

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT JUNE 2026

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF
T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@kkp.co.uk www.kkp.co.uk



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AC	Athletics Club
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
ASC	All Stars Cricket
BC	Bowls Club
BE	Bowls England
CC	Cricket Club
CFA	County Football Association
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
DCMS	Department of Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
ECCB	Essex County Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GMA	Grounds Management Association
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MES	Match Equivalent Session
MUGA	Multi use games area
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NLS	National League System
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PGA	Professional Golfers Association
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

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PART: 1 INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned to deliver a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Southend-on-Sea City Council. This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision within the local authority area. It will replace the previous study, which was completed in 2018.

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across Southend-on-Sea. For playing pitch sports, it is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance. This details five stages for the developing the study:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the ensuing strategy document. Stage E references the ongoing work that will be required once the PPOSS has been approved and adopted.

For "non-pitch" sports, Sport England's 'Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG)' is followed. This has a similar staged approach:

- ◆ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◆ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand
- ◆ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together
- ◆ Application: Application of an assessment

The commission also encompasses an Indoor Built Facilities Strategy. The inter-relationship between these must be noted as some of the sports covered by the PPOSS also access indoor facilities for matches/training or use such areas on an informal basis.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Management arrangements

A project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council, Active Essex, Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

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It will be important for the Steering Group to continue to meet once the PPOSS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ✦ Be a champion for provision in the area and promote the value of the PPOSS.
- ✦ Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ✦ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study and ensure that the PPOSS is updated.

The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date.

Why the Strategy is being developed

As referenced previously, the PPOSS is required as the existing study, completed in 2018, is now considered to be at the end of its purposeful lifespan.

In addition, the Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the City, with this to cover the period to 2045. The PPOSS will be a robust evidence base document for this and will ensure that existing facilities are the most appropriate in terms of quantity, quality and location, as well as considering how best to meet the additional needs generated by the planned housing and economic growth. Infrastructure priorities for the Local Plan are identified through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

A critical component of the Local Plan will also be the approach taken to ensuring that residents can be healthy and live well, with PPOSS findings able to feed into this. Sporting facilities have a role to play in providing health and wellbeing opportunities, as well as informal opportunities for recreation such as through the use of green spaces.

More broadly, the PPOSS will ensure that the Council continues to conform to requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of this is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF is particularly pertinent to the PPOSS. This deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 103 stating that “planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.”

Paragraph 104 relates to the ongoing protection and potential development of playing pitch and outdoor sport sites. It sets out three exceptions to ensure that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, is not built on, unless:

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

Paragraphs 105, 106, and 107 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

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An update to the NPPF has been drafted (December 2025), with some changed to relevant wording proposed. However, it is not clear when this will be published and/or if any further amends will be incorporated.

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. The sports included within the scope of work are the same as the previous PPOSS and are as follows:

- ✦ Football
- ✦ Rugby union
- ✦ Rugby league
- ✦ Cricket pitches
- ✦ Hockey
- ✦ Golf
- ✦ Tennis including Padel
- ✦ Bowls
- ✦ Netball
- ✦ Athletics
- ✦ Cycling
- ✦ Parkour

Furthermore, specific 3G pitch detail is also be included due to the range of sports that can be accommodated on the provision. This primarily pertains to football but in Southend-on-Sea is also relevant to rugby union.

Detail appertaining to multi-use games areas (MUGAs) is also included. This is due to the variety of demand, primarily recreational, that this provision attracts and accommodates.

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and hockey. ANOG guidance applies to the remaining 'non-pitch' sports.

Study area

The study area comprises the full local authority area of Southend-on-Sea. In addition, the City has been divided into sub areas to allow KKP to produce both a broad and localised assessment on the supply and demand position for each sport included within the scope of work. Three have been established and are known as Central, East and West, as summarised below. They have been created through grouping together ward boundaries.

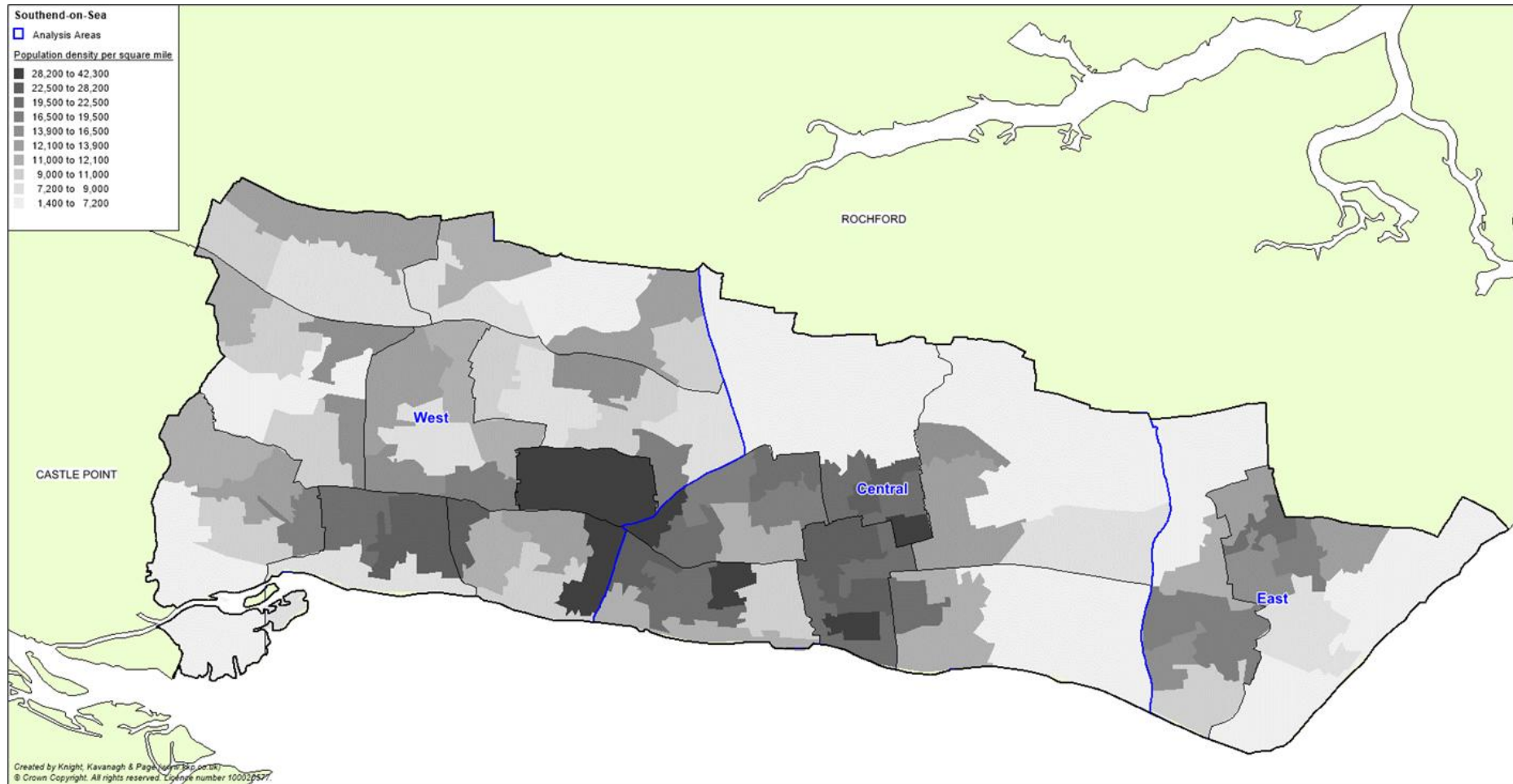
Table 1.1: Wards within each analysis area

Analysis area	Wards included
Central	St Luke's, Victoria, Milton, Kursaal, Southchurch, Thorpe
East	West Shoebury, Shoeburyness
West	Eastwood Park, Belfairs, West Leigh, St Lawrence, Blenheim Park, Leigh, Prittlewell, Westborough, Chalkwell

The analysis areas align to the 2018 study to allow for comparison and because they are said to work well in terms of how sport is played in the City and the travel patterns of facility users. They can be further seen via the imagery below.

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Figure 1.1: Map showing analysis areas within Southend-on-Sea



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Cross-boundary aspects are also recognised throughout the study in regard to neighbouring (and nearby) local authorities, most pertinently including Castle Point and Rochford. This involves reference to imported and exported demand into and from Southend-on-Sea as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

1.3: Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in Southend-on-Sea is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This has been primarily achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Southend-on-Sea's previous PPOSS and Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information.

For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- ✦ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ✦ Ownership and management type
- ✦ Security of tenure
- ✦ Community availability
- ✦ Total number, type and quality of provision
- ✦ Usage levels.

Sport England's PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.¹

- ✦ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which together with any run off area, is of 0.2ha or more, and is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ✦ **Playing field** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, the PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

¹. www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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As far as possible, this report aims to capture all playing pitches and relevant outdoor sport facilities within Southend-on-Sea; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included where provision is identified via other sources e.g., affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision is not recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of provision also influences actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ✦ **Community use** - facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ✦ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ✦ **No community use** - facilities which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ✦ **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

Quality

The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances, it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPOSS, regardless of ownership, management and availability. Along with capturing any detail specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each pitch/facility. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPOSS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

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Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. Facility age can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to playing provision that has, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/modernisation may be required.

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and waterlogging issues, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms with no showers (or communal showers), no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, site assessments for sports played in the winter are generally conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer are assessed between July and August. This also enables sufficient play to be carried out on the provision before the assessments take place by means of providing an accurate picture regarding the impact of demand.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality as well as the Council and relevant NGBs. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect feedback (thus establishing an “agreed quality rating”).

