

# Draft

## Oxford City Council

### Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy

### 2012-26

## **Executive Summary**

The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy has been developed over the past year using best practice guidance from Sport England to assess current and future demand over the next 20 years. It provides a robust framework for resource prioritisation and informed planning decisions.

The strategy has been developed through extensive consultation with Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport, sports clubs, league associations, schools, universities, colleges and council employees and has been informed by the pavilions and individual sport reviews.

While there are some links with the City's Green Spaces Strategy, there are also a number of key differences especially in regard to focusing on supply of, and demand for sports facilities, producing a robust planning document and also demonstrating need for developer contributions that make this strategy unique in its own right.

The number of outdoor areas used for sport and physical activity and accessible to the public include; 116 playing pitches, 12 Synthetic Turf Pitches, 58 tennis courts and 14 Multi Use Games Areas. The playing pitches are used for a number of different sports including football, cricket, rugby and hockey.

The objectives of the strategy are:

1. To gather the best available supply and demand data on playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities included.
2. To assess the supply and demand data in line with available national guidance and identified good practice.
3. To ensure a good level of consultation with key parties throughout the development of the strategy.
4. To provide a robust evidence base which can be used by a range of Council departments and other parties to help protect and improve the provision of playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.
5. To establish a clear prioritised list of actions which will help to maintain and increase participation levels in sport and physical activity within the City and ensure the efficient use of resources.
6. To establish clear prioritised infrastructure requirements including where new facilities are required and existing facilities should be enhanced, including ancillary facilities e.g. pavilions.
7. To identify and promote good practice regarding the provision, management and maintenance of provision within the City.
8. To establish a process to ensure the regular review and update of the strategy and the information on which it is based.

These objectives support the corporate plan outcome of Strong and Active Communities helping to achieve the far reaching cross societal health, wellbeing and community benefits enabled by taking part in sport and physical activity.

The strategy looks across all sectors and develops its recommendations based on facilities that are accessible to the community. In relation to sports pavilions alternative options, such as joining up with schools and community centres are explored.

The main conclusion from the strategy is that within Oxford there is currently a shortage of playing pitch provision that has secured community use, this is especially prevalent in cricket. The strategy does not necessarily suggest that additional new pitches are required to meet the shortfall, as once you add back in those, unsecured, pitches that have community use there appears to be adequate provision for all sports, with the exception of junior and mini football. However, the shortfall of junior and mini football pitches in the main can be addressed by the spare capacity in other pitch provision. The aim of the Council should be to continue to look to secure community access against other providers playing pitches in key strategic areas.

It is important to note that any loss of provision within the City would place greater pressure on the other remaining facilities. Where development which would adversely affect pitch provision may be proposed, then adequate replacement, equivalent or better, should be secured. However, given the land restrictions in the City, the opportunities available to secure replacement playing pitch provision may be limited.

Generally the pitches within the City are of good quality and this needs to be maintained to ensure no reduction in their capacity. However, the assessment has indicated that there are some issues of poor quality with ancillary facilities, such as pavilions, that need to be addressed.

With the developments at Court Place Farm, Banbury Road North and The Academy, the undersupply in astroturf pitches that had existed in the City has now been met.

There is a significant drop in participation in bowls within the City, this should be closely monitored and reviewed in relation to participation and value for money. Within the strategy other sports facilities such as Multi-Use Games Areas, tennis courts and athletics have also been looked at with the key actions to ensure that there is a funded improvement and maintenance program for them.

To ensure that Oxford continues its recent trend of increasing participation in sport and physical activity it is important that the action plan is implemented and that the strategy is updated on an annual basis and refreshed every five years.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 The purpose of the document**

- 1.1.1 The overriding purpose of this document is to help ensure the City has a good supply of well managed, maintained and efficient playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities, which meet identified needs and encourage residents to maintain and increase their participation in sport and active recreation.
- 1.1.2 The document will provide direction for all involved in the provision of playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities within the City and enable well informed decisions to be made.

### **1.2 The drivers behind the document**

- 1.2.1 A number of drivers led the City Council to embark on the development of this document, these being:

- The desire to:
  - Maintain Oxford's position as one of the top performing local authorities in terms of participation in sport as measured by Sport England's Active People Survey;
  - Ensure that the benefits of providing sport and active recreation are recognised and where possible maximised to support the wider aims and objectives of the Council and partners (e.g. improving health and well-being);
  - Enhance the strategic approach taken by the Council and partners to playing pitches and other outdoor sports facility provision, focussing on areas of greatest sporting need within the City including areas of deprivation such as Blackbird Leys and Barton;
  - Ensure that there is a greater joined up approach to the provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities within the City bringing together key providers including Schools, Universities, Local Authorities and National Governing Bodies;
  - The desire to ensure that the strategy was developed in-house with key stakeholders in order to ensure local knowledge was fully integrated, ownership of the strategy and its implementation, along with providing staff development through increasing knowledge and capacity of strategic planning for sport.
  
- The need to:
  - Provide robust and up to date evidence on the provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities to support the development and implementation of planning policy and inform assessments of individual planning applications;
  - Assess whether efficiency improvements can be made regarding the provision, management and maintenance of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities while maintaining and seeking to improve participation rates;
  - Update and refresh the out of date 2004 Playing Pitches Strategy;
  - Address the known poor quality of ancillary provision, namely pavilions, supporting the Council's own playing pitch provision.

### **1.3 The benefits of developing the work**

1.3.1 The benefits of producing this local playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities strategy are considerable and include the following:

*Corporate and Strategic:*

- It ensures a strategic approach within the City to outdoor sport provision, providing direction and assisting with determining priorities in times of austerity.
- It provides robust evidence for the City Council for capital funding for both sports facility and ancillary facility improvements such as pavilions.
- It helps deliver local and Government policies in relation to increasing participation in sport/physical activity and improving the nation's health and wellbeing.
- It helps demonstrate the value of the Leisure and Parks service, particularly during times of increasing scrutiny of non statutory services.
- It encourages best practice and continuous improvement, through consultation, benchmarking, auditing and monitoring.

*Planning:*

- It provides a basis to inform infrastructure delivery planning and the requirements that will arise from new housing developments such as the proposed wider housing scheme in Barton.
- There are competing priorities within the City and developing a strategy for sports facilities provision is one of the best tools to ensure the protection of provision which may be threatened by increasing development pressures.
- It provides a holistic approach to improvement and protection of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities, which links into Oxford's emerging Green Spaces Strategy.

*Operational:*

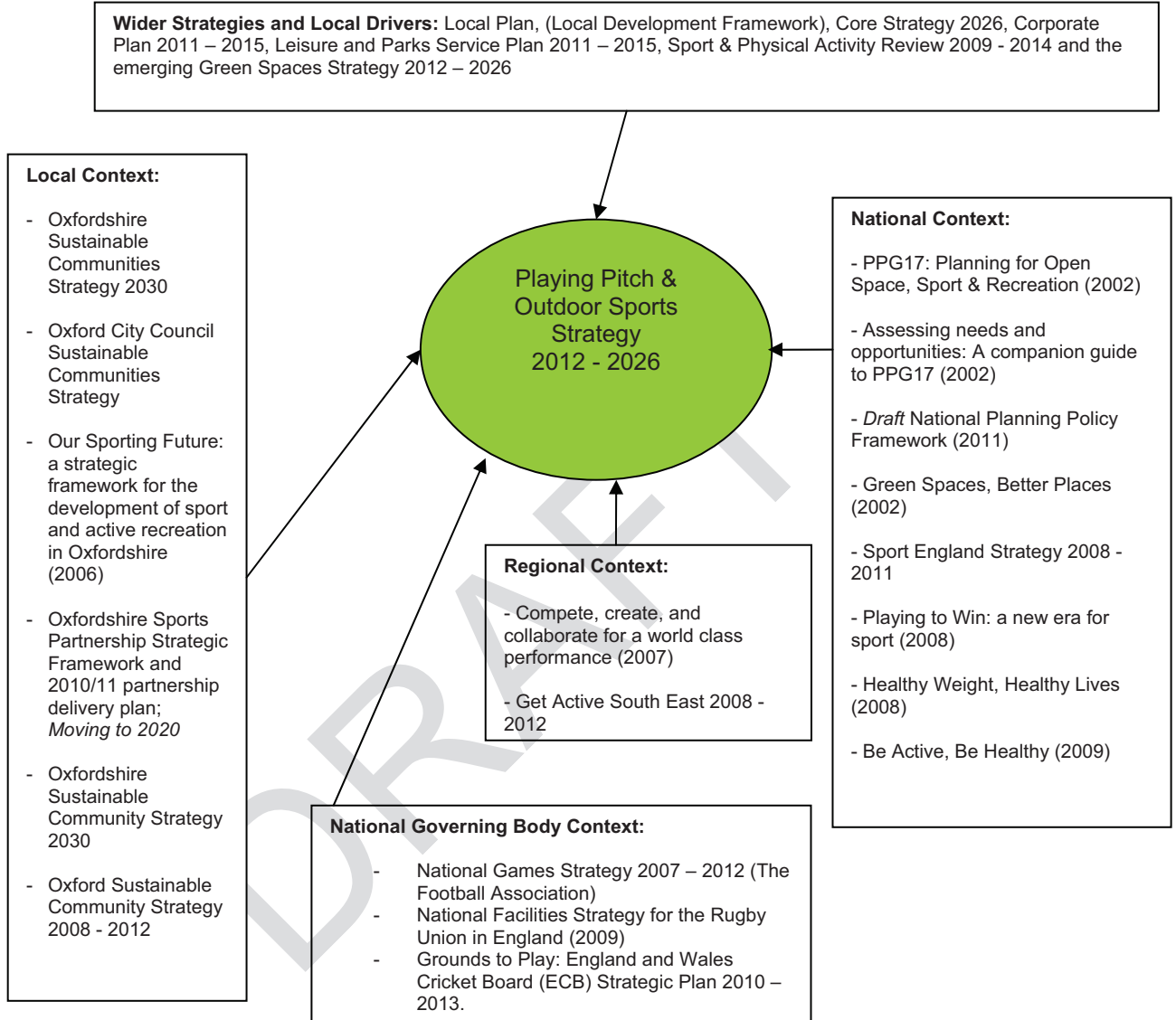
- It will help improve Oxford City Council's asset management by ensuring that there is more efficient use of resources and reduced subsidy per resident.
- It highlights locations within the City where the quality of provision could be enhanced.
- It highlights where the management and operation of facilities could be improved to meet identified needs.

*Sports Development:*

- It provides up to date, accurate and consistent information on sports clubs that operate within the City and their needs.
- It promotes sports development and helps identify and unlock latent demand by identifying where there is a need for new facilities or improved access to access to existing facilities.
- There are key other providers within the City such as schools and higher education sites and it helps identify where community use of these facilities may be required or enhanced.

## 1.4 Links to other strategies

1.4.1 Whilst it is a stand alone document, the diagram below provides a summary of the links this playing pitch and outdoor sports facility strategy has to a range of other national and local strategies and plans.



1.4.2 All of the strategies and plans identified in the diagram above support the development of this document. The links are two way with these strategies and plans providing further context, rationale and drivers behind the need to develop a locally derived strategy for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities. In turn the development and implementation of this document will help to achieve the aims and objectives of these wider strategies and plans. The importance and key elements of some of these strategies and plans are provided are been identified below:

**The Oxfordshire Sustainable Communities Strategy 2030** sets out a long term vision for Oxfordshire's future.

The main strategic objectives are:

1. A world class economy
2. Healthy and thriving communities
3. Environment and climate change
4. Reducing inequalities and breaking the cycle of deprivation

There is a pledge to promote healthy lifestyles with an identified challenge of valuing culture, sport, recreation and leisure to maintain a good quality of life. This has been reflected in the delivery plan for the strategy in the form of National Indicator 8 (NI8), which is a measure of the increase in participation in sports amongst adults.

Oxford City Council has its own Sustainable Communities Strategy, which includes local priorities that link into Sport, Active Recreation & Physical Activity. It also details the following important outcomes:

- A thriving place to live and visit
- Improve life changes and life expectancy
- Community Cohesion
- Raising the level of adult participation by 4% linked into NI8.

**Leisure and Parks Service Transformation Plan (2011 – 2015) and the Oxford City Council Corporate Plan (2011 – 2015)**

A clear 'golden thread' has been identified in respect to how the Leisure and Parks Service Transformation Plan (2011 – 2015) compliments and achieves those objectives identified within the Councils Corporate Plan (2011 – 2015). Section 1.3 below displays how the development of a playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities strategy for Oxford supports the delivery of these overarching objectives.

**Oxford City Council's Local Plan, 2001 - 2016**

Section 11.0 of the Local Plan identifies the City Councils planning policy towards sport, outdoor recreation and community facilities, which is based on three principles:

1. Seeking to protect existing facilities, as very little land is available for replacement facilities.
2. Wherever possible seeking to provide, or encourage others to create, new recreational facilities.
3. Improving access to such facilities, in terms of geography and in terms of social inclusion, disability and income.

### **Core Strategy 2026**

Oxford City Council's Core Strategy 2026 sets out the spatial planning framework for the development of Oxford up to 2026. The development of a Playing Pitches Strategy for Oxford would support Policy C21 'Green Spaces, Leisure and Sport', highlighting the need to safeguard sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities. The playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities strategy will also help uphold the following policy objectives:

- Policy CS3 – Areas earmarked for regeneration within Oxford
- Policy CS4 – Green Belt; 'development would not result in the loss of land in active recreational use'.
- Policy CS7 - Land at Barton
- Policy CS17 – Infrastructure and developer contributions.

### **Sport and Physical Activity Review (2009)**

The Sport and Physical Activity Review (2009) highlights the Council's key focus and priority sports and has therefore helped to inform the facility types included within this document. The playing pitch and outdoor sports strategy will also provide further support in helping crystallise the council's role in providing a sport and physical activity offer, look to maintain and increase sports participation and highlight the need to deliver key associated ancillary projects.

### **Emerging Green Spaces Strategy 2012 – 2026**

The Emerging Green Spaces Strategy for Oxford (2012 – 2026) is currently in the process of being drafted and there are of course clear links with the findings and actions of this document. While there are also many interdependencies which make the documents distinct in their own right, the two documents will need to ensure that they compliment one another.

## **1.5 Objectives of the work**

1.5.1 The Playing Pitches Strategy supports the delivery of three objectives in the Council's corporate plan;

- Strong and Active Communities
- Cleaner, Greener Oxford
- An Efficient and Effective Council

It also clearly links into the Leisure and Parks service areas objectives of;

- Support the Physical Regeneration of Oxford through the delivery of key projects
- Support the Social Regeneration of Oxford



- 1.5.2 Setting out the purpose of the document along with the key drivers and the potential benefits led to the identification of a number of specific objectives for the work. The objectives, set out below, helped to guide the development of the work and will ensure that the document is fit for purpose.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Objective</b>
1	To gather the best available supply and demand data on playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities included.
2	To assess the supply and demand data in line with available national guidance and identified good practice.
3	To ensure a good level of consultation with key parties throughout the development of the strategy.
4	To provide a robust evidence base, which can be used by a range of Council departments and other parties to help protect and improve the provision of playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.
5	To establish a clear prioritised list of actions which will help to maintain and increase participation levels in sport and physical activity within the City and ensure the efficient use of resources.
6	To establish clear prioritised infrastructure requirements including where new facilities are required and existing facilities should be enhanced, including ancillary facilities e.g. pavilions.
7	To identify and promote good practice regarding the provision, management and maintenance of provision within the City.
8	To establish a process to ensure the regular review and update of the strategy and the information on which it is based.

## **1.6 Project management**

- 1.6.1 To ensure a partnership approach to developing the playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities strategy, a steering group was set up in October 2010 to oversee the management of the work. The group included representatives from Council services including Leisure and Parks (Sports Development and Parks Officers), City Development (Planning Officers), Sport England and the County Sports Partnership.
- 1.6.2 The development of the work has been led on a day to day basis by the Oxford City Council's Sports Development ,Leisure, team. However, the steering group have met regularly throughout each stage of the work to review progress and help shape the next steps.
- 1.6.3 In addition to the regular meetings with the steering group, meetings were held with relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's) at various stages of the data collection and assessment work. These meetings enabled the NGB's to feed in their knowledge and available data, help shape the work, its findings, recommendations and actions.
- 1.6.4 The development of the work has also been reported on a monthly basis to the Oxford City Council Leisure Delivery Board.

## **1.7. Scope of the document**

1.7.1 This document includes the following types of sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities:

- Natural grass playing pitches for Football, Rugby Union and Cricket.
- Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) for Hockey and other uses
- Tennis Courts
- Athletics Tracks
- Bowling Greens
- Golf Courses, and
- Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's).

1.7.2 The rationale for the inclusion of these facilities was led by the facilities used by those sports that are classified as 'Focus' or 'Priority' sports within the Council's Sport and Physical Activity Review (2009) e.g. Football, Rugby and Cricket. To enable a full picture of natural grass playing pitch provision and needs to be identified, the strategy also picks up the requirements of smaller pitch sports where they are known to be active within the City e.g. Gaelic Football and Baseball.

1.7.3 AGP's were included due to their importance to Hockey for both competitive and training activity, as a training facility for other sports and given the recent development of new facilities in the City.

1.7.4 The steering group agreed that information on other selected 'Non Playing Pitch Sports' would also be collected. The facilities chosen are typically those where the Council has ownership of assets such as tennis and netball courts, MUGA's and athletics facilities or where secured community use agreement exists for sites under other ownerships. Golf courses and facilities have also been included due to the amount of land necessary to accommodate the sport.

1.7.5 It is envisaged that the list of facilities included along with the level of information and assessment provided for each facility type will be reviewed annually in line with the overall monitoring and review procedures set out in section 6.1. Depending on resources, drivers behind the work, trends in participation and known issues additional facilities may be added.

## **1.8 Assessment methodology**

1.8.1 In developing the strategy the Council and the Steering Group have primarily been guided by:

- the Government's Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' (2002) and its companion guide (2002), and
- Sport England's guide to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (TLPF) (2003).

Sport England's 'Fit for Purpose' assessment frameworks for Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies have also been used to help direct, check and challenge the development of the work.

1.8.2 While guided by the above documents, the approach taken for the various facility types does differ due to the level of information, guidance and tools available, along with the level of resource that could be dedicated to the work. The document is therefore separated into two parts with the first comprising of an assessment of playing pitch provision and the second, an assessment of other outdoor sports facilities in Oxford. The playing pitch work follows Sport England's guidance and methodology and covers both natural and artificial grass pitches. Less information and resource are available to assess the provision of the other outdoor sports facilities. Nevertheless, the document does present very useful details to help guide the future provision of these facilities. The specific approach taken for each facility type is outlined at the beginning of the relevant section of the document.

## **2 SPORTS PARTICIPATION IN OXFORD**

### **2.1 Overall participation rates in sport**

- 2.1.1 Participation rates for sport and physical activity in Oxford are currently relatively high and have been increasing over the past few years. Sport England's Active People survey<sup>1</sup> indicates that for during the 2008/10 period 27.6% of adult residents (16+) took part in 3 x 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and physical activity a week (the former NI8 indicator). This level of participation fared favourably with the South East (22.9%) and England (21.3%) averages and placed Oxford within the top 25% of authorities in the country. This figure of 27.6% for Oxford was a rise from the figure of 20.7% recorded by the Active People survey for the 2005/2006 period. In line with the national and regional figures for both periods, participation in Oxford was higher for male adults than for females.
- 2.1.2 At the other end of the scale 34.9% of residents were recorded as not undertaking any participation during the 2008/10 period. As with the higher measure this figure also compares favourably with the South East (44.6%) and England (47.8%) figures, albeit it still represents a significant proportion of the population. The figure for Oxford reduced from 43.2% during the 2005/06 period.
- 2.1.3 While participation rates are relatively high, the Active People survey suggests that based on a number of demographic factors the increase between the two periods has resulted in bringing the rates up to, and slightly above, what would be expected for the City.
- 2.1.4 Due to the sample size, the results of the Active People survey regarding overall participation rates across the city are statistically significant at a local authority level. However, whilst information is also collected on the sports this sample size per sport starts to get too low for most sports to be really meaningful at the individual local authority level. Nevertheless, sport specific information can be collated by looking at the population of the 'active age group' for some of the pitch sports and Sport England's market segmentation tool details of which are provided below. In addition, information has been gathered at the local level including input from the National Governing Bodies of Sport.

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<sup>1</sup> Active People Survey is an annual survey undertaken by Sport England, which measures adult (16+) participation in sport and physical activity, in addition to other elements including satisfaction, volunteering etc. Web link: [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org) > Research > Active People Survey

## 2.2 Population information and pitch sport active age groups

- 2.2.1 Using the Greater London Authority Intelligence Unit<sup>2</sup> (GLA) methodology, the 2011 total population of Oxford is estimated at 147,200. It projects an increase to 156,600 by 2026, an increase of 6%.
- 2.2.2 The population has been forecasted using ward-based projections commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council from the GLA. Unlike the projections produced by the Office for National Statistics, the GLA method takes into account completed and planned housing development. These give a useful view of where housing growth and therefore population growth has taken place and will take place in the future, and can therefore be used to forecast demand for service and facilities such as schools, GP's and playing pitches. The projections do however rely on the accuracy of average household size estimates and forecasts, and do not take into account increases in communal establishments (over 1,000 units of student accommodation have been built since 2001).
- 2.2.3 For natural grass playing pitches. the Sport England guidance used in the development of this document is based on the relevant 'active age group' for the pitch sports. While the age groups differ per sport and are broken down to different age ranges the overall active age group used is 6 to 55 years olds. This active age group within the city is estimated to total approximately 109,900 people in 2011 which equates to 74% of the total population. This is projected to increase to approximately 117,900 people in 2026, equating to 75% of the total population. The rise of around 7,000 people represents a 6% increase which is in line with the total percentage increase of the population outlined above. This suggests that the relative demand for pitch sports in Oxford will increase in line with the increase in population, as opposed to for example, other areas which may see a decline in the proportion of the population within the active age group due to an aging population.
- 2.2.4 However, the percentage increase for those under 16 appears to be far higher than for the over 16 age groups. For example, the under 16 age groups all record increases of between 14 and 23% for the ten year period between 2011 and 2021. In contrast the over 16 age groups for the same period record percentage increases of between 3 and 5%. This clearly suggests that the increase in demand for pitch sport resulting from the increase in population alone will predominantly be for junior play.

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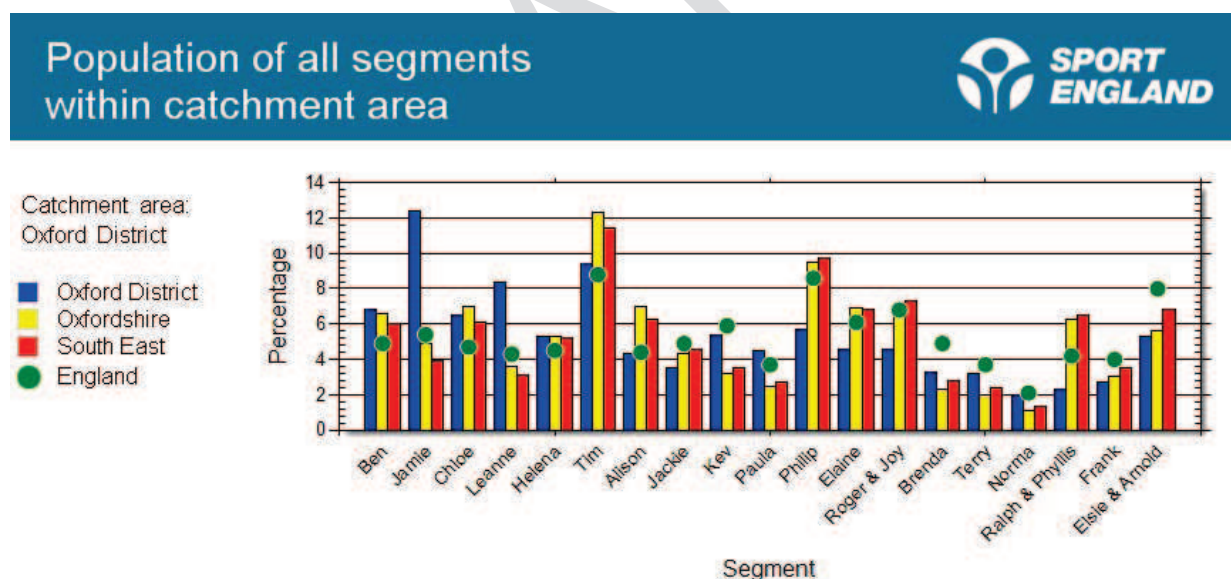
<sup>2</sup> Greater London Authority Intelligence Unit  
[http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/public/ODO/data/themes/population/2010\\_forecasts/GLAOxon\\_popn\\_method\\_report\\_2010.pdf](http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/public/ODO/data/themes/population/2010_forecasts/GLAOxon_popn_method_report_2010.pdf)

## 2.3 Market Segmentation

2.3.1 Following on from the Active People survey information, Sport England has developed nineteen sporting market segments<sup>3</sup>. These segments can be used to help understand the nations' attitude to sport along with their motivation for taking part in sport and barriers which may hinder their participation.

2.3.2 The dominant market segments within Oxford are Jamie (Sports Team Drinkers), Tim – (Settling Down Males) and Leanne (Supportive Singles). Figure 1 below shows the breakdown of the segments for Oxford compared to the county, regional and national averages. It is clear from figure 1 that Oxford has a significantly higher proportion of Jamie's and Leanne's than the county, regional and national averages. Jamie's make up approximately 12.4% of the population of the City and the sports they are most likely to participate in are football and keep fit/gym. Tim's are the second most dominant segment totalling 9.4% of the population of the city. While on par with the figure for England this percentage is below the county and regional averages. The sports that Tim's find most attractive are likely to be cycling and keep fit. In terms of playing pitch sports, football ranks fourth in terms of sports Tim's are likely to participate in. The sports that Leanne's are most likely to participate in are keep fit and swimming with football fifth in her list.

**Figure 1: Market Segments in Oxford**



2.3.3 The dominant segments within each ward can also be presented at ward level as shown in table 1 below and the Market Segmentation Map in appendix 1.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org) > Research > Market Segmentation

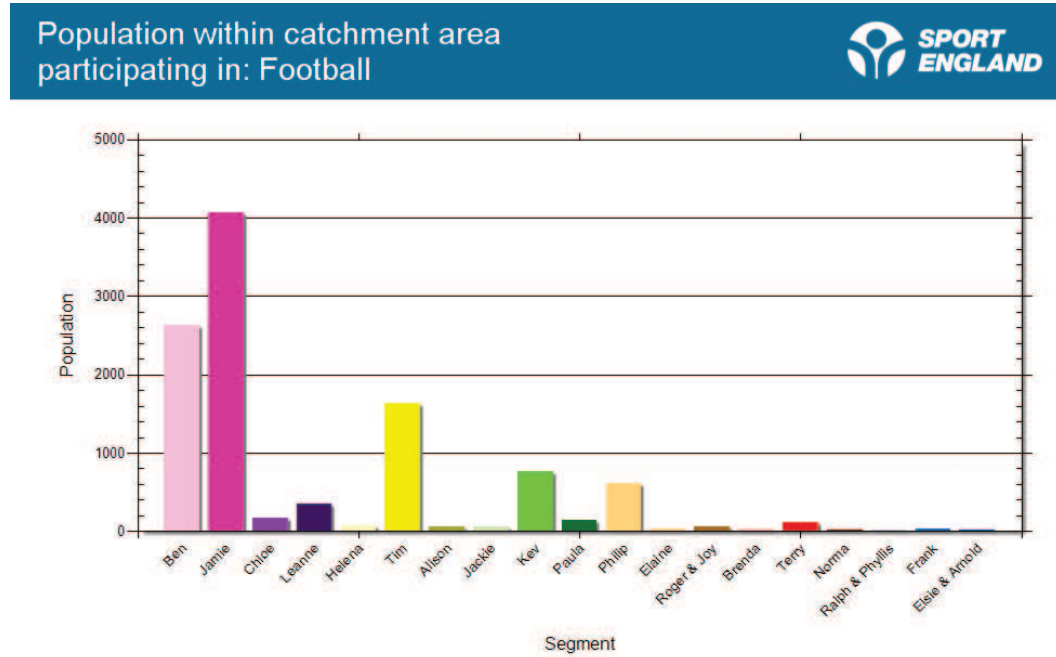
**Table 1: Dominant sporting market segments within Oxford**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Dominant Market Segment(s)</b>
Wolvercote	Tim & Ben
Summertown	Ben & Tim
St Margaret's	Ben & Jamie
North	Jamie & Ben
Marston	Tim
Headington Hill and Northway	Tim
Headington	Tim
Barton and Sandhills	Tim & Alison
Quarry and Risinghurst	Tim
Churchill	Jamie & Kev
Cowley Marsh	Tim & Elsie
Lye Valley	Elsie
Cowley	Elsie, Tim & Helena
Northfield Brooke	Tim, Paula & Kev
Blackbird Leys	Kev & Paula
Littlemore	Tim, Helena & Elsie
Rose Hill & Iffley	Tim & Kev
Hinksey Park	Tim & Jamie
Jericho & Osney	Tim
Carfax	Jamie & Helena
Holywell	Jamie
St Clements	Jamie
St Mary's	Jamie
Iffley Fields	Jamie

2.3.4 In respect of playing pitch sports, the market segmentation work can also be used to identify what segments are most likely to participate in sports. It is clear from the graphs below that for participation in the natural grass pitch sports (Football, Rugby and Cricket) Jamie, Tim and Ben are the most active segments in the City. Table 1 above indicates where these segments are most dominant in the City and therefore where the greatest concentration of demand for natural grass pitches provision may be.

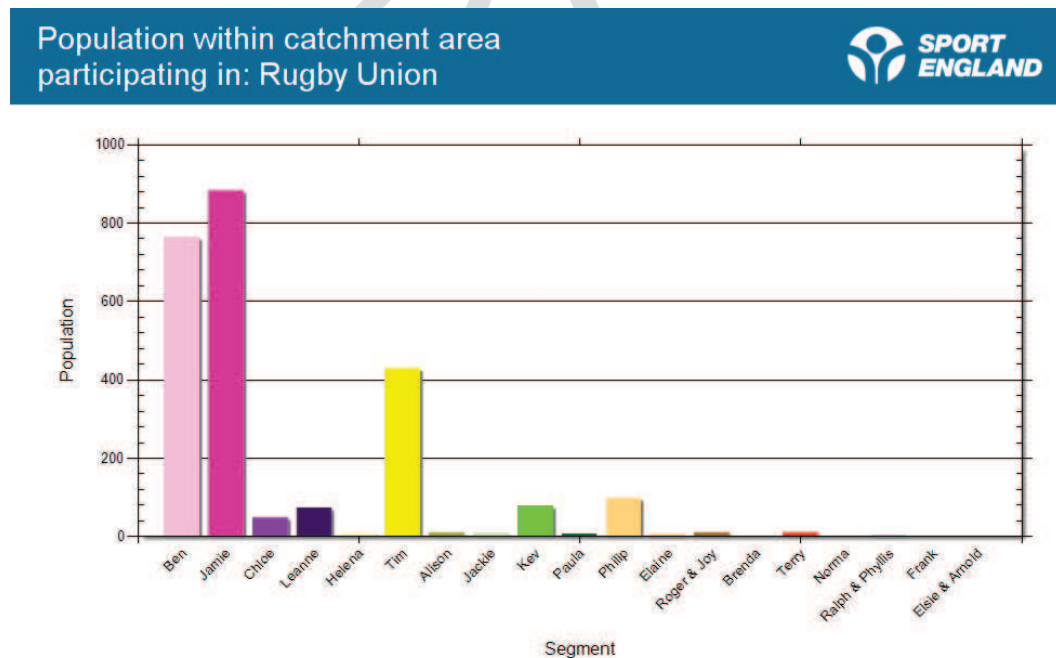
### 2.3.5 Football

The graph below identifies that Jamie, Tim and Ben are the most active segment in the City in respect of participation in football.



### 2.3.6 Rugby Union

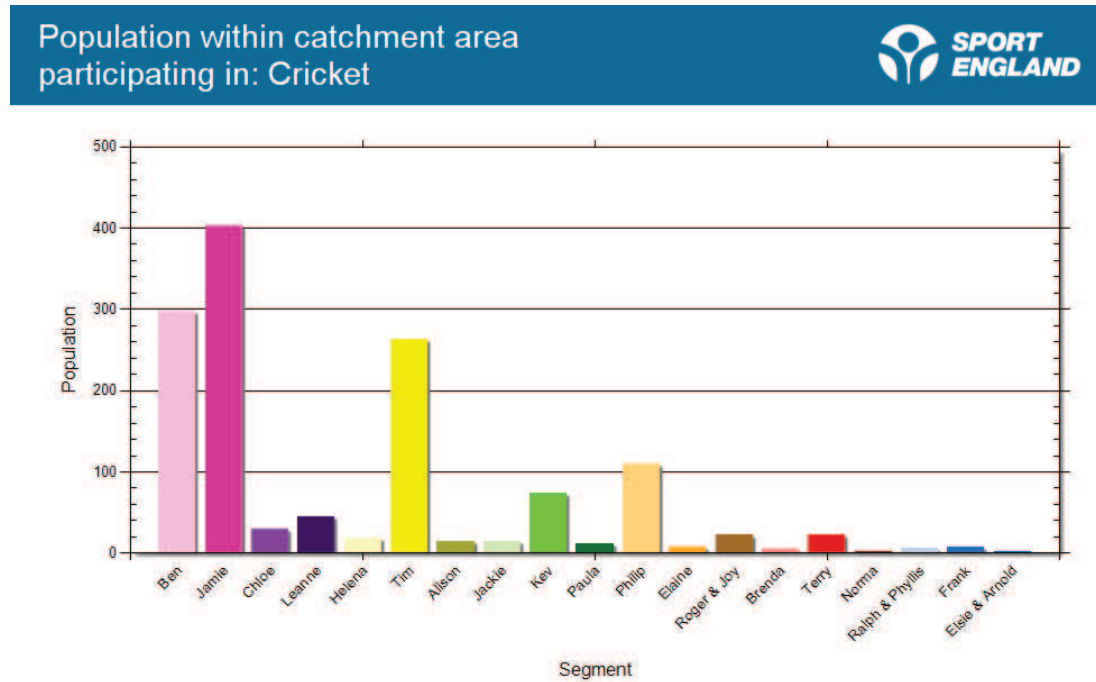
The graph below identifies that Jamie, Tim and Ben are the most active segment in the City in respect of participation in rugby union.





