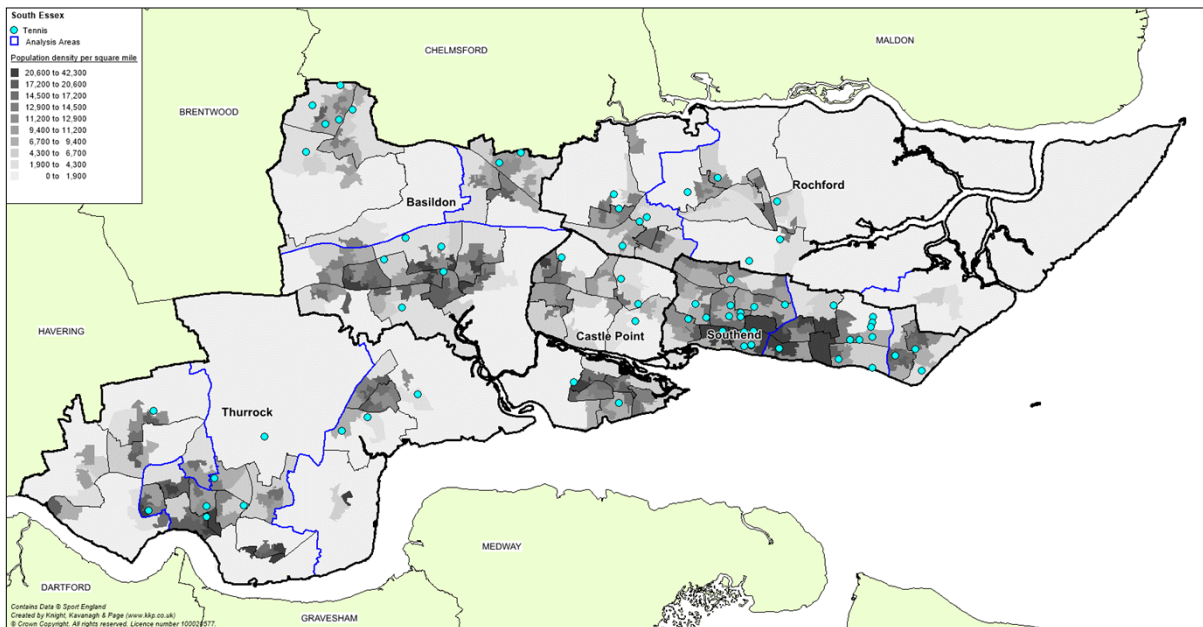


SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Rugby Union

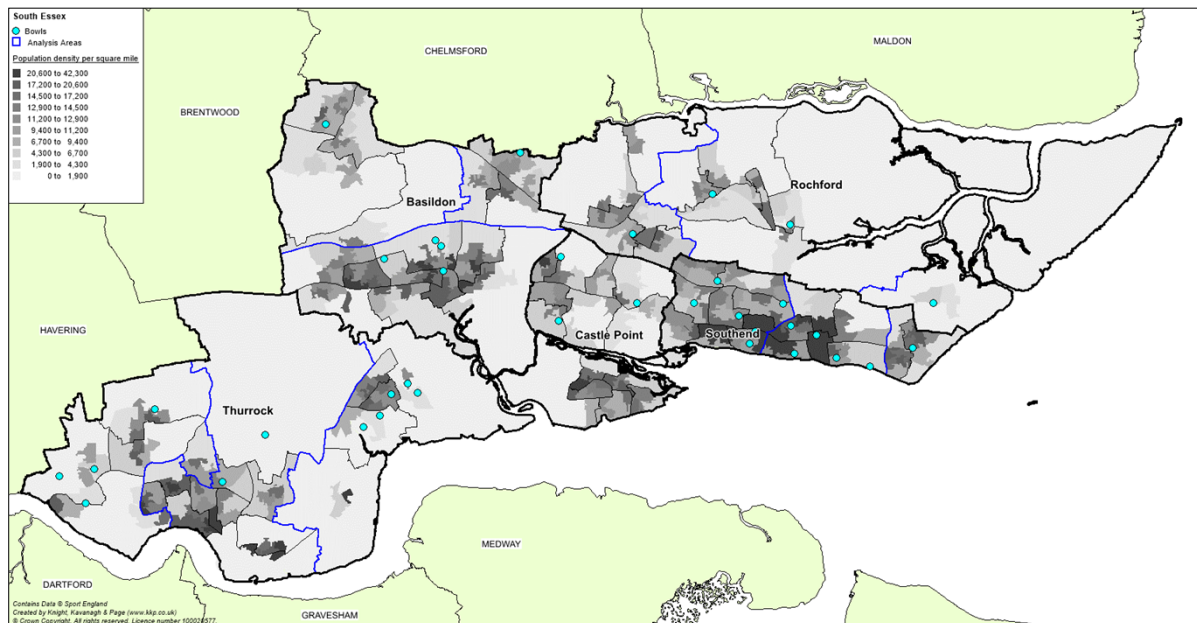


Tennis

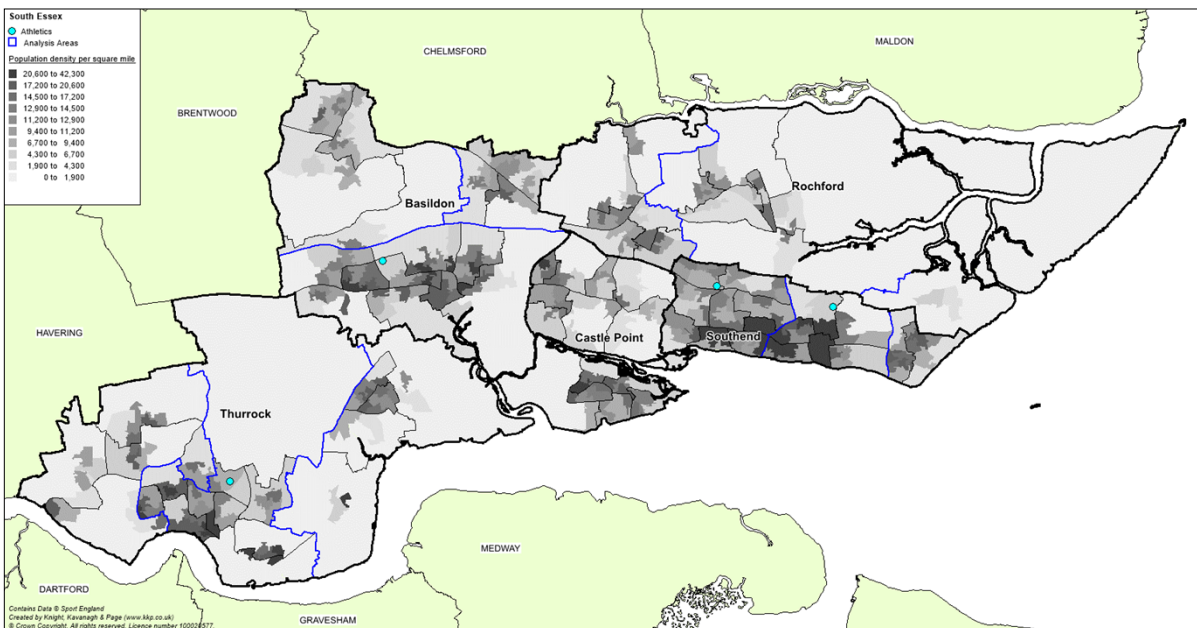


SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Bowls

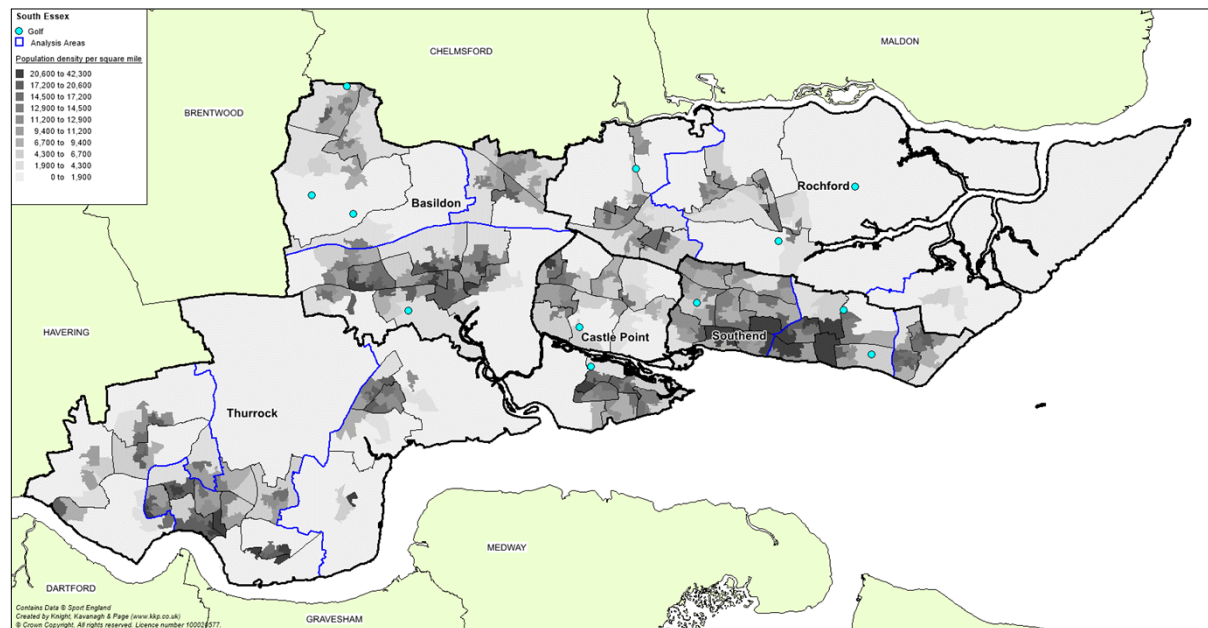


Athletics

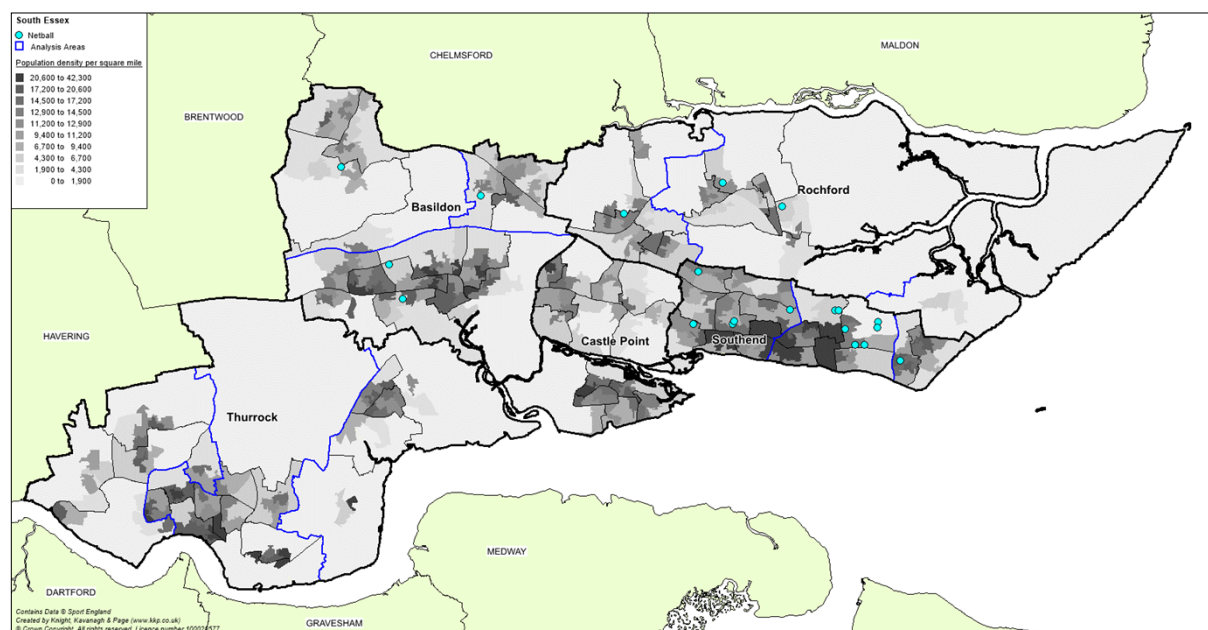


SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Golf

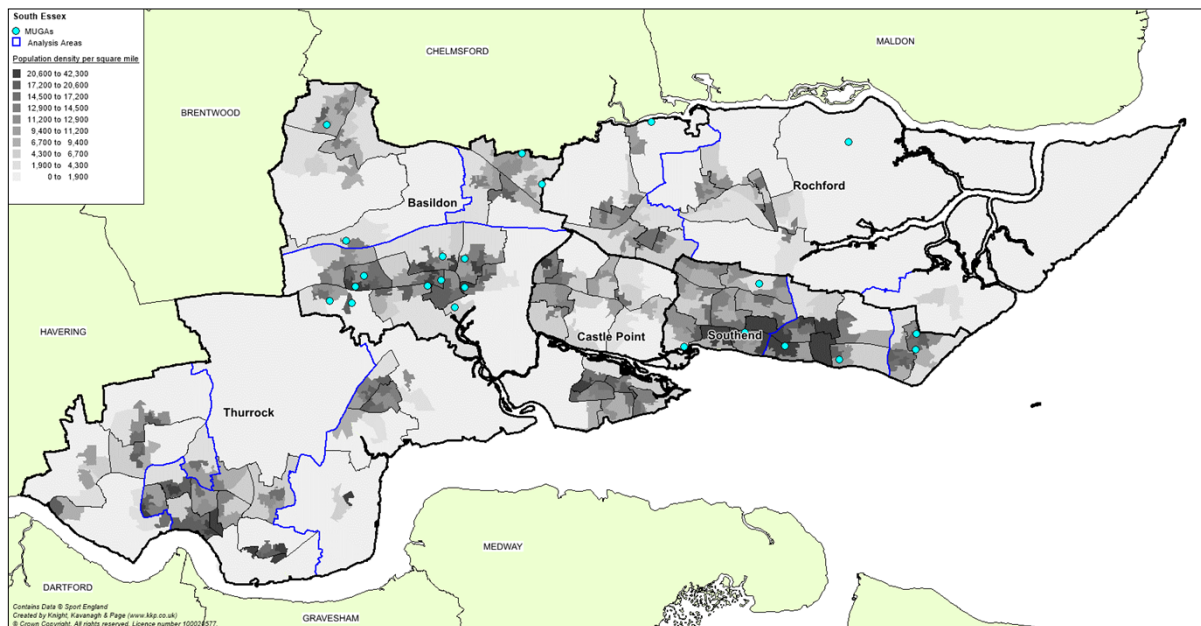


Netball

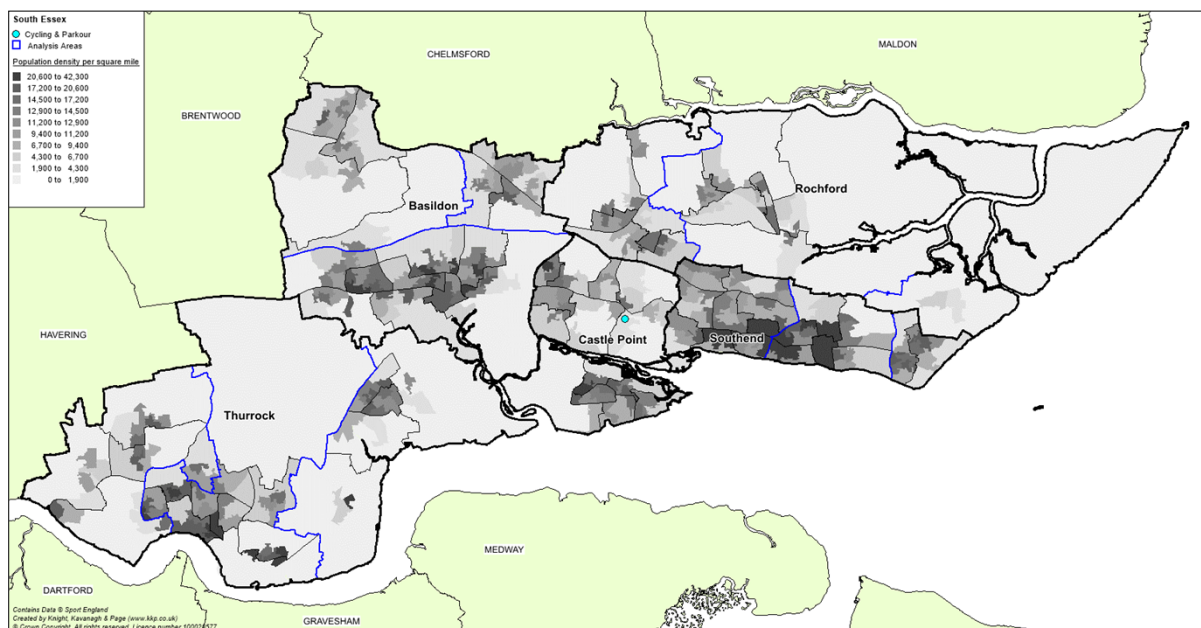


SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

MUGAs



Cycling & Parkour



APPENDIX TWO: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the overarching strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