Furthermore, technical assessments have also been provided, where undertaken, such as those carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA), which now provides technical assessments across football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket (known as PitchPower reports). PitchPower reports where carried out have informed the quality assessments for the PPOSS to ensure the findings align (unless there is a clear reason for a differential e.g., recent improvements).

Gather demand information and views

Current demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for provision in Southend-on-Sea tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport and facility-by-facility basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified).

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Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a club has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition. In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes Southend-on-Sea-based demand that travels outside of the City to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the City (imported demand). This can often be linked to capacity and/or quality issues within an authority, although nationally some leagues and competitions operate a central venue system that can necessitate the displacement.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues from each sport (as identified by the Steering Group). This enables the collection of detailed demand information and further interrogation of key issues. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey which has been sent to primary schools and special schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. One method for calculating this is by using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth to provide an estimate of the likely future demand for relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth via the use of team/member generation rates. This involves using an existing participation ratio and applying it to predicted growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- ◀ Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women's and girls' activity.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Southend-on-Sea covers the period up until 2045, which aligns with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

1.4: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in Southend-on-Sea. It focuses on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

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Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate. Each pitch is then said to have potential spare capacity, be at capacity, or be overplayed – as follows:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use. One team accessing one whole pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket. It is further detailed in the table below.

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey AGPs	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports-lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a City-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity) or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilisation of the existing stock, such as via quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity is determined, future capacity can be calculated via incorporating the future demand identified plus any unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport or facility-by-facility basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included sport (or facility type). Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken, prior to an overarching conclusion being provided.

1.4: Develop the strategy (Stage D)

The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:

- ◆ **Headline findings**
- ◆ **An overall vision and associated aims for the PPOSS**
- ◆ **Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios**
- ◆ **Strategic recommendations**
- ◆ **A site-by-site and area-by-area action plan**
- ◆ **Housing growth scenarios**

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPOSS and keep it robust and up-to-date (Stage E).

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation responsible for the development of football in Southend-on-Sea is Essex County FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees and delivering national football schemes.

Nationally, facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England). Working in partnership with county FAs, it helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)	Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64	106 x 70
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55	97 x 61
Youth 11v11	U13s-U14s	82 x 50	88 x 56
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46	79 x 52
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37	61 x 43
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27	43 x 33

It should also be noted that the FA is introducing a 3v3 format from the 2026/2027 season, with this to be played at U7 level. How this manifests itself and the impact it will have on pitches should be monitored as part of the Stage E process of the PPOSS.

Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation artificial turf pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. As part of this, an LFFP now exists for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation. Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) to identify key projects to be delivered and acts as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)) and is delivered through the FF to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into facilities.

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As it is a 'live' document, the LFFP for Southend-on-Sea was updated in 2025 (after being originally delivered in 2019). However, it is important to recognise that it only provides an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

Consultation

In total there are 313 football teams across 62 clubs that emanate from Southend-on-Sea. An electronic survey was sent to all of these, with this process supported via Essex County FA, whilst key clubs have been contacted for a face-to-face meeting. The current club response rate equates to 24% whilst overall team response rate is 47%.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 135 grass football pitches across 45 unique sites in Southend-on-Sea. Of the pitches, 119 across 35 sites are available for some level of community use (although not necessarily used), as shown in the table below. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

Table 2.2: Total number of grass football pitches within Southend-on-Sea by analysis area

Analysis Area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	19	8	14	8	11	60
East	5	1	2	12	1	21
West	19	8	5	14	8	54
Southend-on-Sea	43	17	21	34	20	135
2018 Total	41	23	10	18	17	109

The highest concentration of pitches is found within the Central Analysis Area with 60 or 44% of all pitches, followed by the West Analysis Area with 53 or 40% of pitches. The East Analysis Area has the fewest pitches with 21 or just 16% of pitches.

The largest number of pitches are identified as adult with 43, accounting for 31% of all pitch types within Southend-on-Sea. The fewest are the youth 11v11 pitch type with 17 or 13% of all pitch types.

Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2018, there has been a significant increase in the number of community available pitches across Southend-on-Sea. As a consequence, there are now more adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches that previously, although the number of youth 11v11 pitches has reduced. This, however, is due to re-configuration at several sites rather than a loss of supply.

Disused/ unmarked provision

There are six pitches that were previously provided at Southend United FC Training Ground (Boots & Laces), the site is now disused. In addition to this site, there are three pitches at Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea) which are no longer marked out for use, the site still provides pitches however not as many as previously identified in the 2018 study.

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Table 2.3: Summary of disused sites/provision within Southend-on-Sea

Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Disused pitches	Comments
Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea)	SS9 4AA	West	3 x Youth (11v11)	Unmarked provision, site currently still provides pitches. Last provided <i>circa</i> 2022.
Southend United FC Training Ground (Boots & Laces)	SS2 4DX	Central	Adult	Site is now disused. Last provided <i>circa</i> 2022. Site allocated for housing development.
Southend United FC Training Ground (Boots & Laces)	SS2 4DX	Central	Adult	Site is now disused. Last provided <i>circa</i> 2022. Site allocated for housing development.
Southend United FC Training Ground (Boots & Laces)	SS2 4DX	Central	Adult	Site is now disused. Last provided <i>circa</i> 2022. Site allocated for housing development.
Southend United FC Training Ground (Boots & Laces)	SS2 4DX	Central	Mini (7v7)	Site is now disused. Last provided <i>circa</i> 2022. Site allocated for housing development.
Southend United FC Training Ground (Boots & Laces)	SS2 4DX	Central	Mini (5v5)	Site is now disused. Last provided <i>circa</i> 2022. Site allocated for housing development.
Southend United FC Training Ground (Boots & Laces)	SS2 4DX	Central	Mini (5v5)	Site is now disused. Last provided <i>circa</i> 2022. Site allocated for housing development.

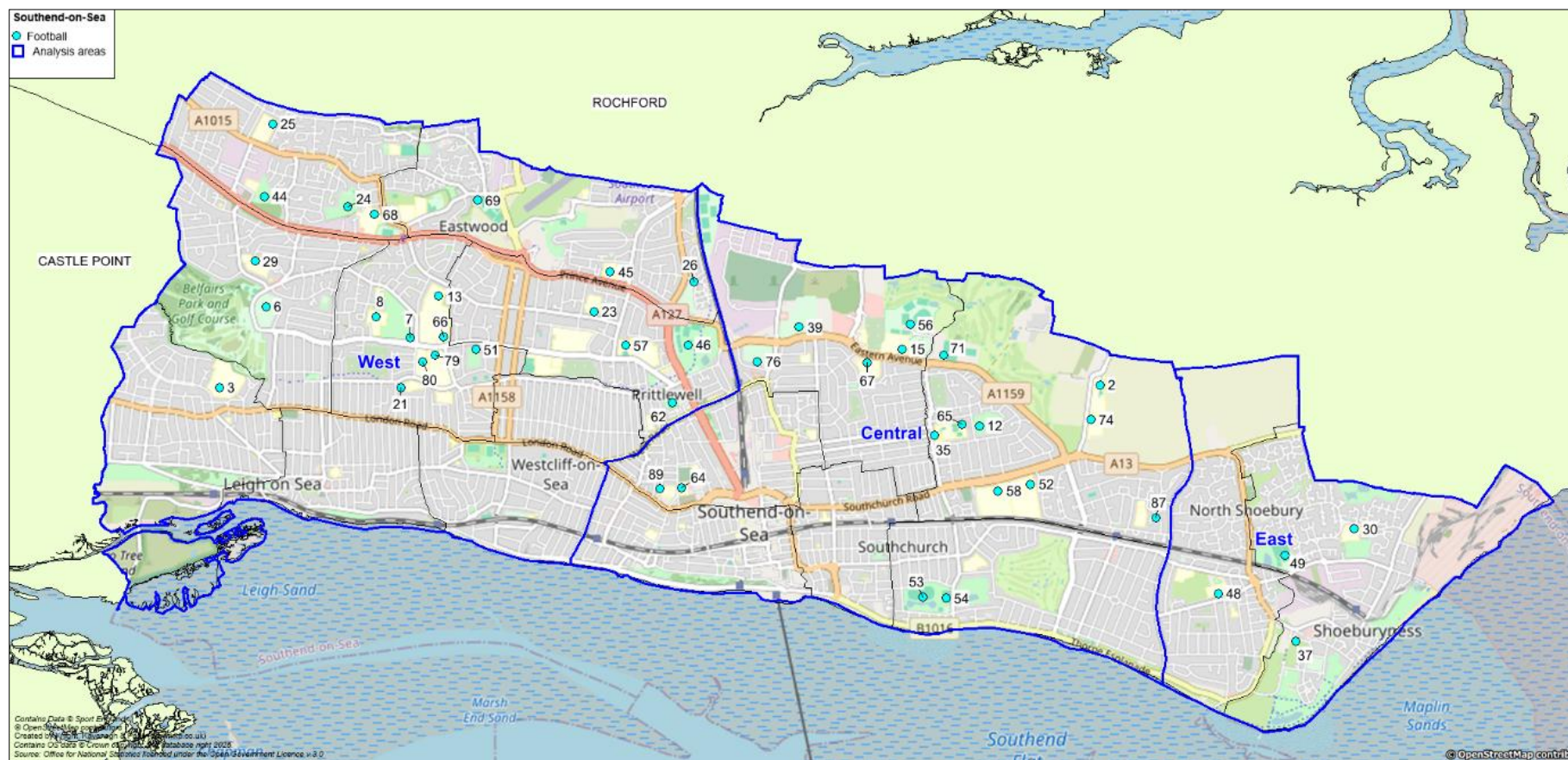
Based on the information in the table above, the disused number of pitches equates to nine. Broken down this is three adult pitches, three youth 11v11 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and two mini 5v5 pitches.