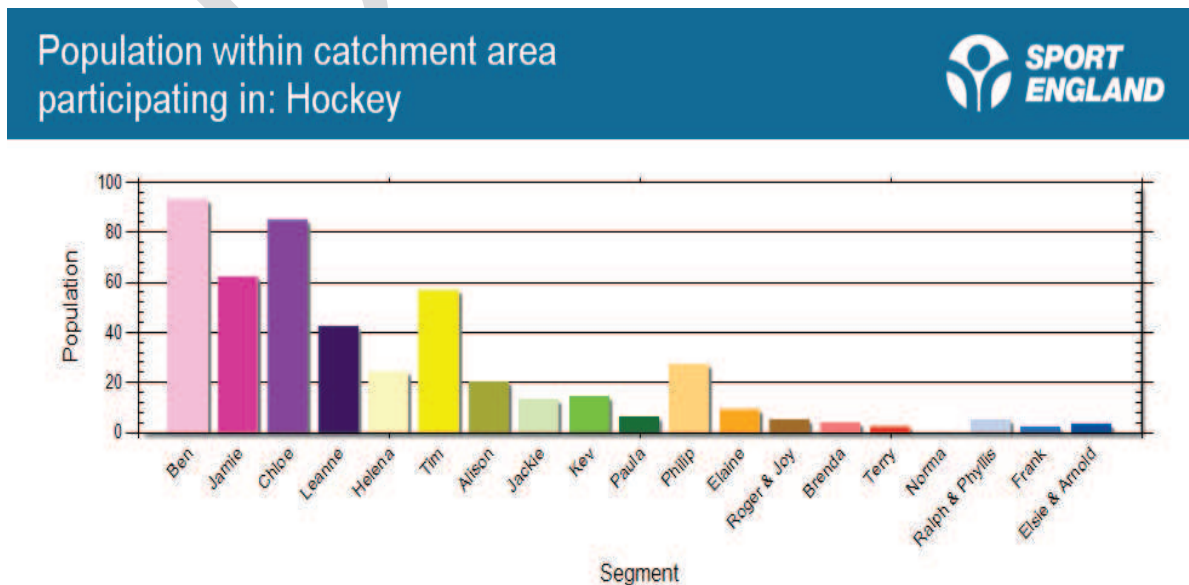
### 2.3.7 Cricket

The graph below identifies that Jamie, Tim and Ben are the most active segment in the City in respect of participation in cricket.



### Hockey

2.3.8 In addition to the natural grass pitch sports, it is clear that the segments in the city most likely to take part in Hockey and therefore generate hockey demand for artificial grass pitches are again Ben, Jamie and Tim but also Chloe and Leanne. While Table 1 above indicates that the Chloe and Leanne segments are not dominant in any one ward, the relevant maps in appendix 1 do set out where any concentrations of these segments are located.



2.3.9 Finally, the Active People data also provides an indication of any latent demand. Latent demand is based on all respondents who would like to play more sport. The survey asked these people which one sport they would like to play more of. For all the above pitch sports the data suggests that there is some latent demand, the breakdown of which is fairly consistent with the spread across the segments that currently play the sports. The data indicates that within Oxford the following approximate amount of people would like to play more of each pitch sport;

- Hockey 300 people,
- Rugby Union 550 people,
- Cricket 750 people
- Football 2,100 people.

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### **3 PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Natural grass playing pitch methodology**

3.1.1 This strategy uses the definition of a playing pitch as set out in the Government's statutory instrument 2010/2184<sup>4</sup> which states that playing pitch is:

“a delineated area which, together with any run off area, is of 0.2 hectares or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.”

The minimum and maximum dimensions for a pitch will differ for each sport and these have been set out in Sport England Comparative Sizes document (2011).<sup>5</sup>

3.1.2 Sport England, within their 'Towards a Level Playing Field' [TLPF] (2003) publication, provide guidance and a recommended methodology for developing playing pitch strategies, fully adopting the statutory instrument 2010/2184 definition of a playing pitch. This guidance reflects key priorities and the approach to locally derived assessments featured in the *Government's Planning Policy Guidance 17 (2002): Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17)* and its companion guide 'Assessing needs and opportunities' (2002).

3.1.3 The TLPF guide provides a recommended methodology and specific criteria to measure and assess the quality, quantity, capacity and accessibility of playing pitches and their ancillary facilities. As such, following the guidance allows the adequacy of provision for these facilities to be determined by assessing local demand against the quality, quality and accessibility of current supply.

3.1.4 A key element of the TLPF guidance is the use of the 'Playing Pitch Model' which consists of eight stages:

1. Identifying teams and team equivalents
2. Calculating home games per team, per week
3. Assessing total home games per week
4. Establishing temporal demand for games
5. Defining pitches used/required on each day
6. Establishing pitches available
7. Assessing the findings
8. Identifying policy options and solutions.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/playing\\_field\\_3.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/playing_field_3.aspx)

<sup>5</sup> Sport England Comparative sizes document  
[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/natural\\_turf.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/natural_turf.aspx)

- 3.1.5 Stages one to six involve numerical calculations, whilst stages seven and eight ensure the calculations and their findings are fully assessed and options and solutions to address the findings are developed. The Playing Pitch Model, which focuses on assessing the adequacy of provision to meet demand at peak times, can be used in three main ways:
- To reflect the current situation, using data on existing teams and pitches.
  - Test the adequacy of current provision by manipulating the variables in the model.
  - Predict the future need for pitches, by incorporating planned pitches and predicted changes in population projections.
- 3.1.6 An 'electronic toolkit' accompanies the Playing Pitch Model which provides useful resources to help collate and assess the information required by the stages of the model.
- 3.1.7 Sport England's guidance suggests that all pitches irrespective of ownership should be included in the assessment. However, it recommends that the key findings of the strategy in terms of the supply and demand balance should only be based on those pitches which have secured community use.
- 3.1.8 Depending on the results of this assessment additional scenarios can then be run through the Playing Pitch Model to look at what the situation may be should additional sites be included, which do not currently have secured community use. Whilst the results of these additional scenarios must be treated with caution as the sites do not have secured community use they can be looked at, alongside site specific issues and knowledge, to help develop options and solutions to address the findings of the initial scenario. The need for this scenario testing is particularly important within Oxford due to the significant provision from the education sector including the Universities and Colleges. The development of this strategy has therefore used the Playing Pitch Model to look at three different scenarios, these being:
- Scenario 1** - includes those pitches with secured community use, typically owned by Oxford City Council or where a 'Community Use Agreement' exists.
- Scenario 2** - includes those pitches in scenario 1 together with pitches in the City that are accessible to the community but where restrictions apply i.e. no guaranteed use. These pitches are typically owned by the independent and community schools/academies within the City.
- Scenario 3** - includes pitches in scenario one and two together with those pitches that are accessible to the community on a very restricted 'ad hoc' basis. These pitches are typically owned by the University/College's.
- 3.1.9 In order to assess the future situation, the strategy is aligned with the Core Strategy for Oxford (2011 – 2026) and an assessment using the Playing Pitch Model has also been undertaken using the following periods:
- 2011 - 2016
  - 2016 – 2021
  - 2021 – 2026.

3.1.10 In predicting forward, Sport England's guidance suggests using the concept of Team Generation Rates ,(TGR's), alongside appropriate projected changes in the participation rates of pitch sports. TGR's indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate a team. Therefore, once accurate figures have been collated the population in an appropriate age band can be divided by the current number of teams in the area within the age band to give a TGR figure (e.g. 1 senior football team for every 500 males aged 16-45). The current TGR figures can then be used alongside the projected future population to identify appropriate changes in participation to calculate the likely demand in a future year.

3.1.11 Whilst this modelling has been undertaken across the three time periods the results from the 2011 – 2016 modelling will be analysed in depth. Results from the modelling of the other periods will be used as a 'guideline' as population projections and future team and participation projections will become less accurate and more unpredictable the further forward the work projects.

## **3.2 Collating the supply and demand data**

3.2.1 The success of the TLPF methodology depends on obtaining accurate and up to date information on the supply of, and demand for playing pitches. To achieve this a full audit of clubs and teams, along with other likely users of playing pitches, was undertaken alongside a full audit of playing pitch provision in the City.

3.2.2 Identification of the supply of playing pitches included:

- A review of the information held on Active Places Power<sup>6</sup>
- Discussion with the Oxford City Council Parks team in respect of Council owned provision.
- Web research (including reviewing local maps).
- Discussions with staff at Oxford University and the Colleges to identify the provision at these sites.
- Discussions with schools and the Partnership Development Manager (PDM), of the School Sports Partnership.
- Site visits

3.2.3 Identification of clubs, teams and other users included:

- Discussion with National Governing Bodies of Sport.
- A review of National Governing Body and County Association data and reports i.e. the Oxfordshire Football Association's Local Area Data (LAD) reports.
- Extensive internet research in respect of league fixtures/results and team/club websites.
- Discussion with the Oxford City Council Parks team in respect of users of council owned provision.

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<sup>6</sup> Active Places Power is a planning tool developed by Sport England for sports facilities. It is designed to assist in investment decisions and the development of infrastructure improvement strategies for sport.

- 3.2.4 To ensure that the information collated from the above sources was accurate, and to also attain any missed team, clubs or pitches, questionnaires (an example can be found in appendix 2), were sent to National Governing Bodies of Sport, League Secretaries, Schools and Colleges along with all playing pitch sports clubs. The distribution of the questionnaire formed part of the consultation process which is described in further detail in section 3.3 below.
- 3.2.5 Whilst undertaking the audit of playing pitches in the City the following categories were used to define their level of accessibility:
- **Secured Community Use** – those typically owned by Oxford City Council and/or owned by others where a joint use agreement is in place.
  - **Community Use (not secured)** – this includes those pitches that are accessible to the community but where there is no guaranteed usage ,these facilities are typically with schools and the commercial sector,
  - **Adhoc** – this includes those facilities that offer very occasional use, these facilities are typically Oxford University College sites and/or within schools
  - **None** – those facilities that are not accessible and therefore deemed private.

### 3.3 Consultation

- 3.3.1 As presented in table 2, questionnaires were widely distributed to help collate as accurate a picture as possible for the number of clubs, teams and other users of playing pitches, along with the level and nature of pitches in the City.
- 3.3.2 This method of consultation also helped to gather an extensive amount of qualitative research in respect of pitch and pavilion quality, accessibility and development plans, participation increases and projects in the pipeline, amongst other things.
- 3.3.3 The questionnaires were developed in line with the example provided within the TLPF Electronic Toolkit and adapted to ensure that they were more sport specific rather than a generic template. An example of the questionnaire used can be seen in appendix 2. Table 2 below provides a summary of those identified as a key consultees, response rates to the questionnaire consultation and the initial methods of consultation used.

**Table 2: Questionnaire Consultation**

Consultee	Questionnaire Responses		Questionnaire and other methods of consultation
	Consultee's identified	% Response	
Football Clubs*	60 (representing 198 teams)	27% (46% response rate from teams)	Electronic/Postal Questionnaire & Telephone Interviews Football Forum Meeting
Rugby Clubs*	8 (representing 33 teams)	38% (79% response rate from teams)	Electronic Questionnaire
Cricket* Clubs	13 (representing 35 teams)	23% (77% response rate from teams)	Electronic Questionnaire Meeting
Hockey* Clubs	7 (representing 85 teams)	40% (48% response rate from teams)	Electronic Questionnaire
Schools (including independent)	41	73%	Electronic Questionnaire via the SSP and direct to independent schools.
League Secretaries across all sports	22	23%	Electronic Questionnaire
National Governing Bodies	5	100%	Electronic Questionnaire Telephone Interview Meetings

*\* Within Oxford it is typical of the Universities/Colleges to field their own sports teams. This can result in some level of difficulty in reaching the right individuals as roles and responsibilities vary across them. In respect of this a decision was taken to gain information from the person responsible for coordinating fixtures etc, and to also seek information from Oxford University's Director of Sport.,*

3.3.4 As identified above, a variety of consultation methods were used alongside the questionnaires, including;

- sport specific meetings,
- telephone discussions,
- informal discussions during site visits.

3.3.5 To ensure that consultation was effective with sports clubs and teams, the national governing bodies of sport were asked to approach their Oxford registered clubs and league secretaries. This method was also used via the School Sports Partnership when approaching the community schools and academies in the City. It was felt that using this method of contact would increase the response rate as the questionnaire would be coming from a familiar source.

3.3.6 To enhance the response rate two reminders were sent out and the window for consultation was extended as long as feasibly possible to ensure all

parties could respond to the questionnaire. It was difficult to engage all of the football clubs in the City and the league secretaries for football. To help in some part address this, questions regarding pitches and pavilions were also raised at the City's Football forum which included 14 clubs, the OFA, league representatives and the referees association.

- 3.3.7 Whilst the response rate from football clubs in the City was 27% it is important to note that many of the larger clubs (those that field a number of teams), completed and returned the questionnaire. Six of the 'Charter Standard' clubs were represented within this response rate. As such, when looking at the response from teams the response represents 46% of the City's teams that are registered with the OFA.
- 3.3.8 There was a positive response from the other sports clubs in the City, with in excess of 70% of the rugby and cricket teams in the city represented. 48% of the Hockey teams in the City were represented through response to the consultation. Similar to football, all those clubs that took part in the consultation for hockey, rugby and cricket were the larger City clubs that field a number of teams.
- 3.3.9 Along with providing their own response the local development officers and managers of the pitch sport National Governing Bodies were asked to carry out a check and challenge of the club responses and to look at whether they were consistent with the plans and priorities of the Governing Bodies ,in respect of development plans etc. This added another layer to the consultation process.
- 3.3.10 With regard to hockey, it should be noted that the information received from England Hockey that feeds into the Artificial Grass Pitch section of this document, section 4.6, is derived from their recent consultation with all Oxford based clubs. The information from the questionnaire responses therefore supplements the England Hockey information.
- 3.3.11 Further consultation will be carried out on the content of this draft report and its findings with relevant parties, including the National Governing Bodies and key pitch providers prior to the development of the final document.

#### **3.4 Qualitative assessment**

- 3.4.1 A qualitative assessment of the playing pitches and ancillary facilities was undertaken in two stages. The first stage involved undertaking a Non Visual Technical Quality Assessment (NVTQA) of each site and pitch using the template form provided within the TLPF toolkit. To align with best practice as suggested in the TLPF guidance, these assessments were carried out between January and March 2011 by the Development Officer from the Leisure team at Oxford City Council, alongside the Council grounds staff when assessing Oxford City Council owned pitches and site staff when assessing external pitches i.e. universities, colleges and private sports clubs.
- 3.4.2 The NVTQA enables a rating to be allocated for each pitch based on various aspects of its quality from grass cover and evenness to the presence of litter. Through the inclusion of additional information such as pitch bookings and cancellations a percentage score is given to each pitch which relates to an overall qualitative rating. The quality scale differs slightly between pitch and ancillary facilities:



### Pitch Quality Rating Scale

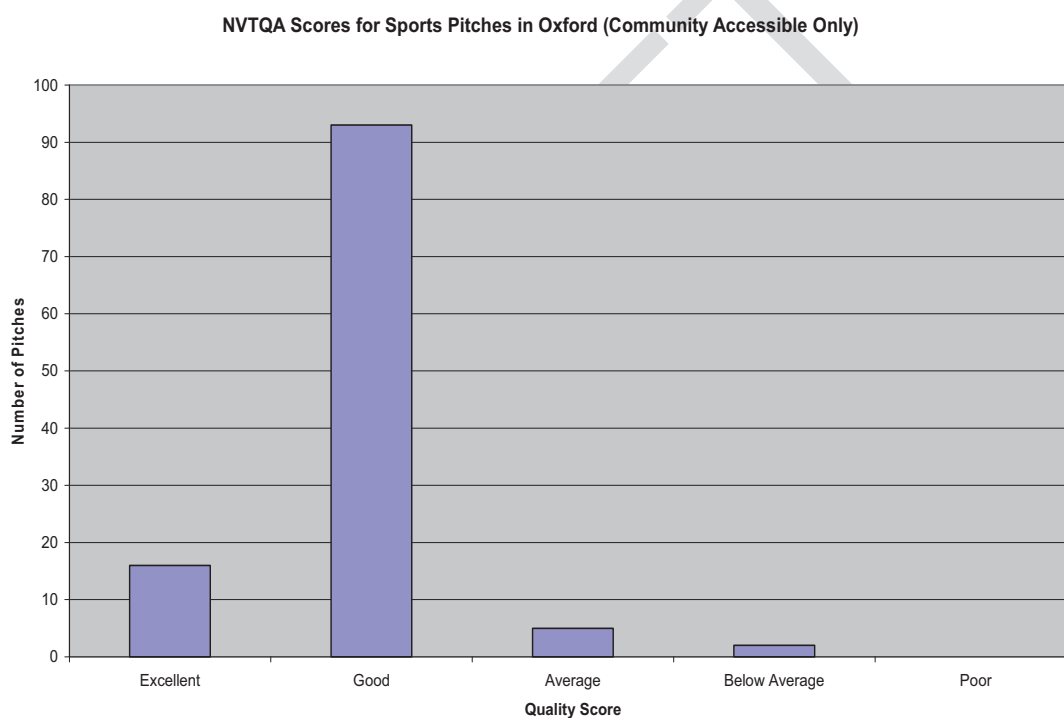
Over 90% = Excellent  
64 – 90% = Good  
55 – 64% = Average  
30 – 54% = Below Average  
Less than 30% = Poor

### Ancillary Facility Quality Rating Scale

Over 90% = Excellent  
60 – 89% = Good  
40 – 59% = Average  
30 – 39% = Poor  
Less than 30% = Very Poor

An example of the assessment templates for pitches and ancillary facilities can be found in appendix 3 and appendix 4. Figure 2 below shows the NVTQA overall ratings for all accessible pitches within the City. The overall ratings for each individual pitch are provided in the separate sport sections of this document.

**Figure 2: Overall pitch quality scores (Community Accessible Only)**



3.4.3 A separate NVQTA was used to assess ancillary facilities at each site such as pavilions, which includes elements such as the condition of showers and toilets. The scores recorded for the ancillary provision are provided in separate sport sections of this document.

3.4.4 To ensure that the assessment scores provided an accurate reflection of pitch quality wherever possible they were undertaken with relevant grounds staff. There were a small number of sites outside the ownership of Oxford City Council where access to the site was restricted. In these cases an assumption has been made regarding their quality based on local knowledge, discussions with grounds staff and the proximity of the site to other playing pitches that have been assessed. This accounted for 12 sites with community accessible pitches (hosting a mixture of football, rugby union and

cricket pitches), which were typically within the ownership of community schools/academies, university and colleges.

- 3.4.5 The second stage comprised of checking and challenging the overall rating given for each pitch. This included checking the ratings against feedback from the consultation, e.g. from sports clubs and league secretaries. The National Governing Bodies of Sport and grounds staff, including Oxford City Council Parks department, were then also asked to look through and check and challenge the ratings.

### **3.5 Carrying Capacity**

- 3.5.1 The number of matches a pitch can absorb will vary depending on many factors including pitch quality, level of use, drainage and the maintenance regime. The TLPF guidance emphasises the importance of taking these factors into consideration in order to determine the 'true' carrying capacity of a pitch. The guidance suggests including a pitch equivalent concept into the overall assessment based on the estimated carrying capacity of each pitch. The pitch equivalent figure can then be used in the modelling to ensure that it reflects the capacity and quality of each pitch as opposed to treating each pitch the same. This therefore allows for the fact that some pitches due to their quality and capacity may not be available for use in any given week and a calculation of the likely number of pitches that are available at any one time.
- 3.5.2 All of the City Council owned pitches are currently maintained to a specification allowing four matches or match equivalent sessions per week. This figure, which includes matches and training along with other uses, e.g. educational and casual, has been used as a benchmark for determining the carrying capacity where a capacity of four sessions per week equals 1 pitch. Depending on the capacity of a pitch its pitch equivalent figure is adjusted accordingly in line with the scale in table 3 below.

**Table 3 Carrying Capacity Scale**

<b>Sessions per week (this includes training and matches)</b>	<b>Pitch Equivalent</b>
1	0.25 of a pitch
2	0.50 of a pitch
3	0.75 of a pitch
4	1 pitch
5	1.25 of a pitch

- 3.5.3 To arrive at a pitch equivalent score, for each pitch, information on actual pitch usage was analysed alongside a range of factors which influence the quality and accessibility of a pitch, including poor drainage. This information was attained through sports booking records, feedback from the consultations including the questionnaire surveys, discussions with grounds staff and local knowledge together with the quality rating assigned to each pitch from the qualitative assessment set out in section 3.4 above. Similar to the qualitative ratings, where information was unavailable an informed assumption has been made based on similar pitches (University/Colleges) and discussions with those that have good knowledge of the pitches such as the School Sports Partnership for school pitches. Table 4 below identifies the number of pitches in the City by sport and the pitch equivalent score based on the above scale.

**Table 4: Calculated Carrying Capacity**

Pitch Type	Number of Pitches	Pitch Equivalent
Senior Football	54	50.30
Junior Football	7	7
Mini Football	13	13
Senior Rugby Union	22	21.80 (this figure has included 2.25 pitches outside of the City that meet the displaced demand)
Senior Cricket	20	18.8

3.5.4 When determining the carrying capacity of those accessible pitches within the educational sector, whilst these pitches are to some degree accessible there is very little community use, with the majority of the use being from the schools themselves, with the exception of two rugby pitches at Cherwell School that are used by Oxford Harlequins RFC and the rugby pitch at the Oxford Academy used by Littlemore RFC. As such, and taking into consideration local knowledge and other factors i.e. drainage, the following equivalents were given:

- Football (per pitch) = 1 pitch equivalent
- Rugby (per pitch) = 1 pitch equivalent (with the exception of two pitches that are used by the Oxford Harlequins RFC at Cherwell School as these are of a poor quality and therefore each are equivalent to 0.5 of a pitch)
- Cricket = 0.75 pitch equivalent. A slightly lower equivalent was given to cricket pitches. This score was informed through discussions with the PDM of the School Sports Partnership who noted that typically, school cricket pitches tend to be at a lower standard in comparison to other pitches due to the level of maintenance they require.

Scores for these pitches have been included within table 4, calculated carrying capacity, above.

3.5.5 In line with the TLPF guidance the pitch equivalent figures have been used within the playing pitch model to assess the adequacy of provision to meet peak time demand playing pitch provision in Oxford.

### **3.6 Catchment Analysis**

3.6.1 It is important that an assessment of provision is undertaken at an appropriate geographical level that reflects the nature of how the relevant sports are played within the City. Following discussion with National Governing Body for each sport it was agreed that:

- Football will be assessed in line with the City's Area Committee boundaries, now known as Area Forums, due to the localised pattern of clubs and the catchment from which their players reside, the large number of clubs and teams along with the wide distribution of pitch provision throughout the City.

- The remainder of the natural grass pitch sports; Rugby and Cricket, will be analysed at a City wide level. This is due to the smaller number of clubs and teams which while focused within specific areas of the City have a wide geographical catchment of players and the distribution of pitch provision.

### **3.7 Sport Specific Sections**

- 3.7.1 The following sections of this document provide information on the approach taken and the resulting assessment for Football, Rugby Union and Cricket. The approach follows the TLPF guidance, the detail provided within this section along with building in some sport specific issues.

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## **4. ASSESSMENT OF NATURAL GRASS PLAYING PITCHES**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 Sections 4.2 to 4.4 set out the assessment of natural grass playing pitches following Sport England's TLPF guidance and the detail within section 3. The assessment is separated into sport specific sections and then the overall conclusions and recommendations are set out in section 4.5. The sport specific sections summarise the information collated and assessed through the following areas:

- Information on the structure and governance of each sport
- Analysis of clubs and teams in the City
- Analysis of community accessible pitch provision
- Quality of accessible pitches
- Sports development in respect of participation increases/projects and facility developments
- Sport specific assessment methodology
- Team Generation Rates
- Latent and displaced demand
- Trends and participation targets
- Peak demand for pitches
- Scenario modelling and results/findings
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

## 4.2 Football in Oxford

### Governance and participation

4.2.1 Football in Oxford is primarily governed by the Oxfordshire Football Association, OFA, who are supported at a local level by Oxford City Council. The OFA's mission is to "establish safe and structured football opportunities for the benefit of all concerned, irrespective of age, colour, gender and disability" [www.oxfordshirefa.com](http://www.oxfordshirefa.com)

4.2.2 The City Council's Sport and Physical Activity Review (2009) identified football as a 'Focus Sport' for the sports development team in Oxford, and the team work closely with the OFA to achieve its objectives for the City and deliver the National Games Strategy 2007 – 2012. The league structure for male football (shown blue), and female football (shown in red), in Oxford is as follows:



4.2.3 Within the City, 22 leagues are represented by Oxford teams. In addition to these leagues Oxford has a wealth of university teams and also 'casual non league' teams. There are a total of 125 football clubs in the City, which between them field 343 teams. Without the inclusion of University/College teams, non FA registered, the club to team ratio within Oxford is 1:3.3, i.e. each club on average fields 3.3 teams. This is slightly lower than the national average of 1:2.9 and consistent with the regional team ratio of 1.3:3<sup>7</sup>. Table 5 below provides a summary of the club and team structure in Oxford. The team count in the table includes 11 disabled teams that play in the Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (BOBI) League. These teams stem from five individual clubs and Oxford City Football Club.

**Table 5: Football clubs and teams in Oxford**

Clubs	Count	% of total clubs	Teams	Count	% of total teams
FA registered (includes Oxford University Blue's)	60	48%	FA registered (includes Oxford University Blue's)	198	57%
University teams (including college's)	65	52%	University teams (including college's)	145	43%

4.2.4 There are 13 Charter Standard<sup>8</sup> clubs in Oxford including:

- 5 basic Charter Standard, Bullingdon Boy's FC, Greater Leys FC, Hinksey Park FC, Northway Boys FC and Oxford Blackbird Boys FC *[currently suspended]*
- 2 Charter Standard Development clubs, Horspath Youth FC and Marston Saints FC.
- 3 Community Clubs, Oxford United, Oxford City FC, and Summertown Stars FC.
- 3 Adult Charter Standard clubs, Oxford Brookes University Ladies, Oxford Coasters FC and FC Streets Revolution.

### **Supply of Pitches**

#### **Quantity and Accessibility**

4.2.5 There are a total of 109 football pitches in the City, of which 74 (68%) are deemed to be available for community use to some extent. Table 6 below provides a summary of those football pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area.

<sup>7</sup> National and Regional football team ratio's have been taken from the Oxfordshire Football Association Local Area Data Report 2010/11.

<sup>8</sup> The FA Charter Standard award is a national kite mark recognising those clubs that are providing quality football opportunities in a safe environment. The program is accessible to both junior and adult clubs and can be achieved by clubs who run only one team or those with numerous teams.

**Table 6: Number of pitches with community access and teams**

Analysis Area (Area Committee)	Number of football pitches available for community use			Number of teams (excluding those university teams <u>not</u> registered with the OFA)						
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior Men's	Senior Women's	Junior Boys	Junior Girls	Mini	Disability	Total
Cowley	12	-	3	19	1	13	4	10	-	47
East	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	1	2	10
North	11	2	4	9	-	7	2	7	-	25
North East	11	4	2	17	5	23	8	14	6	73
South East	9	1	1	7	2	9	-	8	-	26
Central South & West	11	-	3	3	2	5	-	4	-	14
Displaced <sup>9</sup>				-	-	-	-	-	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>198</b>

4.2.6 Table 6 above, identifies that Oxford's football clubs and teams are well distributed amongst the City. As shown in Figure 3 a similar level of distribution can be seen for the provision of pitches with some degree of community access in the City. The East area of Oxford does not have any pitches with secured community access; however there is provision owned by the University that is not currently accessible by the community and pitches within other areas are in short proximity. Appendix 5 provides a summary of the hierarchy of provision of football pitches in the City, typically those owned by Oxford City Council, in relation to the league structure for Oxford.

4.2.7 Whilst 74 football pitches have some degree of community access the nature and therefore certainty of this access varies. Table 7 provides a summary of the nature of community access to the 74 football pitches.

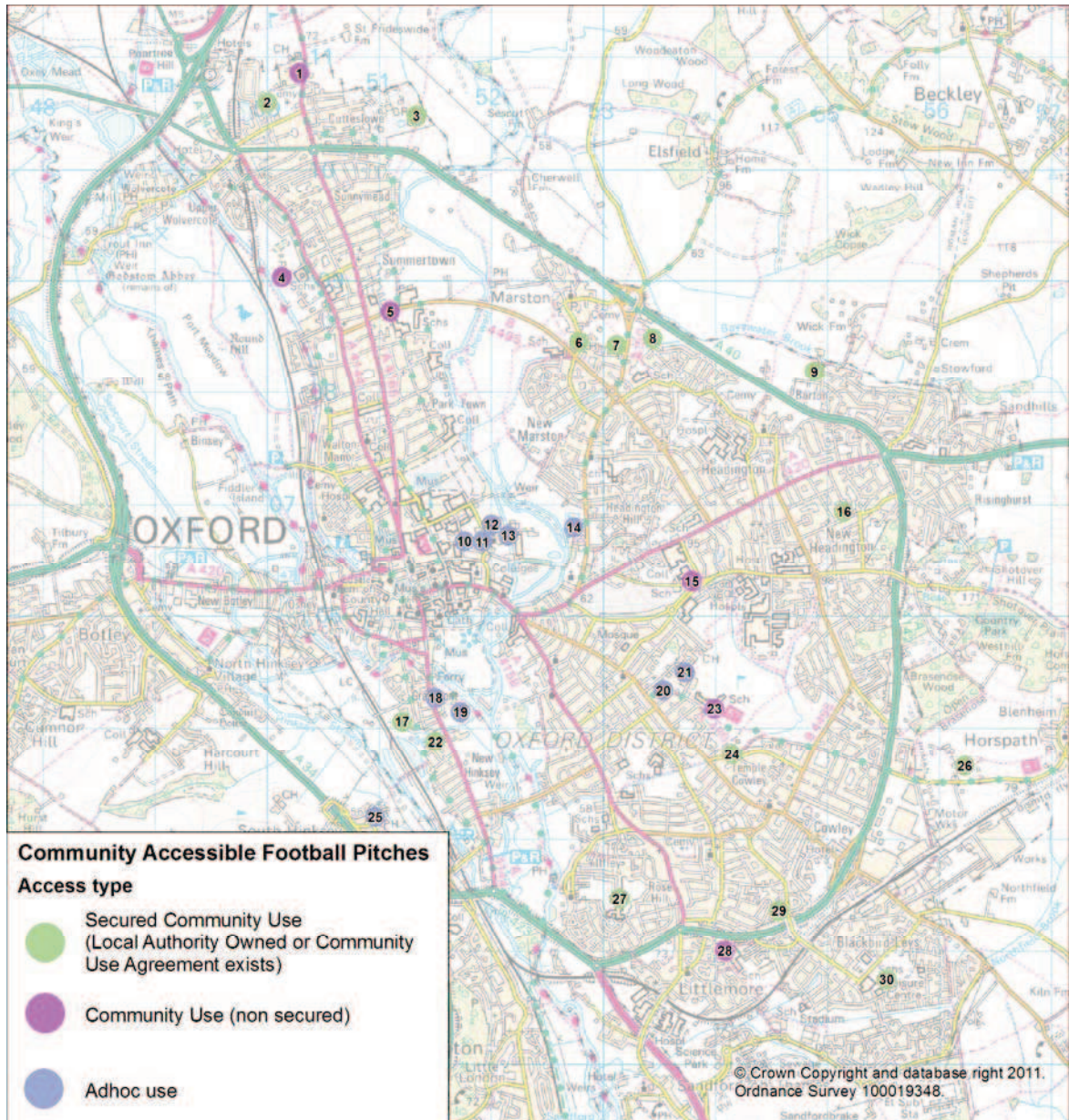
**Table 7: Access levels of community accessible football pitches in Oxford.**

Access Type	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Mini pitches
Secured Community Use	21	8	17
Community Use (not secured)	14	-	-
Adhoc use	14	-	-

<sup>9</sup> Displaced Teams can be described as Oxford registered teams that use pitches outside of the City for their home fixtures, either by choice or no other option.