The NPPF sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite, the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is 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 needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four-year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Sustain and Increase Participation.
- ◀ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◀ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
- ◀ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees.
- ◀ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◀ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ◀ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
- ◀ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matches to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Clubs and leagues*
 - ◀ *Kids*
 - ◀ *Communities*
 - ◀ *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Pathway*
 - ◀ *Support*
 - ◀ *Elite Teams*
 - ◀ *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Fan focus*
 - ◀ *New audiences*
 - ◀ *Global stage*
 - ◀ *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Integrity*
 - ◀ *Community programmes*
 - ◀ *Our environments*
 - ◀ *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game's revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - ◀ *People*
 - ◀ *Revenue and reach*
 - ◀ *Insight*
 - ◀ *Operations*

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary, the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the previous period remains valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 – 2017

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

“The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England’s senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few”

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium-term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities.

‘The right pitches in the right places’⁹

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90’s. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately placed to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment.
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

9

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

England Hockey Strategy

EH's new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- 7 Stretching and developing those who want it

British Tennis (LTA) - Place to Play Strategy

The LTA aim to get more people to play tennis more frequently and the places to play strategy is a way of doing this. The strategy will aim to provide high quality facilities for everyone at a convenient location.

It's one plan that aims to increase opportunities for people to play tennis on a regular basis at tennis clubs close to their home, which provides high quality opportunities on safe and well maintained tennis courts.

The strategy sets out:

- ◀ Overall vision for places to play
- ◀ How to grow regular participation by supporting places to play to develop and deliver the right programmes
- ◀ Capital investment decisions to ensure we invest in the right facilities to grow the sport
- ◀ Supporting performance programmes in the right locations

The LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class tennis facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition.

The overall aim for the next five years (2011-2016) is to ensure that, as far as practicably possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the places and high quality tennis opportunities in their local area. In brief

- ◀ Access for everyone to well-maintained high quality tennis facilities which are either free or pay as you play
- ◀ A Clubmark accredited place to play within a ten minute drive of their home
- ◀ Indoor tennis courts within a 20 minute drive time of their home
- ◀ A mini tennis (ten and under) performance programme within a 20 minute drive of their home (Performance Centres)
- ◀ A performance programme for 11 - 15 year olds within a 45 minute drive time of their home (High Performance Centre)
- ◀ A limited number of internationally orientated programmes strategically spread for players 16+ with an international programme (International High Performance Centres)

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

England Athletics: Whole Sport Plan 2013-2017

The England Athletics plan outlines a strategy to attract and retain 3 million athletics participants by 2017, from a current base of 1.9 million as measured by Active People, whilst cementing athletics as the most popular individual sporting activity in England.

“The ambition is to make England an athletic nation. Traditional athletics for some, running for many, fitness for all”.

In order to achieve this, the goals of the strategic plan are:

- ◀ To grow and sustain participation levels in the sport.
- ◀ To improve the experiences of every participant in the sport.
- ◀ To improve performance levels and to grow the next generation of senior athletic champions.

The plan also reflects a total commitment to delivering an inclusive sport, setting specific disability targets that are woven into the core measures for growth and retention of participation.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Key personnel within the England Athletics staffing structure will now lead this area of work, focusing on:

- ◀ Delivering inclusive formats of the sport.
- ◀ National policy and programme development.
- ◀ Coaching and teaching resources.

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and its 5-year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future "running" facilities.

The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

UKA's 2014-19 Facilities Strategy key outcomes:

- ◀ Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
- ◀ Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
- ◀ Increased talent pool
- ◀ Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
- ◀ Securing the long-term future of existing facilities
- ◀ More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
- ◀ Improving the athletics experience for all participants
- ◀ Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17 Whole Sport Plan

England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

Growing the Game of Golf in England (2017-2021)

In 2014, England Golf developed its first national strategy to help golf in England rise to some serious challenges. Membership was declining, many clubs were facing financial and business problems and the perception of the game was proving damaging. As such, it decided to set out recommendations for actions that would help “raise the game”.