In relation to the former Southend United FC Training Ground (Boots & Laces), this has been allocated for a housing development, with mitigation provided in the form of four adult pitches. However, the mitigation site lies just over the authority boundary in Rochford, at Smithers Chase (SS2 5QP), and is formally known as Fossetts Training Facility. Despite mitigating land within Southend-on-Sea, this provision is not included within the PPOSS as it is not within the City's boundary. It is also considered to unavailable for community use due to it being reserved for use by a professional club.

Figure 2.1 overleaf identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Southend-on-Sea. For a key to the map, see Table 2.1

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Figure 2.1: Map of sites with football pitch provision with Southend-on-Sea



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Management

Of the 119 community available pitches in Southend-on-Sea, 43 or 36% are managed by the Council, 14 or 12% are managed inhouse by sports clubs, 52 or 44% are managed by education operators and the remaining ten pitches are managed by other providers at Garon Park and The Len Forge Centre. This is further shown in the table below.

Table 2.4: Summary of pitch management (number of community available pitches)

Education	Council	Clubs	Other
52	43	14	10

As previously referenced, all unavailable pitches fall within the education sector.

Security of tenure

Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure where they have freehold, leasehold or formally secured use of their site/s, such as via a community use agreement, for at least the next three. Based on this, tenure of football sites in Southend-on-Sea is generally secure. This is particularly the case as all local authority provision is considered secure via the Council's ongoing commitment to provide a leisure offering (unless development proposals are known to exist).

All active sites which are classified as having unsecure tenure are schools. In the main, education establishments are able to state their own policies, therefore making them more likely to restrict levels of community use. Aligned to this, several schools in Southend-on-Sea already prevent external access to their football pitches, with the reasoning behind this varying. The most common example is that they want to protect pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues, whilst other reasons provided include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a perceived lack of profitability.

Moreover, several schools that do provide availability do so without providing security of tenure, meaning that they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning. To prevent this happening, where possible, it is recommended that club users enter community use agreements with the schools that they access. Nationally, many local authorities have a policy requirement for community use agreements to be established where development proposals relate to playing fields or wider sports facilities. Southend-on-Sea City Council already have a number of such agreements, including for example with Belfairs Academy, Hinguar Primary School and Hamstel Junior School. Moving forward this could be expanded to other schools, particularly in areas where there are deficiencies in quantity, quality or access to playing pitches.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Southend-on-Sea has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out (using non-technical assessments carried out in December 2025), PitchPower reports (see section below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor (for the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the

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number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality. The table below summarises the quality of pitches in Southend-on-Sea. As seen, most pitches are assessed as being of a standard quality, with 95 (70%) rated as such. Eight (6%) are rated as good quality and 31 (24%) are rated as poor quality.

Table 2.5: Summary of pitch quality by pitch type

Pitch type	No. of good quality pitches	No. of standard quality pitches	No. of poor quality pitches
Adult	5	26	12
Youth 11v11	-	16	1
Youth 9v9	-	15	5
Mini 7v7	3	23	8
Mini 5v5	-	15	5
Southend-on-Sea	8	95	32
2018 Total	24	66	19

As also seen in the table above, since the previous study was completed, the number of good quality pitches has reduced, with the number of poor and standard quality pitches increasing.

Poor quality pitches that are currently available for community use are located at:

- ✦ Belfairs Academy
- ✦ Cecil Jones Academy
- ✦ Darlington Academy
- ✦ Fairways Primary School
- ✦ Friars Primary School
- ✦ Hamstel Junior School
- ✦ Shoeburyness High School
- ✦ Southend High School for Girls
- ✦ St Helens Catholic Primary School
- ✦ St Nicholas School
- ✦ The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)
- ✦ Victory Sports Ground
- ✦ Milton Hall Primary School

In the main, these pitches show significant signs of wear and tear, with many also having waterlogging problems. The majority of the poor quality pitches are operated by educational providers (19 pitches).

At The Youth Ground, Trinity FC states that the pitches are of a poor quality due to overplay of the pitches on top of already worn pitches. In addition, it states that the maintenance carried out is not sufficient to keep up with the demand. Similarly, White Ensign Youth FC states the pitches at Shoeburyness Park have gotten poorer in quality due to a lack of maintenance carried out.

Elsewhere at Bournes Green Park, Alliance Southend FC states that its first team pitch is currently shut due to poor condition and requires repair work.

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The good quality pitches are found at Belfairs Park/Sports Ground (one of five pitches), Shoeburyness High School (two of nine pitches) and the Len Forge Centre.

Notwithstanding the above, Leigh Ramblers FC state that the pitches at Belfairs Park/ Sports Ground have gotten poorer in quality in comparison to previous seasons stating that there has been a lack of maintenance carried out on the pitches.

For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.14

PitchPower

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FF's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities.

Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for FF grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is also less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments, instead being able to be undertaken at any time in the year, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: July - October, November – March or June – June.

As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 2.6: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

In Southend-on-Sea, five sites have received a PitchPower assessment, which is a relatively low number compared to most local authorities. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below. As seen, the ratings are aligned.

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Table 2.7: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Adult	Basic	Standard
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Adult	Basic	Standard
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Adult	Basic	Standard
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Youth 9v9	Basic	Standard
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Mini 7v7	Advanced	Good
37	Hinguar Primary School	Mini 7v7	Basic	Standard
48	Shoeburyness High School	Adult	Basic	Standard
48	Shoeburyness High School	Adult	Poor	Poor
48	Shoeburyness High School	Adult	Poor	Poor
48	Shoeburyness High School	Adult	Poor	Poor
48	Shoeburyness High School	Adult	Poor	Poor
48	Shoeburyness High School	Youth 9v9	Basic	Standard
48	Shoeburyness High School	Mini 7v7	Good	Good
48	Shoeburyness High School	Mini 7v7	Good	Good
48	Shoeburyness High School	Mini 7v7	Basic	Standard
48	Shoeburyness High School	Mini 7v7	Basic	Standard
69	The Len Forge Centre	Adult	Advanced	Good
69	The Len Forge Centre	Adult	Advanced	Good
69	The Len Forge Centre	Adult	Good	Good
69	The Len Forge Centre	Adult	Advanced	Good
87	Bournes Green Junior School	Mini 7v7	Basic	Standard
87	Bournes Green Junior School	Mini 7v7	Basic	Standard
87	Bournes Green Junior School	Mini 7v7	Basic	Standard
87	Bournes Green Junior School	Mini 7v7	Basic	Standard

Football Foundation (FF) Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GMPF)

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the GPMF. As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues by the GMA via PitchPower assessment can apply to access funding to improve pitches to good quality or sustain them at good quality.

Once a PitchPower grass pitch assessment report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the GPMF, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help eligible organisations such as clubs and leagues enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the FF's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then organisations can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

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All applicants must have the landowner's permission (as a minimum) and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding stadia pitches used for National League System play), leagues, education establishments and parish/town councils. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, but eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have permission of the landowner via a service level agreement.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities.

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- ✦ Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- ✦ A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- ✦ Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- ✦ Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.
- ✦ Separate provision for officials.

Open plan changing rooms, toilets and particularly showers can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As a result, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document.

The table below summarises the clubhouse and changing room quality across community available sites in Southend-on-Sea (note education sites are not included). As shown, one site has good quality changing rooms, four sites have standard quality changing rooms, whilst six sites are being noted as having poor quality changing rooms. Notably, four sites are without changing rooms provision.

Table 2.8: Summary of ancillary facilities within Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Overall quality	Changing room quality	Playing formats accommodated
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Standard	Poor	Adult, 11v11, 9v9, women's and girl's.
7	Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea)	N/A	N/A	11v11, 9v9, 7v7, 5v5
12	Bournes Green Park	Standard	Standard	Adult, women's
13	Bridgewater Drive Playing Fields	N/A	N/A	7v7, 5v5
24	Eastwood Park	Poor	Poor	Adult, 11v11
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	Good	N/A	Adult, 11v11, 7v7
39	Jones Memorial Ground	Standard	Standard	11v11, 9v9

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Site ID	Site name	Overall quality	Changing room quality	Playing formats accommodated
44	Oakwood Park	Poor	Poor	11v11, 9v9, 7v7, 5v5, girl's
46	Priory Park	N/A	N/A	Adult, 11v11, 9v9
49	Shoeburyness Park	Standard	Poor	Adult, 11v11, 9v9, 7v7, 5v5
53	Southchurch Park	Standard	Standard	11v11, 9v9, 7v7, 5v5, girl's
56	Southend Garon Park	Good	Good	Adult, 11v11, 9v9, 7v7, 5v5
69	The Len Forge Centre	Standard	Poor	Adult, 11v11, 9v9, 7v7, 5v5
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	Poor	Poor	Adult, 11v11, 9v9, 7v7, 5v5, women's and girl's.
76	Victory Sports Ground	Standard	Standard	Adult

Generally, ancillary facility quality across Southend-on-Sea is rated as standard or poor quality. As shown in the table above, there are five sites which accommodate women's and girl's demand where provision is not adequate enough including Belfairs Park/ Sports Ground, Bournes Green Park, Oakwood Park, Southchurch Park and The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club).

The ancillary facilities at Belfairs Park/Sports Ground are also of a poor quality and in need of improvement. This is supported by Eastwood Cricket Club from a cricket as well as a football perspective.

Additionally, Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea) has been identified as having poor quality ancillary facilities with the site utilised by Leigh Rockets Youth FC. Improvement to the sites facilities are noted as being required to meet the growing needs of the Club.

Similarly, facilities at The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club) are considered poor quality and require investment, Trinity FC is a large provider of teams (particularly women and girl's) within Southend-on-Sea and states that the facilities are inadequate.