**Figure 3: Map showing the distribution of football pitches with community access within Oxford.**



Key to map of community accessible football pitches within Oxford

Map ID	Site Name	Number of senior football pitches	Number of junior football pitches	Number of mini pitches	Number of designated training pitches	Quality of pitches	Quality of ancillary facilities	Floodlit	Ownership	Management	Access Type	Ward	Area Committee
1	Oxford University Press Sports Ground (Jordan Hill)	1	-	-	-	Good	Good	N	University	Sport Club	Community Access (not secured)	Wolvercote	North
2	Five Mile Drive Recreation Ground	1	1	-	-	Good	Very Poor	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Access	Wolvercote	North
3	Cuttleslowe Park	3	1	4	-	Good	Average Poor	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Access	Wolvercote	North
4	St Edwards School	2	-	-	-	Good	Good	N	Independent School	Independent School	Adhoc use	Summertown	North
5	Chenwell School	4	-	-	-	Good	Average	N	Community School	Community School	Community Access (not secured)	Marston	North East
6	Boults Lane Recreation Ground	1	2	-	-	Good	Average	N	Marston Parish Council	Marston Parish Council	Secured Community Access	Marston	North East
7	Court Place Farm	3	1* (over marked pitch)	2* (1 pitch over marked)	-	Good	Average	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Access	Marston	North East
8	Northway Recreation Ground	2	-	2 (over marked)	-	Good	Average	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Access	Headington Hill & Northway	North East
9	Barton Recreation Ground	1	1	1* (over marked)	-	Good	Very Poor	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Access	Barton & Sandhills	North East
10	Oxford University Club	1	-	-	-	Good	Good	N	University	University	Adhoc use	Holywell	Central, South & West
11	Balliol College Sports Ground	1	-	-	-	Good	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Holywell	Central, South & West
12	New College Sports Ground	2	-	-	-	Good	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Holywell	Central, South & West
13	Merton College Sports Ground	1	-	-	-	Good	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Holywell	Central, South & West
14	Magdalen College Sports Ground	2	-	-	1	Good	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Marston	North East
15	Cheney School	1	-	-	-	Good	Good	N	Community School	Community School	Community Use (not secured)	Churchill	North East
16	Quarry Recreation Ground	1	1	1	-	Good	Very Poor	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Quarry & Risingshurst	North East
17	Grandpont Recreation Ground	1	-	2	-	Good	Very Poor	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West

18	Brasenose College Sports Ground	2	-	-	-	Good	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
19	The Queens College Sports Ground	1	-	-	Good	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Adhoc use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
20	Lincoln College Sports Ground	1	-	-	Good	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Adhoc use	Cowley Marsh	Cowley
21	Jesus College Sports Ground	1	-	-	Good	Excellent	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Adhoc use	Cowley Marsh	Cowley
22	Hinksey Park	-	-	1	Good	N/a		Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Secured Community Use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
23	Oxford Spire Academy	4	-	-	Good	Poor	N	Academy (community school)	Academy (community school)	Community Use (not secured)	Community Use (not secured)	Cowley Marsh	Cowley
24	Cowley Marsh	2	1	1	Good	Good	Y	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Secured Community Use	Cowley Marsh	Cowley
25	Pembroke College Sports Ground	2	-	-	Good	Good	Y	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Adhoc use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
26	Horspath Sports Ground	3	2	-	Good	Average	Y (training pitch only)	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Secured Community Use	Lye Valley	Cowley
27	Rose Hill Recreation Ground	1	-	-	Good	Poor	Y (training pitch only)	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Secured Community Use	Rose Hill & Iffley	South East
28	The Oxford Academy	2	-	-	Good	Excellent	N	Academy (community school)	Academy (community school)	Community Use (not secured)	Community Use (not secured)	Littlemore	South East
29	Sandy Lane Recreation Ground	2	-	1* (over marked pitch)	Good	Very Poor	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Secured Community Use	Blackbird Leys	South East
30	Blackbird Leys Recreation Ground	4	-	3* (2 over marked pitches)	Good	Average	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Secured Community Use	Blackbird Leys	South East

N.B. Those highlighted cells indicate where the overall quality of the pitch(es) and ancillary facilities on site has been made based on a common sense assumption, local knowledge, proximity to other sites and discussion with grounds staff etc.

4.2.8 In addition to the 74 pitches that have some degree of community access, there are a further 35 football pitches in the City that are not available for community use. These pitches are typically within the independent schools and universities/colleges in Oxford and have therefore been excluded from the supply and demand analysis. Table 8 provides a summary of these pitches by analysis area.

**Table 8: Football pitches with no community use**

Analysis Area (Area Committee)	Number of pitches NOT available for community use		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
Cowley	5	1	1
East	3	-	-
North	4	7	-
North East	7	-	-
South East	1	1	-
Central South & West	5	-	-
<b>Oxford</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>

4.2.9 Ownership of the pitches identified in table 8 is as follows:

- 57% Higher Education (Oxford University)
- 20% Private Sports Clubs
- 20% Independent School
- 3% Community Special School

Whilst these pitches are currently unavailable for community use they could, depending on their capacity, provide a potential option to increase the supply of pitch provision available to the community should the current supply not meet existing and future demands in the City.

4.2.10 Historically, Oxford City Council had additional football pitches at a number of sites across the City. However due to a perceived lack of demand these are no currently marked out. Along with those sites currently offering no community use, these pitches, depending on the works required to bring the land back into use, could potentially be reinstated should demand for pitches exceed supply. Table 9 below provides a summary of those sites where pitches are no longer in play.

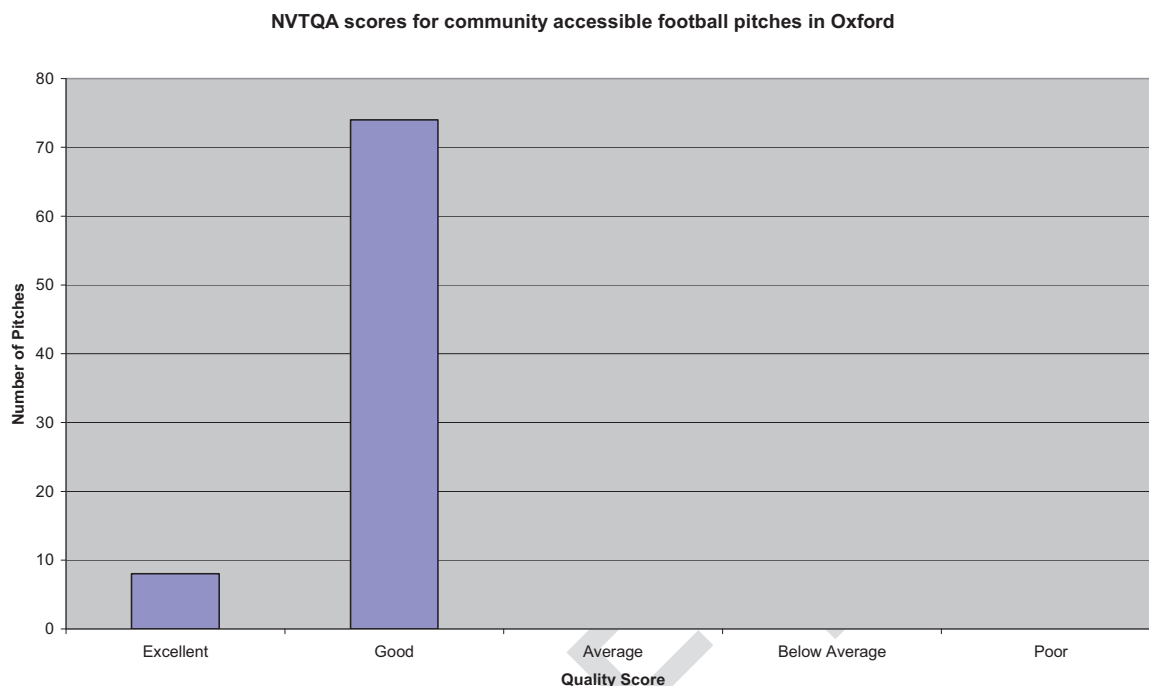
**Table 9: Historic football pitches, no longer in play**

Analysis Area (Area Committee)	Site Name	Number of pitches		
		Senior	Junior	Mini
Central, South & West	Botley Park	1	-	-
Central, South & West	Hinksey Park	-	1	-
Cowley	Bullington (Peat Moors)	-	1	-
North East	Croft Road	2	-	-
North East	South Park	1	-	-
East	Donnington Recreation Ground	2	1	-
South East	Spindleberry Park	-	-	1

**Quality of provision and ancillary facilities**

4.2.11 As set out in section 3.4, assessments of the quality of community accessible football pitches in Oxford has been undertaken. Figure 4 below shows the quality ratings for those football pitches that are deemed to have some degree of community access within the City, across all levels of access. The figure shows that 91% of these pitches in Oxford are rated as 'Good' with the remainder of the pitches receiving an 'Excellent' rating.

**Figure 4: Non Visual Technical Quality Scores for community accessible football pitches in Oxford.**



4.2.12 Qualitative assessments were also undertaken for the ancillary facilities supporting pitch provision on the accessible sites. While the mean score across all sites was good (63%) the mean score for the City Council owned sites was poor (37%). The quality of the ancillary provision and in particular the pavilions on City Council sites was raised by many clubs within the consultation. The City Council has undertaken a more comprehensive review of its pavilion stock, which is in the form of an unpublished Pavilion Review (2011).

4.2.13 Within Oxford the key strategic sites for football in respect of where the pitches are located, the high number of teams and the level of use are:

- Blackbird Leys Park (South East)
- Cutteslowe Park (North)
- Court Place Farm (North East)
- Horspath (Cowley)

Upon analysis of the results from the quality assessments, all the pitches at these sites received a 'Good' rating. Through consultation, the clubs that use these sites did report that they felt they were at capacity and this was supported by the City Council's parks team who are responsible for the maintenance of these pitches.

4.2.14 The only qualitative issues that were raised by the clubs for these sites were against the standard of the ancillary facilities. These issues are addressed within the Pavilion Review referred to above. Site specific quality issues are discussed in more detail below.

## **Football Development**

- 4.2.15 The Oxfordshire Football Association have indicated that there has been a recent decline in the number of registered senior football teams in Oxford. The OFA are therefore looking to focus on sustaining current senior participation up to 2026 and this is expected to be a focus within the FA's refreshed strategy. The OFA indicate that junior football has also experienced a decline in recent years but following the FA's review of youth football they are expected to implement a 9v9 version of the game in 2013. This shift will require some change in the nature of pitch layouts within the City with potentially smaller pitches than the conventional 'Senior Pitch' size as well as specific goal posts.
- 4.2.16 Unlike senior and junior football, mini football has experienced significant growth in the City over recent years which continues to increase. Feedback from consultation with the clubs has identified that many of the City's clubs that already field a number of mini teams are keen to grow the number of teams i.e. Oxford Blackbird Boys FC, Oxford City FC and Summertown Stars FC.

## **Facility Developments**

- 4.2.17 Prior to the development of this strategy the City Council had no plans in the pipeline to make any improvements to the natural grass playing pitches within their ownership. This position will be reviewed alongside the action plan set out in section 7 and closely monitored in line with the annual review of the strategy. However, set out below are a number of recent or current developments that will affect the provision of facilities available to football within the City and in turn may affect the supply of and demand for natural grass playing pitches.

### **The Community Arena**

Oxford City Council is working closely with Oxford City FC to develop a third generation pitch<sup>10</sup>, commonly known as a 3G pitch, at Court Place Farm, Marston. The new development will include an artificial grass pitch with floodlights, offering a year round, and all weather facility for football. In addition to the 3G pitch, six new netball courts will also be provided.

Whilst the £2 million development will benefit Oxford City Football Club and the City's netball clubs, the new sports facilities will have secured community use, creating enhanced sporting opportunities to the City residents and wider.

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<sup>10</sup> Third Generation (3G) pitches, represent a new development in synthetic turf. The pitch itself looks like natural grass with similar playing characteristics, non-abrasive and can be used with rubber studs. Their design is primarily designed for contact sport training.

## The Oxford Academy

The Oxford Academy has developed a covered 3G pitch, which has formed part of a redevelopment programme to improve the sporting provision within the school. The development also included an artificial grass pitch for the purpose of hockey. The facilities opened for community use in September 2011.

## Commercially Funded Artificial Grass Pitches

Oxford City Council has been approached by a number of operators looking to develop a small sided football facility within the City. An options appraisal has been developed which focused on eight potential sites. Out of these sights the one at Sandy Lane and the one at Blackbird Leys scored highest. Further consultation is planned with clubs, stakeholders and operators to see if these sites are feasible.

## Pavilions

As previously noted, a review of the pavilion provision in the City has been undertaken. The review analyses the quality of the pavilions, through the use of Sport England's NVTQA tool and provides an estimated cost for capital investment. To coincide with the review and as part of a long standing project, Barton Pavilion has recently been replaced with a modular design building, which meets relevant guidance and will benefit the whole community.

## Sport Specific Assessment Methodology

4.2.18 To analyse football in Oxford in respect of teams and the demand for pitches in the City, using the above information, the assessment methodology set out in Sport England's guidance and the detail presented in section 3 was followed. To make the methodology more football and Oxford specific the following approach was also taken when using Sport England's Playing Pitch Model:

1. An assessment has taken place at both a City wide and an Area Committee level.
2. Only those pitches with some degree of community access have been included within the modelling and different scenarios have been run depending on the security of the community access.
3. The City has many over marked football pitches, i.e. an adult pitch with a mini/junior pitch marked inside. Whilst this operates as two separate pitches, for the purpose of this strategy, and to avoid double counting of pitch areas these will be counted as adult only pitches resulting in a reduction of six mini pitches and one junior pitch from those currently marked out.
4. Training pitches where they exist have not been included; however for the purpose of this strategy the Oxford City Council owned training pitch at Rose Hill Recreation Ground has been included and classified as a senior pitch in respect of its dimensions. This pitch is regularly used and is one of the few floodlit football pitches remaining in the



City; as such there was an importance for this to be included within the modelling.

5. Oxford University teams, including college teams, have not been included within the modelling as they typically play only on the college or university facilities and do not use any other pitches in the City. Where University/College pitches are available for community access, these have been included within the modelling as discussed in section 3.2.
6. Oxford United fields a total of 19 teams through their main club, ladies section, academy and the centre of excellence which is focused on youth football. In addition to the club's home pitch 'The Kassam Stadium', the club has recently secured sole use of the pitches at 'Rover Sports and Social Club'. As such, there is very little likelihood that any additional pitches will be used within the City by the Club and therefore these teams have not been included within the modelling or audit of community teams.

Similarly, the pitches on site at the Rover Sports and Social Club have not been included within the modelling as there is no longer community access as a result of the recent arrangement with Oxford United.

Going forward, we need to ensure that dialogue remains open with Oxford United and as part of the strategy review process, regular consultation is undertaken with the club to review their need for additional pitches.

7. Due to the adhoc playing pattern and fixtures of the 11 registered disabled teams within the City, these teams have not been included within the modelling. However, to ensure that these teams and their usage on the City pitches is accounted for and that pitches will be available for their use when required their demand has been factored in to the strategic reserve for pitches within the modelling.

### Football Team Generation Rates and Latent Demand

4.2.19 Table 10 below sets out the Team Generation Rates for football based on the community teams identified. The TGR's are presented at a citywide and area committee level for 2011.

**Table 10: Football TGR for Oxford and area committee's 2011**

<b>Analysis Areas (Area Committee)</b>	<b>Senior Men (16-45)</b>	<b>Senior Women (16-45)</b>	<b>Junior Boys (10-15)</b>	<b>Junior Girls (10-15)</b>	<b>Mini Soccer (6-9) mixed</b>
Cowley	1:282	-	1:53	-	1:111
East	1:1,241	-	1:121	-	1:425
North	1:1,105	-	1:104	1:358	1:127
North East	1:573	1:1,939	1:45	1:108	1:105
South East	1:113	-	1:94	-	1:184
Central, South & West	1:2,705	1:3,859	1:56	-	1:109
<b>Oxford</b>	<b>1:765</b>	<b>1:5,905</b>	<b>1:66</b>	<b>1:340</b>	<b>1:134</b>
Welwyn Hatfield	1:239	1:4134	1:68	1:722	1:187
Southampton	1:529	1:42,846	1:159	-	1:644

*N.B. Where no TGR is shown, indicates no teams operate in that area within the specific age group.*

4.2.20 As set out in section 3.1.10 the TGR's can be used within the modelling to help estimate the future demand for playing pitches. TGR's can also be compared with those for other areas to provide an indication of the relative level of participation and also whether any latent demand may exist. In line with good practice guidance (TLPF) the TGR's for Oxford have been benchmarked against those for other local authorities (see appendix 6), that have a current playing pitch strategy in place. It must be noted that unfortunately there are a number of authorities within our benchmarking group that do not have an up to date playing pitch strategy and therefore TGR data is not available. To compare our TGR data with the most similar authorities, Oxford has been benchmarked against Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council and Southampton City Council as identified in table 10 above.

4.2.21 In comparison to the benchmarked local authorities the City records a relatively high TGR for senior male football. This suggests that there may be the potential to increase participation levels within adult male football as there may well be some latent demand. However, the TGR's may also suggest that there are barriers to adult male participation which need addressing and this may include access to good quality playing pitches and ancillary provision. The TGR's do differ significantly within the City with the South East, North East and Cowley areas of the City recording relatively low rates below the Oxford average. In contrast, the East and North areas along with Central, South West record high TGR's.

4.2.22 When looking at the remainder of the gender and age groups TGR;s for football in Oxford alongside the TGR's for the benchmarked authorities there appears to be less latent (unmet) demand. However, the TGR's for junior boys are notable higher in the East, North and South East and for mini football are significantly higher in the East.

#### **Other identified latent demand**

4.2.23 Senior football is relatively strong in the City, compared with other adult pitch sports, however over recent years the number of senior clubs registered has seen a downward turn.<sup>11</sup> Whilst football is expected to see a growth in the City comments through the consultation suggested that some of the teams in the City are outgrowing the facilities they currently use. Therefore, without access to additional provision or increased capacity their growth may be hindered. These clubs include Oxford City FC, Summertown Stars FC, Hinksey Park FC and Headington Amateurs FC. Feedback regarding the oversubscription of training facilities in the City was also raised within the consultation.

4.2.24 Comments received back from the league secretaries for football suggests that there are no teams that are currently waiting for pitches in the City. However the Oxford Mail Boys league stated that the 'lack of pitches' which we can assume is junior and mini pitches would have an impact on the City teams growing further. It was also argued that the proposed parking charges for the City parks and those already introduced may hinder the use of pitches.

4.2.25 It was noted by the OFA, that Oxford University have commented that they have issues with accommodating all of their teams on the pitches they currently have. The development of women's football within the universities has also suffered to some degree in this respect. If this trend continues it could mean that there is an increased demand for pitches amongst other sectors within the City i.e. those owned by Oxford City Council. However, if Oxford University were to stick to the status quo, typically they will not use pitches outside of their own grounds/ownership. The demand for pitches by the University therefore needs close monitoring and should be a key area reviewed as part of the first annual update of this strategy.

#### **Displaced Demand**

4.2.26 Three of the 11 BOBI league registered teams within Oxford have been categorised as 'displaced teams' as the majority of their fixtures are played outside of the City. Feedback from the teams and discussions with the OFA Football Development Officer suggest that due to the team's adhoc fixtures and nomadic nature they are currently content with playing outside of the City.

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<sup>11</sup> As reported by the annual Local Area Data reports produced by the Oxfordshire Football Association.

### **Trends and participation targets**

4.2.27 As identified above, following recent trends and the 9v9 initiative, the OFA expects to see an increase in both mini and junior football. The OFA are also looking to sustain participation in senior football. In light of these predictions the participation increases in table 11 have been agreed with the Governing Body and are applied within the assessment to help estimate the future demand for each analysis period:

**Table 11: OFA predicated participation increases for football 2011 - 2026**

<b>Analysis period</b>	<b>Senior football</b>	<b>Mini soccer</b>
2011 – 2016	0%	13%
2016 – 2021	1%	2%
2021 - 2026	1%	1%

*N.B. Junior football participation increases are not currently considered within the Playing Pitch Model.*

### **Peak demand for football pitches**

4.2.28 Consultation and analysis of sports booking records and league fixtures, indicates that the peak demand periods for football for senior, junior and mini games are as follows:

- Senior – Saturday Afternoon (PM)
- Junior – Sunday Morning (AM)
- Mini – Sunday Morning (AM)

The amount of current play across a week is recorded within the modelling. From this information and the above peak times the amount of play in the peak period for each age group can be calculated. This calculation within the modelling ensures the assessment and resulting findings are based on the ability of the supply to meet the periods of peak demand.

### **Scenario modelling**

4.2.29 To assess whether the supply of senior, junior and mini football pitches in Oxford will be sufficient at peak times in the future, up to 2016, the Sport England Playing Pitch Model was used for the three scenario's identified in Section 3.1.8. As previously mentioned the modelling for football has been undertaken at a Citywide and an Area Committee level to assess supply at a local level.

4.2.30 Appendix 7a provides a worked example of the Playing Pitch Modelling process for football, 2011 – 2016.

## **Results and findings**

4.2.31 Appendix 8 shows the full city wide results from the Playing Pitch Model for the three scenarios for the current reporting period, 2011 – 2016.

Appendix 9 shows the city wide results for the additional reporting periods, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 – 2026.

In addition, appendix 10 shows the full results for the three scenarios at Area Committee level for the current reporting period, 2011 - 2016.

4.2.32 It is important to note that as directed by the TLPF guidance a 10% strategic reserve has been applied to the results from the Playing Pitch Model shown in appendix 8, 9 and 10. Whilst it is difficult to quantify the exact amount of informal use (not officially booked and/or training), applying a strategic reserve enables the following elements to be considered and allowances to be made for them.

- informal use of pitches
- drainage issues
- the need to rest and move pitches around to help overcome wear and tear
- to reflect that some pitches will be used on an adhoc basis e.g. by those teams within the BOBI league, casual 'non league' teams and those teams that are very nomadic.

## **Senior Football Pitch Provision - Citywide**

4.2.33 For the current reporting period, 2011 – 2016, considering those pitches with secured community use only, as recommended by Sport England, the modelling suggest that there is a some spare capacity equivalent to +11.3 senior pitches. Projecting forward to 2016 this spare capacity reduces to an equivalent of +10.9 pitches.

4.2.34 The results of the modelling and key findings should only be based on those pitches with secured community use. However, it is useful to also run the modelling to include the other categories of pitches set out in section 3.1.8. In doing so the spare capacity in senior pitches increases within scenario two and three when the provision within other sectors i.e. schools and university are included; +23.5 pitches and +32.9 pitches (2016 position).

4.2.35 Projecting ahead using the other reporting periods, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 – 2026, as expected and in line with population increases, spare capacity increases marginally, although this is not significant.

4.2.36 Along with the OFA seeing a downward trend in the number of adult teams affiliated in Oxford, the consultation undertaken with the football clubs suggested that there was no demonstrated desire for additional senior football pitches, or wide raging issues of perceived quality of pitches. It was however identified through consultation, and through a recent Facilities Improvement Service<sup>12</sup> recently worked through with Sport England, that there is a demonstrated need for additional floodlit football training facilities in the City.

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<sup>12</sup> The Sport England 'Facility Improvement Service' is a programme designed to offer support for local authorities to strategically plan for sports facilities.

The new facilities at the Oxford Academy and Court Place Farm should be able to meet this demonstrated need.

### **Latent Demand**

- 4.2.37 Aligning with the TGRs in table 10, particularly for senior football in Oxford, the reported spare capacity of football pitches would provide for the recorded latent (unmet) demand, in the City. This spare capacity would also address the pressures Oxford University teams have reported around availability of pitches and the growth of their teams, particularly the women's game.

### **Senior Football Pitches within the old Area Committee areas, now area forums**

- 4.2.38 When looking at the results of the modelling at an Area Committee level for the current reporting period, 2011 – 2016, there still appears to be some spare capacity of pitches in many of the sub areas of the City, ranging between +1.2 to +8.4 pitches across the three scenarios. The East area however have no accessible pitches across each scenario and whilst there are five registered adult teams within this area of the City, these teams play at other sites across the City. The Central, South and West area of the City only compensate in a spare capacity of an average of six senior football pitches when those pitches in scenario three are considered.

### **Senior Football Pitch - Local Issues**

- 4.2.39 The modelling provides an overview of the adequacy of provision across a certain geographical area. Whilst it is evident from this assessment that there is a comfortable supply of adult football pitches in Oxford to meet demand there are a number of identified local issues that have been picked up during the consultation and development of the strategy. These issues include:

#### **Court Place Farm**

Consultation with Oxford City Football Club, who are the main users of the site, other clubs that use the pitches on site and the Oxford City Council grounds maintenance team, identified that drainage is an issue on the pitches and would benefit from improvements. Similarly, the 'Stadium' on site is prone to flooding at the lower end, and as such a number of games were cancelled in the 09/10 season.

#### **Barton Recreation Ground**

This site is key within the City and there are currently proposals for a housing scheme within the area of up to 900 houses. The development could impact directly on the recreation ground. In respect of this, it is important to ensure that not only are the existing facilities re-provided, but that they are brought up to the required standards for an increase in population of this size. Feedback through the consultation with the Headington Amateurs football club suggests that the adult pitch on the site and ancillary facilities, apart from the recently completed pavilion, do not currently meet the grading guidance for the Hellenic League, which is therefore preventing the club from pursuing their ambition of progressing up to the Hellenic League.

### **Junior & Mini Football Pitch Provision - Citywide**

- 4.2.40 In respect of the various scenarios it is evident that with only Oxford City Council and Parish Councils offer accessible junior and mini pitches in the City. Within the current reporting period, 2011 – 2016, the modelling suggests an undersupply of these pitches ranging from Junior: -11.4 and Mini: -14.3 in 2011 and projecting forward to 2016, Junior: -12.3 pitches and Mini: -19.4 pitches.
- 4.2.41 Projecting ahead using the other reporting periods, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 – 2026, the demand for junior pitches reduces slightly ,although not significantly, and there is a shift in the demand for mini pitches by an average of four pitches.
- 4.2.42 Consideration should be given to those mini and junior pitches that have been removed from the modelling that are marked within adult pitches, over marked pitches, as inclusion of these would help towards partly addressing the undersupply of pitches providing an additional six mini pitches and one junior pitch. Inclusion of these pitches will particularly help meet the undersupply within the North East and South East areas of the City. Nevertheless it is important to be mindful that there will still be a shortfall in provision within the City by -11.3 junior pitches and -13.4 mini pitches, 2016 position.

### **Junior & Mini Pitch Provision – Local issues**

- 4.2.43 The City wide modelling is useful to provide an overview of the adequacy of provision. However, perhaps more important, especially for junior and mini pitch provision, it provides a view of supply and demand at a more localised level. The following paragraphs present the findings from the modelling for each analysis areas, some key issues raised from the consultation and possible solutions to improve the adequacy of playing pitch provision.

#### **4.2.44 Cowley Area:**

There is a slight spare capacity of junior pitches in this part of the city by approx one pitch, +0.9, and an undersupply in mini pitches with a deficit of - 0.8 pitches (2016 position). This modelled undersupply could have implications on the two clubs in this area of the City that field six mini teams between them, Florence Park Boys FC & Horspath Youth FC. These clubs did not respond to the consultation therefore we have no reported issues at present. To ease the pressure of the lack of mini pitches within the Cowley area, when the demand arises (which will be monitored through regular dialogue with the clubs), there could be scope to do the following at the sites below:

Cowley Marsh Recreation Ground – There is no potential for a designated mini pitch, however there is scope to over-mark a mini pitch on to a senior pitch on site, resulting in the pitch becoming dual use.

Horspath Sports Ground – There is scope to fit a further designated mini pitch on site.

After the above two scenarios, if there was still a strong demonstrated demand within the area then the feasibility of bringing back into use the Bullingdon recreation ground could be examined.

#### 4.2.45 *Central, South & West Area:*

This area of the City has an undersupply of -3.0 junior and -2.1 mini pitches, (2016 position). There is only one club in this part of the City that field junior and mini teams, Hinksey Park FC; 5 junior teams and 4 mini teams. Through the consultation the club indicated that there is increasing pressure on the junior pitches at their home site; Grandpont Recreation Ground. The Sports Development Team will regularly liaise with the club and OFA to monitor pressures and should this become an issue in respect of accommodating matches or there is an increased demand, then the feasibility of bringing land back into use at Botley Recreation Ground or Hinksey Park could also be examined.

#### 4.2.46 *East Area:*

There are no junior or mini pitches in the East of the City. Oxford Irish FC is the only team registered within this area of the City and field two junior and one mini team. The club currently play in the Cowley area and other than the issue of team growth being limited due to the pitches being almost at capacity, particularly adult pitches, they are content with playing on site. The club did not report any demand for additional junior or mini pitches.

If a strong demonstrated demand came to light within the area through the expansion of the number of teams the club field or a new club wanting to play on site then the feasibility of bringing the pitches back into use at Donnington Recreation ground could be examined. Unfortunately there are no other pitch providers within this area of the City.

#### 4.2.47 *North:*

There is a slight undersupply of -1.2 junior and -1.7 mini pitches (2016 position) in this part of the City. This area of the City is home to Summertown Stars FC and Summertown Stars Girls FC who between them field 7 mini & 9 junior teams. Through the consultation exercise the club noted that they were very keen to increase their membership and number of teams they field. Since the consultation was undertaken, consultation has continued with the clubs and two new mini pitches have been added to Cutteslowe Park to meet some of this identified demand.

To meet any additional demand within the North area of Oxford there could be scope to over-mark the senior pitch at Five Mile Drive Recreation Ground with a mini pitch, resulting in the pitch becoming dual use. Unfortunately there is no scope for a designated mini pitch in this area of the City. The demand for further pitches will be monitored closely through regular consultation with the clubs and the review of the strategy.

#### 4.2.48 *North East Area:*

This area of the City has a significant undersupply of pitches with there being a deficit of -5.2 junior and -10.3 mini pitches (2016 position). This undersupply is coupled with the largest number of teams in any of the analysis areas, who between them field a total of 31 junior teams and 14 mini teams. Through consultation with the clubs, it is apparent that there are already pressures on the pitches in this area. One of the larger clubs, Oxford City FC noted in particular that the club has outgrown its current facilities at Court Place Farm and there is congestion on the pitches, particularly during training sessions. All clubs who responded to the consultation reported a



desire to grow the number of members and teams, which would result in increased pressures on the pitches.

With the potential for approximately 900 new houses as part of the Barton Housing Scheme, there is an opportunity to address the pressure in the area with the inclusion of space for an additional two mini pitches. There is also scope to investigate a community use agreement with Bayard's Hill School, although the mini pitches would be in isolation and not as conducive to good sports development.

To help make a start with easing the pressure of the lack of mini pitches within the North East area of the City, an additional mini pitch has already been added to the site at Court Place Farm, which has been a result of ongoing consultation with the teams that play on site. .

Quarry Recreation Ground – There is no scope for a designated mini pitch, however, the senior pitch on site could be over-marked with a mini pitch, which would result in the pitch becoming dual use, providing additional mini pitch provision.

After the above scenarios, if there was still a strong demonstrated demand within the area then the feasibility of bringing back into use the Croft Road recreation ground could be examined.

Both options at Quarry Recreation Ground and Croft Road would be monitored closely in line with emerging teams and/or feedback from clubs and the OFA through regular consultation.

#### 4.2.49 *South East Area:*

This area of the City shows an undersupply of junior pitches at -4.4 and a significant undersupply of mini pitches at -7.7 (2016 position). There are 9 junior teams and 8 mini teams fielded by two clubs registered within this part of the City; Greater Leys Youth FC and Oxford Blackbirds Boys FC. Feedback from the consultation identified that both clubs are keen to grow their memberships and teams which would result in increased demand on the pitches. To ease the pressure of the lack of mini pitches within the South East area of Oxford there could be scope to do the following:

Rose Hill Recreation Ground – over-mark the senior pitch with a mini pitch, so that this becomes a dual use pitch, or there is space on site to mark out a designated mini pitch. Historically there was a junior pitch on site, however due to lack of demand this was removed 5 years ago. The sockets for this pitch are still on site; therefore this could be reinstated if there was a demand.

Sandy Lane Recreation Ground – The second senior pitch on site could be over-marked with a mini pitch, resulting in both adult pitches on site becoming dual use. Unfortunately there is no scope for a designated mini or junior pitch on site.

Blackbird Leys Park – One of the senior pitches on site could be over-marked with a mini pitch and become a dual use pitch. To meet the current demand, a mini pitch has already recently been added to the site, which has been a result of ongoing dialogue with the clubs.

If there was still a strong demonstrated demand within the area then the feasibility of bringing back into use the Spindleberry park mini pitch could be examined.

All of the options above would be monitored closely and informed by emerging teams and/or feedback from clubs and the OFA through regular consultation.

### **Latent demand**

- 4.2.50 Aligning with the TGRs in table 10, the need for additional junior pitches is supported, particularly within the North East of the City where there is a latent (unmet) demand. The TGR's also support the need for additional mini pitches in the South East of the City where there is a latent (unmet) demand. This need was supported by the league secretary of the Oxford Mail Boys League who noted that the absence of and pressure on existing pitches may prevent a club/teams forming.

### **Football Conclusions**

- 4.2.51 With there being a some spare capacity of adult pitches but an under supply of both junior pitches and mini pitches within the City it is important to note that this suggests that overall playing pitch provision for football in the City being 'on balance'. It is also important to ensure that the below items are taken into consideration
- 4.2.52 It is important that the current provision of junior and mini pitches throughout the City is maintained and improved, with the undersupply addressed when it is required.
- 4.2.53 Where the demand for junior and mini pitches becomes a problem in accommodating matches, it is important that those adult pitches and sites where there is a potential to convert pitches or insert new pitches is explored to help address this demand. This arrangement is already in place on a number of the pitches within Oxford and has proven to work favourably.
- 4.2.54 The issues with meeting the demand for both junior and mini pitches provides further support in safeguarding the current senior pitch provision. It is also an option to explore reinstating those 'historical' pitches as identified in table 9 should the conversion/over-marking of existing pitches across the City not be feasible for whatever reason.
- 4.2.55 In addition to the above, community use agreements should be explored with the schools, independent, academies and community, private sports clubs, colleges and the university to try and secure community access to these pitches.
- 4.2.56 Due to the pitch pressure in the North-East area of the City, it is important that the wider Barton Housing Scheme ensures that adequate additional space is provided so that a minimum of two additional mini pitches can be incorporated when the need arises. This will be monitored closely through regular consultation with clubs/teams, the OFA and league secretaries.