The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

- ◀ 427,111 people being introduced to golf for the first time.
- ◀ 31,913 new members for England’s golf clubs from national initiatives.
- ◀ Over £25 million generated for golf clubs through new members.
- ◀ Four counties to merge their men’s and women’s unions associations.
- ◀ Support for 15,200 national, regional and county squad players.
- ◀ Over 150 championships and events organised across the country.

Following the above strategy, England Golf is now setting out to “grow the game” of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golfing community, six of these are developed from the previous work in 2014, whilst one (being customer focussed) is brand new and intends on boosting the impact of them all.

The objectives are:

- ◀ Being customer focussed
- ◀ Stronger counties and club
- ◀ Excellent governance
- ◀ Improve image
- ◀ More members and players
- ◀ Outstanding championships, competitions and events
- ◀ Winning golfers

Funding opportunities¹⁰

In order to deliver much of the overarching action plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of current funding sources that are relevant for community improvement projects involving sports facilities.

¹⁰ Up to date as of April 2017.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment. For example, Awards for All which is for small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.
Sport England The current funding streams will change throughout 2016/17 so refer to the website for the latest information: http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=113	The Grant Match Scheme in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). Other loan schemes are also available.
The England and Wales Cricket Trust https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding	Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for capital projects and the Small Grant Scheme is also open to applications from affiliated cricket clubs.
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: Young people and hockey, Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

Protecting Playing Fields

Sport England's Strategy: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021) will simplify the funding reducing the number of investment programmes from 30 to 7:

- ◀ Tackling Inactivity
- ◀ Children and Young People
- ◀ Volunteering
- ◀ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ◀ Supporting sports core markets
- ◀ Local delivery
- ◀ Creating welcoming sports facilities

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The current funding streams listed below will remain operational during 2016/17 but will be phased out and replaced by one or more of the seven listed above.

It launched Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects.

The programme is being delivered via five funding rounds (with up to £2 million being awarded to projects in each round). Its focus is on protecting and improving playing fields and developing community sport. It will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

Sport England's 'Inspired Facilities' funding programme will be delivered via funding rounds and where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

- ◆ Organisations that haven't previously received a Sport England Lottery grant of over £10k.
- ◆ Projects that are the only public sports facility in the local community.
- ◆ Projects that offer local opportunities to people who do not currently play sport.

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also provide opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces. For further up to date information please go to: <http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/protecting-playing-fields/>

Strategic Facilities Fund

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term. Sport England has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

- ◀ A robust needs and evidence base which illustrates the need for the project and the proposed facility mix
- ◀ Strong partnerships which will last beyond the initial development of the project and underpin the long-term sustainability of the facility
- ◀ Multi-sport provision and activity that demonstrates delivery against NGB local priorities
- ◀ A robust project plan from inception to completion with achievable milestones and timescales.

Lottery applications will be invited on a solicited-only basis and grants of between £500,000 and £2,000,000 will be considered.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

- ◀ Are large-scale capital developments identified as part of a local authority sports facility strategic needs assessment/rationalisation programme and that will drive a significant increase in community sports participation
- ◀ Demonstrate consultation/support from two or more NGBs and delivery against their local priorities
- ◀ Are multi-sport facilities providing opportunities to drive high participant numbers
- ◀ Are a mix of facility provision (indoor and/or outdoor) to encourage regular and sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ◀ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

Funder's requirements

Below is a list of funding requirements that can typically be expected to be provided as part of a funding bid, some of which will fall directly out of the Playing Pitch Strategy:

- ◀ Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- ◀ Articulate what difference the Project will make.
- ◀ Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- ◀ Provide baseline information (i.e., the current situation).
- ◀ Articulate how the Project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- ◀ Financial need and project cost.
- ◀ Funding profile (i.e., Who's providing what? Unit and overall costs).
- ◀ Technical information and requirements (e.g., planning permission).
- ◀ Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e., the situation after the Project/what the Project will achieve)
- ◀ Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- ◀ Background/essential documentation (e.g., community use agreement).
- ◀ Assessment of risk.

SOUTH ESSEX OVERARCHING PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the overarching action plan can be found on the Sport England website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility based on the last quarter. The Facilities Costs are updated on the Sport England website every quarter. These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.