Moreover, it has been identified that The Len Forge Centre requires investment to ensure that it is able to support existing demand on the site and potential future demand. The site supports multiple clubs including Catholic United FC and Eastwood Falcons FC.

2.3: Demand

Within Southend-on-Sea, a total of 313 football teams from across 62 clubs are identified as playing regular competitive matches. The number of teams equates to 77 senior men's, five senior women's, 97 youth 11v11, 63 youth 9v9, 41 mini 7v7 and 30 mini 5v5 teams, as shown below.

Table 2.9 Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Southend-on-Sea

Age group	No. of teams
Adult Men's (18-45)	77
Adult Women's (18-45)	5
Youth Boys (12-17)	83
Youth Girls (12-17)	14

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Age group	No. of teams
Youth Boys (10-11)	54
Youth Girls (10-11)	9
Mini Mixed (8-9)	41
Mini Mixed (6-7)	30
Total	313

Football in Southend-on-Sea is played predominately in the West Analysis Area (141 teams), followed by the Central Analysis Area (130 teams). The East Analysis Area has the fewest number of teams (42), with this reflecting the distribution of pitches.

Table 2.10: Summary of football teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	35	42	31	11	11	130
East	10	16	10	4	2	42
West	37	39	22	26	17	141
Toal	82	97	63	41	30	313
2018 Total	90	56	49	48	42	285

Participation trends

As shown in Table 2.9, the total number of teams across Southend-on-Sea has increased from 285 teams to 313 teams (representing a 10% increase) since the 2018 PPOSS. Whilst this shows a growth in demand, it is relatively modest when compared to the national picture over the same time period.

Further broken down, the growth equates to an overall increase of 41 youth 11v11 and 14 youth 9v9 teams. Contrarily, there has been a decrease of eight adult, seven mini 7v7 and 12 mini 5v5 teams.

Women's and girls' demand

There are currently five women's teams and 23 dedicated girls' teams playing football in Southend-on-Sea, as included in Table 2.8 and Table 2.9. This represents 9% of all demand across the City. Key clubs and organisations presently fielding female teams include:

- ✦ Ambleside Youth FC
- ✦ Concord Rangers Girls FC
- ✦ Earls Hall United FC
- ✦ Great Wakering Colts YFC
- ✦ Leigh Lionesses Girls FC
- ✦ Leigh Ramblers Girls FC
- ✦ Leigh Ramblers Ladies FC
- ✦ Leigh United FC
- ✦ Saint Pierre Girls FC
- ✦ Southend Manor Youth FC
- ✦ Southend United Community Sports Club FC
- ✦ Southend Wanderers YFC
- ✦ Trinity Girls FC

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The FA currently has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation as part of its Inspiring Positive Change Strategy. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

Walking football

Walking football² is governed by The Walking Football Association and is an alternate version of the traditional game. The sport has picked up popularity in recent years and has a typical demographic of over 50s for men and over 40s for women. It provides a less physically demanding version of the usual game due to the rules not allowing for any contact or fast-paced movement thus providing a more inclusive game for participants.

Whilst the game is governed by The Walking Football Association, much of the activation work undertaken nationally for this activity type is promoted by professional football club community organisations or by leading community grassroots football clubs.

Within Southend-on-Sea, both Eastwood Falcons and Southend Women's Walking FC have been identified as walking football providers. Between the two clubs, there are currently 12 teams.

National League System demand

Men's National League System

The National League System (NLS) is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (from the National League at Step 1) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the system than at the top. The NLS has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation³ requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League (please refer to the FA website⁴ for the full specifications for each).

In Southend-on-Sea, two teams from two clubs play within the NLS, as seen in the table below. This consists of one team at Step 1 and one at Step 6.

Table 2.11: Summary of teams playing within the NLS

Team	League	Level
Southend Manor FC	Eastern Counties Football League	Step 6
Southend United FC	The National League	Step 1

² <https://thewfa.co.uk/who-plays-walking-football/> <https://thewfa.co.uk/womens-walking-football/>

³ <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

⁴ <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

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In addition to The NLS teams, there are also three regional feeder teams fielded by Catholic United FC, Leigh Ramblers FC and Old Southendian FC. These all play within The Prokit UK Essex Olympian Football League

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's NLS, similar to the adult men's, which provides structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Although women's clubs still need to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men's NLS Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels.

There are currently two women's teams in the NLS. These are Leigh Ramblers Ladies FC and Southend United Community Sports Club FC. The former plays in the Tier 7 Women's County League, whereas the latter is in the Tier 6 Women's County League.

Imported/exported demand

Leigh Lioness FC has a total of eight teams (mini and youth) that all export to Southend-on-Sea from Castle Point to play competitive fixtures. It uses a mixture of provision at Blenheim Primary School and St Thomas More High School to meet this demand.

Similarly, Canvey Island FC, Concord Rangers FC and Porter's Soccerbilly all have a variety of veteran's, walking football and soccerbilly teams which travel to Southend-on-Sea for match play.

No exported demand is identified.

Unmet and latent demand

No unmet or latent demand is identified from football clubs in Southend-on-Sea relating to grass pitch provision, with only access to 3G pitches noted as inhibiting demand. As such, capacity of pitches to accommodate match play is not seen as an issue when compared to access to facilities for training (see Part 3 for further detail). This is as a result of strong levels of access to education sites across Southend-on-Sea, which whilst providing pitches, actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure resulting in overplay of some pitch types.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through using club ambitions and population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will assess the impact of club aspirations being realised, with these not included at this stage as they are considered more theoretical than what is projected through population growth. In addition, it will also contain scenarios linked to trend-based data and it will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across Southend-on-Sea.

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Club ambitions

Of responding clubs, five report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a large predicted growth of 25 teams. This is summarised below.

Table 2.12: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions per week ⁵
Alliance Southend FC	Men's	1	Adult	0.5
Trinity FC	Mixed	2	Mini 7v7	1
Trinity FC	Mixed	2	Mini 5v5	1
White Ensign FC	Men's	1	Adult	0.5
White Ensign FC	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
White Ensign FC	Boy's	2	Youth 11v11	1
White Ensign FC	Girl's	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
White Ensign FC	Boy's	2	Youth 9v9	1
White Ensign FC	Girl's	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
White Ensign FC	Mixed	2	Mini 7v7	1
White Ensign FC	Mixed	3	Mini 5v5	1.5
Leigh Ramblers FC	Mixed	5	Mini 5v5	2.5
Catholic United Minors FC	Mixed	1	Mini 7v7	0.5
Catholic United Minors FC	Mixed	1	Mini 5v5	0.5
-	Totals	25	-	12.5

The total future demand expressed by the clubs listed above amounts to 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week (as two teams equates to one match equivalent session playing on a home and away basis). Broken down by pitch type, 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week are identified on adult pitches, 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches, 2.5 match equivalent session per week on mini 7v7 pitches and five match equivalent sessions per week on mini 5v5 pitches.

The future demand identified by clubs includes women's and girls' teams (in addition to mixed mini teams). To that end, in light of FA aspirations to increase female participation in football through the establishment and foreseen future effect of the FA Wildcats programme and Inspiring Positive Change Strategy, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girls' teams may exceed that shown through team generation rates. Taking this into consideration combined with the aspirations highlighted through club consultation it can be said that women and girls' participation is going to continue to grow. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing provision.

⁵ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Population projections

Based on population projections to 2045 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. This is through using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the forecasted population in Southend-on-Sea and the requisite match equivalent sessions. As seen, 28 additional teams are expected to be generated (equating to 14 match equivalent sessions per week). It should be noted that this is the same growth as has been experienced since 2018, and therefore the strategy will explore what future demand may equate to if current participation trends continue.

Table 2.13: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure
Adult Men's (18-45)	1:428	6.74	7
Adult Women's (18-45)	1:6,708	0.44	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:58	7.26	7
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:334	1.22	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:46	4.72	5
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:265	0.79	1
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:116	3.59	4
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:154	2.62	3

Taking the above into consideration, a total requirement for 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week is identified on adult pitches, four match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches, three match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches, two match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and 1.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that some aims and initiatives are likely to result in participation increasing to a greater level than what is projected through population growth. For example, the FA has a current focus on growing women's and girls' demand that will likely see a greater number of female teams than what is currently predicted.

2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

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As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings are used in Southend-on-Sea:

Table 2.14: Capacity rating for each pitch type depending on quality

Adult pitch quality	Matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Matches per week	Mini pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 2.16 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overplayed	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

Match equivalent sessions take into account teams playing on a home and away basis. As such, one team accessing one pitch generally equates to 0.5 match equivalent sessions of demand as they only require fortnightly access. The same also applies when considering future demand.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage at such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use, current play has been enlarged on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers to take into account internal activity. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

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Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Southend-on-Sea, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for all pitches, as the majority of teams across all age groups play at this time.

On occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

A pitch is also only said to have actual spare capacity if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site.

For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

The table below identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.15.

Table 2.15: Capacity balance examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	This indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted by with a value, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.