- 4.2.57 The Oxford City Council owned football pitches are generally adequately located within the City in regards to the location of demand and restrictions on land in the city. The key strategic sites in regards to their placing and number of teams for football within the City are at Blackbird Leys Park, Court Place Farm, Horspath Road, Grandpont and Cutteslowe Park. If you were starting from scratch and there was adequate green space then it might have been a potential option to look at four key multi-sport hub facilities spaced across the City and catering for a City wide market. This is cost effective, although sometimes not popular due to clubs preferring to play in their locality in most instances.
- 4.2.58 In general the football clubs were satisfied overall with the standard and quality of the football pitches in the City. The main concerns of the clubs were regarding the quality and standard of pavilion provision and this was re-affirmed in the football forum held in September 2011. The Pavilion Review details the level of investment necessary to ensure that they are fit for purpose and meet modern day customer expectations. Should capital funding or developer contributions become available then it is important that this is earmarked against the pavilion facilities.
- 4.2.59 Aligning with the sores of the NVTQA and feedback from the clubs, it is imperative that the 'Good' quality standard of the Oxford City Council owned football pitches is maintained to safeguard the pitches against significant wear and tear and safeguard their current capacity. Failure to do so would exacerbate issues identified above.

### **Recommendations**

#### 4.2.60 City wide

1. That the Council continues its needs based approach to football pitch provision and this is reviewed on an annual basis, so that adult pitches can either be overlaid with mini / junior pitches or converted to mini / junior pitches where demand dictates.
2. That in line with the Pavilions Review there is a planned improvement program for the Council's pavilions and that future sports related developer contributions are allocated towards improvements and maintenance.
3. That the Council's existing pitch stock is protected and pitches are continued to be maintained to the same standard of quality in line with the approved maintenance specification document.
4. That the Council explore potential use of junior and mini pitches at those sites where there is currently unsecured/no, community, as identified in section 4.2.8. This recommendation may also be a way forward to address the shortfall of senior pitches in the East area of the City.

#### 4.2.61 Area Based

1. That sufficient pitch space is allocated in the North East Area to accommodate an additional two mini pitches, with the recommended site being in Barton as part of the housing development
2. That as part of the wider housing scheme in Barton, consideration is given to Headington Amateurs ground being upgraded in line with Hellenic league step 6.
3. That the opportunity of incorporating a pavilion facility as part of a wider 'Hub building' is explored as part of the Barton housing scheme.
4. That the opportunity and cost of improving the drainage at Court Place Farm is explored with partners.

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### 4.3 Rugby in Oxford

#### Governance and Participation

- 4.3.1 The Oxfordshire Rugby Football Union (ORFU), is responsible for the development of rugby in Oxford with a vision to grow the community game for players, coaches, referees and volunteers, to strengthen the school and club structure and ensure all can enjoy the game of rugby union. Rugby has been identified through Oxford City Councils Sports and Physical Activity Review, 2009, as a 'Priority Sport' for the Sports Development team at Oxford City Council.
- 4.3.2 Within Oxford there are four rugby union clubs, who between them field 46 teams and are represented in eight leagues:
- Littlemore RFC,
  - Oxford Harlequins RFC
  - Oxford RFC, who play in the Vale of White Horse, but are registered as a City team and the majority of their members are Oxford residents.
  - Oxford University
- 4.3.3 Two of the rugby clubs; Oxford RFC and Oxford Harlequins, have recently merged to host a Colts, Under 19, team, but have continued to host separate adult, junior and mini rugby teams.
- 4.3.4 There are three clubs within Oxford who each field one friendly team. Due to the adhoc nature of games played by these teams, it was agreed with the Oxfordshire RFU that these teams would be included within the audit but not within the modelling stages. These teams do however add weight for the need to include a strategic reserve of pitches within the modelling, see section 4.2.33.
- 4.3.5 The location of teams appears to be very focused within the East, North East and South East areas of the City. There are a number of teams that play on the periphery of the City, Oxford RFC, in the Vale of White Horse District. As these are Oxford registered teams but play outside of the City they have been termed 'displaced' teams within the audit.

### Quantity and Accessibility

4.3.6 There are a total of 50 rugby union pitches within the City, of which 22 (44%), are deemed to be available to the community to some extent. Table 12 below provides a summary of those rugby union pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area:

**Table 12: Number of rugby union pitches with community access and teams**

Analysis area	Number of rugby union pitches available for community use			Number of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
Cowley	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
East	-	-	-	3	3			
North	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North East	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	10
South East	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	--
Central, South & West	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Displaced <sup>13</sup>				7	1	3	-	12
Total	22	-	-	12	4	8	-	22

4.3.7 The summary above suggests that there is no provision of mini or junior pitches in Oxford, however smaller sided games are typically played across senior pitches. There appears to be a relatively good spread of pitches across the City, with the majority being in the North and North East areas of the City. The East has no community accessible pitch provision; however this could be addressed by exploring the potential of securing use of those pitches that currently do not have any level of community accessibility at Christ Church Sports Ground and Oxford RFC at Iffley Road. Both these sites are owned by Oxford University.

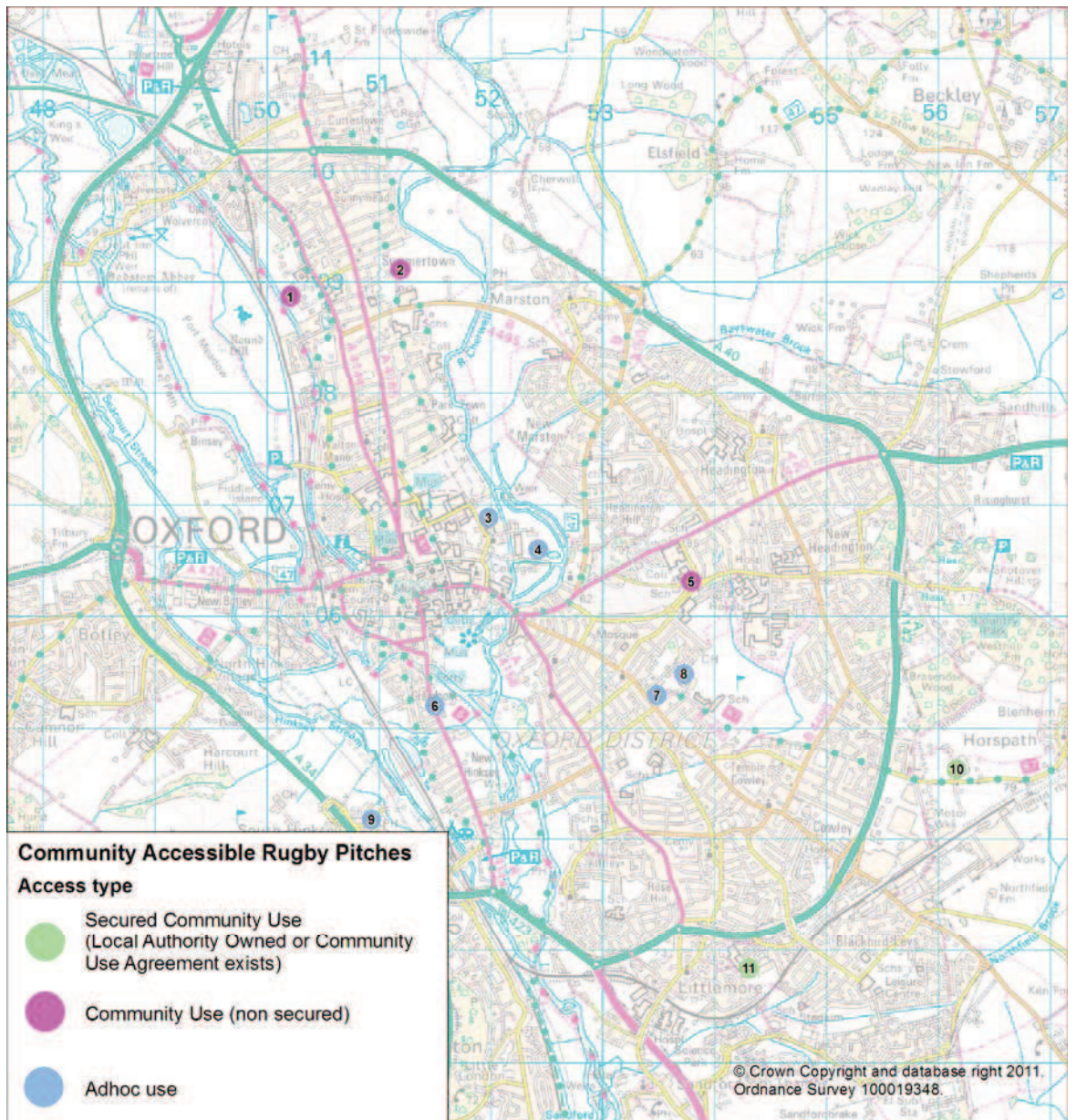
4.3.8 Whilst 22 pitches in the City have some degree of community access, the nature and therefore certainty of this access varies. Table 13 below provides a summary of the nature of community access to the 22 pitches.

**Table 13: Access levels of community accessible rugby union pitches in Oxford.**

Access Type	Number of accessible pitches
Secured Community Use - local authority owned or joint use agreement in place	3
Community Use (not secured) - this includes school pitches/private facilities	15
Adhoc use - this include college pitches where access is very occasional	6

<sup>13</sup> Displaced Teams can be described as Oxford registered teams that use pitches outside of the City for their home fixtures, either by choice or no other option

**Figure 5: Map showing the distribution of rugby union pitches with community access within Oxford.**



**Key to map of community accessible rugby union pitches within Oxford**

Map ID	Site Name	Number of senior rugby union pitches	Quality of pitches	Quality of ancillary facilities	Floodlit	Ownership	Management	Access Type	Ward	Area Committee
1	St Edwards School	8	Good	Good	N	Independent School	Independent School	Community Use (not secured)	Summertown	North
2	Cherwell School	4	2 pitches used by Oxford Harlequins RFC = Below Average 2 pitches used by the school = Good	Average	N	Community School	Community School	Community Use (not secured)	Marston	North East
3	New College Sports Ground	1	Good	Good	N	University (College)	University (College)	Adhoc use	Holywell	Central, South & West
4	Merton College Sports Ground	1	Good	Good	N	University (College)	University (College)	Adhoc use	Holywell	Central, South & West
5	Cheney School	1	Good	Good	N	Community School	Community School	Community Use (not secured)	Churchill	North East
6	Brasenose College Sports Ground	1	Good	Good	N	University (College)	University (College)	Adhoc use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
7	Lincoln College Sports Ground	1	Good	Good	N	University (College)	University (College)	Adhoc use	Cowley Marsh	Cowley
8	Jesus College Sports Ground	1	Good	Excellent	N	University (College)	University (College)	Adhoc use	Cowley Marsh	Cowley
9	Pembroke College Sports Ground	1	Good	Good	Y	University (College)	University (College)	Adhoc use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
10	Horspath Sports Ground	1	Good	Average	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Lye Valley	Cowley
11	Oxford Academy	2	Good	Excellent	N	Academy (community school)	Academy (community school)	Community Use (not secured)	Littlemore	South East

*N.B. Those highlighted cells indicate where the overall quality of the pitch(es) and ancillary facilities on site has been made based on a common sense assumption, local knowledge, proximity to other sites and discussion with grounds staff etc.*



4.3.9 In addition to the 22 pitches which have some degree of community access there are a further 28 rugby union pitches in Oxford that are not currently accessible to the community. These are typically owned by the University and Colleges (57%) and the City's independent schools (43%) and have been excluded from the supply and demand analysis. Table 14 provides a summary of these pitches by analysis area.

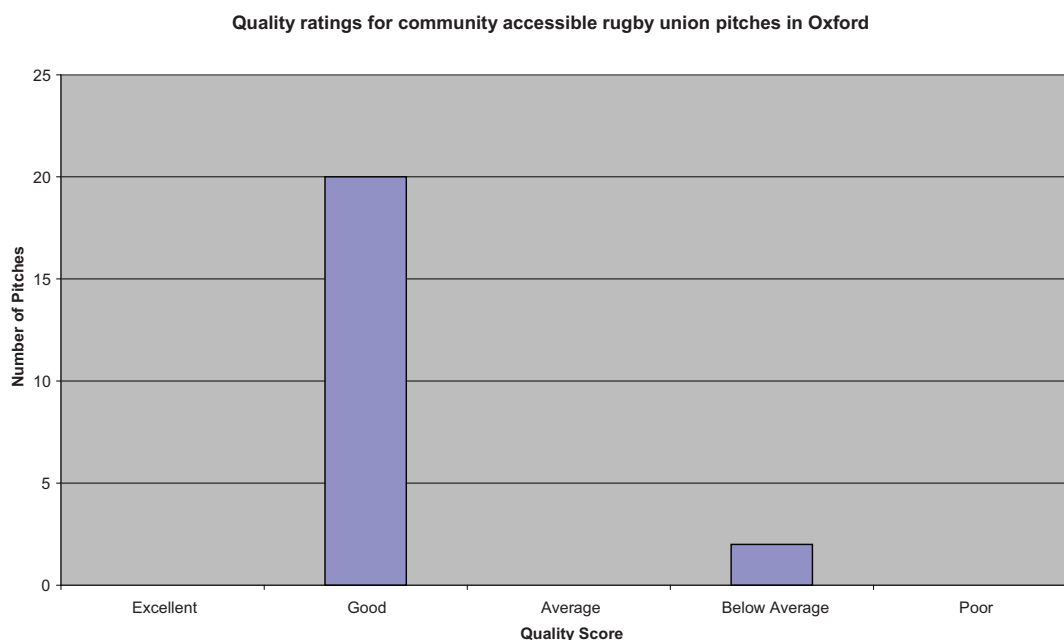
**Table 14: Rugby union pitches with no community use**

Analysis Area (Area Committee)	Number of pitches NOT available for community use		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
Cowley	1	-	-
East	2	-	-
North	10	-	-
North East	5	-	-
South East	-	-	-
Central South & West	10	-	-
<b>Oxford</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Quality of provision and ancillary facilities**

4.3.10 As set out in section 3.4, assessments of the quality of community accessible rugby union pitches in Oxford has been undertaken. Figure 6 below shows the quality rating for those rugby union pitches that are deemed to have some degree of community access within the City, across all levels of access. The figure shows that 20 (91%), of the community accessible rugby union pitches in Oxford are rated as 'Good' with the remaining 2 pitches (8%) rated as 'Below Average'.

**Figure 6: Non Visual Technical Quality Scores for community accessible rugby union pitches in Oxford:**



4.3.11 Within Oxford the key sites for rugby in respect of the high number of teams and the level of use on site are:

- Cherwell School; home to the Oxford Harlequins RFC
- Oxford Academy; home to Littlemore RFC

The site that is home to Oxford RFC (New Hinksey), which is located outside of the City in the neighbouring district of the Vale of White Horse, has also been identified as a key site for rugby, however as this is outside of the City, this has been classified as a external facility meeting displaced demand for the purpose of this strategy.

4.3.12 Upon analysis of the results from the quality assessments the two pitches that received the below average rating are at Cherwell School and used by the Oxford Harlequins RFC. This was supported by an independent ground report undertaken by the RFU and feedback from the club and National Governing Body. The pitches at the Oxford Academy scored a ‘Good’ quality rating. Both of these sites have been identified as potential sites for development within the RFU’s next Oxfordshire facilities strategy.

### **Rugby Development**

4.3.13 Following the 2007 Rugby World Cup, as expected the RFU experienced an increase in the number of people participating in rugby in England. Since these events, the ORFU reported that Oxford has experienced a decline in the number of people playing rugby, particularly within the 16+ age group, mainly due to poor club/team retention rates. This has recently led to two of the City’s clubs, Oxford RFC and Oxford Harlequins RFC, merging the senior section of their clubs to enable them to sustain membership. The demographic profile of the City with its two universities, means that a

proportion of the City's rugby teams consist of students, which as a result leads to a significant fluctuation in members due to the transient population.

- 4.3.14 To address the issue of falling senior membership, the RFU are introducing recreational forms of rugby i.e. Touch Rugby, with a view to establish player pathways into local clubs. The RFU have also implemented the 'Choose Rugby'<sup>14</sup> initiative, which is to replace the current 'Go Play'<sup>15</sup> programme. Despite the expected increase in participation through this initiative, it is not anticipated that there will be an increased demand for additional rugby pitches within the City as 'formal', marked out, pitches are not required, a coned area would suffice. However, if this activity takes place on an area of an existing pitch then it would add to the use of the pitch and therefore add to it wear and tear. Even if the activity takes place away from a marked out pitch it will require an area of playing field land. This activity therefore adds weight to ensure an adequate strategic reserve is added to the assessment of the adequacy of pitch provision and/or ensure that all rugby pitch sites have adequate additional non marked out playing pitch land for such activities.
- 4.3.15 The development of the Oxford Rugby Academy, which comprises of the Oxford Harlequins RFC junior and mini teams, has led to an increase in youth participation in the City.
- 4.3.16 As a direct result of the Rugby World Cup in 2011, the RFU are expecting a national increase in the number of people playing rugby at the grass roots level. Following historic trends from past events, the RFU reported that it is expected that retention of these participants will decrease over time. However participation will experience a significant peak after the 2015 World Cup, which is being hosted within England. Whilst these trends in peaks and troughs in participation are expected, the RFU's priorities look to sustain these predicted increases in participation as high as possible.

#### **Facility Developments**

- 4.3.17 The Oxfordshire RFU 'Facilities Strategy' identified areas of investment to improve the standard of playing pitches and ancillary facilities. Within this strategy £650,000 of investment was identified for those pitches and clubhouse on the site home to Oxford RFC, and most recently the adult teams fielded by Oxford Harlequins RFC, in the Vale of White Horse District. Once complete this site will become a hub for talent development. It is anticipated that the refreshed facilities strategy will identify investment in those pitches and facilities at Littlemore RFC, Oxford Academy site, and Oxford Harlequins RFC, Cherwell School site.

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<sup>14</sup> 'Choose Rugby' is the new programme developed by the RFU to help clubs increase/retain their memberships through recreational forms of rugby i.e. touch rugby.

<sup>15</sup> 'Go Play' is the RFU's programme to get ex rugby players/those who have drifted away from the sport, back in to the game to provide a solid base for the sport.

### **Sport Specific Assessment methodology**

4.3.18 To analyse rugby in Oxford in respect of teams and the demand for pitches in the City, using the above information, the assessment methodology set out in Sport England's guidance and the detail presented in section 3.3 was followed. To make the methodology more rugby and Oxford specific the following approach was also taken when using Sport England's Playing Pitch Model:

1. The assessment has taken place at a City wide level but with local and site specific issues highlighted.
2. Only those pitches with some degree of community access have been included within the modelling and different scenarios have been run depending on the security of the community access.
3. Training pitches have not been included.
4. Oxford University teams, including college teams, have not been included within the modelling as they typically play on the college facilities and do not use any other pitches in the City. Where University/College pitches are available for community access, these have been included within the modelling.
5. 23 of the City registered teams play on the periphery of Oxford at the New Hinksey site in the Vale of White Horse District. For the purpose of the modelling these teams have been added as 'displaced' teams. As the teams are 'happy' with their playing facilities and have no desire to play on any of the City pitches, these pitches have also been added into the modelling. For the purpose of the modelling the three pitches, on this site following the quality and carrying capacity assessment outlined in section 3 equates to 2.25 pitch equivalents.

6. To accompany the TLPF guidance the RFU has developed a briefing note specifically for the assessment of rugby. It suggests the following methodology, which has been adopted for the modelling:

- *All rugby teams U13 and upwards should be treated in the Playing Pitch Model as a senior team as they play 15 a-side rugby and use a full pitch.*
- *All rugby club mini/midi teams (U7-12) should be entered as a senior team equivalent (as the Playing Pitch Model does not recognise mini/midi team data) at 0.25 of a team and they play on across adult pitches.*

As all play takes place on senior pitches these adjustments allow for an assessment of the total supply and demand for senior pitches to meet the needs of all age groups.

4.3.19 Taking into account the above adjustments the team summary to be used in the modelling for Oxford is amended to the figures shown in table 15.

**Table 15: Calculated senior rugby union team equivalents**

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Number of senior team equivalents</b>
Cowley	-
East	-
North	-
North East	7.5
South East	2
Central, South & West	-
Displaced	14
<b>Total Senior Team Equivalents</b>	<b>23.5</b>

### **Rugby Team Generation Rates and Latent Demand**

4.3.20 Table 16 below sets out the Team Generation Rates (TGR's) for rugby at a citywide level for 2011 and also benchmarks these rates against those for other local authorities who have a current playing pitch strategy in place.

**Table 16: Rugby TGRs for Oxford 2011**

<b>Analysis Areas (Area Committee)</b>	<b>Senior Men (18–45)</b>	<b>Senior Women (18-45)</b>	<b>Junior Boys (13-17)</b>	<b>Junior Girls (13-17)</b>	<b>Mini Rugby (8-12) mixed</b>
<b>Oxford</b>	1:1,778	1:39,954	-	-	-
Welwyn Hatfield	1:1,370	1:6,503	1;473	1:1580	1:1042
Southampton	1;7,233	1:39,789	-	-	-

*N.B. Where no TGR is shown, indicates no teams operate in that area within the specific age group.*

4.3.21 As set out in section 3.1.10 the TGR's can be used within the modelling to help estimate the future demand for playing pitches. TGR's can also be used to compare with those for other areas to provide an indication of the relative level of participation and also whether any latent demand may exist. In line with best practice guidance (TLPF), the TGR's have been benchmarked against other local authorities (see appendix 6). It must be noted that unfortunately there are a number of authorities within our benchmarking group that do not have an up to date playing pitch strategy in place and therefore TGR data is not available. To compare our TGR data with the most similar authorities, Oxford has been benchmarked against Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council and Southampton City Council as identified in table 9 above.

4.3.22 Through analysis of the benchmarked authorities, Southampton City Council followed a similar methodology to Oxford in applying the RFU briefing note to the modelling stages. As such, it would not be sensible to benchmark against Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council. In comparison to Southampton, the latent (unmet) demand for senior male rugby in Oxford appears to be slightly lower and female senior rugby on balance.

### **Other identified latent demand**

4.3.23 Following consultation with the rugby development officer for the ORFU and feedback direct from the clubs there are no teams currently waiting for pitches and no other latent demand identified within the City.

4.2.24 There is no reported unmet demand within the City's schools, university or colleges; however as per the City's clubs and national governing bodies, it is paramount that dialogue is maintained with these sectors as part of the review process, to continually assess latent demand.

### **Displaced demand**

4.3.25 As mentioned, there are 23 teams; 14 senior team equivalents, that have been termed 'displaced teams' as these play at Oxford RFC, which is located on the periphery of the City on the New Hinksey site in the Vale of White Horse district. Feedback suggests that these teams are happy to play at this site and have no desire to play within the City boundary. In order to adequately reflect this within the modelling both the teams and pitches located at this site have been included within the modelling.

### **Trends and participation targets**

4.3.26 To coincide with the RFU's initiatives such as Touch Rugby, the expected increase as a result of the interest generated through the World Cup's and the local developments i.e. Oxford rugby academy and talent development hub at Oxford RFC, it can be predicted that there will be an increase in participation in the game at the grassroots level in Oxford. Following guidance from the ORFU the following participation increases have been projected within the Playing Pitch Model:

- 2011 – 2016 = 10% increase
- 2016 – 2021 = 8% increase
- 2021 – 2026 = 10% increase

4.3.27 The 10% increase reported above is expected off the back of the Rugby World Cup in 2015 and 2023. The 8% increase, which is a slight decrease from the previous reporting period, is a result of the expected decrease in participation following the 2015 World Cup due to natural wastage/poor retention by clubs.

### **Peak demand for rugby union pitches**

4.3.28 Consultation and analysis of sports booking records and league fixtures, indicates that the peak demand for rugby union games are as follows:

Senior team equivalents – Sunday Morning

4.3.29 The amount of current play across a week is recorded within the modelling. From this information and the above peak times the amount of play in the peak period for each age group can be calculated. This calculation within the modelling ensures the assessment and resulting findings are based on the ability of the supply to meet the periods of peak demand.

### **Scenario modelling**

- 43.30 To assess whether the supply of rugby union pitches in Oxford will be sufficient at peak times in the future, up to 2016, to 2021 and to 2026, the Sport England Playing Pitch Model was used for the three scenarios' identified in Section 3.1.8.
- 4.3.31 Appendix 7b provides a worked example of the Playing Pitch Modelling process for rugby union, 2011 – 2016.

### **Results and Findings**

- 4.3.32 Appendix 8 shows the full results from the Playing Pitch Model for the three scenarios for the current reporting period, 2011 – 2016.

Appendix 9 shows the full results from for the additional reporting periods, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 – 2026.

- 4.3.33 It is important to note that as directed by the TLPF guidance a 10% strategic reserve has been applied to the results from the Playing Pitch Model shown in appendix 8 and 9. Whilst it is difficult to quantify the exact amount of informal use (not officially booked) and/or training, applying a strategic reserve enables the following elements to be considered and allowances to be made for them.
- informal use of pitches
  - drainage issues
  - the need to rest and move pitches around to help overcome wear and tear
  - to reflect that some pitches will be used on an adhoc basis e.g. by teams that need to temporarily locate sites due to issues with their 'home' pitches, those 'friendly' teams that only play a few times per year or through use that is a direct result initiatives to increase participation such as touch rugby.
- 4.3.34 Results of the modelling show that in scenario one, which includes one pitch with secured community use at Horspath Sports Ground and two pitches at the Oxford Academy that are used by Littlemore RFC, there is a demonstrated undersupply of local pitch provision, -1.5 pitches in 2011 and -2.6 pitches in 2016. However, when analysing the provision amongst the other accessible pitches in the City (scenario two and three) this undersupply shifts to a spare capacity between +9.5 to +13.6 pitches (2011 position). This trend can also be seen projecting ahead to 2016 with a range of +8.6 to +12.7 pitches.
- 4.3.35 Projecting ahead to the other reporting periods used within the modelling, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 – 2026, there is a very small decrease in the shortfall in pitches with secured community use in scenario one and an increased spare capacity for scenario two and three for rugby union pitches. However, it is important to note that these changes in direction are not significant.



## Rugby Union Pitches – Local Issues

### 4.3.36 Horspath Athletics Ground

Oxford City Council own one rugby pitch at Horspath Athletics Ground, which is also a multi use pitch with Gaelic Football. Over recent years this has seen very little use with three bookings for rugby training in the last 12 months. It is known that the pitch does have some informal play if the Harlequins RFC pitches are waterlogged and a local youth football team use the pitch to train on for an average of two times per week during the season. The middle of the athletics track at Horspath Athletics Ground has recently been used by the ORFU under 18's team for rugby training on average twice per week.

There are no reported issues with the quality of facilities on site, however we know through feedback from other pitch sports clubs and findings from the Pavilion Review, that the pavilion on site are only of an 'Average' standard.

### Oxford Academy

Littlemore RFC has secured access to the pitches at the Oxford Academy and have not reported issues or concerns with their facilities.

### Cherwell School

Harlequins RFC have a short-term rolling lease for the two rugby pitches on the site of Cherwell School. Through consultation with the club, feedback from the NGB and reviewing independent pitch reports, there are serious concerns with the poor and deteriorating state of the pitches on site. The pitches are very low lying and therefore prone to becoming waterlogged. Additionally, the area under the floodlights, which are also in need of replacement, is heavily used and subsequently becomes unplayable in wet weather. It is anticipated that improvements to these facilities will be a priority within the next facilities strategy for Oxfordshire.

### Pitches Outside of the City; New Hinksey

It was noted that pitches are over subscribed for matches. The recent merger with Oxford RFC has resulted in the adult teams from the Harlequins RFC now playing at New Hinksey. Whilst there are no reported issues with pitches, significant investment is required by the RFU to bring the ancillary facilities on site up to meet expected standards. This has been identified within the Oxfordshire RFU 'Facility Development Strategy' and once complete will create a hub for talent development.

## **Rugby Conclusions**

- 4.3.37 Assessing those pitches are that accessible to the community in scenario one, with only one pitch being available for hire at Horspath Sports Ground and two pitches used by Littlemore RFC at the Oxford Academy, there is a clear demonstrated demand for additional community accessible rugby union pitches in the City. Whilst Littlemore RFC has an agreement to use the pitches on site at the Oxford Academy this agreement could be terminated.
- 4.3.38 When taking into consideration those pitches that are accessible but unsecured in scenario two it shows that there is some spare capacity within the City and would suggest that there is no demonstrated demand for additional pitches. However, these sites do not have secured community use, may not be currently used by the community or be an attractive and realistic option for the clubs who do have some issues with the provision at the sites they currently use and to meet future needs. The potential use of these sites should be explored and for those in use currently the option of securing community use agreements should be progressed. For example, it is important to note that there is only a short term rolling lease for Oxford Harlequins at Cherwell School and the relevant parties should be supported in trying to attain long term security of tenure.
- 4.3.39 It is also important to note that there are localised issues with pitch provision at some of the key sites used within the City. It is clear that the pitches at Cherwell School are below average quality. If these pitches are taken out of action this would then place additional pressure on pitch provision within the City. It is important that the RFU, Cherwell School, Oxford Harlequins and Oxford City Council work together to try and improve the quality of pitches at this site.
- 4.3.40 The key strategic sites for rugby in the City are Cherwell School (home Oxford Harlequins RFC), and The Oxford Academy (home to Littlemore RFC). Although New Hinksey is outside of the City boundary it is also used significantly by city residents and the 'displaced' teams.
- 4.3.41 Whilst there are very few designated 'training facilities' for rugby in the City, the RFU has had a recent shift towards training being held on 3G pitches. The development of such pitches at the Oxford Academy and Court Place Farm may help to address any future training demand. There is also a demand from Littlemore RFC for floodlit facilities for the grass pitches at the Academy.

### **Recommendations**

4.3.42 Whilst there is a demonstrated need for additional pitches in the City through the Playing Pitch Model, as there is no latent demand for teams wanting a pitch/over subscription of pitches it is not recommended that any additional pitches are marked out at present and as such the following recommendations have been highlighted:

1. That Oxford City Council's playing pitch provision for rugby is maintained at the current level and that flexibility is given to alternate between Gaelic Football and Rugby in line with demand from the local clubs.

2. That playing pitch provision for Rugby is reviewed in line with the RFU on an annual basis.

3. That the Council's sports development team support the RFU, Oxford Harlequins and Cherwell School to examine opportunities around making improvements to the quality of pitches at the site.

4. That the Council support the RFU and Oxford Harlequins in their aim of securing long term tenure at Cherwell School.

5. That the Council support the RFU and Littlemore RFC in their aim of establishing floodlights for their training facilities.

6. That the Council explore potential use of other unsecured community sites identified in section 4.3.8.

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#### 4.4 Cricket in Oxford

##### Governance and participation

- 4.4.1 The Oxfordshire Cricket Board (OCB) is responsible for the development of Cricket in Oxford and has the following objectives:
- The promotion of community participation at all levels in the sport of cricket and in particular, but without imposing any restriction, for the benefit of the residents of Oxfordshire;
  - The promotion of the sport of cricket by the provision of facilities and the advancement of education, training and the knowledge of cricket in particular, but without imposing any restriction in Oxfordshire
- 4.4.2 Cricket has been identified as a 'Priority Sport' for the Sports Development team through the Oxford City Council Sport and Physical Activity Review 2009.
- 4.4.3 Within Oxford there are 20 cricket pitches that are accessible to the community and 13 clubs, who between them field 35 teams and represent seven leagues, in addition to a handful of non league (friendly) and Twenty20 teams.
- 4.4.4 The OCB have three 'Focus clubs' in the city that have been identified as key clubs for development and youth provision, these are:
- East Oxford Cricket Club
  - Oxford Cricket Club
  - Oxford University Press Cricket Club
- 4.4.5 Whilst there are 13 registered clubs within Oxford, four of these, representing five teams, now play outside of the City in neighbouring Oxfordshire districts as the City pitches do not meet their requirements i.e. perceived overall quality of pitches and quality of ancillary facilities. These have been referenced as displaced teams in table 17 below.

### Quantity and Accessibility

4.4.6 There are a total of 41 cricket pitches amongst the City, of which 22 (49%) are deemed to be available to the community to some extent. Table 17 below provides a summary of those rugby union pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area:

**Table 17: Number of cricket pitches with community access and teams**

Analysis Area	Number of cricket pitches available for community use			Number of teams					
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior Men	Senior Women	Twenty20 & Friendly teams	Junior Boys	Junior Girls	Mini
Cowley	8	-	-	10	1	2	5	1	3
East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North	2	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-
North East	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
South East	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central, South & West	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Displaced				3	-	2	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	20	-	-	19	1	6	5	1	3

4.4.7 The summary above suggests that there is no provision of mini or junior pitches in Oxford, however junior cricket is played on an adult pitch and mini cricket is typically played on the outfield in the form of Kwik cricket.<sup>16</sup>

4.4.8 The East of the City has no accessible cricket pitch provision and there is scope to secure pitches that do not currently have any level of community accessibility as there are no available pitches within this area of the City.