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Table 2.16: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Number of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
2	Alleyn Court School	SS3 0PW	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Standard	3	12	9	3	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
2	Alleyn Court School	SS3 0PW	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	West	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity.
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	West	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity.
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	SS9 4LR	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Standard	6	6	0	-	Played to capacity
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	SS9 4LR	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	SS9 4LR	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	0	6	6	1	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
7	Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea)	SS9 4AA	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	-	Played to capacity.
7	Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea)	SS9 4AA	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
7	Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea)	SS9 4AA	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
8	Blenheim Primary School & Childrens Centre	SS9 4HX	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	2	8	6	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
12	Bournes Green Park	SS2 4SW	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Standard	3	6	3	1.5	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
13	Bridgewater Drive Playing Fields	SS0 0DS	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	0	4	4	2	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
13	Bridgewater Drive Playing Fields	SS0 0DS	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	2.5	8	5.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
13	Bridgewater Drive Playing Fields	SS0 0DS	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	1.5	8	6.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
15	Cecil Jones Academy	SS2 4BU	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity.
21	Darlinghurst Academy	SS9 3JS	West	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
23	Earls Hall Primary School	SS0 0QN	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	2	8	6	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Number of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
24	Eastwood Park	SS9 5YF	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	2	4	2	1.5	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
24	Eastwood Park	SS9 5YF	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
25	Edwards Hall Primary School	SS9 5AQ	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
25	Edwards Hall Primary School	SS9 5AQ	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Standard	3	12	9	3	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	SS2 6PU	West	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	4	2	2	-	Overplayed.
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	SS2 6PU	West	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	SS2 6PU	West	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
29	Fairways Primary School	SS9 4QW	West	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
30	Friars Primary School	SS3 9XX	East	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
35	Hamstel Junior School	SS2 4PQ	Central	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	2	2	0	2	Played to capacity.
37	Hinguar Primary School	SS3 9FE	East	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
37	Hinguar Primary School	SS3 9FE	East	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
39	Jones Memorial Ground	SS2 5NF	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Standard	5.5	6	0.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
39	Jones Memorial Ground	SS2 5NF	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	3	Standard	3.5	6	2.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
44	Oakwood Park	SS9 5LY	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
44	Oakwood Park	SS9 5LY	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
44	Oakwood Park	SS9 5LY	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
44	Oakwood Park	SS9 5LY	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Number of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
45	Prince Avenue Academy & Nursery	SS0 0LG	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
45	Prince Avenue Academy & Nursery	SS0 0LG	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
46	Priory Park	SS2 6NB	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	4	4	0	-	Played to capacity.
46	Priory Park	SS2 6NB	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	-	Overplayed.
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	7.5	2	5.5	-	Overplayed.
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		4	Poor	9.5	4	5.5	-	Overplayed.
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	4.5	2	2.5	-	Overplayed.
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Good	4	12	8	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	3	8	5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	Played to capacity.
51	South Essex College (Wellstead Gardens Sports Ground)	SS0 0AY	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Overplayed.
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	3	4	1	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Overplayed.
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Number of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
54	Southchurch Park Arena	SS1 2XB	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.
56	Southend Garon Park	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Commercial	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	3.5	6	2.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
56	Southend Garon Park	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Commercial	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
56	Southend Garon Park	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Commercial	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
56	Southend Garon Park	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Commercial	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
56	Southend Garon Park	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Commercial	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	2	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
57	Southend High School for Boys	SS0 0RG	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	1	4	3	2	Played to capacity within the peak period.
58	Southend High School for Girls	SS2 4UZ	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
62	Southend United FC (Roots Hall)	SS2 6NQ	West	No	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
64	St Helens Catholic Primary School	SS0 7AY	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
65	St Nicholas School	SS2 4RL	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
66	St Thomas More High School	SS0 0BW	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	5	Standard	6.5	10	3.5	3.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
66	St Thomas More High School	SS0 0BW	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	Played to capacity.
67	Temple Sutton Primary School	SS2 4BA	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
68	The Eastwood Academy	SS9 5UU	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
69	The Len Forge Centre	SS2 6UH	West	Yes	Community	Secure	Adult		4	Good	6.5	12	5.5	-	Played to capacity within the peak period.
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		3	Poor	11.5	3	8.5	-	Overplayed.
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	4.5	2	2.5	-	Overplayed.
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	3	2	1	-	Overplayed.
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Poor	2	6	4	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Number of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
74	Thorpe Hall School	SS1 3RD	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
74	Thorpe Hall School	SS1 3RD	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
76	Victory Sports Ground	SS2 5RA	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		4	Poor	3	4	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	SS0 0BP	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Played to capacity.
80	Westcliff High School for Girls	SS0 0BS	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
87	Bournes Green Junior School	SS1 3PX	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	4	Standard	4	16	12	4	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
89	Milton Hall Primary School	SS0 7AU	East	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.

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Actual spare capacity

Actual spare capacity totals 13 match equivalent sessions per week across 17 pitches and nine sites in Southend-on-Sea. This is found across the following venues:

- ✦ Belfairs Park/Sports Ground
- ✦ Bournes Green Park
- ✦ Bridgewater Drive Playing Fields
- ✦ Eastwood Park
- ✦ Ekco Social & Sports Club Association
- ✦ Hinguar Junior School
- ✦ Oakwood Park
- ✦ Southchurch Park
- ✦ Southchurch Park Arena

This has been broken down by analysis area and by pitch type below.

Table 2.17: Summary of actual spare capacity (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	2.5	-	-	0.5	-	3
East	-	-	-	1	1	2
West	2.5	2	-	1	2.5	8
Southend-on-Sea	5	2	-	2.5	3.5	13
2018 Total	12	1	0	1.5	1	15.5

As shown in the table above, adult pitches have the most amount of actual spare capacity with five match equivalent sessions a week, whereas youth 9v9 pitches do not have any actual spare capacity. In addition, the West Analysis Area has the most amount of spare capacity with eight match equivalent sessions, whilst the East Analysis Area has the least amount of spare capacity.

Since the previous study was completed, actual spare capacity has reduced by 2.5 match equivalent sessions, with the decrease mostly evident across adult pitches. On youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, actual spare capacity has increased, whereas there has been no change on youth 9v9 pitches.

Further to the above, 31.5 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity are currently discounted due to unsecure tenure at education sites, whereas two match equivalent sessions are discounted due to quality issues.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Southend-on-Sea, 22 pitches across nine sites are overplayed by a combined total of 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

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Table 2.18: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
7	Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea)	West	(11v11)	1	0.5
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	West	Adult	2	2
46	Priory Park	West	(9v9)	1	1.5
48	Shoeburyness High School	East	Adult	1	5.5
48	Shoeburyness High School	East	Adult	4	5.5
48	Shoeburyness High School	East	(9v9)	1	2.5
49	Shoeburyness Park	East	(11v11)	1	0.5
52	Southchurch High School	Central	Adult	1	1
53	Southchurch Park	Central	(11v11)	1	0.5
53	Southchurch Park	Central	(9v9)	1	1
56	Southend Garon Park	Central	(11v11)	1	0.5
56	Southend Garon Park	Central	(9v9)	1	0.5
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	Central	Adult	3	8.5
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	Central	(9v9)	2	2.5
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	Central	(7v7)	1	1
			Total	22	33.5

Most overplay is generated from poor quality pitches (17.5 match equivalent sessions per week), identifying that quality improvements would assist in reducing the levels identified.

The majority of overplay is situated in the Central Analysis Area (15.5 match equivalent sessions per week), followed by the East Analysis Area (14 match equivalent sessions per week). By pitch type, overplay is mostly on adult pitches (22.5 match equivalent sessions per week), whilst none is found on mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.19: Summary of overplay (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	9.5	1	4	1	-	15.5
East	11	0.5	2.5	-	-	14
West	2	0.5	1.5	-	-	4
Southend-on-Sea	22.5	2	8	1	-	33.5
2018 Total	6	7.5	4	3	1	21.5

As seen in the table above, overplay has increased by 12 match equivalent sessions since the previous study, with this coming from adult and youth 9v9 pitches. Contrarily, it has reduced on youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

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2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. As stated earlier, future demand, at this stage, is calculated based on what has been identified through population growth, although it should be noted that the Strategy document will identify the impact of additional growth targets/implications being realised.

Adult pitch capacity

Table 2.20: Summary and demand for adult pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	2.5	9.5	7	-	7
East	-	11	11	-	11
West	2.5	2	0.5	-	0.5
Total	5	22.5	17.5	3.5	21

The table above shows that there is currently a shortfall of 17.5 match equivalent sessions per week on adult pitches in Southend-on-Sea. The deficit can be attributed to the Central and East analysis areas, with minimal spare capacity existing in the West Analysis Area.

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 21 match equivalent sessions.

Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

Table 2.21: Supply and demand for youth 11v11 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	-	1	1	-	1
East	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
West	2	0.5	1.5	-	1.5
Total	2	2	0	4	4

The table above shows that youth 11v11 pitches are presently played to capacity within Southend-on-Sea. Shortfalls are found in the Central and East analysis areas whilst actual spare capacity exists in the West Analysis Area.

After considering future demand, a shortfall of four match equivalent sessions per week is established.

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Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

Table 2.22: Supply and demand for youth 9v9 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	-	4	4	-	4
East	-	2.5	2.5	-	2.5
West	-	1.5	1.5	-	1.5
Total	-	8	8	3	11

Within Southend-on-Sea, a shortfall of youth 9v9 pitch capacity is identified, with this amounting to eight match equivalent sessions. All analysis areas overplayed.

After considering future demand, shortfalls worsen to 11 match equivalent sessions.

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Table 2.23: Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	0.5	1	0.5	-	0.5
East	1	-	1	-	1
West	1	-	1	-	1
Total	2.5	1	1.5	2	0.5

Across Southend-on-Sea, there is actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions existing on mini 7v7 pitches. However, a shortfall is found in the Central Analysis Area.

After considering future demand, the pitches become overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Table 2.24: Supply and demand for mini 5v5 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	-	-	0	-	0
East	1	-	1	-	1
West	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
Total	2.5	-	3.5	1.5	2

Across Southend-on-Sea, actual spare capacity of 3.5 match equivalent sessions exists on mini 5v5 pitches, with this falling in the East and West analysis areas. The Central Analysis Area is operating at capacity.

After considering future demand, actual spare capacity is reduced to two match equivalent sessions per week.

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2.6: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall Southend-on-Sea supply and demand balance by pitch type. As seen, there are currently shortfalls across adult and youth 9v9 pitch types, whilst youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity and only relatively minimal levels of spare capacity exists on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

When considering future demand, the existing shortfalls are projected to worsen, whilst additional shortfalls are expected to be created in relation to youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 capacity. This evidences that the existing supply is insufficient to accommodate both current and future demand.

From an analysis area perspective, the Central and East analysis areas are significantly overplayed or played to capacity when compared to the West Analysis Area.

Despite an increase in the number of pitches in comparison to the 2018 study, the overall quality of pitches has decreased, which is contributing to the worsening shortfall of pitches, particularly for adult and youth 9v9 formats. Moreover, the increase in the number of teams since 2018 is also likely to be contributing this.

Table 2.25: Summary of analysis for grass football pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	2.5	9.5	7	-	7
Youth 11v11	-	1	1	-	1
Youth 9v9	-	4	4	-	4
Mini 7v7	0.5	1	0.5	-	0.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	0	-	0
East					
Adult	-	11	11	-	11
Youth 11v11	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Youth 9v9	-	2.5	2.5	-	2.5
Mini 7v7	1	-	1	-	1
Mini 5v5	1	-	1	-	1
West					
Adult	2.5	2	0.5	-	0.5
Youth 11v11	2	0.5	1.5	-	1.5
Youth 9v9	-	1.5	1.5	-	1.5
Mini 7v7	1	-	1	-	1
Mini 5v5	2.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
Southend-on-Sea					
Adult	5	22.5	17.5	3.5	21
Youth 11v11	2	2	0	4	4
Youth 9v9	-	8	8	3	11
Mini 7v7	2.5	1	1.5	2	0.5
Mini 5v5	3.5	-	3.5	1.5	2

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The subsequent Strategy document will look at specific scenarios for how to reduce or alleviate overplay on grass football pitches across Southend-on-Sea.

Football - supply and demand summary

- ▶ The existing supply of football pitches is insufficient to accommodate both current and future demand.
- ▶ There are current shortfalls across adult and youth 9v9 pitch types, whilst youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity and only relatively minimal levels of spare capacity exists on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- ▶ When considering future demand, the existing shortfalls are projected to worsen, whilst additional shortfalls are expected to be created in relation to youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 capacity.

Football - supply summary

- ▶ There are a total of 135 grass football pitches across 45 unique sites in Southend-on-Sea, with 119 pitches across 35 sites are available for some level of community use.
- ▶ There are two disused sites that collectively provide four adult pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and two mini 5v5 pitches.
- ▶ Of the community available pitches in Southend-on-Sea, 43 are managed by the Council, 14 by sports clubs, 52 by education operators and the remaining ten pitches are managed by other provider types.
- ▶ Tenure of football sites in Southend-on-Sea is generally secure, although this is not the case at most school venues.
- ▶ Most pitches are assessed as being of a standard quality, with 95 (70%) rated as such; eight (6%) are rated as good quality and 31 (24%) are rated as poor quality.
- ▶ Regarding ancillary facilities, one site has good quality changing rooms, four sites have standard quality changing rooms, whilst six sites are being noted as having poor quality changing rooms. Notably, four sites are without changing rooms provision.

Football - demand summary

- ▶ A total of 313 football teams from across 62 clubs are identified, with this equating to 82 adult, 97 youth 11v11, 63 youth 9v9, 41 mini 7v7 and 30 mini 5v5 teams.
- ▶ There are currently five women's teams and 23 dedicated girls' teams within the figures.
- ▶ Walking football teams are fielded by Eastwood Falcons and Southend Women's Walking FC.
- ▶ The total number of teams has increased from 285 teams to 313 teams (representing a 10% increase) since the 2018 PPOSS.
- ▶ Two teams from two clubs play within the NLS, whilst two teams also feature in the women's NLS.
- ▶ Imported demand from Castle Point is identified via Leigh Lioness FC.
- ▶ No unmet or latent demand is identified in relation to grass pitches (it does exist for access to 3G for training).
- ▶ Future demand from population projections (to 2045) equates to 28 teams (seven adult, eight youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, four mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 teams). This is the same growth as has been experienced since 2018, and therefore the strategy will explore what future demand may equate to if current participation tends continue.

PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

3.1: Introduction

Whilst predominately used for football, 3G pitches can be used for a variety of sports and activities, with them providing additional capacity in comparison to grass pitches, especially when supported by sports lighting. The below summarises the requirements of the provision on a sport-by-sport basis.

Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session. As such, providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity.

Football

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA 3G Pitch Register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

The recommended dimensions for a 11v11 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres, with this extending to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g. the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered, e.g., a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

Historically, some pitches otherwise considered as 11v11 pitches are slightly undersized due to being converted from sand-based AGPs, where the dimensions were established more so for hockey. Whilst these are still considered to be 11v11 pitches for the purpose of this report, it should continue to be recognised that they fall below the recommended size.

Rugby union

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

For rugby union, a 3G pitch must measure 106 x 68 metres for senior match play, with a 5-metre run off around the full perimeter. Smaller sized pitches can, however, also be used to support training demand providing that they are installed to the correct specifications.

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Rugby league

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the RFL to meet its Performance Standard. RFL Stadium pitches require testing every two years, which is slightly above the requirements for RFL Community pitches which requires retesting every three years. Community games can be played on RFL Community compliant pitches, but Tiers 1 & 2 must be played on a RFL Stadium compliant surface if they intend to play on 3G. Training demand can take place on both RFL Stadium and RFL Community pitches.

For rugby league, the preferred size of a 3G pitch must measure 100 x 68 metres with an eight metre in-goal area, with a maximum size 3G pitch measuring 100 x 68 metres with a 11 metre in-goal area and for a minimum size 3G pitch it must measure 88 x 55 metres with a six metre in-goal area. All pitches must have a 3-metre run off as standard.

Hockey

EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training. They can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

Other sports

Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse. There are generally no guidelines provided by the NGBs as to what makes provision suitable for these activities, other than the general recommended pitch sizes.

3.2: Supply

There are currently six 11v11 3G pitches provided in Southend-on-Sea across as many sites. All of these are sports lit and available for community use.

Three of the 11v11 3G pitches are located in the West Analysis Area, with two located in the Central Analysis and one in the East Analysis Area. This is summarised further in the table below.

Table 3.1: Summary of the number of 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of 11v11 pitches	No. of smaller pitches
Central	2	7
East	1	-
West	3	9
Total	6	16
2018 Total	2	11

As also seen in Table 3.1, as well as the 11v11 pitches, there are 16 smaller sized 3G pitches across seven sites in Southend-on-Sea. Of these, 14 are serviced by sports lighting and available for community use. The pitches at Bournemouth Park Primary Academy and Darlington Academy are not sports lit and are unavailable for community use.

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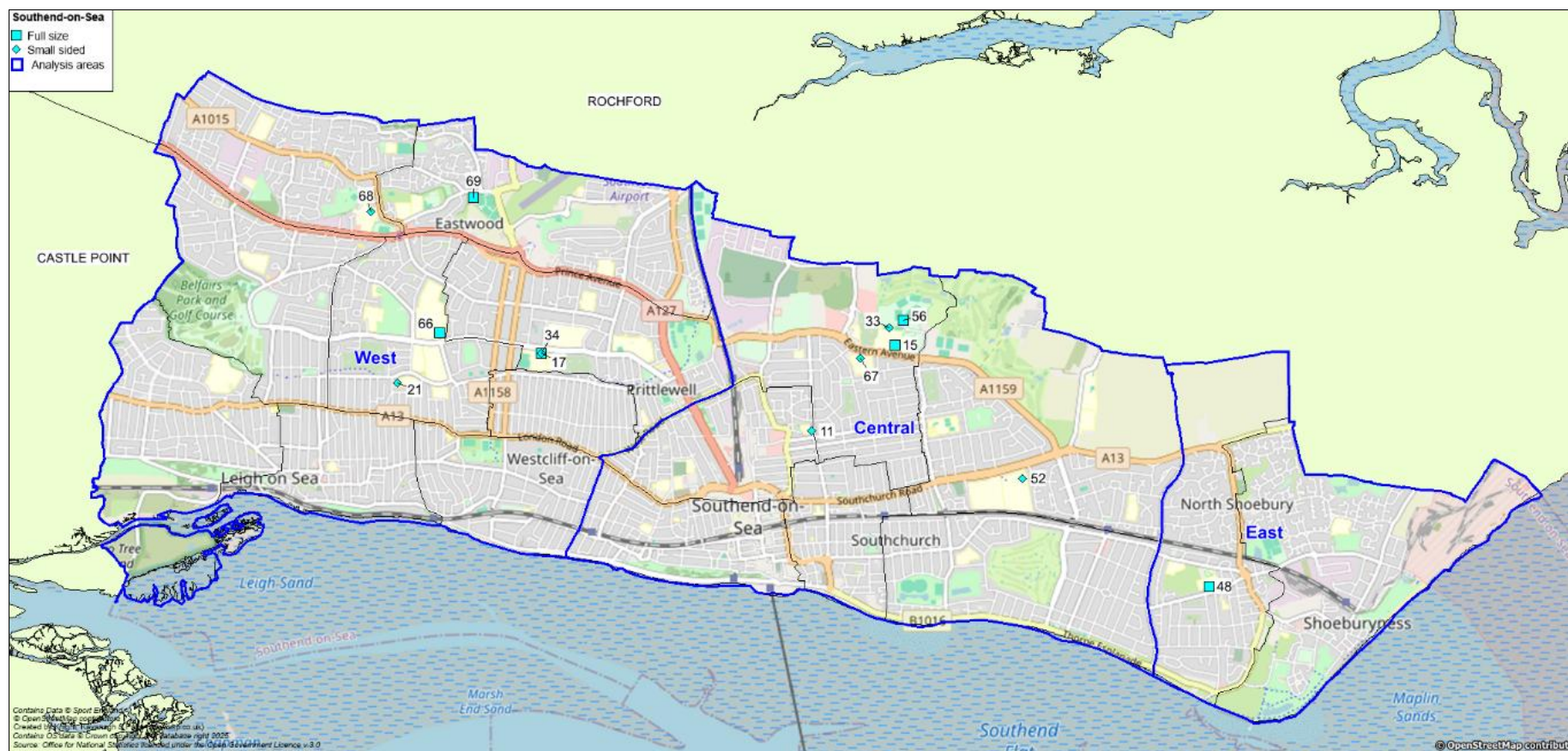
Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are on the FA 3G Pitch Register, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas.