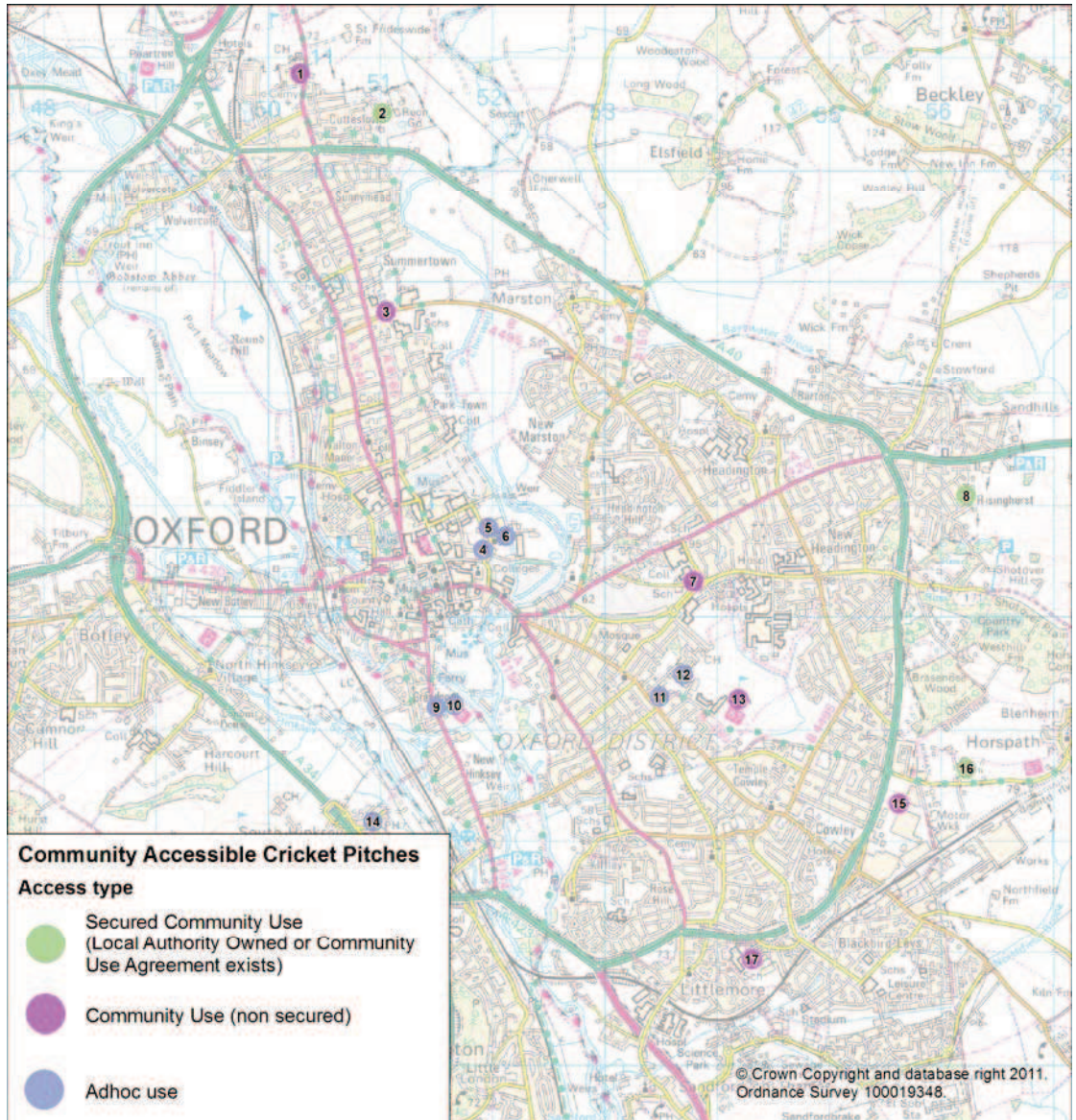
4.4.9 Whilst there are 20 pitches in the City have some degree of community access, the nature and therefore certainty of this access varies. Table 18 below provides a summary of the nature of community access to the 20 pitches.

**Table 18: Access levels of community accessible rugby union pitches in Oxford.**

Access Type	Number of accessible pitches
Secured Community Use - local authority owned or joint use agreement in place	4
Community Use (not secured) - this includes school pitches/private facilities	8
Adhoc use - this include college pitches where access is very occasional	8
None	21

<sup>16</sup> Kwik Cricket is a simple game of cricket from boys and girls aged 5 years and upwards, designed to provide children with an introduction to cricket.

**Figure 7: Map showing the distribution of cricket pitches with community access within Oxford.**



**Key to map of community accessible cricket pitches within Oxford**

Map ID	Site Name	Number of senior cricket pitches	Quality of pitches	Quality of ancillary facilities	Floodlit	Ownership	Management	Access Type	Ward	Area Committee
1	Oxford University Press Sports Ground(Jordan Hill)	1	Excellent	Good	N	University	Sport Club	Community Use (not secured)	Wolvercote	North
2	Cuttleslowe Park	1	Good	Poor Average	N	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Wolvercote	North
3	Cherwell School	1	Average	Average	N	Community School	Community School	Community Use (not secured)	Marston	North East
4	Balliol College Sports Ground	1	Excellent	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Community Use (not secured)	Holywell	Central, South & West
5	New College Sports Ground	1	Excellent	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Holywell	Central, South & West
6	Merton College Sports Ground	1	Excellent	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Holywell	Central, South & West
7	Cheney School	1	Average	Good	N	Community School	Community School	Community Use (not secured)	Churchill	North East
8	Risinghurst Sports Ground	1	Good	Average	N	Risinghurst Parish Council	Risinghurst Parish Council	Secured Community Use	Quarry & Risinghurst	North East
9	Brasenose College Sports Ground	1	Excellent	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
10	The Queens College Sports Ground	1	Excellent	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
11	Lincoln College Sports Ground	1	Excellent	Good	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Cowley Marsh	Cowley
12	Jesus College Sports Ground	1	Excellent	Excellent	N	University (college)	University (college)	Adhoc use	Cowley Marsh	Cowley
13	Oxford Spire Academy	2	Average	Poor	N	Academy	Academy	Community	Cowley	Cowley





4.4.10 In addition to the 20 pitches which have some degree of community access there are a further 21 cricket pitches in Oxford that are not currently accessible by the community. These are typically owned by the University and Colleges (71%) and the City's independent schools (29%) and have been displayed in table 19 below.

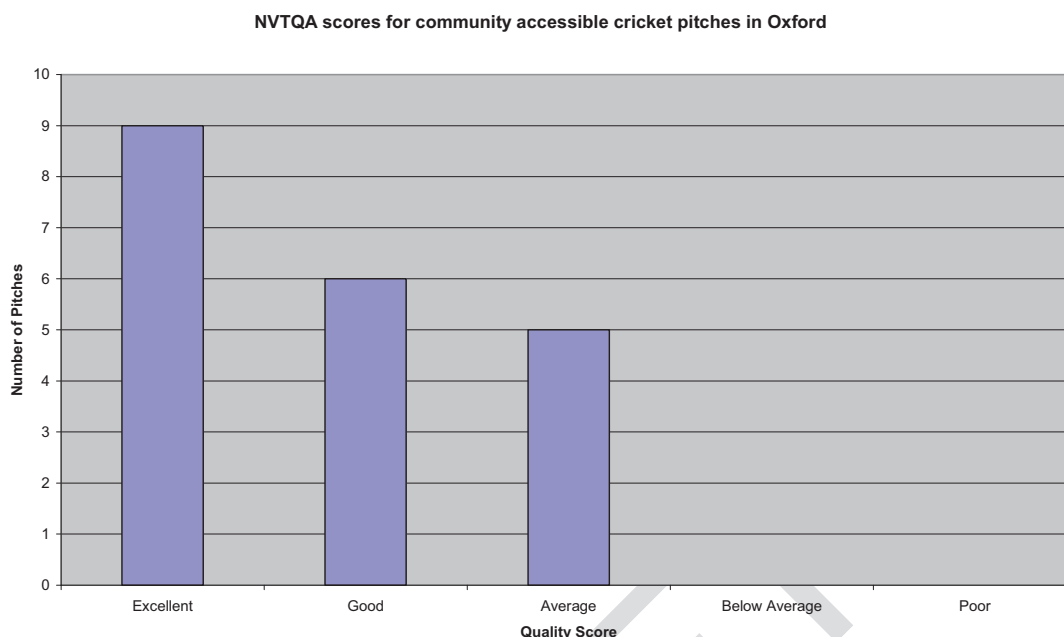
**Table 19: Cricket pitches with no community use**

Analysis Area (Area Committee)	Number of pitches NOT available for community use		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
Cowley	1	-	-
East	-	-	-
North	9	-	-
North East	5	-	-
South East	-	-	-
Central South & West	6	-	-
<b>Oxford</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Quality of provision and ancillary facilities**

4.4.11 As set out in section 3.4, assessments of the quality of community accessible cricket pitches in Oxford has been undertaken. Figure 8 below shows the overall quality rating for those cricket pitches that are deemed to have some degree of community access within the City, across all levels of access. The figure shows that 9 (45%) of the community accessible cricket pitches in Oxford are rated as 'Excellent', 6 (30%) are rated as 'Good' with the remaining 5 pitches (25%) rated as 'Average'.

**Figure 8: Non Visual Technical Quality Scores for community accessible cricket pitches in Oxford:**



- 4.4.12 Within Oxford, the Rover Sports and Social Club is the key strategic site for cricket as this is home to Oxford Cricket Club, who are the largest club in the City, fielding a high number of teams.
- 4.4.13 The cricket pitches at Horspath Sports Ground and Cutteslowe Park, which are owned by Oxford City Council, also play a big part in accommodating cricket in the City.
- 4.4.14 Upon analysis of the results from the NVTQA, the pitches at Rover Sports and Social Club both received a 'Good' quality score. Those pitches owned by Oxford City Council at Horspath Sports Ground and Cutteslowe Park also received a 'Good' quality score, however it is important to note that pitch 2 at Horspath has been reported by clubs and the OCB as being of a poorer quality in comparison to pitch 1.
- 4.4.15 To ensure that an accurate assessment of pitch 2 at Horspath Sports Ground can be attained, it would be recommended that an independent pitch assessment is undertaken, which will help inform the level of maintenance required and the future of the pitch.
- 4.4.16 Whilst the quality of pitches was raised by the clubs, league secretaries and the OCB, the main area for concern appeared to be around the quality of changing facilities, which has been addressed within the Pavilions Review.

## **Cricket Development**

- 4.4.17 Similar to football and rugby, the Cricket Development Officer from the OCB reported that cricket in Oxford has experienced a decrease in the number of people playing the game, particularly amongst adults (post 16 years). Local issues within Oxford may have exacerbated this decline due to capacity of clubs to grow the number of teams they field and/or develop youth sections.
- 4.4.18 Many, if not all of the 'community accessible' pitches in the City, particularly those owned by Oxford City Council, do not provide the equipment, nor do that have the standard of facilities to enable cricket higher than the Oxfordshire Cricket Association (OCA) league to be played by the City's clubs. Whilst those accessible facilities within the University/colleges for example meet the team's requirements, prices are often too high for the club to subsidise without passing increases on to the players. These two issues combined have resulted in Oxford Cricket Club reducing the number of its senior teams from six to four and has also limited the development of their youth cricket programme.
- 4.4.19 In addition to the reduction in teams, of the four displaced teams (those who play outside of Oxford), one of these teams have a strong desire to play in the City (Warneford Cricket Club), however there is currently no facility suitable for them, as their ambition is to secure a lease on a site where they could be responsible for the maintenance of the pitch etc.
- 4.4.20 Despite the decrease in participation in the conventional game, Oxford has experienced an increase in Twenty20 cricket, with regular teams playing in the City.
- 4.4.21 For the purpose of this strategy and to coincide with the English Cricket Board (ECB) most recent initiative 'Last Man Stands'<sup>17</sup>, which is currently being explored to develop in Oxford, the OCB have requested that a slight increase (1%) in senior and junior cricket is factored in to the modelling for each reporting period. This equates to a 3% increase between 2011 - 2026.

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<sup>17</sup> Last Man Stands is the widest reaching amateur cricket league in the world, bringing together like minded individuals from all walks of life to play great social outdoor 8-a-side T20 cricket <http://www.lastmanstands.com/aboutlastmanstands>

### **Facility Developments**

- 4.4.22 The Oxfordshire Cricket Facilities Strategy, 2009 - 2013, provides an overview of the current scope and quality of cricket provision within the County, identifying where standards need to be raised and to assess where gaps need to be addressed.
- 4.4.23 The OCB and representatives of the University Sports Department held discussions about working in partnership to develop and extend the existing two lane indoor facility at the Oxford University; Iffley Road Sports Complex. The University is still exploring the possibility of this
- 4.4.24 The strategy identified major potential value projects for the OCB in respect of the cricket provision within the City as:
- Development of a new ground, 2/3 squares, and indoor nets at Rover Sports and Social Club which is home to Oxford Cricket Club.
- 4.4.25 The refreshed strategy for Oxfordshire is expected to focus on the development of Non Turf Pitches, NTP, and ancillary facilities, in addition to fine turf grass pitches.
- 4.4.26 Whilst there is no secured community access to the pitches at Oxford University Press Sports Ground in the North of the City, and Jesus College Sports Ground in the Cowley area, these sites have been earmarked as potential sites for development in the City within Oxford City Council's, Sites and Housing Development Plan Document, 2011.
- 4.4.27 Within the document both options emphasise the importance of providing sports facilities on the new open space or by making a contribution to the improvement of a local sports facilities. In line with the PPG17 default it is strongly recommended that there is a replacement of like for like facilities and there is secured community use of these.

### **Sport Specific Assessment methodology**

- 4.4.28 To analyse cricket in Oxford in respect of teams and the demand for pitches in the City, using the above information, the assessment methodology and consultation as identified in section 3 were followed. To make it more sport specific the following approach was also taken when using the Playing Pitch Model:
1. The assessment has taken place at a City wide level but with local and site specific issues highlighted.
  2. Only those pitches with some degree of community access have been included within the modelling and different scenarios have been run depending on the security of the community access.
  3. Practice nets, NTP's and/or designated training areas have not been included within the modelling.
  4. Oxford University teams, including college teams, have not been included within the modelling as they typically play on the college

facilities and do not use any other pitches in the City. Where University/College pitches are available for community access, these have been included within the modelling.

5. Five of the City registered teams play within the neighbouring districts to Oxford. For the purpose of the modelling these teams have been added as 'displaced' teams, however as this arrangement is 'not by choice' the pitches they play on outside of the City are not included within the modelling.
6. Consistent with guidance (TLPF) cricket teams under the age of 11 have not been included within the modelling, *this is equivalent to three teams.*

### **Cricket Team Generation Rates and Latent Demand**

4.4.29 Table 20 below sets out the Team Generation Rates (TGR's) for cricket at a citywide level for 2011 and also benchmarks these rates against those for other local authorities who have a current playing pitch strategy in place.

**Table 20: Cricket TGRs for Oxford 2011**

<b>Analysis Areas (Area Committee)</b>	<b>Senior Men (18–55)</b>	<b>Senior Women (18-55)</b>	<b>Junior Boys (11-17)</b>	<b>Junior Girls (11-17)</b>
<b>Oxford</b>	1,2,054	1:47,032	1:848	1:4,212
Welwyn Hatfield	1:873	-	1:673	1:1,377
Southampton	1:20,996	-	-	-

*N.B. Where no TGR is shown, indicates no teams operate in that area within the specific age group.*

- 4.4.30 As set out in section 3.1.10 the TGR's can be used within the modelling to help estimate the future demand for playing pitches. TGR's can also be used to compare with those for other areas to provide an indication of the relative level of participation and also whether any latent demand may exist. In line with best practice guidance (TLPF) the TGR's have been benchmarked against other local authorities (see appendix 6). It must be noted that unfortunately there are a number of authorities within our benchmarking group that do not have an up to date playing pitch strategy in place and therefore TGR data is not available. To compare our TGR data with the most similar authorities, Oxford has been benchmarked against Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council and Southampton City Council, as identified in table 20 above.
- 4.4.31 Through analysis of the benchmarking data the City records a high latent (unmet) demand for senior male cricket in Oxford compared to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council but a relatively low latent demand when compared to Southampton City Council. There is no available data to benchmark with for senior female cricket. Where data is available, junior boy's and girls cricket has a high latent demand.

### **Other identified latent demand**

- 4.4.32 Following consultation with the cricket development officer for the OCB and feedback direct from the clubs, there are no teams currently waiting for pitches and no other latent demand identified within the City.
- 4.4.33 There is no reported unmet demand within the City's schools, university or colleges; however as per the City's clubs and national governing bodies, it is paramount that dialogue is maintained with these parties with the review process, to continually assess latent demand.

### **Displaced demand**

- 4.4.34 As mentioned, there are five teams registered within Oxford who play on pitches outside of the City. These have been termed displaced teams.
- 4.4.35 Feedback from consultation with clubs and the cricket development officer identified that many of the clubs were content with playing outside of the City as they preferred the facilities, but if facilities were improved or they could secure a lease on a site a handful of them would migrate back into the City . There is one friendly team that would like to play in the City; Warneford Cricket Club, but are unable to as the facilities do not meet their requirements for a long term lease, ancillary facilities and to be able to undertake their own maintenance.
- 4.4.36 The consultation has also identified that in addition to Oxford Cricket Club wanting to expand their youth teams, the Oxford Caribbean's would like to field a youth side, but do not have access to the facilities to make this attractive.

### **Trends and participation targets**

- 4.4.37 As identified, over recent years, Oxford has experienced a decrease in the number of cricket teams fielded. However, despite this decrease in teams, the OCB recommended that a slight increase of 1% in participation is factored into the modelling stages across each of the periods, this equates to a 3% increase from 2011 – 2026. This is consistent with the clubs desire to increase their memberships.

### **Peak demand for cricket pitches**

- 4.4.38 Consultation and analysis of sports booking records and league fixtures, indicates that the peak demand for rugby union games are as follows:
- Senior – Saturday afternoon.
  - Junior – there is an even spread between Sunday mornings and midweek evening games,
- 4.4.39 The amount of current play across a week is recorded within the modelling. From this information and the above peak times the amount of play in the peak period for each age group can be calculated. This calculation within the modelling ensures the assessment and resulting findings are based on the ability of the supply to meet the periods of peak demand.

### **Scenario modelling**

- 4.4.40 To assess whether the supply of rugby union pitches in Oxford will be sufficient at peak times in the future, up to 2016, to 2021 and to 2026, the Sport England Playing Pitch Model was used for the three scenarios' identified in section 3.1.8.
- 4.4.41 Appendix 7c provides a worked example of the Playing Pitch Modelling process for cricket, 2011 – 2016..

### **Results and Findings**

- 4.4.42 Appendix 8 shows the full results from the Playing Pitches Model for Scenario 1 - 3 by Citywide analysis for the current reporting period, 2011 – 2016.
- 4.4.43 Appendix 9 shows the full results from the Playing Pitches Model for Scenario 1 - 3 by Citywide analysis for the other reporting periods, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 – 2026.
- 4.4.44 It is important to note that as directed by the TLPF guidance a 10% strategic reserve has been applied to the results from the Playing Pitch Model shown in appendix 8 and 9. Whilst it is difficult to quantify the exact amount of informal use (not officially booked) and/or training, applying a strategic reserve enables the following elements to be considered and allowances to be made for them.
- informal use of pitches
  - drainage issues
  - the need to rest and move pitches around to help overcome wear and tear
  - to reflect that some pitches will be used on an adhoc basis
  - to justify pitch use by under 11 teams, as these were not considered as an 'active age group' within the TLPF guidance or Playing Pitch Model.

### **Senior cricket pitch provision in Oxford and local issues**

- 4.4.45 Results from the Playing Pitches Model show that for the current reporting period, within scenario one (this includes three Oxford City Council owned pitches that are accessible and one accessible pitch owned by Risinghurst Parish Council) there is a significant undersupply -10.0 pitches in 2011 and this increases to -10.8 pitches in 2016.
- 4.4.46 The pitches within scenario two help to address this undersupply, providing six additional available pitches, however there still appears to be a shortfall in provision by -3.4 pitches in 2011 and -4.2 pitches in 2016.
- 4.4.47 When those accessible pitches in scenario three are included, the undersupply of pitches is addressed and a spare capacity of +6.2 pitches becomes available (2011 position). Projecting ahead to 2016 this spare capacity decreases slightly to +5.6 pitches.

- 4.4.48 Projecting ahead using the other reporting periods, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 – 2026, there is no significant change in the spare capacity/under supply of cricket pitches.
- 4.4.49 If we based the scenarios on the assumption that those ‘displaced’ teams would not migrate back into the City the shortfall in provision in scenario one & two decreases however it is important to note that there would still be a shortfall. Applying this assumption to scenario three would result in a spare capacity increases by an average of 2.4 pitches, which would result in a spare capacity of +8.0 pitches in 2016.
- 4.4.50 Putting the above scenario into perspective, through consultation with the displaced clubs it was apparent that Warneford Cricket Club were the only club that had a desire to migrate back into the City. Warneford Cricket clubs aspirations are to secure tenure of site and as such there is no identified land owned by Oxford City Council where this would be suitable. In respect of this the club remain in South Oxfordshire.

### **Cricket – Local Issues**

- 4.4.51 There are specific site issues that have been raised by the cricket clubs in the City, along with the league secretaries that responded to the consultation and feedback from the OCB. These particularly relate to the Oxford City Council owned pitches and each will be taken in turn.

#### **Horspath Athletics Ground**

There are two cricket pitches available for community use at this site; pitch 1 and pitch 2. Both pitches were overall rated as ‘Good’, however pitch 1 is significantly better than pitch 2 and it would be useful for a full independent assessment to be undertaken on this. The site is primarily used by the Oxford Caribbean’s Cricket Club, with occasional use from East Oxford Cricket Club and the junior teams from Oxford Cricket Club.

Despite the quality assessment scores, use of pitch 1 has fallen over recent years with only 14 bookings in the 2010 cricket season. To increase usage of pitch 2 Oxford City Council reduced the fee to hire this pitch, which would hopefully encourage more usage, even if this was on an informal basis.

The issue of poor quality ancillary facilities was also raised within the consultation. This is something that is being addressed, together with the remainder of the councils pavilion stock in the Pavilion Review.

#### **Cotteslowe Park – Cricket Pitch**

The cricket pitch within Cotteslowe Park is primarily used by Wolvercote Cricket Club for their home matches and received an overall ‘Good’ quality rating.

Feedback from the consultation was negative with regard to the ancillary facilities for this site and this has been supported by the ‘Average’ quality score achieved through the NVTQA undertaken as part of the Pavilion Review.



### Cowley Marsh

Historically there used to be cricket wicket provision at Cowley Marsh, however this was taken out due to concerns regarding the safety, maintenance and standard of the wicket. Although there is some demand from clubs to play cricket within the area, this would entail clubs moving from one facility to another within the City at significant cost and pressure to the site.

The consultation identified that there are a lack of training facilities/practice nets in the City for cricket. Since consultation with the clubs, practice nets have been installed in Cowley Marsh, an area of the City where cricket is in high demand.

### **General Local Issues**

- 4.452 There was a general consensus from the clubs in the City that the cost for hiring pitches was too expensive. Whilst Oxford City Council have no control on the fee's and charges applied for those 'external' pitches that are accessible to the public, prices to hire the three City Council cricket pitches are benchmarked with neighbouring/similar local authorities to ensure we have equitable pricing structure.
- 4.453 The issue of the lack of equipment i.e. sight screens, score boards etc, was raised by a number of clubs through the consultation. Absence of this equipment means that no league higher than the OCA league can be played on the Council owned pitches; however no teams that use the Council owned pitches that responded to the consultation have any current aspirations to progress to this league, but it must be noted that this may be also due to the limiting factors present at the grounds.

### **Junior cricket pitch provision in Oxford**

- 4.4.54 Using the methodology that junior cricket being played on an adult size pitch, results of the Playing Pitch Modelling for each scenario identify that there is no demonstrated demand for junior cricket pitches in Oxford, with a spare capacity ranging between +1.4 to +15.6 pitches across the three scenario's, 2011 – 2016.
- 4.4.55 There is no reported change in the level of spare capacity amongst all three scenario's when projecting forward using the other reporting periods, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 – 2026.

### **Cricket conclusions**

- 4.4.56 The assessment undertaken suggests that there is a clear need for additional cricket pitches in the City with secured community use along with enhanced ancillary facilities and equipment to support their use.
- 4.4.57 Cricket pitch provision within the City currently has a strong reliance on pitches with unsecured community use. Along with the Council, key providers in the City are the Rover Sports and Social Club, the University and colleges. However, without formal community use agreements in place there is little certainty regarding the long term use of these pitches. Even with pitches that allow community access, albeit unsecured, factored into the assessment there appears to be a shortfall of provision. It is only when the pitches in scenario three which allow very adhoc community use are factored in that an element of 'spare capacity' exists. It should be noted importantly that as the use of the pitches in scenarios two and three are not secured, and indeed given the very adhoc use of some of the pitches, that the identified shortfall of pitches available to the community could very quickly be exacerbated.
- 4.4.58 It will also be important to make any required qualitative improvements to existing available pitches and ancillary provision in order to maximise their potential use. Although the quality of the pitches within the City are generally of a good standard, pitch 2 at Horspath is not to the same standard as pitch 1 and a full independent detailed assessment is recommended. It is also clear through the consultation that the level of cricket played on OCC pitches is affected by the lack of ancillary facilities such as the pavilions, screens and scoreboards.

### 4.4.59 **Recommendations**

1. That all existing cricket pitches are protected or where development may be proposed then adequate replacement provision is secured in line with the needs identified within this strategy.
2. That an independent pitch assessment is undertaken on pitch 2 at Horspath to assess the exact quality and the level of maintenance/investment required to bring it up to required standards.
3. That the sports development team work with the ECB and local clubs to identify external funding for ancillary facilities such as screens and scoreboards
4. That options are looked into the possibility of securing community use to those other pitches that are either used on an adhoc basis or are currently private (i.e. those amongst the university/college ownership).
5. That in line with the PPG17 default, like for like replacement of those cricket pitches at Jesus College Sports Ground and Oxford University Press Sports Ground, earmarked for development in the Oxford City Council Sites and Housing Development Plan Document, 2011, is explored.

## **4.5 Natural Grass Playing Pitch Sport Conclusions**

- 4.5.1 The main conclusion from the assessment is that within Oxford there is currently a shortage of playing pitch provision that has secured community use. Taking into account sites with secured community use, and therefore certainty regarding their long term availability to the community, the assessment suggests that at times of peak demand there is:
- spare capacity to meet the needs of senior football and junior cricket, but
  - a shortage of pitches to meet the needs of junior football, mini football, rugby union and senior cricket.
- 4.5.2 The spare capacity of senior football provision can help towards meeting the identified shortfall in junior and mini football. However, even where this may be practically possible an overall shortfall of playing pitches with secured community use will exist.
- 4.5.3 The assessment does not necessarily suggest that additional new pitches are required to meet the identified shortfall. Once all pitches that offer some form of community use are factored into the assessment there appears to be adequate provision for all sports with the exception of junior and mini football. Depending on a number of issues it may be possible for the shortfall in junior and mini football can be met by spare capacity in other pitch provision. It is important to note that spare capacity only exists for senior cricket once those pitches which are only available on a very ad hoc basis are factored in. However, for a number of pitches within the City there is no long term security that they will be available for community use. The strong reliance on such unsecured sites is a key issue and is recognised by the long term aim of the Council's leisure service to open up for community use other providers sporting facilities. The assessment highlights the importance of this if there is to be certainty that demand can be adequately met. Meeting demand through such sites is important in ensuring that the City has a world class leisure and sport offer. In this regard, securing community use agreements are a key way forward on this.
- 4.5.4 Community use should be secured at sites that currently offer such use on an unsecured basis. The assessment also suggests that options should be looked into the possibility of securing community use at those sites that offer adhoc use and also other private sites, particularly to help meet the needs for cricket. Through securing community use it will be important to ensure that there is a good match between the nature of the use offered and the needs of the clubs that could practically benefit from use of the particular sites.
- 4.5.5 Given the current shortfall of pitches with secured community use, the assessment suggests that all provision in the City should be protected. Where development, which will adversely affect pitch, provision may be proposed then adequate replacement provision should be secured in line with the needs identified in this strategy. However, given the land restrictions of the City, the opportunities available to secure replacement playing pitch provision may be limited.

- 4.5.6 Any loss of provision with secured community use would place greater pressure on the remaining facilities within the City and exacerbate the current shortfall. In addition, the loss of any site currently without such secured use may restrict the potential to address the identified shortfall in sites with secured community use.
- 4.5.7 In addition to protecting provision, the assessment suggests that a focus should also be on enhancing the capacity and attractiveness of existing sites through qualitative improvements to the pitches and ancillary facilities. Generally the quality of pitches throughout the City is good and this needs to be maintained to ensure that there is no reduction in their capacity. However, the assessment has indicated that there are a number of sites with particular issues regarding their quality. These sites have been highlighted in the sport specific sections of this document and relevant site specific measures have been set out in the action plan in section 7. In addition, a common issue across the assessment for all pitch sports has been the poor quality of ancillary provision, in particular pavilions, supporting the use of the City Council owned pitches. The pavilion review has sought to assess these concerns in more detail and the findings of the review have been incorporated within the action plan for this strategy.

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## 4.6 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's<sup>18</sup>)

### **AGP Methodology**

4.6.1 While Sport England's playing pitch strategy guidance does provide some detail on AGP's, their nature and use has developed significantly since its publication. Sport England has also recently developed its Facilities Planning Model (FPM) to include AGP's. Consequently, the following approach has been taken by the City Council to build the picture of the supply of, and demand for AGP's within Oxford.

1. Undertake an audit of existing AGP provision and survey of local clubs.
2. Identify the key findings for AGP provision in the City from Sport England's Facilities Planning Model.
3. Present information available on the supply and demand from the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's) especially England Hockey and highlight key issues.
4. Present additional local knowledge and survey results, including known facility developments.
5. Present the conclusions from the above information with regards to the adequacy of provision and set out key recommendations and actions.

### **AGP provision in Oxford**

4.6.2 As shown by the map and its accompanying key (Figure 9), there are 12 AGP's within Oxford, which are accessible to the community at varying levels. The AGP at East Oxford is not a suitable size for Hockey and can only accommodate five aside football matches, however the remaining 11 AGP's in the City can accommodate hockey use.

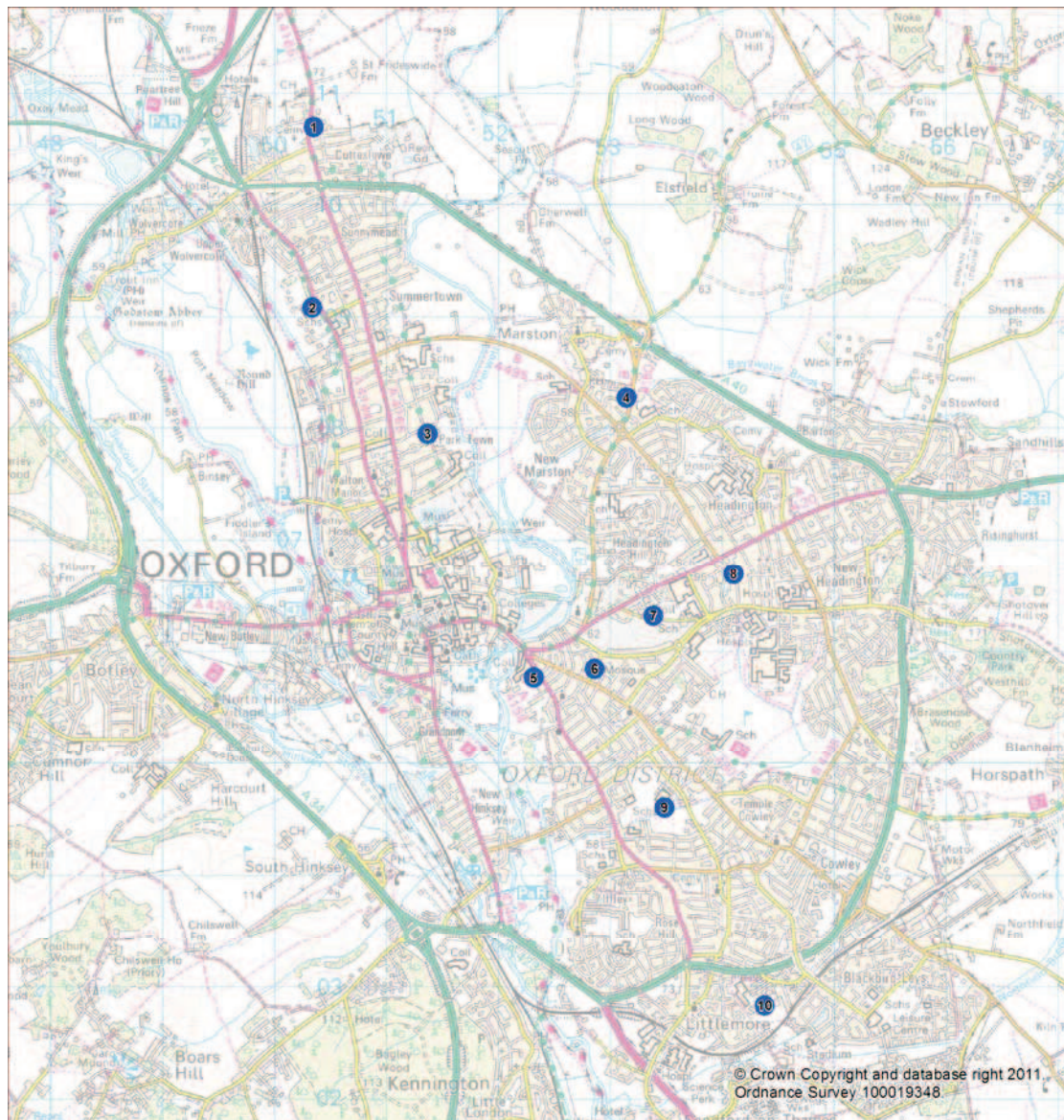
4.6.3 Whilst there is soon to be two 3G pitches available in the City; Oxford Academy and Court Place Farm, the design of these pitches make them unsuitable for competitive hockey and is not the preferred option for hockey training. These facilities are more suited to football and rugby training depending on their spec. The remainder of the AGP's in the City are all suitable for hockey matches and training and football training and matches where permitted the leagues.

4.6.4 Figure 9 shows that the distribution of accessible AGP provision is relatively concentrated within the North, North East and East of the City. Historically there was little provision within the South East, however this has recently been addressed through the development of a sand based AGP and indoor 3G pitch at the Oxford Academy, Littlemore.

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<sup>18</sup> An Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) is made from synthetic fibres and replicates a natural grass pitch, resisting heavy use from sports that are normally or were originally played on natural grass.

**Figure 9: Map showing the distribution of Artificial Grass Pitches within Oxford.**



**Key to map of Artificial Grass Pitches within Oxford**

Map ID	Site Name	Number of AGP's	Type	Floodlit	Year built	Year resurfaced	Ownership	Management	Access Type	Ward	Area Committee
1	Banbury Road North	2	Sand	Y	1990 Completed 2011	2001	Oxford City Council	Sport Club	Secured Community Use	Wolvercote	North
2	St Edwards School	2	Sand	Y	2000 1994	N/a N/a	Independent School	Independent School	Community Use (not secured)	Summertown	North
3	The Dragon School	2	Sand	Y	2006	N/a	Independent School	Independent School	Adhoc Use	North	North
4	Court Place Farm	1	3G	Y	Under Construction		Oxford City Council	Sport Club	Secured Community Use	Marston	North East
5	Iffley Road Sports Complex	1	Water	Y	1998	2009	University	University	Secured Community Use	St Mary's	North
6	East Oxford	1	Sand	Y	1988	2006	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	St Clements	East
7	Oxford Brookes University	1	Sand	Y	1995	2003	University	University	Secured Community Use	Headington Hill & Northway	North East
8	Headington School	1	Sand	Y	1915	Recently resurfaced, date unrecorded	Independent School	Independent School	Community Use (not secured)	Headington Hill & Northway	North East
9	St Gregory the Great School	1	Sand	Y	2005	N/a	Community School	Community School	Community Use (not secured)	Iffley Fields	East
10	Oxford Academy	1	Sand	Y	Completed 2011	2011	Academy (community school)	Academy (community school)	Community Use (not secured at present)	Littlemore	South East
10	Oxford Academy	1	3G	Indoor	Completed 2011	2011	Academy (community school)	Academy (community school)	Community Use (not secured at present)	Littlemore	South East

## **Sport England's Facilities Planning Model**

4.6.5 The FPM provides an objective assessment of the strategic provision of community sports facilities. The model has been developed as a means of:

- Assessing requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a local, regional or national scale;
- Helping local authorities determine an adequate level of sports facility provision to meet their local needs; and
- Testing 'what if' scenarios in provision and changes in demand, this includes testing the impact of opening, relocating and closing facilities and the impact population changes would have on the need for sports facilities.

4.6.6 The FPM works by converting both demand, people, and supply of facilities, into a single comparable unit. This unit is 'visits per week in the peak period' and once converted the demand and supply can then be compared.

4.6.7 The FPM uses a set of parameters to define how facilities are used and by whom. These parameters are primarily derived from a combination of data from actual user surveys at a range of sites across the country within areas of good supply, together with other participation survey data. These surveys provide core information on the profile of users, such as their age and gender, how often they visit, the distance travelled, and the duration of stay, and on the facilities themselves, such as programming, peak times of use, and the capacity of facilities.

4.6.8 It is important to note that the FPM only includes full size AGP's available for community use. The FPM is a spatial tool which analyses the location of demand against the location of facilities, allowing for cross boundary movement of visits. Additional details on the FPM are available via Sport England's website<sup>19</sup>.

4.6.9 Every year Sport England undertakes a national run of the model from which detail per local authority area can be extracted. For AGP's the national runs of the model can be split down to Hockey and Football use. Based on the assumptions built into the model for the use of AGP's for hockey Sport England's 2011 national run suggests that:

- Oxford has a higher level of satisfied demand for hockey AGP provision when compared to the England, South East and County averages;
- There is very little unmet demand for hockey provision within the City and the small amount that does exist is from residents living outside the catchment of a facility as opposed to a lack of capacity;
- Based on the supply and demand for hockey use alone the FPM does not suggest that there is any need for additional provision;
- The FPM suggests that the hours that AGP's are available for hockey use are well used with an overall used capacity during these hours for Oxford higher than the South East and County averages. While the FPM suggests that there may be a small amount of spare capacity there is little variation in the used capacity of all sites with no sites particularly under or overused compared to one another;

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<sup>19</sup> . [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org) > Facilities and Planning > Planning Tools and Guidance > Facilities Planning Model



- Oxford imports a far greater share of demand for hockey AGP's than it exports. The FPM suggests that imported demand accounts for approximately 40% of the used capacity;
- Residents have a higher share of AGP provision than the national average, on par with the average for the South East but below the County average. The share available is fairly consistent across the City.

4.6.10 Based on the assumptions built into the model for football the 2011 national run suggests that:

- Oxford has a slightly lower level of satisfied demand for football AGP provision when compared to the England, South East and County averages;
- There is some unmet demand within the City which equates to the equivalent of approximately 1 ½ pitches. The vast majority of this unmet demand is due to a lack of capacity with some a result of residents living outside the catchment of a facility;
- Whilst the unmet demand is spread across the City there are concentrations to the centre and south east.
- Based on the supply and demand for football suitable AGP's within Oxford and within the catchment of Oxford, taking into account cross boundary movement, the FPM suggests that there is sufficient unmet demand to warrant an additional AGP at any location within the City.
- However, the FPM suggests that a location in the southern half of the City would meet the greatest amount of unmet demand. Such a location would be able to meet up to the equivalent of approximately 2 ½ additional pitches.
- As there is only unmet demand in the City for the equivalent of approximately 1 ½ pitches additional provision in this location would also help to meet unmet demand from neighbouring areas.
- Based on the hours the FPM suggests the AGP's are available for football use it indicates that there is no spare capacity at any of the pitches.
- Oxford exports a far greater amount of football demand for AGP's than it imports. The FPM suggests that Oxford exports approximately 35% of its demand to AGP provision in neighbouring areas;
- Residents have a significantly lower share of AGP provision for football use than the national regional and county averages. The share varies across the City with area to the centre and east recording a share up to 50% below the national average.

4.6.11 It should be noted that the 2011 national run of the FPM is based on a January 2011 data cut of Sport England's Active Places database. The above findings do not therefore include the facility developments set out in section 4.6.24 below. However, the FPM does provide a useful start in developing the picture of the supply of, and demand for, provision in the City. However, it is important that the above findings from the FPM are overlaid with and checked and challenged by information available from the relevant NGB's and locally.

## National Governing Body Information

### England Hockey

4.6.12 Information from England Hockey's 2011 facility audit indicates that there are five hockey clubs within the City with over 1,290 participants, which is over a third of the total hockey population within Oxfordshire. The five clubs are listed in table 21 alongside their usage details.

**Table 21: Oxford Hockey Club information**

Club	Participants			Sites Used (% of the clubs total use of AGP provision and hours per week activity per site)
	Total	18yrs and under	Over 18yrs	
City of Oxford	305	127	178	Headington School (15%, 1-5hrs) Oxford Brookes University (80%, 11-15hrs) St. Gregory the Great School (5%, 1-5hrs)
Oxford Brookes University	120	0	120	Oxford Brookes University (100%, 11-15hrs)
Oxford Hawks	500	330	170	Banbury Road North (100%)
Oxford University	100	0	100	Oxford University Sports Complex (100%, 11-15hrs)
Rover Oxford	265	119	146	Oxford Brookes University (50%, 6-10hrs) Oxford University Sports Complex (50%, 6-10hrs)

4.6.13 In addition to the clubs identified in table 21 above, Adastral and Great Milton Hockey Club, who both field a social team, are also located within the City playing at Banbury Road North. Both the Rover Oxford Hockey Club and Oxford Hawks Hockey Club have Clubmark status.

4.6.14 Average club sizes are larger than the national average, and clubs are accessing a higher number of hours as a result. The performance level of play is high, requiring more access to training hours.

4.6.15 England Hockey has sought views from the clubs on the condition of the pitches they use. All pitches are considered to be of good quality with the exception of the Oxford Brookes University AGP which was recorded as poor quality and in need of resurfacing in the next five years.

4.6.16 England Hockey regards the City of Oxford as key for facilitating its single system with the Banbury Road North site one of only 12 sites nationally used for Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC) activity, with Junior Development Centre (JDC) and Junior Academy Centre (JAC) also hosted. This site is used by Oxford Hawks Hockey Club with 330 out of its 500 participants being ages 18 years or younger.

4.6.17 The main findings presented by England Hockey from their facility audit information are:

- The City is a high density hockey area with large historical growth that is expected to continue.
- There is not a demand across the City at the moment for any new build full sized AGP's.
- However, there may be a need to provide small sided areas for training, in particular at Oxford Brookes University.

- The area also needs reprogramming to maximise pitch usage working alongside football requirements.
- The Oxford Brookes AGP is used by three clubs and subsequently a high number of participants. The facility was built in 1998 and refurbished in 2009. The surface is aging and all three clubs that use the pitch have indicated that the surface needs replacing.

#### Oxfordshire Football Association

- 4.6.18 Feedback from consultation with the football clubs in the City has identified that two City teams use the AGP at St Gregory the Great School and Summertown Stars FC reported that they use the AGP's at the Dragon School for training. The AGP at Oxford University is typically used for hockey, however a handful of the teams in the City, particularly those who represent the BOBI league use the facility on an adhoc basis. There are also a number of teams that use facilities outside of the City, supporting the findings from the FPM.
- 4.6.19 As identified, there are a handful of teams within the City that make use of the AGP provision in Oxford, however due to cost and demand, usage is adhoc as much of the City's provision is widely used by hockey. The facility at East Oxford is of an exception as the dimensions are not suitable for hockey and more suited to 5 a-side football
- 4.6.20 The recently opened 3G pitch at the Oxford Academy is much sought after and accommodates regular training sessions for Oxford United.
- 4.6.21 The Hellenic League and the Oxford Mail Boys and Oxford Mail Girls Leagues, are the only leagues that can currently play matches/league fixtures on an AGP. The other leagues represented by the City teams are yet to adopt this.

#### Local knowledge

- 4.6.22 As identified in Figure 9, a high number of the AGP provision within the City is provided by the education sector (schools, university) and these are widely used by the clubs within the City, as identified in table 21. In addition to club use, the AGP's within schools, particularly at Headington School is regularly used by the pupils.

#### Hockey Development

- 4.6.23 A survey questionnaire was sent out to all of the hockey clubs and those that responded had a desire grow the number of members they currently have (Rover Oxford Hockey Club and Oxford Hawks Hockey Club). A further increase is expected in hockey through the introduction of small sided hockey and a recent initiative 'Quick Sticks'<sup>20</sup> and 'Rush Hockey'<sup>21</sup>,

<sup>20</sup> Quick Sticks (England Hockey) [http://www.playquicksticks.co.uk/?cat\\_id=35&level=1](http://www.playquicksticks.co.uk/?cat_id=35&level=1)

<sup>21</sup> Rush Hockey [www.rushhockey.co.uk](http://www.rushhockey.co.uk)

## Facility Development

4.6.24 2011 has seen a significant amount of developments regarding the supply of APG provision in the City. A number of APG developments have been recently completed or are currently underway, these being:

1. Banbury Road North

In line with the importance placed upon the Banbury Road North site its existing AGP has recently been resurfacing. It had previously been resurfaced in 2001 and was therefore nearing the end of its 'surface life'. Works at this site have also included the development of a second sand based AGP which is of international standard and includes floodlights. The project was successfully completed in March 2011 has 'Junior Regional Performance Centre<sup>22</sup>' status.

2. The Oxford Academy

The Oxford Academy has provision of a new full sized sand based AGP and a smaller sized covered 3G AGP. The new pitches were opened in September 2011 and are available for community use.

3. The Community Arena; Court Place Farm

Oxford City Council is working closely with Oxford City FC to develop a third generation pitch<sup>23</sup>, commonly known as a 3G pitch, at Court Place Farm, Marston. The new development will include an artificial grass pitch with floodlights, offering a year round, and all weather facility for football. In addition to the 3G pitch, six new netball courts will also be provided.

Whilst the £2 million development will benefit Oxford City Football Club and the City's netball clubs, the new sports facilities will also be accessible to the community, with a community use agreement in place, creating enhanced sporting opportunities to the City residents and wider.

4.6.25 In addition, the City Council has been approached by a number of operators looking to develop a small sided football facility within the City. An options appraisal has been developed which focused on eight potential sites. Out of these sights one at Sandy Lane and one at Blackbird Leys scored the highest. Further consultation is planned with clubs, stakeholders and operators to see if these sites are feasible.

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<sup>22</sup> Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC) is a training centre for the U15, U16, U17 and U18 age groups which, from 2009/10, has been open to anyone who has successfully come through assessment from a Junior Academy Centre (JAC) or who has previously been involved in National Age Group Squads (NAGS) activity.

<sup>23</sup> Third Generation (3G) pitches, represent a new development in synthetic turf. The pitch itself looks like natural grass with similar playing characteristics, non-abrasive and can be used with rubber studs. Their design is primarily designed for contact sport training.

### **AGP Quality**

- 4.6.26 Unlike for natural grass pitch sports Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy guidance does not provide a template quality assessment for AGP provision. Therefore the City Council has undertaken an initial assessment of quality based on age, feedback from the club survey and comparing the pitches to one another.
- 4.6.27 As much of the AGP provision in the City is relatively new and/or recently been developed/resurfaced, the majority of the facilities in the City are in a 'Good' condition. However, the facilities at Oxford Brookes University and St Gregory the Great School are nearing the end of their 'surface life' and this was noted within their 'Average' quality score. The Oxford City Council owned AGP at East Oxford is heavily used for small sided football/football training and is also nearing the end of its surface life. This was reflected within its 'Poor' quality score.

### **Accessibility and Demand**

- 4.6.28 The majority of the AGP provision in Oxford is accessible to the community. However, the clubs that responded to the survey indicated that many of the AGP's are over subscribed and used without little rest on both weekends and weekday evenings. It must be noted that the consultation pre-dated the completion of the facilities at Banbury Road North and Oxford Academy.
- 4.6.29 There are no known clubs or teams that have indicated that they would like to see additional AGP provision within the City.

### **Conclusions**

- 4.6.30 AGP provision within the City is well used and participation in hockey, which relies on such facilities, is strong. All existing AGP's should therefore be protected and maintained to a good standard. Current development projects aside, it is clear that a priority should be to replace the surface of the Oxford Brookes University pitch for the benefit of both the university and the community, including the two hockey clubs that currently use the facility.
- 4.6.31 With the exception of a new surface at Oxford Brookes University, whilst participation in hockey within the City is likely to increase further this does not equate to a need for a full additional pitch. This is due to the recent resurfacing of the original pitch and the development of second pitch at Banbury Road North, along with the new pitch at the Oxford Academy site. However, where space allows options to increase alternative training provision alongside existing pitches should be investigated.
- 4.6.32 Unlike hockey there is some evidence that there may be current unmet demand for football use of AGP's. However, as with hockey use it may be that the very recent developments at the Oxford Academy and Court Place Farm will, over time, go some way to meeting this unmet demand.
- 4.6.33 In addition, the commercially funded football based facility as has been proposed may be a realistic option to meet any unmet demand for football use of AGP's. However, to ensure such provision complements rather than unnecessarily competes with existing provision it is recommended that a full consultation process is undertaken to ascertain stakeholder views.

- 4.6.34 As all of the AGP's appear to be heavily used there is a need to ensure that this use is effectively managed allowing all potential users a fair share of the pitch capacity. Again given the recent developments in the AGP stock across the City this may aid overall flexibility and availability for all users.
- 4.6.35 Given the above, it is currently too early to know the real impact of the recent AGP developments in the City. Therefore, there is a clear need to monitor the use of all AGP provision to measure the impact and then subsequently review and update this assessment.
- 4.6.36 Along with helping to meet any further increase in hockey use and any unmet demand in football, the development of the facilities themselves may start to generate additional demand for such provision. The development of 3G surface provision in the City may also now meet and generate demand for rugby training, especially the new facility at the Oxford Academy given its location to Littlemore Rugby Club.
- 4.6.37 This monitoring should also apply to the non full sized East Oxford facility. The Council owned pitch is well used for football and is an area identified by the FPM as having significant unmet demand for football and a very low relative share of provision. However, its surface will need replacing in the next 5 to 10 years and as part of the process the Council may need to look into alternative management and replacement options. The affect on this facility of the new provision in the City should therefore be monitored to see usage falls or remains high due to demand over and above that can be met at other sites.
- 4.6.38 Whilst the AGP's at schools and universities are available for community use and used by clubs, the security of these arrangements need to be assessed. Where possible this use should be formally secured ideally through an appropriate community use agreement.
- 4.6.39 To help carry out a review of this assessment it should be ensured that the recent changes and additions to the AGP stock in the City are fed back through to Sport England's Active Places database. This will allow for the changes to be included in the data cut on which their 2012 national run of the Facilities Planning Model will be based.

4.6.40 **Recommendations**

1. Support with Oxford Brookes University and relevant sports clubs to ensure the suitable replacement of the surface of the pitch at the University.
2. Carry out stakeholder consultation to ascertain views on the need and potential location for a commercially funded football based AGP provision over and above the recent developments.
3. Monitor the impact of the recent changes and additions to the AGP stock in the City on all existing and new AGP's in line with the strategy review process.

4. Use the monitoring information to further understand the current and future use of the non full sized East Oxford AGP provision and explore possible management, resurfacing and replacement options.
5. Ensure that community use of educational provision is secured through formal agreements.
6. Ensure that Sport England's active places database is accurate and up to date given the recent changes and additions to AGP provision in the City.

DRAFT

## 5 Outdoor Sports Facilities

### Purpose

5.1.1 To compliment the Playing Pitch Strategy, as identified in section 1.7, it was agreed by the steering group that a assessment of 'Non Playing Pitch Sports' should be undertaken. It was agreed by the group that the following sports and their outdoor facilities would be reviewed:

- Bowling Greens
- Tennis Courts
- Athletics Tracks
- Golf Facilities
- Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's)

5.1.2 The rationale for undertaking an assessment of these sports has been discussed in section 1.7.4.

### Methodology

5.1.3 Unlike the Playing Pitch Strategy, the TLPF guidance and the associated tools, which assist with undertaking a robust analysis of the supply of, and demand for, playing pitches, is not available for other outdoor sports facilities (non pitch sports).

5.1.4 Whilst no specific tools are available, the assessment of each 'non pitch' presents details to help guide the future provision of the identified sporting facilities using the following information;

- information on the structure and governance of each sport ;
- a survey of local clubs and teams;
- an analysis of current provision and accessibility;
- information on the quality of outdoor sports facility provision;
- information on accessibility and demand for facilities;
- information on the sports national governing bodies initiatives and priorities in respect of development of the sport;
- Present the conclusions from the above information with regards to the adequacy of provision and set out key recommendations and actions where required.

### Collating supply and demand data

5.1.5 To ensure that accurate information was collated for each sport, the identification of outdoor sport facilities and clubs, teams and other users involved those steps taken in section 3.2.



## **Consultation**

- 5.1.6 As per the consultation process for the Playing Pitch Strategy, section 3.3, the same method of consultation was undertaken with sports clubs to help collate and affirm the information gathered in respect of sports facility provision, clubs and teams. The consultation process also helped to gather qualitative research in respect of facility quality, accessibility and development plans, participation increases and projects in the pipeline, amongst other things.
- 5.1.7 Table 22 below provides a summary of those parties identified as key consultee's, response rates to the questionnaire consultation and the initial methods of consultation used.

**Table 22: Questionnaire consultation**

Consultee	Consultation Responses		Method of consultation
	Consultee's identified	% Response	
Tennis Clubs **	3	67%	Electronic Questionnaire/Meeting
Athletics Clubs	2	50%	Electronic Questionnaire
Bowls Clubs **	8	38%	Postal/Electronic Questionnaires
National Governing Bodies	3	100%	Electronic Questionnaire/Telephone Interview/Meeting

## **Assessment of outdoor sports facility quality**

- 5.1.8 Unlike for natural grass pitch sports, the quality assessment templates and Sport England guidance cannot be used to assess outdoor sports facilities. Therefore the assessments of quality based on site visits, local knowledge and feedback from clubs and the national governing bodies of sport through the consultation process.

## **Catchment analysis**

- 5.1.9 It is important that an assessment of provision is undertaken at an appropriate geographic level that reflects the nature of how the relevant sports are played within the City. As such each of the sports identified above will be analysed at a citywide level. This is due to the smaller number of clubs/teams, which while focussed within specific areas of the City, have a wide geographical catchment of members, and the distribution of each sport facility provision.

## **5.2 Bowls Greens**

5.2.1 Bowls England is the governing body responsible for the development of flat green bowls. It is administered at a local level within the county by the Oxfordshire Bowls Association (OBA).

### **Participation in Bowls within Oxford**

5.2.2 There are eight bowls clubs in the City and the majority of them represent the Oxford and District Bowls League. Short mat indoor leagues are also represented by those clubs that have indoor provision:

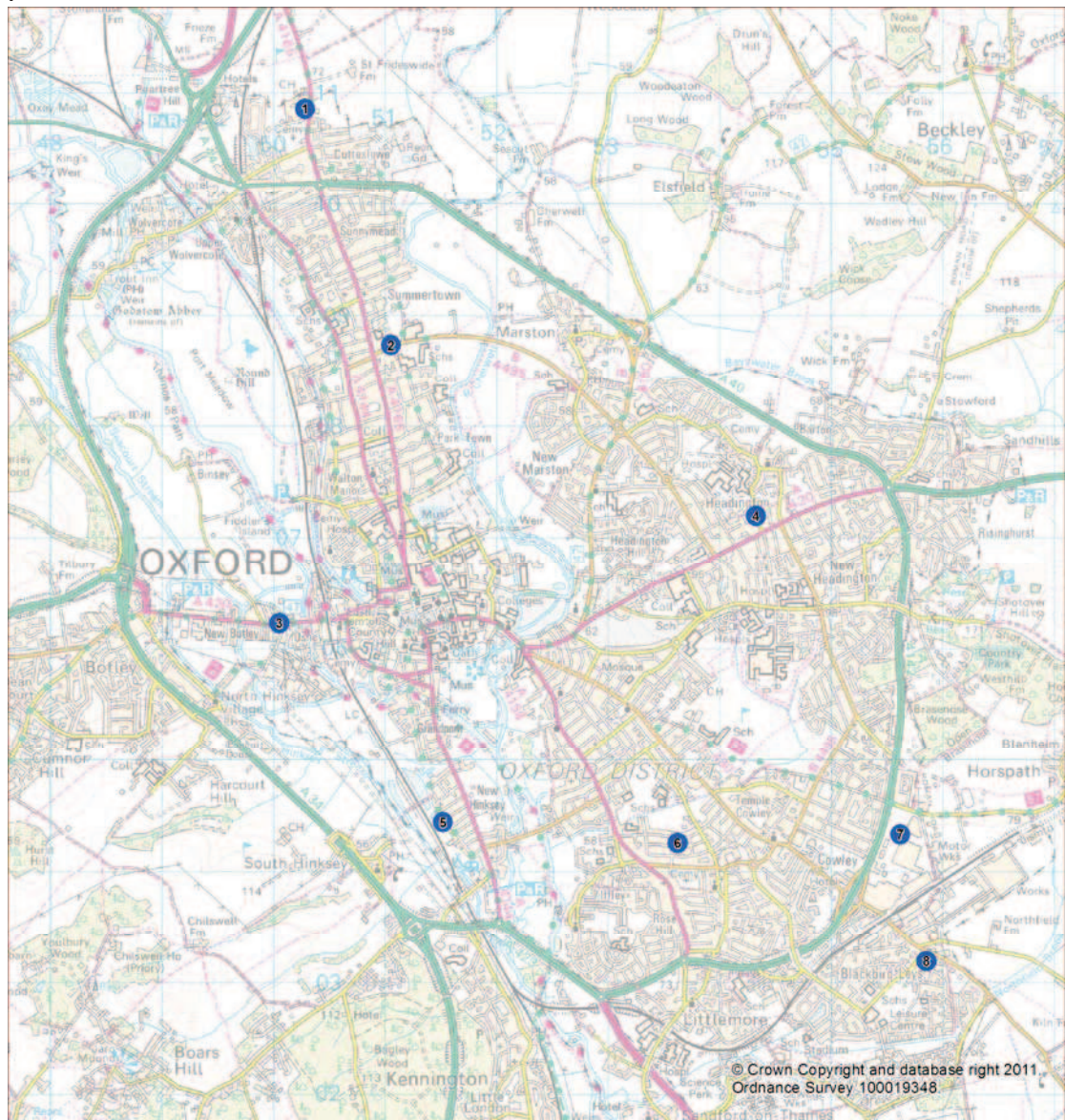
- Blackbird Leys Bowls Club\*
- Florence Park Bowls Club\*
- Headington Bowls Club
- Oxford City and County Bowls Club
- Oxford University Press Bowls Club; *indoor and outdoor provision*
- Rover Bowls Club
- South Oxford Bowls Club\*
- West Oxford Bowls Club\*
- Oxford and District Bowls Club; *indoor provision only*

\* *Oxford City Council owned bowls greens that are leased to the bowls clubs*

### **Current provision and accessibility**

5.2.3 There are eight bowls greens within the City. Figure 10 below shows that the distribution of provision is relatively well spread amongst the City.

**Figure 10: Map showing the distribution of bowls greens within Oxford.**



**Key to map of bowls greens within Oxford**

Map ID	Site Name	Number of greens	Ownership	Management	Access Type	Ward	Area Committee
1	Oxford University Press (Jordan Hill)	1	University	Sport Club	None - members only	Wolvercote	North
2	Oxford City and County Bowls Club	1	Sport Club	Sport Club	None - members only	Marston	North East
3	West Oxford Bowls Club	1	Oxford City Council	Sport Club	None - members only	Jericho and Osney	Central South & West
4	Headington Bowls Club	1	Sport Club	Sport Club	None - members only	Headington Hill & Northway	North East
5	South Oxford Bowls Club	1	Oxford City Council	Sport Club	None - members only	Hinksey Park	Central South & West
6	Florence Park Bowls Club	1	Oxford City Council	Sport Club/Oxford City Council	Members and pay and play access	Cowley	Cowley
7	Rover Sports and Social Club	1	Sports Club	Sport Club	None - members only	Lye Valley	Cowley
8	Blackbird Leys Bowls Club	1	Oxford City Council	Sport Club	None - members only	Blackbird Leys	South East

- 5.2.4 The four Oxford City Council owned bowls greens with the exception of Florence Park are all leased to a club with no community access as access is limited to the clubs. The green at Florence Park has been leased to Florence Park Bowls Club, but has an element of community access when the club are not using the facility. The remaining four bowls greens in the City are owned and managed by private bowls clubs.

### **Quality**

- 5.2.5 The TLPF methodology used for pitch sports is not designed to assess the quality of bowls green, and as such, each facility was given a quality score based on comparison.
- 5.2.6 Those greens with Oxford City Council stock received a 'Good' quality score and those that belonged to private bowls clubs all received an 'Excellent' quality score.
- 5.2.7 Feedback from the bowls club through the consultation highlighted that overall the clubs were happy with the standard of the green, however particularly for those Oxford City Council owned facilities issues were raised around to the quality of the ancillary/club house facilities. Many of the clubs expressed a desire to undertake maintenance works on their club house, however due to limited funds this is not viable.

### **Accessibility and demand**

- 5.2.8 As identified in Figure 10, there is adequate access to bowls facilities in the City at club level. There is only one 'pay and play' bowls green left within the City, which is located in Florence Park. Despite the decrease in 'pay and play' facilities in Oxford over recent years, there is no apparent demand in the City as booking records for the green at Florence Park indicate that this has only been used on two occasions within the last year. This trend was similar for those greens that have recently been decommissioned in the City for other use.
- 5.2.9 Feedback from clubs in respect of decreasing memberships and from the Development Officer (Bowls England) indicates that there is no current demand for outdoor bowls greens in the City and the current level of provision is adequate.
- 5.2.10 Any future demand generated through the BDA's initiatives or a steady increase in club memberships, is not anticipated to result in the need for new provision.

### **Bowls development**

- 5.2.11 Feedback from the Bowls Development Officer and a representative from the Oxfordshire Bowls Association suggested that participation in bowls is declining in the City as indoor bowls is becoming more attractive. This was also supported by those bowls clubs consulted with who noted that they have experienced a drop in memberships, mainly through natural wastage, however have failed to recruit new members for those lost.

5.2.12 Bowls England has recently merged with the national governing body for short mat and indoor bowls to form the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) The BDA have been tasked with increasing participation amongst players aged 65+ and maintain current satisfaction levels amongst participation.

5.2.13 To address the decrease in participation at a local level the Bowls Development Officer has been working with the City clubs to encourage clubs to consider alternative formats to introduce new people to the sport and make bowls more appealing. This could be achieved through community open days and/or links with schools to develop a youth section.

### **Conclusions**

5.2.14 As identified above, it is clear that there is an adequate supply of bowls greens within Oxford and there is no predicted future demand that will result in the need for additional provision in the City.

5.2.15 Sports Development Officers will continue to support the development of bowls, by assisting the City's clubs and the BDA/Bowls England to raise the profile of the sport in Oxford.

### **5.2.16 Recommendations**

1. That Oxford City Council bowls provision is maintained, but reviewed on the basis of participation and value for money on an annual basis.

2. That Sports Development officers assist in the promotion of the sport within the City.

### **5.3 Tennis Courts**

5.3.1 The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is responsible for the governance of tennis in England at a national level. The Oxfordshire Tennis is responsible for the administration and development within Oxford.

#### **Participation in tennis within Oxford**

5.3.2 There are five affiliated tennis clubs within the City

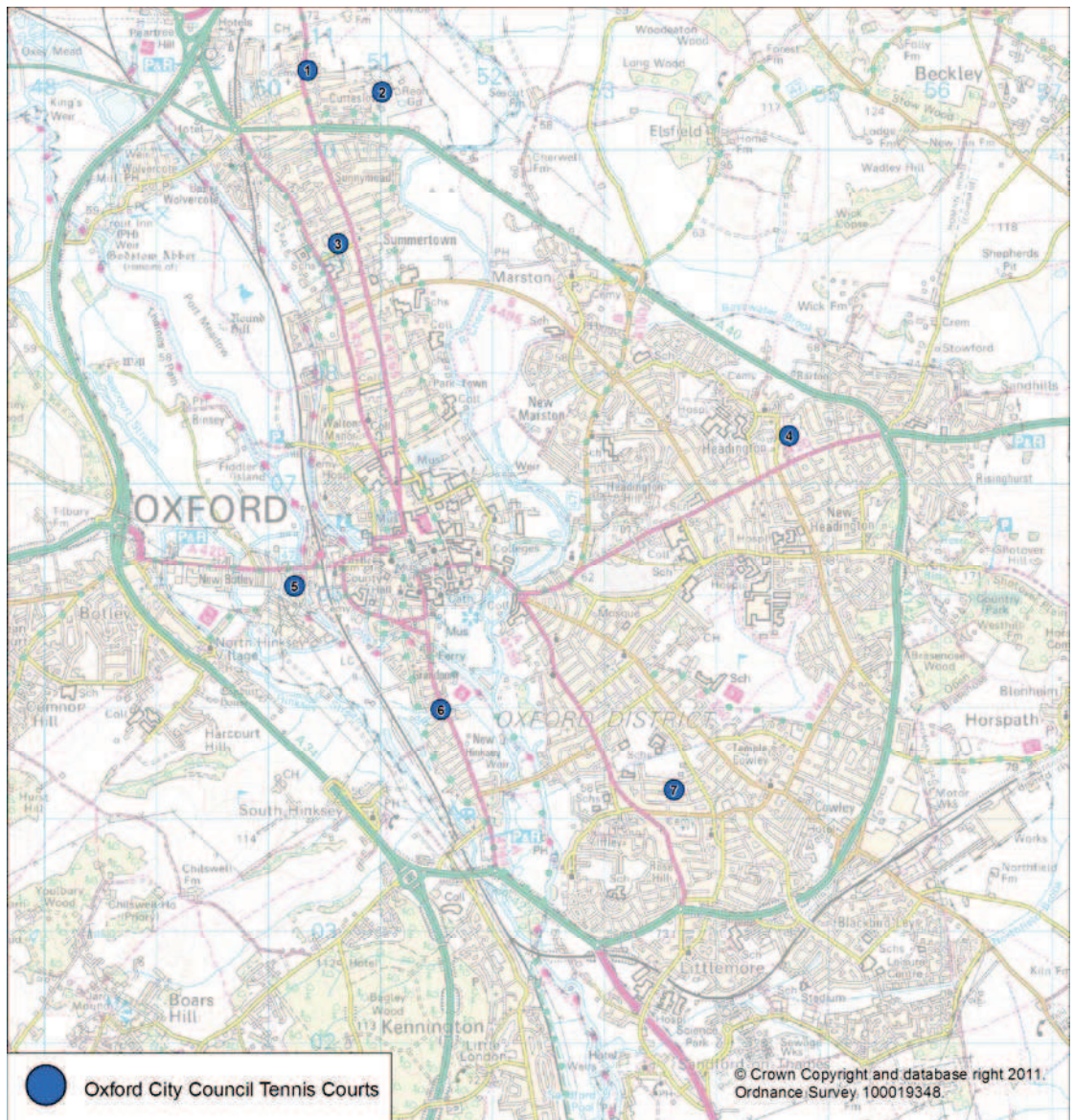
- Norham Gardens Lawn Tennis Club; *Tennis Clubmark*
- North Oxford Lawn Tennis Club
- Oxford City Tennis Club
- David Lloyd Club; *Tennis Clubmark*
- Esporta Oxfordshire Health & Rackets Club; *Tennis Clubmark*

#### **Current provision and accessibility**

5.3.3 There are a total of 240 outdoor tennis courts within the City. 58 of the courts identified within the audit are owned by Oxford City Council, made up of 24 grass courts and 34 tarmac/hard courts.

5.3.4 Figure 11 displays the distribution of the council owned tennis courts within Oxford. Due to the vast amount and distribution of tennis courts within the City, these have not all been included within the map.