Since the previous PPOSS was completed, the number of 11v11 3G pitches has increased by 200% from two. This is due to developments at Cecil Jones Academy, Shoeburyness High School and St Thomas More High School. In addition, there are now five more small-side pitches, with this indicating that substantial investment has taken place.

Figure 3.1 below identifies the location of all 3G pitches in Southend-on-Sea regardless of size. For a key to the map and a site-by-site summary of the provision, please see Table 3.2.

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in Southend-on-Sea



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Table 3.2: Summary of 3G pitch provision in Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (meters)	Year Installed/resurfaced	FA pitch register?
Full size								
15	Cecil Jones Academy	SS2 4BU	Central	Yes	Yes	94x64	2025	31/05/2028
17	Chase High School	SS0 0RT	West	Yes	Yes	95x52	2019	31/05/2026
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	East	Yes	Yes	91x55	2025	31/05/2028
56	Southend Garon Park	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Yes	100x64	2019	31/05/2026
66	St Thomas More High School	SS0 0BW	West	Yes	Yes	91x55	2025	31/05/2028
69	The Len Forge Centre	SS2 6UH	West	Yes	Yes	100x64	2015	31/05/2028
Smaller sized								
11	Bournemouth Park Primary Academy	SS2 5JN	Central	No	No	35x30	2016	-
21	Darlinghurst Academy	SS9 3JS	West	No	No	25x15	2018	-
33	Garons 5-a-side Centre	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Yes	35x20	2024	-
33	Garons 5-a-side Centre	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Yes	35x20	2024	-
33	Garons 5-a-side Centre	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Yes	35x20	2024	-
33	Garons 5-a-side Centre	SS2 4FA	Central	Yes	Yes	35x20	2024	-
34	Goals (Southend)	SS0 0RT	West	Yes	Yes	40x30	2023	-
34	Goals (Southend)	SS0 0RT	West	Yes	Yes	30x20	2023	-
34	Goals (Southend)	SS0 0RT	West	Yes	Yes	30x20	2023	-
34	Goals (Southend)	SS0 0RT	West	Yes	Yes	30x20	2023	-
34	Goals (Southend)	SS0 0RT	West	Yes	Yes	30x20	2023	-
34	Goals (Southend)	SS0 0RT	West	Yes	Yes	30x20	2023	-
34	Goals (Southend)	SS0 0RT	West	Yes	Yes	30x20	2023	-
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Central	Yes	Yes	52x32	2024	-
67	Temple Sutton Primary School	SS2 4BA	Central	Yes	Yes	35x20	2015	-
68	The Eastwood Academy	SS9 5UU	West	Yes	Yes	65x40	2024	-

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Future supply

A planning application (REF: 24/01621/FULM) has been for a second 11v11 3G pitch at Southend Garon Park. The pitch will be sports lit and provide community clubs additional opportunities to access 3G provision for winter training.

FA 3G Pitch Register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA 3G Pitch Register, which can be found at: [FA 3G Pitch Register](#)

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA Quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard. Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours.

To remain on the Register, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs within the NLS.

Within Southend-on-Sea, all the 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. The certification at Chase High School and Southend Garon Park ends in 2026, meaning re-testing will soon be required.

Table 3.3: Summary of FA compliancy

Site ID	Site name	FA approved?	Expiry date
15	Cecil Jones Academy	Yes	31/05/2028
17	Chase High School	Yes	31/05/2026
48	Shoeburyness High School	Yes	31/05/2028
56	Southend Garon Park	Yes	31/05/2026
66	St Thomas More High School	Yes	31/05/2028
69	The Len Forge Centre	Yes	31/05/2028

None of the smaller size pitches in Southend-on-Sea are on the FA 3G Pitch Register.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification included a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

In Southend-on-Sea, the 3G pitch at Cecil Jones Academy is World Rugby Compliant.

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Management

Four of the six 11v11 3G pitches are managed by education providers. Conversely, the pitches at Southend Garon Park and The Len Forge Centre are managed commercially and a community organisation respectively.

Regarding the smaller sized pitches, five are managed by education providers, whilst the remainder of the pitches are under commercial management.

Availability

The following table summarises the availability within the peak period of the 11v11 3G pitches in Southend-on-Sea. This utilises Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM), which applies a generic overall peak period for AGPs based on 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

As seen, availability of 11v11 3G pitches across Southend-on-Sea is good, with all pitches, where the information is known, available throughout the peak period. Availability at Cecil Jones Academy is not yet clear due to the pitch only recently being established, although it can be assumed that it will align to the other five given its management.

Table 3.4: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Availability
15	Cecil Jones Academy	<i>Unknown</i>	-
17	Chase High School	34	Weekday availability 17:00 – 22:00. Weekend availability 09:00 – 21:00.
48	Shoeburyness High School	34	Weekday availability 17:00 – 22:00. Weekend availability 09:00 – 17:00.
56	Southend Garon Park	33	Weekday availability 15:00 – 22:00. Saturday availability 09:00 – 18:00. Sunday availability 09:00 – 16:00.
66	St Thomas More High School	34	Weekday availability 18:00 – 22:00. Weekend availability 08:00 – 17:00.
69	The Len Forge Centre	34	Weekday availability 09:00 – 22:00. Weekend availability 09:00 – 18:00.

For smaller sized pitches, availability is more limited across many, with several unavailable for community and without sports lighting. However, where both community use and sports lighting is provided, access can be gained throughout most of the peak period, aligned to the 11v11 stock.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an 3G pitch usually lasts for approximately 10 years', and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality (see Appendix 2 for the full assessment criteria). It is therefore recommended that pitch replacement funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishments beyond this period.

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In Southend-on-Sea, three of the six 11v11 3G pitches are rated as good quality, with these all provided over the last 12 months. The remaining three are rated as standard quality, with these being older albeit still comfortably within their lifespans.

Table 3.5: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
15	Cecil Jones Academy	2025	Good
17	Chase High School	2019	Standard
48	Shoeburyness High School	2025	Good
56	Southend Garon Park	2019	Standard
66	St Thomas More High School	2025	Good
69	The Len Forge Centre	2015	Standard

In addition to above, there are 13 good and three standard quality smaller size 3G pitches across the City. Of these, only the pitch at Temple Sutton Primary School is beyond 10 years old.

Table 3.6: Summary of smaller size 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Number of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
11	Bournemouth Park Primary Academy	1	2016	Standard
21	Darlinghurst Academy	1	2018	Standard
33	Garons 5-a-side Centre	4	2024	Good
34	Goals (Southend)	7	2023	Good
52	Southchurch High School	1	2024	Good
67	Temple Sutton Primary School	1	2015	Standard
68	The Eastwood Academy	1	2024	Good

Ancillary facilities

All 3G provision in Southend-on-Sea is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate, with no issues raised during consultation or via site assessments. Changing rooms are available to service all of the 11v11 pitches, with this then supporting their availability for match play.

3.3: Demand

The 11v11 3G pitch stock currently servicing Southend-on-Sea is reported to be operating at or close to capacity, particularly at peak times and especially in winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This also applies to both midweek training demand and weekend usage given that each accessible pitch is also on the FA 3G Pitch Register to host competitive matches, with the pitch at Cecil Jones Academy also World Rugby compliant.

Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is football related, with the majority of provision having large clubs tied to them. The table below summarises usage levels of the 11v11 3G provision in Southend-on-Sea based on booking sheets supplied by the operators, feedback from clubs during the consultation process and affiliation data. This compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's FPM. As seen, only very minimal capacity remains.

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Table 3.7: Current usage of 11v11 3G pitches across Southend-on-Sea in peak time

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
15	Cecil Jones Academy	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
17	Chase High School	18	18	16	14
48	Shoeburyness High School	18	18	16	16
56	Southend Garon Park	18	18	15	15
66	St Thomas More High School	18	18	16	14
69	The Len Forge Centre	18	18	16	16
-	Totals	90	90	79	75

Whilst the availability of the pitch at Cecil Jones Academy is currently unknown, a community use agreement was a part of the planning conditions for the installation of the pitch. It can therefore be assumed that it will be being accessed, and that if any spare capacity remains, utilisation will increase the longer it is open.

Conversely, smaller sized pitches can receive higher levels of recreational and commercial use when compared to 11v11 provision, particularly when multiple pitches are provided at one venue. This is the case at Garons 5-a-side centre and Goals.

Unmet/latent demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many football clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sports lit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

Linked to the above, several football club that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, although this is relatively minimal when compared to most other local authorities. The majority are already training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all their teams, or do not have access at preferred times.

No unmet demand from other sports for access to 3G has been evidenced, with this assisted by only two rugby union clubs forming from within the City and with there being no current rugby league demand. It is also not yet clear what impact the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Cecil Jones Academy is having on accommodating usage.

Exported/ displaced demand

Through consultation, no clubs are identified as exporting demand outside of Southend-on-Sea to access 3G provision. However, imported demand has been identified from Castle Point (see Part 2).