**Figure 11: Map showing the distribution of Oxford City Council Tennis Courts**





**Key to map of Oxford City Council owned tennis courts**

Map ID	Site Name	Number of hard courts	Number of grass courts	Ownership	Management	Access Type	Ward	Area Committee
1	Banbury Road North (North Oxford Tennis Club)	9	10	Oxford City Council	Sport Club	Secured Community Use	Wolvercote	North
2	Cuttislowe Park	4	-	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Wolvercote	North
3	Alexandra Courts	6	14	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Summertown	North
4	Bury Knowle Park	4	-	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Headington	North
5	Botley Recreation Ground	2	-	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Jericho & Osney	Central South & West
6	Hinksey Park	4	-	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
7	Florence Park	5	-	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Cowley	Cowley

### **Conclusion**

- 5.3.5 An extensive review of tennis within Oxford was undertaken by the Sports Development team in October 2010. (Tennis Review and Action Plan). The review identified the current provision in Oxford in respect of participation trends, club development and initiatives in the pipeline from the LTA and the Tennis Foundation. Through the review of the current provision, recommendations were made and an action plan for the development of tennis in Oxford was developed.
- 5.3.6 In summary, the review identified that there is no current need for additional tennis facilities within the City, however it is important that the assets in the ownership of Oxford City Council are sweated to maximise the development of the game wherever possible.
- 5.3.7 There is a varying level of quality demonstrated across the tennis facilities owned by Oxford City Council. Some of these are now in a poor condition, with no maintenance plan or capital fund allocated for improvements

### **5.3.8 Recommendations**

1. That a capital program of improvements is looked at for the Council's tennis court facilities and that developer contributions are allocated as they arise to help maintain and improve the facilities.
2. That the actions identified within the Tennis review and action plan are continued to be completed.

## **5.4 Athletics tracks**

5.4.1 Athletics is primarily governed by England Athletics, however on a local level the development and governance of athletics within Oxford is overseen by the Oxfordshire Athletics Network. The network is a local partnership of athletics clubs and other sporting organisations in and around Oxfordshire. The Purpose of the Oxfordshire Athletics Network will be to drive up the quality of athletics provision delivered within clubs; schools and other environments by improving the quality of coaching, clubs and competition opportunities at a local level.

### **Participation in athletics within Oxford**

5.4.2 Oxford City Athletic Club is the biggest club within the City which field senior men's, senior women's and youth sections. Oxford University also field an athletics club in the City. In addition to athletics clubs, there is one road running club within Oxford; Headington Road Runners.

### **Current provision and accessibility**

5.4.3 There are two facilities within the City that host provision for athletics including a running track, throwing cage and sand pit, these are:

- Oxford University Athletics Track - Iffley Road Sports Complex; home to Oxford University Athletic Club.
- Horspath Sports Ground; home to Oxford City Athletic Club.

5.4.4 The athletics provision at Horspath Sports Ground is owned by Oxford City Council. Despite the location of this facility falling within the South Oxfordshire district boundary, for the purpose of this strategy this will be classed as a City facility within the Cowley area committee.

**Figure 12: Map showing the distribution of athletics tracks within Oxford.**



**Key to map of athletics tracks within Oxford**

Map ID	Site Name	Floodlit	Ownership	Management	Access Type	Ward	Area Committee
1	Iffley Road Sports Complex	Y	University	University	Secured Community Use	St Mary's	East
2	Horspath Sports Ground	Y	Oxford City Council	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Lye Valley	Cowley

## **Quality**

- 5.4.5 The TLPF methodology used for pitch sports is not designed to assess the quality of athletics tracks, and as such, each facility was given a quality score based on a site visit and comparison.
- 5.4.6 The athletics track at Oxford University Iffley Road Sports Complex received a 'Very Good' quality score and the track at Horspath Sports Ground received a 'Good' quality score. The score given to the track at Horspath Sports Ground appears to be consistent with feedback from the Oxford City Athletic Club. Amongst a number of questions that were asked in respect of the satisfaction with the quality of the facility, the club rated disabled access, line markings and overall track quality as 'Poor'. The remainder of the aspects scored 'Good'.
- 5.4.7 The club rated the ancillary facilities (changing rooms and showers) as acceptable, which is consistent with the 'Average' score that the clubhouse received through the NVTQA. As identified above, the quality of the councils pavilion stock has been addressed within the Oxford City Council Pavilion Review, 2011.

## **Accessibility and demand**

- 5.4.8 The athletics provision at the Iffley Road Sports Complex and Horspath Sports Ground are accessible to the public, however as these sites are also home to the City's athletic clubs therefore access can be limited at times.
- 5.4.9 A formal agreement is currently being drafted to outline Oxford City Athletic Club's use of the facility at Horspath Sports Ground. Through an existing agreement the club's training session is held every Monday evening and they have first refusal on track bookings. Open 'pay and play' sessions are available on site on a Tuesday and Wednesday for senior training sessions, and Thursday evenings for junior training sessions. Outside these designated training times the facility is available for use on a 'pay and play' arrangement.
- 5.4.10 Unfortunately due to the location of the facility it is difficult to police, and as such there is a high degree of unofficial (un-booked) use on site, particularly on the running track.
- 5.4.11 Through consultation with the Oxford City Athletic Club, the club reported no issues with accessing facilities for competition or training purposes. However, in respect of use of the facilities for generic/non club based training despite accessibility to both facilities within the City, the Club and Coach Support Officer (England Athletics) noted that the cost associated with using the facilities at the Iffley Road Sports Complex and the limited times that the facility is accessible at Horspath Sports Ground can be problematic for those people who are a member of a club and want to use the facilities to train etc.

### **Athletics development**

- 5.4.12 Feedback from the Club and Coach Support Officer suggests that there has been no significant increase in participation in athletics; however participation in road running has seen a slight upwards shift. Despite participation remaining static, through consultation with Oxford City Athletic Club, they reported an increase in membership over the last five years has increased and half of their members live outside of the Oxford boundaries.
- 5.4.13 To coincide with the 2012 Olympics, it is expected that there will be an increase in participation in athletics, however it is not anticipated that demand will outgrow the available provision in Oxford. The Club and Coach Support Officer is currently working with Oxford City Athletic Club to ensure that they can take new members post 2012 games.

### **Conclusions**

- 5.4.14 There are no clubs within Oxford that are awaiting athletics facilities within the City aligning with feedback received from the consultation in respect of growth in participation there is no demand for additional athletics provision in Oxford.
- 5.4.15 To ensure that the athletics track in particular at Horspath Sports Ground is fit for purpose and meets industry standards, Oxford City Council may want to consider resurfacing the track within the next 5 years and to fully sweat this asset look at best practice management options for the site.

### **5.4.16 Recommendations**

1. That capital funding and developer contributions are identified to replace the track and to bring the facility up to the relevant industry standards.
2. That the management arrangements for the facility are reviewed.

## 5.5 Golf Facilities

5.5.1 Golf in Oxfordshire is governed by the Berks, Bucks and Oxon (BBO) Golf Partnership<sup>24</sup>, who are responsible for delivering and implementing the 'Whole Sport Plan for Golf, 2009 – 2013'. The partnership's main focus is the 'Start' and 'Stay' elements of the plan.

### Current provision and accessibility

5.5.2 There is one golf club in the City, Southfields, which is accessible to members and a 9-hole golf facility at St Edwards School, which has no community access. Neither of these facilities are owned by Oxford City Council.

**Figure 13: Map showing the distribution of golf facilities within Oxford.**



<sup>24</sup> <http://www.bbogolffpartnership.com/partnership/origins.asp>



**Key to map of golf facilities within Oxford**

Map ID	Site Name	Number of holes	Ownership	Management	Access Type	Ward	Area Committee
1	St Edwards School	9	Independent School	Independent School	None	Summertown	North
2	Southfields Golf Club	18	Sport Club	Sport Club	Accessible to members	Cowley	Cowley

### **Accessibility and demand**

- 5.5.3 The County Development Officer for the BBO Partnership, noted that nationally there has been a decrease in participation trends in golf and this has been significant within the South East, with many of the Oxfordshire based clubs reporting that they had lost members in the past year.
- 5.5.4 The facilities at Southfields Golf Club are under used, particularly during the week and there is no demand for additional facilities in the City.

### **Conclusions**

- 5.5.5 Aligning with current trends and feedback from the County Development Officer, it is unlikely that there will be a demand for additional golf facilities in the City, especially as there are two golf clubs/facilities on the periphery of Oxford; North Oxford Golf Club within the Cherwell district, and Hinksey Heights Golf Club, within the Vale of White Horse district.

### **5.5.6 Recommendation**

- 1. Explore sports development links with Southfield golf club and the delivery of 'extreme golf' in the leisure centres.

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## **5.6 Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) Outdoor Gyms and Hard Court areas in Oxford**

5.6.1 A Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is a facility that is typically an enclosed hard court area that can accommodate a variety of sports including; football, basketball, hockey etc.

### **Current provision and accessibility**

5.6.2 There are fourteen MUGA's within the City that are owned by Oxford City Council and are primarily used to deliver the councils Street Sports programme and provide free casual access to the public.

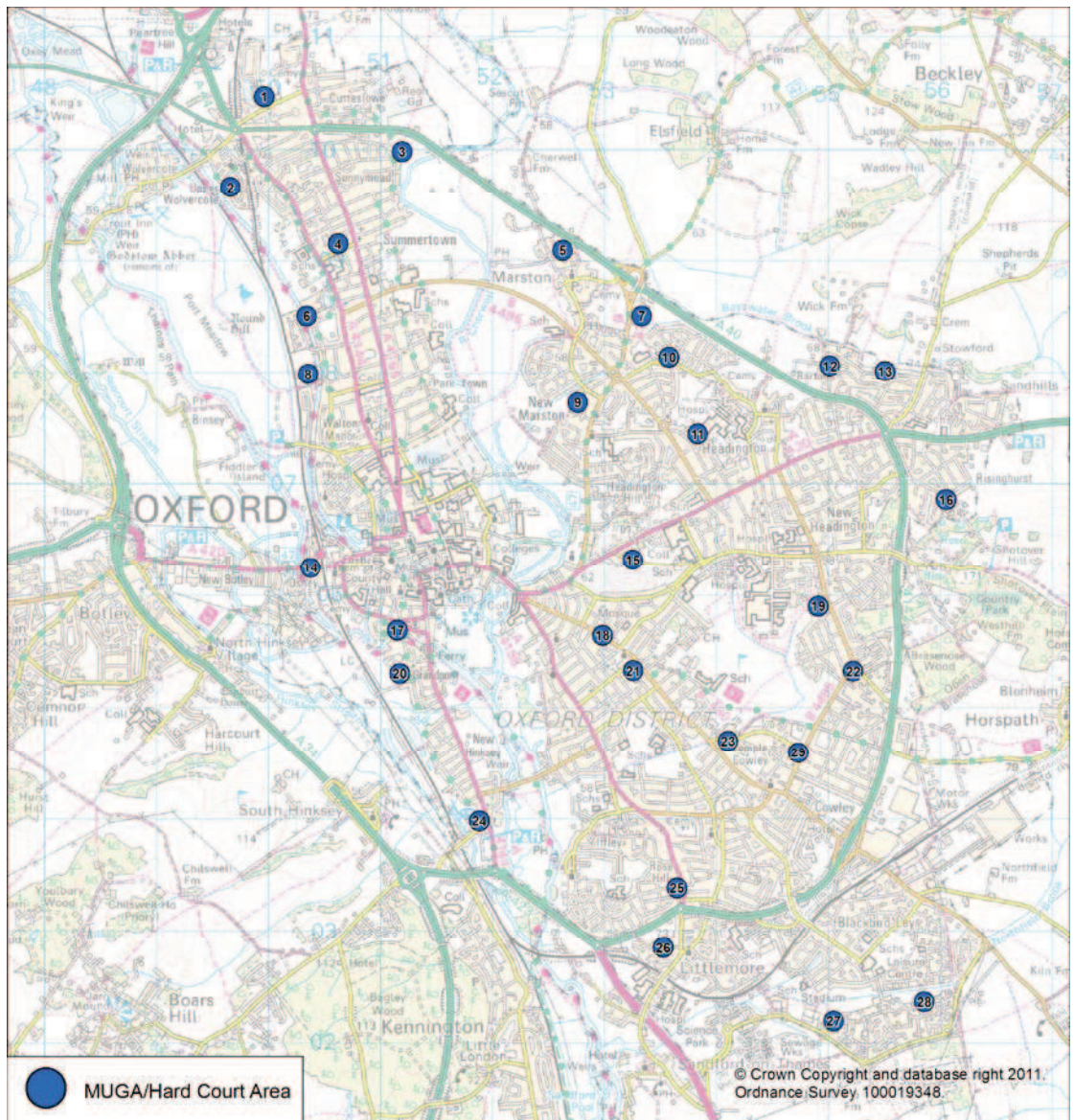
5.6.3 For the purpose of this strategy fifteen hard court areas, commonly known as 'kick about' or basketball areas, and one adiZone<sup>25</sup> at Court Place Farm, have been counted within the audit. These facilities are also owned by Oxford City Council and accessible to the community at no charge.

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<sup>25</sup> An adizone is a permanent installation in the shape of the London 2012 logo and includes sporting facilities inspired by Olympic and Paralympic sports that include a basketball, football and tennis area, a climbing wall, an outdoor gym and an open area to encourage dance, aerobics and gymnastics.

**Figure 14: Map showing the distribution of MUGA's (including hard court areas and adizone's) within Oxford.**



**Key to map of MUGA's, adiZones and hard court areas within Oxford**

Map ID	Site Name	Type	Ownership/ Management	Access Type	Ward	Area Committee
1	Five Mile Drive	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Wolvercote	North
2	Pixey Place	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Wolvercote	North
3	Sunnymede Park	MUGA & Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Wolvercote	North
4	Alexandra Park	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Summertown	North
5	Wood Farm Green	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Quarry & Risinghurst	North East
6	Elizabeth Jennings Close	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	St Margaret's	North
7	Court Place Farm	Adizone	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Marston	North East
8	Aristotle Lane	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	North	North
9	Marston Recreation Ground	MUGA	Marston Parish Council	Secured Community Use	Marston	North East
10	Northway Recreation Ground	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Headington Hill & Northway	North East
11	Radcliffe	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Headington Hill & Northway	North East
12	Barton Recreation Ground	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Barton & Sandhills	North East
13	Taggs Gate (Barton)	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Barton & Sandhills	North East
14	Botley Recreation Ground	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Barton & Sandhills	North East
15	South Park	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Jericho & Osney	Central, South & West
16	Richards Way	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	St Clements	East
17	Friars Wharf	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Headington Hill & Northway	North East
18	Manzil Gardens	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
19	Bullington (Peat Moors)	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	St Clements	East
20	Grandpont Rec	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Lye Valley	Cowley
21	Regal (Ridgefield Road)	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
22	Holloway/100 Acre Park	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Cowley Marsh	Cowley
23	Cowley Marsh Park	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Lye Valley	Cowley
24	Bertie Place	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Cowley Marsh	Cowley
25	Rose Hill	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Hinksey Park	Central, South & West
26	Oxford Road Recreation Ground	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Rose Hill & Iffley	South East
27	Frys Hill	MUGA	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Littlemore	South East
28	Blacksmith Meadow	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Blackbird Leys	South East
29	Crescent Road	Hard Court Area	Oxford City Council	Secured Community Use	Northfield Brooke	South East
					Cowley Marsh	Cowley

5.6.4 Figure 14 identifies that the City is well served with the majority of provision of facilities is concentrated within the North East area of the City followed by equal provision within the Central South and West and Cowley area committees. The East area committee has no provision of MUGA or hard court provision and it may be an opportunity to investigate if there are any suitable sites for a similar type of facility in the area.

#### **Quality**

5.6.5 In respect of quality, the majority of the MUGA's within the City fare 'Good' to 'Average' and are only in need of minor improvements caused by wear and tear i.e. new line markings. There are a few exceptions and these include the MUGA's at the Regal facility, the basketball court at Alexandra Courts, and the MUGA at Rose Hill, which has recently been vandalised.

#### **5.6.6 Recommendations**

1. That a maintenance program is detailed to address the key issues at the identified MUGA sites and capital and developer funding allocated to deliver this.
2. Examine the feasibility of a MUGA in the East Area.
3. Identify parks and green spaces that may be suitable for green gyms or fitness trails.

## **5.7 Additional Sports in Oxford**

5.7.1 In addition to the 'Pitch' and 'Non Pitch' sports identified above, Oxford also has a presence of baseball and softball, netball and Gaelic football clubs/teams that play in the City. Each sport will be taken in turn providing a summary of its structure in the City and any concerns/comments picked up through the consultation process with clubs, league secretaries and National Governing Bodies as identified in section 3.

### **Baseball**

5.7.2 Within the City there are two baseball and softball clubs and two key sites that have the appropriate facilities to accommodate the game:

- Oxford Kings who play at Horspath Sports Ground.
- Oxford Softball League who play at Rover Sports and Social Club.

5.7.3 Feedback from the clubs suggested that they were happy with the facilities they uses, however through discussion with the national governing body it was evident that there was a desire to secure access to school sites that have baseball provision. The only known site in Oxford is the Dragon School, which is an independent school and do not currently offer any community access.

5.7.4 The national governing body agreed that the baseball provision owned by Oxford City Council at Horspath Sports Ground was adequate, however there would be scope for Baseball Softball UK (governing body for the sport) to match fund the development of the backstop and dugout if they could secure a 20 year lease on site.

### **Netball**

5.7.5 There are six netball clubs within the City who between them field 29 teams. Within Oxford netball is typically played on school sites with the key strategic sites being:

- John Radcliffe Hospital
- Cheney School
- Rye St Antony School
- Headington School
- Oxford Spires Academy

5.7.6 Feedback from the clubs suggested that whilst there were no problems with accessing the school facilities for home matches, many of the facilities were used at capacity with the number of teams in the City. Many of the City teams expressed a desire to grow the number of teams they field/grow their membership, however with the demand on facilities there were concerns that this could become problematic in the future. This however is now being addressed by the development of the Community Arena at Court Place Farm. The new facility will provide six new floodlit netball courts, which will have a community use agreement attached to them.

### **Gaelic Football**

- 5.7.7 There is one Gaelic Football club in the City; Eire Org, that play on the Oxford City Council owned Gaelic football pitch at Horspath Sports Ground. This pitch is dual use with the rugby union pitch. This pitch is used for both home matches and training, with an average of 15 bookings made per year.
- 5.7.8 Through consultation with the club there appeared to be no issues with the accessibility or quality of the pitch at Horspath, however the national governing body felt that the site was difficult to access without a car, and use of the pitch and changing facilities was difficult when a cricket match was being played. The governing body have been in discussion with St Gregory the Great school to explore marking out an additional pitch on site.

### **Conclusions**

- 5.7.9 Due to the presence of these sports within the City, it was felt that there was a need to consult and succinctly review the structure of these sports and supply of, demand for the facilities they use. Looking ahead, we will ensure that dialogue remains open with the clubs and national governing body and the sport is reviewed in line with the annual review of the strategy.

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## **6.1 Monitoring and Maintaining the Strategy**

- 6.1.1 It is important that there is good governance in place to ensure that the recommendations and action plan are implemented. The Leisure and Parks service area will monitor this through its Sports Development meetings and also report on a monthly basis to the Leisure Delivery board. Key stakeholders will also be regularly updated.
- 6.1.2 It is proposed that the strategy will be updated to keep the data accurate on an annual basis, with a full refresh after 5 years in 2016.
- 6.1.3 The approach to the annual update will consist of inviting the key stakeholders such as Sport England, NGB's, Planning Officers, Leisure and Park Officers and the County Sports Partnership to agree the terms of reference to the review. The update will look to pick up only those areas where there has been, or will be, significant change, for example proposed new housing schemes over 100 units, potential loss of community accessible pitches, significant changes in NGB priorities or significant club / team changes.
- 6.1.4 The approach to the full assessment in 2016 will be in line with Sport England's TLPF or its equivalent at the time.

## **6.2 Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy**

- 6.2.1 It is important that maximum benefit is achieved from any new developer contributions or from the new community infrastructure levy. To gain the most benefit it is important that these are allocated in line with the strategic priorities and include consultation with both planning and finance officers. Within the action plan, the various projects have had an indicative priority rating added to them.

7 Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Action Plan 2012 - 2026

Key action	Council Priority	Timescale	Developer Contribution Rank (1 is most important)	Cost	Lead Officer
<b>Football</b>					
Identify adult pitches that can be converted or overlaid with mini / junior pitches	Strong and Active Communities	Aug 2012		N/A	Focus Sports Development Officer
Implement a scheme to improve and develop the Council's pavilions in line with the pavilions review	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2015	1	£2.6 Million (Internal and external funding)	Head of Service / Development Manager
Ensure that enough green space is included that will accommodate a minimum of an additional two mini pitches within the Barton Housing scheme area	Strong and Active Communities	April 2012	5	N/A	Development Manager
Feed into the consultation on the Barton housing scheme the opportunity to add in pavilion/changing facilities to the 'hub' building	Strong and Active Communities	Jan 2012	2	N/A	Development Manager
Recommend that an allocation of developer contributions from the Barton Housing scheme are used to upgrade the ground facilities for Headington Amateurs in line with Hellenic League Standards	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012	6	N/A	Development Manager
Explore the opportunity and cost of improving the drainage at Court Place Farm with partners	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012		£30K (Internal and external funding)	Focus Sports Development Officer

<b>Rugby</b>						
Support key stakeholders to identify opportunities to improve the quality of the pitches at Cherwell	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012		£20K (External Funding)	Focus Sports Development Officer	
Provide support to the ORFU to help the Oxford Harlequins RFC to gain security of tenure of the pitches at Cherwell school.	Strong and Active Communities	March 2013		N/A	Development Manager/Development Officer	
Provide support to the ORFU to help Littlemore RFC in their aim of establishing floodlights for their training facilities at the Oxford Academy.	Strong and Active Communities	March 2013		N/A	Focus Sports Development Officer	
<b>Cricket</b>						
Undertake an independent detailed assessment of pitch 2 at Horspath road and implement the findings	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2013	7	£3K	Focus Sports Development Officer	
Identify external funding for ancillary facilities at Horspath and Cutteslowe such as screens and scoreboards	Strong and Active Communities	Oct 2012		£10K (External Funding)	Focus Sports Development Officer	
Like for like replacement of Cricket pitches at those sites earmarked for development (OUP and Jesus College Sports Ground) are explored.	Strong and Active Communities	March 2015		N/A	Planning	
<b>Hockey and Synthetic Turf Pitches</b>						
Support Oxford Brookes University and relevant sports clubs to ensure the suitable replacement of the surface of the pitch at the university.	Strong and Active Communities	March 2013		£300K (External Funding)	Development Officer	
Review the management arrangements and replacement options for East Oxford	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2013		N/A	Development Manager / Focus Sports Development Officer	
That consultation is undertaken in regard to a potential Commercially funded Astro turf	Strong and Active	Feb 2012		N/A	Focus Sports Development Officer	

Ensure that Sport England's active places database is accurate and up to date given the recent changes and additions to AGP provision in the City.	Communities						
<b>Bowls</b>							
That the OCC provision of bowls facilities is reviewed on an annual basis in regard to value for money and participation	Strong and Active Communities	Oct 2012			N/A		Development Officer
That the Sports Development officers work to promote bowls in the City	Strong and Active Communities	April 2012			N/A		Development Officer
<b>Tennis</b>							
Identify the necessary works to bring the Council's Tennis Courts up to a good standard and a maintenance plan to retain them at this level and submit a capital bid.	Strong and Active Communities	Sept 2012	4		£248,000 (5 year plan)		Development Manager
That the actions identified within the Tennis review and action plan are continued to be completed including exploring the management options for the Councils courts.	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012			N/A		Development Officer
<b>Athletics</b>							
That the necessary capital funding to replace the track and bring the facility up to the relevant industry standards is identified	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012	3		£250,000 (Internal and External)		Development Manager/ Parks Operational Manager
That the on-going management arrangement for the facility are explored	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012			N/A		Leisure Manager
<b>Golf</b>							
Explore sports development links with Southfield golf club and the delivery of 'extreme golf' in the leisure centres	Strong and Active Communities	Jun 2012			N/A		Development Officer / Fusion / GO-Active

<b>MUGAS</b>						
Identify the necessary works to bring the Council's MUGAs up to a good standard and a maintenance plan to retain them at this level.	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2013		N/A	Development Manager / Focus Sports Development Officer	
Identify potential funding to implement the improvements and also to maintain the facilities on an on-going basis and submit a capital bid.	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2013	8	£284,000 (5 year plan)	Development Manager / Focus Sports Development Officer	
Investigate the feasibility of a MUGA in the East area.	Strong and Active Communities	Jun 2012	9	N/A	Focus Sports Development Officer	
Identify parks and green spaces that may be suitable for green gyms / fitness trails	Strong and Active Communities	Jun 2012	10	N/A	Development Officers / GO-Active	
<b>Generic</b>						
That Developer Contributions / Community Infrastructure Levy items are allocated in line with the strategic priorities identified	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012		N/A	Development Manager	
Explore community use agreements with other providers such as schools, universities and colleges.	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012		N/A	Development Manager	
Maximise our current Community Use Agreements	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012		N/A	Development Manager	
That the fees and charges for sports pitch provision in the City are reviewed and benchmarked on an annual basis	Strong and Active Communities	Sept 2012		N/A	Development Manager / Parks and Open Spaces Manager	
Work with National Governing Bodies of sport to identify any funding for the various projects identified	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012		N/A	Development Officer	
Update the strategy in line with section 5	Efficient and Effective Council	Dec 2012		N/A	Development Manager / Development Officer	

That the Council's playing pitches in general are continued to be maintained to the same standard of quality.	Strong and Active Communities	Dec 2012		N/A	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
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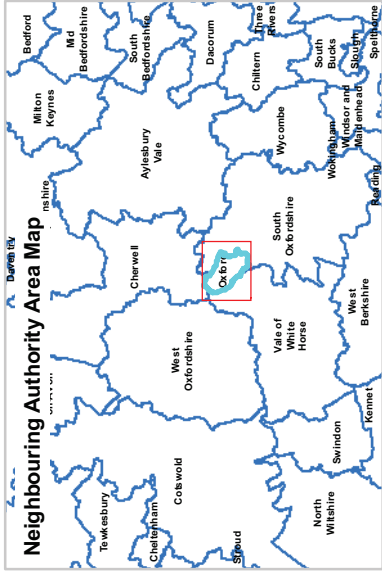
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# APPENDIX 1

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# Dominant Market Segmentation Map for the Local Authority of Oxford

Dominant Market Segmentation data is shown at the Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level. Where more than one of the 19 market segments is dominant the segment is classified as "Multiple Segments". Note that some market segments are never dominant and therefore not shown in the Legend.

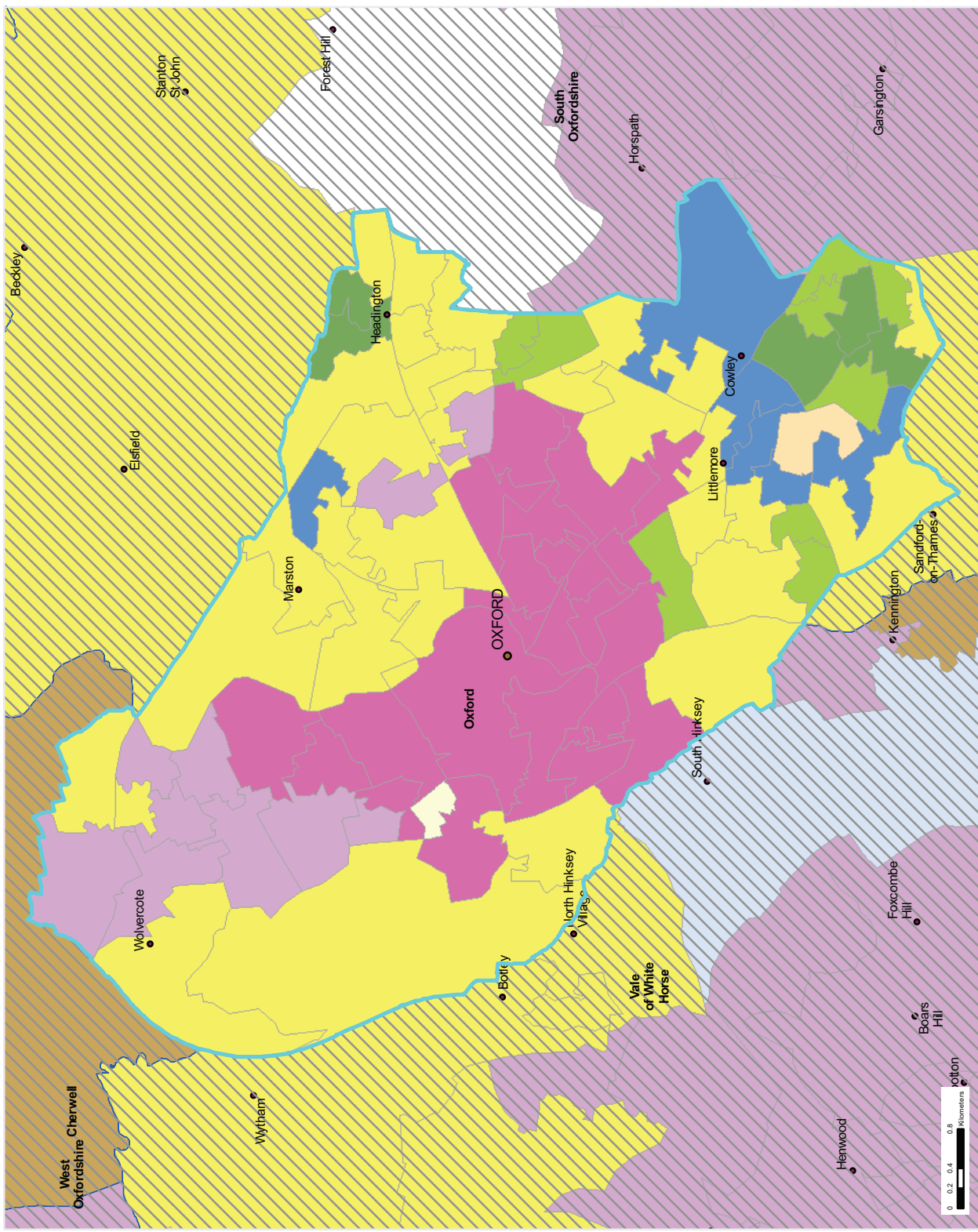


## Legend

- Local Authorities
- Selected Local Authority

## Dominant Segment by LSOA

- Multiple Segments
- Ben - Competitive Male Urbanites (A01)
- Jamie - Sports Team Drinkers (A02)
- Chloe - Fitness Class Friends (A03)
- Leanne - Supportive Singles (A04)
- Helena - Career Focused Females (B05)
- Tim - Settling Down Males (B06)
- Alison - Stay at Home Mums (B07)
- Jackie - Middle England Mums (B08)
- Kev - Pub League Team Mates (B09)
- Paula - Stretched Single Mums (B10)
- Philip - Comfortable Mid-Life Males (C11)
- Elaine - Empty Nest Career Ladies (C12)
- Roger & Joy - Early Retirement Couples (C13)
- Brenda - Older Working Women (C14)
- Terry - Local 'Old Boys' (C15)
- Ralph & Phyllis - Comfortable Retired Couples (D17)
- Elsie - Retirement Home Singles (D19)





# APPENDIX 2

DRAFT

To: Club Chairman

Date: Monday 14 February 2011

Dear Madam/Sir

## OXFORD CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STUDY

Oxford City Council is undertaking a study of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities throughout the City. This will update and replace an earlier study, which is now several years old.

There are many key objectives for the development of the study, some of which are as follows:

- During times of change for local authorities, the study will provide direction and set priorities for each sport, aligning with the local need
- It provides a robust need for capital funding
- It helps demonstrate the value of the leisure and parks services
- It is one of the best planning tools for pitch/outdoor sports facility protection and provides a basis for establishing new pitch requirements
- It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches/outdoor sports facilities
- It will assist the sports development team to identify where there is an under/oversupply of facilities

As part of the study, we are collating information on where local pitch (football, rugby, hockey, baseball Gaelic football and cricket) clubs and certain other outdoor sports clubs (bowls, tennis, netball and athletics) play, the provision of facilities and the quality and capacity of these facilities to meet demand from the local community and clubs for recreational play, competition and sports development.

Your contribution is valued and will be essential in the development of the study, informing any future recommendations and/or conclusions made. We therefore hope that you would kindly spend 10 to 15 minutes completing the attached questionnaire. If some of the questions are not relevant or too detailed, please just complete what you can and/or write any comments on a separate piece of paper.

All the information received from this questionnaire will be treated in confidence and used solely for the purpose of this study. All information is protected under the Data Protection Act (1998).

It would be greatly appreciated if you could complete the attached questionnaire and reply by email to [cwarden@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cwarden@oxford.gov.uk) by **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011**.

If you have any queries regarding this Survey, please contact me, Courtney Warden, on 01865 25 2729 or email [cwarden@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cwarden@oxford.gov.uk)

Many thanks in anticipation. We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your completed questionnaire.

Yours sincerely,

**Courtney Warden**  
**Development Officer (Oxford City Leisure and Parks)**

**OXFORD CITY COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY  
SURVEY OF SPORTS CLUBS**

**Q1** Firstly, please provide us with a few details about your club

Club Name ..... Sport.....  
 Your name..... Position .....  
 Organisation address.....  
 ..... Postcode.....  
 Tel..... E-mail.....

**A INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CLUB**

**Q2a** How many members does your club have?

	Junior	Adult	Veteran	Social/non playing
<b>Males</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Females</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Q2b** Over the last 5 years has membership...

Increased       Decreased       Remained the same

**Q3** Please list and describe ALL teams that are fielded by your club (e.g. Ladies, men's, league teams, competitive teams, juniors etc)

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**Q4a** Please list the league(s)/competition(s) your team(s) participate in (if friendlies only, please state)

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**Q4b** Please give the contact name and telephone number for all of the above league/competition organisers/secretaries

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**Q5 We would like to be able to show the area from which your members are drawn. Please state approximately, how many of your members (as a percentage) live:**

Less than 1 mile from your main venue.....  
Over 1 mile from main venue but within Oxford City Council area.....  
Outside Oxford City Council area.....

**Q6 It would be helpful if we could show the diversity of membership in your club. Please state approximately how many of your members (as a percentage) fall in to the following groups.**  
(If you do not have this information, please just circle which groups are represented within your club)

White..... Mixed..... Asian or Asian British.....  
Black or Black British..... Chinese..... Other ethnic group.....  
I do not wish to/I am unable to answer this question

**Q7 Are people with disabilities involved in your club?** Yes  No

**Are there any issues arising from this** (e.g. difficulty in accessing/using facilities)?  
.....

**Q8 Please give the approx. number of qualified coaches that operate within your club**.....

**Q9 Is your club accredited with a quality standard such as 'clubmark'? If yes, please give details.**  
.....

**Q10 Which of the following issues are currently problematic for your club? (Please tick all that apply)**

- | <b>Facility based reasons</b>  | <b>Other reasons</b>  |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortage of good quality playing facilities                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of hiring/using facilities                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of, or poor quality, changing facilities                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Falling membership/shortage of members         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access difficulties (cost, lack of transport)                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of internal financing (subs/fund raising) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortage of suitable indoor training facilities                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of external funding (grants, loans)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortage of specialist equipment  | <input type="checkbox"/> Shortage of coaches                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restrictions on development from any planning or other legislation (e.g. DDA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shortage of volunteers                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of information about local facilities                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of insurance                              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor/No relationship with local clubs          |

**Any other particular problems or issues faced by your club?** (Please give details)  
.....  
.....

**Q11** Please complete the tables below, listing the venue(s) that your club use for home matches and training:  
*(example responses are shown in italic)*

**MATCHDAY VENUES**

Name and Address	Postcode	Facility Details (size, surface/ancillary)	Hired, Leased or Owned	If hired/leased from who?	Day/times when used
<i>Alton Recreation Ground, Kings Road, Alton</i>	<i>GU99 1AB</i>	<i>2 junior grass football pitch, with changing rooms</i>	<i>Leased</i>	<i>Alton Parish Council</i>	<i>Sunday 10-12am</i>

**OUTDOOR TRAINING VENUES**

Name and Address	Postcode	Facility Details (size, surface/ancillary)	Hired, Leased or Owned	If hired/leased from who?	Day/times when used
<i>Alton School, Queens Road, Alton</i>	<i>GU99 1CD</i>	<i>junior grass football pitch, no changing rooms</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Alton School</i>	<i>Tuesday 6-7pm</i>

**INDOOR TRAINING VENUES**

Name and Address	Postcode	Facility Details (size, surface/ancillary)	Hired, Leased or Owned	If hired/leased from who?	Day/times when used
<i>Alton Leisure Centre, Prince Road, Alton</i>	<i>GU99 1EF</i>	<i>3 court sports hall, with changing</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Alton Leisure Centre</i>	<i>Thursdays 8-10pm</i>

**Q12 Have you ever experienced any difficulties in:**

- a) Obtaining facilities for home matches? Yes  No
- b) Obtaining facilities for training purposes? Yes  No

If YES, please give details .....

.....

.....

**B INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HOME GROUND**

**Q13a Does your club/team own its home ground?** Yes  No

If Yes, do you have an open access policy i.e. can other groups or clubs use your facilities by arrangement? (Please give details)

.....

.....

.....

**Q13b If No, please state who owns it:**  Local Authority  Trust  
 Private  School/Education Authority  Other (please state) .....

**Q13c Do you:**  Lease (7 years+),  Rent (from year to year) or  Hire the facility?

**Q14 Please rate the following aspects of your MAIN pitch and other facilities**

	Good	Acceptable	Poor		Good	Acceptable	Poor
Drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Firmness of Surface	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grass Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Length of Grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evenness of ground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pitch maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Line markings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Freedom from litter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freedom from dog fouling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overall pitch quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access for the disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Not applicable			
Changing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Showers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**Q15 Do any of the above (Q14), or any other factors (such as overuse, availability of pitches) make it difficult for your club to accommodate all its home matches or expand its activities?**

- Yes  No

If YES, please give full details

.....

.....

.....

Q16a How many matches (approx) do you play on your pitch each season? .....

Q16b How many games (approx) were cancelled due to the pitch/facility condition last season and please tell us why?  
.....

Q16c Does your club train on your main pitch?

Yes  If YES, for how many hours per week? .....  
No  If NO, do you train on another pitch? If so where?.....

Q17 Which do you consider to be the three best and worst pitches in the Oxford area?

a Best

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

b Worst

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

**C OTHER INFORMATION**

Q18 What future plans does your club have?

- Increase the number of members
- Increase the number of teams
- Expand the range of facilities provided
- Refurbish existing facilities
- Relocation to different premises
- None

Other (please state).....

Q19 Are there any improvements which you would like to see at your club, or are there any issues or concerns that have not been adequately covered by previous questions that you would like to raise?  
.....  
.....  
.....

Q20 Finally, how would you like to give your views and comments on pitches/outdoor sports facilities to Oxford City Council in the future? (E.g. open meeting, email/web service, hotline)  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please return by email to [cwarden@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cwarden@oxford.gov.uk) or by post to:  
Bury Knowle House, North Place, Headington Oxford, OX3 9HY  
no later than Monday 28 February 2011.

# APPENDIX 3

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# APPENDIX 4

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# Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Changing Accomodation

Site ID  Assessment undertaken by:

Changing Accom Name  Date of Assessment:

Site Name:

Capacity of changing rooms;  (Number of teams that can change at any one time in the facility)

**Assessment Criteria** (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments	Score	As %
<b>About the Changing Accomodation</b>									
Overall Quality	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No changing	Perceived quality of changing accommodationDoes it look well maintained, clean, safe etc		0	0%
Evidence of vandalism	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots			Damage to pavillion, graffiti, broken glass etc		0	0%
Showers	Yes - Good	Yes - OK	Yes -poor	No		Are there showers facilities, what is their quality (if known)		0	0%
Toilets	Yes - Good	Yes - OK	Yes -poor	No		Are there toilets - what is their condition (if known)		0	0%
Parking	Good	OK	Poor			Is there enough for circa 20 cars, bays marked out etc		0	0%
Links to public transort	Good	OK	Poor/non			Is the site close to public transport links, proximity to bus stop, train station, hubs.		0	0%
Security	Good	OK	Poor			Does the accommodation have secure storage for valuables, evidence of breakins ( may get info from User Surveys)		0	0%
Segregated changing	Yes	No				Are there separate changing rooms for male and female teams to be used by both male and female teams at same time		0	0%
Scoring: <input type="text"/> out of 41								<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

Key:

over 90%	Excellent
60%-89%	Good
40%-59%	Average
30%-39%	Poor
Less than 30%	Very Poor

**Total Score 0 %**

# APPENDIX 5

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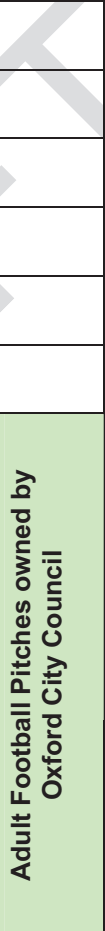
## Hierarchy of football pitches and leagues in Oxford

### Male Leagues

FA Premier League	FA Premier League								
Football League	Football League Championship		Kassam Stadium (Oxford United FC)						
Football League	Football League Division One								
Football League	Football League Division Two								
National League Step 1	Blue Square Conference National								
National League Step 2	Blue Square Conference South								
National League Step 3	Zamaretto Premier Division			Court Place Farm					
National League Step 4	Zamaretto Division One South and West								
National League Step 5	Hellenic Premier Division								
National League Step 6	Hellenic Division One West								
National League Step 7	Oxfordshire Senior League Premier Division	Hellenic Veterans League Premier	Barton Recreation Ground						
Oxfordshire Senior	Oxfordshire Senior League Division One								
Oxfordshire Senior	Oxfordshire Senior League Division Two				Adult Football				

Oxfordshire Junior	Oxford City FA	   	<b>Junior Football Pitches owned by Oxford City Council</b>	
Oxfordshire Youth	Oxfordshire Invitation Youth League			
Oxfordshire Youth	Oxford Mail Boys League			<b>Mini Football Pitches owned by Oxford City Council</b>

### Female Leagues

	FA Women's Super League	   	<b>Adult Football Pitches owned by Oxford City Council</b>		
Step 1	FA Women's Premier League				
Step 2	FA Women's Premier League South				
Step 3	South West Combination				
Regional Level (Step 4)	Southern Regional Premier Division				
Regional Level (Step 5)	Southern Region League Division One				
County Level (Step 6)	Thames Valley Women's League Div One				
County Level (Step 6)	Thames Valley Women's League Div Two				
County Level (Step 6)	Thames Valley Women's League Div Four North				
Oxfordshire Youth	Oxford Mail Girls League				<b>Junior Football Pitches owned by Oxford City Council</b>

# APPENDIX 6

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## Team Generation Rates 2009-2011

### Football Team Generation Rates

Authority	Year	Senior men (16-45)	Senior women (16-45)	Junior boys (10-15)	Junior girls (10-15)	Mini soccer (6-9) mixed
Welwyn Hatfield	2009	1:239	1:4134	1:68	1:722	1:187
Derbyshire Dales	2009	1:120	-	1:80	1:813	1:230
High Peak	2009	1:295	1:4,277	1:79	-	1:613
Bournemouth	2009	1:294	1:28,017	1:596	1:1,745	-
Poole	2009	1:431	-	1:259	1:1,030	1:533
Harlow	2009	1:259	1:4,759	1:64	1:632	1:116
Bath & North East Somerset	2009	1:176	1:7,025	1:70	1:555	1:126
Croydon	2009	1:615	-	1:254	-	1:252
East Staffordshire	2009	1:601	1:16,742	1:40	1:103	1:63
Bassetlaw	2009	1:374	1:4,146	1:60	1:503	1:133
Southampton	2009	1:529	1:42,846	1:159	-	1:644
Cornwall	2010	1:261	1:2,289	1:86	1:596	1:170
Tameside	2010	1:440	-	1:62	1:1,281	1:107
East Herts	2010	1:218	1:5,440	1:34	1:825	1:75
Three Rivers	2010	1:250	1:13,057	1:44	1:655	1:126
North Warwickshire	2010	1:210	1:3,284	1:49	-	1:74
Bury	2010	1:449	1:14,685	1:49	1:1,214	1:89
Torridge	2010	1:258	1:8,026	1:120	-	1:235
Sunderland	2010	1:297	1:12,065	1:47	1:710	1:62
LB Barnet	2011	1:699	1:18,466	1:80	1:3,751	1:246
Wokingham	2011	1:363	1:1,957	1:56	1:268	1:35
Coventry	2011	1:408	1:16,004	1:91	1:2,048	1:165
Waltham Forest	2011	1:449	-	1:132	-	1:537

### Cricket Team Generation Rates

Authority	Year	Senior men (18-55)	Senior women (18-55)	Juniors (11-17)
Welwyn Hatfield	2009	1:873	-	1:673 (boys) 1:1377 (girls)
Derbyshire Dales	2009	1:515	1:8,972	1:123
High Peak	2009	1:732	1,8789	1:72
Bournemouth	2009	1:630	-	1:419
Poole	2009	1:969	-	1:189
Harlow	2009	1:1,482	-	1:449
Bath & North East Somerset	2009	1:433	1:12,520	1:116



Authority	Year	Senior men (18-55)	Senior women (18-55)	Juniors (11-17)
Croydon	2009	1:2,467	-	1:380
East Staffordshire	2009	1:639	-	1:112
Bassetlaw	2009	1:564	-	1:136
Southampton	2009	1:20,996	-	-
Cornwall	2010	1:617	1:17,201	1:184
Tameside	2010	1:1,185	1:46,933	1:142
East Herts	2010	1:419	1:14,726	1:118
Three Rivers	2010	1:584	-	1:151
North Warwickshire	2010	1:315	-	1:48
Bury	2010	1:1,494	1:39,658	1:150
Torridge	2010	1:472	-	1:379
Sunderland	2010	1:1,515	-	1:468
LB Barnet	2011	1:1,386	1:45,042	1:534
Wokingham	2011	1:632	1:20,158	1:126
Coventry	2011	1:1,262	1:76,570	1:399
Waltham Forest	2011	1:703	-	1:703

### Rugby Team Generation Rates

Authority	Year	Senior Men (18-45)	Senior Women (18-45)	Juniors (13-17)	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
Welwyn Hatfield	2009	1:1,370	1:6,503	1:473 (boys) 1:580 (girls)	1:1042
Derbyshire Dales	2009	1:986	-	1:119	1:244
High Peak	2009	1:1,910	1:2981	1:267	1:508
Bournemouth	2009	1:3,557	-	1:644	1:1,452
Poole	2009	1:23,893	-	-	-
Harlow	2009	1:4,023	1:13,286	1:505	1:754
Bath & North East Somerset	2009	1:629	1:4332	1:98	-
Croydon	2009	1:3,697	-	1:2,727	1:1,194
East Staffordshire	2009	1:1,917	-	1:168	-
Bassetlaw	2009	1:4,989	-	1:1,174	1:2,336
Southampton	2009	1:7,233	1:39,789	-	-
Cornwall	2010	1:572	1:5,030	1:227	1:281
Tameside	2010	1:4,038	-	1:450	1:1,072
East Herts	2010	1:1,066	1:20,390	1:155	1:284
Three Rivers	2010	1:2,514	1:12,130	1:622	-
North Warwickshire	2010	1:716	-	1:159	1:256
Bury	2010	1:4,857	-	1:417	-
Torridge	2010	1:1,553	1:7,375	1:270	1:735
Sunderland	2010	1:1,394	1:44,425	-	1:769
LB Barnet	2011	1:8,109	-	1:1,247	-

Wokingham	2011	1:2,024	1:14,761	1:466	1:577
Coventry	2011	1:577	1:11,926	-	-
<i>Waltham Forest</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>1:2,379</i>	-	-	-

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# APPENDIX 7

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## Appendix 7a

### Understanding Playing Pitch Modelling for Football (2011 – 2016)

#### Stage 1: Identifying teams and team equivalents

Adult teams	61
Junior teams	63
Mini teams	40
<b>Total teams</b>	<b>164</b>

#### Stage 2: Home games per team per week

Based on principle of one week home, one week away = 0.5 for adult and junior matches.

Based on the principle of home games only for mini football = 1

**Stage 3: Total home games per week** (*this is calculated by multiplying stage 1 by stage 2*)

Adult (61 x 0.5)	30.5
Junior (63 x 0.5)	31.5
Mini (40 x 1)	40

#### Stage 4: Temporal (peak) demand for games

	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Midweek
Adult	-	43%	-	37%	19%
Junior	18%	1%	55%	8%	17%
Mini	65%	-	24%	-	11%

**Stage 5: Pitches required to meet demand on peak days** (*this is calculated by multiplying stage 3 by stage 4*)

	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Midweek
Adult	-	13.1	-	11.3	5.8
Junior	5.7	0.3	17.3	2.5	5.4
Mini	26	-	9.6	-	4.4

#### Stage 6: Community pitches available to meet demand

	Secured Community Use	Community Use (non secured)	Adhoc Use	Total
Adult	25.8	14	10.5	50.3
Junior	7	-	-	7
Mini	13	-	-	13

**Stage 7: Spare capacity or shortfall of pitches** (this is calculated by subtracting stage 5 by stage 6)

**Scenario 1** – Pitches with secured community use (local authority owned or community use agreement in place).

	Total Pitches	Peak Demand	Spare capacity/shortfall
Adult	25.8	13.1	+ 12.6
Junior	7	17.3	-10.4
Mini	13	26	-13.0

**Scenario 2** – Pitches with secured community use (local authority owned or community use agreement in place) and those pitches that are accessible but there is no formal use agreement in place (i.e. private sports clubs, schools).

	Total Pitches	Peak Demand	Spare capacity/shortfall
Adult	39.8	13.1	+26.6
Junior	7	17.3	-10.4
Mini	13	26	-13.0

**Scenario 3** – This includes pitches in scenario one and two and those pitches with no formal community use agreement that are only accessible on an adhoc basis (these are typically amongst university/college ownership).

	Total Pitches	Peak Demand	Spare capacity/shortfall
Adult	50.3	13.1	+37.1
Junior	7	17.3	-10.4
Mini	13	26	-13.0

Please note

Consistent with the electronic Playing Pitch Model, the figures above have been rounded to 1dp.

As per Sport England guidance a 10% strategic reserve has been applied to the spare capacity/shortfall figures in stage 7. The strategic reserve helps account for any informal use (un-booked), training and proper resting of pitches. Recommendations and the actions have been made using the figures with the strategic reserve applied, as identified in Appendix 9 and 10.

## Appendix 7b

### Understanding the Playing Pitch Modelling for Rugby (2011 – 2016)

#### Stage 1: Identifying teams and team equivalents

Adult teams	23.5 (team equivalent)
Junior teams	-
Mini teams	-
<b>Total teams</b>	<b>23.5</b>

#### Stage 2: Home games per team per week

Based on principle of one week home, one week away = 0.5

#### Stage 3: Total home games per week *(this is calculated by multiplying stage 1 by stage 2)*

Adult (23.5 x 0.5) 11.75

#### Stage 4: Temporal (peak) demand for games

	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Midweek
Adult	-	38%	-	57%	5%
Junior	-	-	-	-	-
Mini	-	-	-	-	-

#### Stage 5: Pitches required to meet demand on peak days *(this is calculated by multiplying stage 3 by stage 4)*

	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Midweek
Adult	-	4.5	-	6.7	0.6
Junior	-	-	-	-	-
Mini	-	-	-	-	-

#### Stage 6: Community pitches available to meet demand

	Secured Community Use	Community Use (non secured)	Adhoc Use	Total
Adult	5.25	12	4.5	21.80
Junior	-	-	-	-
Mini	-	-	-	-

**Stage 7: Spare capacity or shortfall of pitches** (*this is calculated by subtracting stage 5 by stage 6*)

**Scenario 1** – *Pitches with secured community use (local authority owned or community use agreement in place).*

	Total Pitches	Peak Demand	Spare capacity/shortfall
Adult	5.25	6.7	- 1.4
Junior	-	-	-
Mini	-	-	-

**Scenario 2** - *Pitches with secured community use (local authority owned or community use agreement in place) and those pitches that are accessible but there is no formal use agreement in place (i.e. private sports clubs, schools).*

	Total Pitches	Peak Demand	Spare capacity/shortfall
Adult	17.30	6.7	+10.6
Junior	-	-	-
Mini	-	-	-

**Scenario 3** - *This includes pitches in scenario one and two and those pitches with no formal community use agreement that are only accessible on an adhoc basis (these are typically amongst university/college ownership).*

	Total Pitches	Peak Demand	Spare capacity/shortfall
Adult	21.80	6.7	+15.1
Junior	-	-	-
Mini	-	-	-

*Please note*

*Consistent with the electronic Playing Pitch Model, the figures above have been rounded to 1dp.*

*As per Sport England guidance a 10% strategic reserve has been applied to the spare capacity/shortfall figures in stage 7. The strategic reserve helps account for any informal use (un-booked), training and proper resting of pitches. Recommendations and the actions have been made using the figures with the strategic reserve applied, as identified in Appendix 9 and 10.*

## Appendix 7c

### Understanding the Playing Pitch Modelling for Cricket (2011 – 2016)

#### Stage 1: Identifying teams and team equivalents

Adult teams	24
Junior teams	6
<b>Total teams</b>	<b>30</b>

#### Stage 2: Home games per team per week

Based on the principle of teams having more than one home game every two weeks = 0.7

#### Stage 3: Total home games per week *(this is calculated by multiplying stage 1 by stage 2)*

Adult (24 x 0.7)	16.8
Junior (6 x 0.7)	4.2

#### Stage 4: Temporal (peak) demand for games

	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Midweek
Adult	-	71%	-	21%	8%
Junior	-	-	33%	-	33%

#### Stage 5: Pitches required to meet demand on peak days *(this is calculated by multiplying stage 3 by stage 4)*

	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Midweek
Adult	-	11.9	-	3.5	1.3
Junior	-	-	1.4	-	1.4

#### Stage 6: Community pitches available to meet demand

	Secured Community Use	Community Use (non secured)	Adhoc Use	Total
Adult	2.8	6	10	18.8



**Stage 7: Spare capacity or shortfall of pitches** (this is calculated by subtracting stage 5 by stage 6)

**Scenario 1** – Pitches with secured community use (local authority owned or community use agreement in place).

	Total Pitches	Peak Demand	Spare capacity/shortfall
Adult	2.8	11.9	-9.1
Junior	Adult pitches used	1.4	+1.4

**Scenario 2** – Pitches with secured community use (local authority owned or community use agreement in place) and those pitches that are accessible but there is no formal use agreement in place (i.e. private sports clubs, schools).

	Total Pitches	Peak Demand	Spare capacity/shortfall
Adult	8.8	11.9	-3.1
Junior	Adult pitches used	1.4	+7.4

**Scenario 3** – This includes pitches in scenario one and two and those pitches with no formal community use agreement that are only accessible on an adhoc basis (these are typically amongst university/college ownership).

	Total Pitches	Peak Demand	Spare capacity/shortfall
Adult	18.8	11.9	+6.9
Junior	Adult pitches used	1.4	+17.4

Please note

Consistent with the electronic Playing Pitch Model, the figures above have been rounded to 1dp.

As per Sport England guidance a 10% strategic reserve has been applied to the spare capacity/shortfall figures in stage 7. The strategic reserve helps account for any informal use (un-booked), training and proper resting of pitches. Recommendations and the actions have been made using the figures with the strategic reserve applied, as identified in Appendix 9 and 10.

# APPENDIX 8

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## Oxford City Council Playing Pitch Strategy - Playing Pitch Model Results

### Scenario Overview 2011 - 2016

Three scenarios were run through the playing pitches model as it was noted that any pitch owner outside of Local Authority ownership that does not have a community use agreement in place, could at any stage stop community use and cause an impact on demand.

Those figures indicated with a + indicate a spare capacity / under use and those with a – indicate an under supply / high usage.

*Please note; a strategic reserve of 10% has been added to the figures to allow for informal (un-booked) use, training and proper resting of pitches to be considered as per the Sport England 'Toward a Level Playing Field' recommendations.*

### Scenario 1

This includes pitches that are Local Authority and those pitches that are outside Local Authority control but have a formal joint use agreement.

Pitch Type	Age	Peak Time	2011 Provision (+ / -)	2016 Provision (+ / -)	Change from 2011 (+ / -)
Football	Senior	Saturday PM	+ 11.3	+ 10.9	Spare Capacity decreasing by 0.4
Football	Junior	Sunday AM	- 11.4	- 12.3	Under supply increasing by 0.9
Football	Mini	Sunday AM	- 14.3	- 19.4	Under supply increasing by 5.1
Cricket	Senior	Saturday PM	- 10.0	- 10.8	Under supply increasing by 0.8
Cricket	Junior	Sunday Am Monday PM Wednesday PM	+ 1.3	+ 1.2	Spare Capacity decreasing by 0.1
Rugby (inc team eqv*)	Senior	Sunday AM	- 1.5	- 2.6	Under supply increasing by 1.1

## **Scenario 2**

This includes pitches that are Local Authority owned and also those pitches that are outside Local Authority control and have a joint use agreement in place or are accessible to sports teams for hire i.e. Private Sports Ground/Schools.

<b>Pitch Type</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Peak Time</b>	<b>2011 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>2016 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>Change from 2011 (+ / -)</b>
Football	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>+ 23.9</b>	<b>+ 23.5</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.4
Football	Junior	Sunday AM	<b>- 11.4</b>	<b>- 12.3</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.9
Football	Mini	Sunday AM	<b>- 14.3</b>	<b>- 19.4</b>	Under supply increasing by 5.1
Cricket	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>- 3.4</b>	<b>- 4.2</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.8
Cricket	Junior	Sunday Am Monday PM Wednesday PM	<b>+ 6.7</b>	<b>+ 6.6</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.1
Rugby (inc team eqv*)	Senior	Sunday AM	<b>+ 9.5</b>	<b>+ 8.6</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.9

## **Scenario 3**

This includes pitches within scenario 2, and those pitches that are accessible/used on an adhoc basis i.e. colleges/university pitches

<b>Pitch Type</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Peak Time</b>	<b>2011 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>2016 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>Change from 2011 (+ / -)</b>
Football	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>+ 33.4</b>	<b>+ 32.9</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.5
Football	Junior	Sunday AM	<b>- 11.4</b>	<b>- 12.3</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.9
Football	Mini	Sunday AM	<b>- 14.3</b>	<b>-19.4</b>	Under supply increasing by 5.1
Cricket	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>+ 6.2</b>	<b>+ 5.6</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.6
Cricket	Junior	Sunday Am Monday PM Wednesday PM	<b>+ 15.7</b>	<b>+ 15.6</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.1
Rugby (inc team eqv*)	Senior	Sunday AM	<b>+ 13.6</b>	<b>+ 12.7</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.9

# APPENDIX 9

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## Oxford City Council Playing Pitch Strategy - Playing Pitch Model Results

### Scenario Overview 2016 - 2021

Three scenarios were run through the playing pitches model as it was noted that any pitch owner outside of Local Authority ownership that does not have a community use agreement in place, could at any stage stop community use and cause an impact on demand.

Those figures indicated with a + indicate a spare capacity / under use and those with a – indicate an under supply / high usage.

Please note – a strategic reserve of 10% has been added to the figures to allow for informal (un-booked) use, training and proper resting of pitches to be considered as per the Sport England 'Toward a Level Playing Field' recommendations.

### Scenario 1

This includes pitches that are Local Authority and those pitches that are outside Local Authority control but have a formal joint use agreement.

Pitch Type	Age	Peak Time	2016 Provision (+ / -)	2021 Provision (+ / -)	Change from 2016 (+ / -)
Football	Senior	Saturday PM	+ 11.3	+ 11.1	Spare Capacity decreasing by 0.2
Football	Junior	Sunday AM	- 11.4	-12.1	Under supply increasing by 0.7
Football	Mini	Sunday AM	- 14.3	- 15.5	Under supply increasing by 1.2
Cricket	Senior	Saturday PM	- 10.0	- 10.5	Under supply increasing by 0.5
Cricket	Junior	Sunday Am Monday PM Wednesday PM	+ 1.3	+ 1.2	Spare Capacity decreasing by 0.1
Rugby (inc team eqv*)	Senior	Sunday AM	- 1.5	- 2.3	Under supply increasing by 0.8

## **Scenario 2**

This includes pitches that are Local Authority owned and also those pitches that are outside Local Authority control and have a joint use agreement in place or are accessible to sports teams for hire i.e. Private Sports Ground/Schools.

<b>Pitch Type</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Peak Time</b>	<b>2016 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>2021 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>Change from 2016 (+ / -)</b>
Football	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>+ 23.9</b>	<b>+ 23.7</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.2
Football	Junior	Sunday AM	<b>- 11.4</b>	<b>- 12.1</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.7
Football	Mini	Sunday AM	<b>- 14.3</b>	<b>- 15.5</b>	Under supply increasing by 1.3
Cricket	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>- 3.4</b>	<b>- 3.9</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.5
Cricket	Junior	Sunday Am Monday PM Wednesday PM	<b>+ 6.7</b>	<b>+ 6.6</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.1
Rugby (inc team eqv*)	Senior	Sunday AM	<b>+ 9.5</b>	<b>+ 8.9</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.6

## **Scenario 3**

This includes pitches within scenario 2, and those pitches that are accessible/used on an adhoc basis i.e. colleges/university pitches

<b>Pitch Type</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Peak Time</b>	<b>2016 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>2021 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>Change from 2016 (+ / -)</b>
Football	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>+ 33.4</b>	<b>+ 33.1</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.3
Football	Junior	Sunday AM	<b>- 11.4</b>	<b>- 12.1</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.7
Football	Mini	Sunday AM	<b>-14.3</b>	<b>- 15.5</b>	Under supply increasing by 1.2
Cricket	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>+ 6.2</b>	<b>+ 5.9</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.3
Cricket	Junior	Sunday Am Monday PM Wednesday PM	<b>+ 15.7</b>	<b>+ 15.6</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.1
Rugby (inc team eqv*)	Senior	Sunday AM	<b>+ 13.6</b>	<b>+ 13.0</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.6

## Oxford City Council Playing Pitch Strategy - Playing Pitch Model Results

### Scenario Overview 2021 - 2026

Three scenarios were run through the playing pitches model as it was noted that any pitch owner outside of Local Authority ownership that does not have a community use agreement in place, could at any stage stop joint use and cause an impact on demand.

Those figures indicated with a + indicate a spare capacity / under use and those with a – indicate an under supply / high usage.

*Please note; a strategic reserve of 10% has been added to the figures to allow for informal (un-booked) use, training and proper resting of pitches to be considered as per the Sport England 'Toward a Level Playing Field' recommendations.*

### Scenario 1

This includes pitches that are Local Authority and those pitches that are outside Local Authority control but have a formal joint use agreement.

Pitch Type	Age	Peak Time	2021 Provision (+ / -)	2026 Provision (+ / -)	Change from 2021 (+ / -)
Football	Senior	Saturday PM	+ 11.3	+ 11.2	Spare Capacity decreasing by 0.1
Football	Junior	Sunday AM	- 11.4	- 12.0	Under supply increasing by 0.6
Football	Mini	Sunday AM	- 14.3	- 15.0	Under supply increasing by 0.7
Cricket	Senior	Saturday PM	- 10.0	- 10.3	Under supply increasing by 0.3
Cricket	Junior	Sunday Am Monday PM Wednesday PM	+ 1.3	+ 1.2	Spare Capacity decreasing by 0.1
Rugby (inc team eqv*)	Senior	Sunday AM	- 1.5	- 2.4	Under supply increasing by 0.9



## **Scenario 2**

This includes pitches that are Local Authority owned and also those pitches that are outside Local Authority control and have a community use agreement in place or are accessible to sports teams for hire i.e. Private Sports Ground/Schools.

<b>Pitch Type</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Peak Time</b>	<b>2021 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>2026 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>Change from 2021 (+ / -)</b>
Football	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>+ 23.9</b>	<b>+ 23.8</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.1
Football	Junior	Sunday AM	<b>- 11.4</b>	<b>- 12.0</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.6
Football	Mini	Sunday AM	<b>- 14.3</b>	<b>- 15.0</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.7
Cricket	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>- 3.4</b>	<b>- 3.7</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.3
Cricket	Junior	Sunday Am Monday PM Wednesday PM	<b>+ 6.7</b>	<b>+ 6.6</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.1
Rugby (inc team eqv*)	Senior	Sunday AM	<b>+ 9.5</b>	<b>+ 8.8</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.7

## **Scenario 3**

This includes pitches within scenario 2, and those pitches that are accessible/used on an adhoc basis i.e. colleges/university pitches

<b>Pitch Type</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Peak Time</b>	<b>2021 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>2026 Provision (+ / -)</b>	<b>Change from 2021 (+ / -)</b>
Football	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>+ 33.4</b>	<b>+ 33.2</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.2
Football	Junior	Sunday AM	<b>- 11.4</b>	<b>- 12.0</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.6
Football	Mini	Sunday AM	<b>- 14.3</b>	<b>- 15.0</b>	Under supply increasing by 0.7
Cricket	Senior	Saturday PM	<b>+ 6.2</b>	<b>+ 5.9</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.3
Cricket	Junior	Sunday Am Monday PM Wednesday PM	<b>+ 15.7</b>	<b>+ 15.6</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.1
Rugby (inc team eqv*)	Senior	Sunday AM	<b>+ 13.6</b>	<b>+ 12.9</b>	Spare capacity decreasing by 0.7

# **APPENDIX 10**

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## **Football provision by area committee (2011 – 2016)**

### **Scenario 1.**

This includes pitches that are Local Authority and those pitches that are outside Local Authority control but have a formal joint use agreement.

### **Scenario 2.**

This includes pitches that are Local Authority owned and also those pitches that are outside Local Authority control and have a joint use agreement in place or are accessible to sports teams for hire i.e. Private Sports Ground/Schools.

### **Scenario 3.**

This includes pitches within scenario 2, and those pitches that are accessible/used on an adhoc basis i.e. colleges/university pitches

Those figures indicated with a + indicate a spare capacity / under use and those with a – indicate an under supply / high usage.

*Please note; a strategic reserve of 10% has been added to the figures to allow for informal (un-booked) use, training and proper resting of pitches to be considered as per the Sport England 'Toward a Level Playing Field' recommendations.*

Area Committee	Age	Peak time	Scenario 1		Scenario 2		Scenario 3	
			2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Cowley	Adult	Sat PM	+1.3	+1.2	+4.9	+4.8	+6.2	+6.1
	Junior	Tues PM	+0.9	+0.9	+0.9	+0.9	+0.9	+0.9
Central, South & West	Mini	Tues PM	-0.11	-0.8	-0.11	-0.8	-0.11	-0.8
	Adult	Sun PM	-1.0	-1.1	-1.0	-1.1	+6.0	+5.9
	Junior	Sun AM	-2.8	-3.0	-2.8	-3.0	-2.8	-3.0
	Mini	Sat AM	-1.1	-2.1	-1.1	-2.1	-1.1	-2.1
East	Adult	Sat PM	-2.3	-2.4	-2.3	-2.4	-2.3	-2.4
	Jr	Sun AM	-1.1	-1.2	-1.1	-1.2	-1.1	-1.2
	Mini	Sat AM	-1.1	-1.2	-1.1	-1.2	-1.1	-1.2
North	Adult	Sat PM	+2.1	+2.0	+8.4	+8.3	+8.4	+8.3
	Junior	Sun AM	-1.1	-1.2	-1.1	-1.2	-1.1	-1.2
	Mini	Sat AM	-0.7	-1.7	-0.7	-1.7	-0.7	-1.7
North East	Adult	Sun PM	+3.2	+3.0	+4.1	+3.9	+5.4	+5.2
	Junior	Sun AM	-5.0	-5.2	-5.0	-5.2	-5.0	-5.2
	Mini	Sat AM	-8.6	-10.3	-8.6	-10.3	-8.6	-10.3
South East	Adult	Sun PM	+5.9	+5.9	+7.7	+7.7	+7.7	+7.7
	Junior	Sun AM	-4.2	-4.4	-4.2	-4.4	-4.2	-4.4
	Mini	Sat AM	-6.4	-7.7	-6.4	-7.7	-6.4	-7.7