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, potential growth from population projections equates to 28 football teams. If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted or needed to train on 3G provision, it will increase the number of 3G pitches required. However, it should also be noted that the ONS projections do not account for the potential for future demand to be higher, which could be the case particularly if recent growth trends continue and with a particular focus on women's and girls' activity.

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In addition, it is clear that future access to 3G provision could provide a solution to the deficits identified for rugby union in Part 4 of this report. However, the newly developed pitch at Cecil Jones Academy could provide an outlet for this.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training; however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

To quantify the 3G shortfall for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). It also has an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based pitches to ensure the sustainability of them.

For the model, in addition to 11v11 pitches being included, some smaller size pitches can also be incorporated as nationally many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. The contribution each pitch makes towards the modelling in Southend-on-Sea is therefore summarised in the table below, with this then informing the proceeding modelling tables. Any pitch too small to accommodate training demand are discounted, as well as any pitches that are unavailable for community use and/or without sports lighting.

Whilst most of the smaller sized pitches have been discounted from the modelling, please note that this does not mean that they are not required from a supply perspective. Whilst not overly suitable to meet affiliated training need, such provision can be integral to supporting recreational and social activity (as well as curricular and extra-curricular demand), which in turn frees up capacity on larger pitches.

Table 3.8: Contribution of 3G pitches in meeting training requirements

Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
11v11 size	-	-	-	-	-
Cecil Jones Academy	Central	1	94x64	Available for community use.	1
Chase High School	West	1	95x52	Available for community use.	1
Shoeburyness High School	East	1	91x55	Available for community use.	1
Southend Garon Park	Central	1	100x64	Available for community use.	1
St Thomas More High School	West	1	91x55	Available for community use.	1
The Len Forge Centre	West	1	100x64	Available for community use.	1

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Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
Smaller size	-	-	-	-	-
Bournemouth Park Primary Academy	Central	1	35x30	Unavailable for community use.	-
Darlinghurst Academy	West	1	25x15	Unavailable for community use.	-
Garons 5-a-side Centre	Central	4	35x20	Discounted due to commercial use.	-
Goals (Southend)	West	6	30x20	Discounted due to commercial use.	-
Goals (Southend)	West	1	40x30	Discounted due to commercial use.	-
Southchurch High School	Central	1	52x32	Can accommodate mini demand.	0.25
Temple Sutton Primary School	Central	1	35x20	Not considered big enough for purposeful training demand.	-
The Eastwood Academy	West	1	65x40	Can accommodate mini demand.	0.25
-	-	-	-	Total	6.5

No clubs currently report using any of the pitches for training that have been discounted in the table above, further evidencing their unsuitability for this purpose.

As there are 6.5 11v11 pitch equivalents provided in Southend-on-Sea (six 11v11 pitches plus two smaller sized pitches), this means that there is a potential shortfall of two 11v11 3G pitches (rounded up from 8.24) to meet all current training demand. This is based on 313 teams currently playing in the City.

Table 3.9: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Southend-on-Sea (38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
313	8.5	6.5	2

When considering future demand for an additional 28 teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is potential demand for nine full size pitches overall. This means a theoretical future shortfall of 2.5 pitches.

Table 3.10: Future demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Southend-on-Sea (38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
341	9	6.5	2.5

Additionally, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in to provide a more localised view. This not only identifies where the potential needs exist, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

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Table 3.11: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area (38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
Central	130	3.5	2	1.5
East	42	1	1	0
West	141	3.5	3	0.5
Southend-on-Sea	313	8	6	2

This shows an overall shortfall of two 11v11 3G pitch equivalents, aligning to the shortfall across Southend-on-Sea as a whole. It also identifies that there are specific shortfalls in the Central and West analysis areas, with these needing at 1.5 and 0.5 pitches, respectively.

It should be referenced that the approved development of a second 11v11 3G pitch at Southend Garon Park, if it comes to fruition, will reduce the deficit within the Central Analysis Area to 0.5 pitches required. The Southend-on-Sea deficit will reduce from two to one pitch.

Match play demand

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative or supplement to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA approved, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Southend-on-Sea, currently 44 affiliated teams across ten clubs are registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play. Whilst this is over 10% of total demand, it represents a relatively small total for the number of pitches provided, with scope likely existing for this to be upped.

As the number of 3G pitches increases in line with meeting training demand shortfalls, so should the number of teams utilising the provision for matches, which in turn should relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.

Rugby union

Given the inclement weather often experienced throughout the winter months of the rugby union season, more clubs are becoming increasingly receptive towards training on artificial pitches. Clubs traditionally train on match pitches where sports lights are in place, unless there is a separate sports-lit grass training area. However, this often results in deterioration in pitch quality coupled with decreasing maintenance budgets.

From Part 4 of this study, there is a potential need for rugby club access to 3G provision, given the grass pitch shortfalls identified across both club sites and with this deriving primarily from training demand. As such, the newly established pitch at Cecil Jones Academy could provide a solution, although its current usage is relatively unknown. There is unlikely to be a greater need given that only two clubs are derived from Southend-on-Sea.

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Other sports

Currently, no other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Southend-on-Sea (outside of some school activity). Furthermore, no need for access has been identified, with relevant sports such as rugby league, American football and lacrosse currently having no current presence within the City.

3.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is insufficient supply of 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand in Southend-on-Sea, with a potential current shortfall of two 11v11 pitches identified and an anticipated future shortfall of 2.5 11v11 pitches. That being said, this is a relatively modest deficit when compared to most other authorities, with this linked to the recent developments and investment that has taken place. Planned development at Southend Garon Park will also reduce the shortfall further.

In addition, it should be noted that the existing stock is well placed to meet the demand that it can, with quality of a general good standard and with all 11v11 pitches registered to accommodate competitive matches. It will be important that this remains the case moving forward, with resurfacing undertaken when required and re-testing carried out every three years.

For other sports, following the development of the pitch at Cecil Jones Academy, it is considered that any demand levels will be adequately accommodated. This, however, is on the proviso that any rugby union demand that requires access can gain it.

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3G – supply and demand summary

- There is insufficient supply of 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand in Southend-on-Sea; however, the deficit is relatively modest.
- The existing stock is also well placed to meet the demand that it can, with quality of a general good standard and with all 11v11 pitches registered to accommodate competitive matches.
- For other sports, following the development of the pitch at Cecil Jones Academy, it is considered that any demand levels will be adequately accommodated, with this on the proviso that any rugby union demand that requires access can gain it.

3G – supply summary

- There are currently six 11v11 3G pitches provided in Southend-on-Sea across as many sites.
- All of the pitches are sports lit and available for community use.
- There are also 16 smaller sized 3G pitches across seven sites, with 14 serviced by sports lighting and available for community use.
- A planning application (REF: 24/01621/FULM) has been approved for a second 11v11 3G pitch at Southend Garon Park.
- All the 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register and can therefore be used to host competitive matches (none of the smaller sized pitches are).
- The 3G pitch at Cecil Jones Academy is World Rugby Compliant.
- Availability across the supply is good, with all 11v11 pitches accessible throughout peak periods.
- Three of the six 11v11 3G pitches are rated as good quality, with these all provided over the last 12 months, whilst the remaining three are rated as standard quality and are all within their lifespans.
- Of the smaller sized pitches, 13 are good quality and three are standard.

3G – demand summary

- The 11v11 3G pitch stock currently servicing Southend-on-Sea is reported to be operating at or close to capacity, particularly at peak times during midweek and especially in winter months.
- Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is football related, with the majority of provision having large clubs tied to them.
- Recreational demand and small-sided commercial league activity is noted on the smaller sized pitches.
- Several football clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision (unmet demand), although this is relatively minimal when compared to most other local authorities.
- No unmet demand from other sports for access to 3G has been evidenced.
- No clubs are identified as exporting demand outside of Southend-on-Sea to access 3G provision, whilst imported demand has been identified from Castle Point.
- If future demand from population projections and club aspirations is realised, this will further increase 3G requirements, particularly for football.

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Essex County Cricket Board (ECCB) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including Southend-on-Sea. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs as well as other appropriate agencies. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the area. It is also currently working with the ECB on delivering its refreshed Strategy, Inspiring Generations.

For senior cricket in Southend-on-Sea, there are three main offerings (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket), whilst the youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are generally played mid-week, although Sunday activity is also common.

County Facilities Strategy

The ECCB has a County Facilities Strategy (CFS), produced in partnership with the ECB. Its production involved engagement with key stakeholders, including leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England. It is to be used to shape investment decisions and priorities for ECCB moving forward, with the following facilities considered throughout its development:

- ◆ Traditional facilities (pitches, outfielders, pavilions, practice areas)
- ◆ Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages)
- ◆ Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues)

Notwithstanding the above, the CFS is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

Consultation

There are six cricket clubs located in Southend-on-Sea, with all six responding to consultation requests. This results in an 100% response rate. To help secure responses from clubs, The ECCB has assisted with sending out surveys on behalf of KKP.

Table 4.1: Cricket club response rate

Club name	Analysis area	Club response
Eastwood CC	West	Yes
Leigh-on-Sea CC	West	Yes
Mount CC	Central	Yes
Old Southendians & Southchurch CC	Centra/East	Yes
Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC	Central	Yes
Westcliff CC	West	Yes

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4.2: Supply

The audit identifies 13 grass wicket cricket squares within Southend-on-Sea across nine sites (Belfairs Park/Sports Ground has three squares whilst Chalkwell Park and Southchurch Park have two). All of the squares are available for community use.

In addition, there are also 11 non-turf pitches (NTPs) within Southend-on-Sea across as many sites, with 10 available for community use (the NTP at Eastwood Primary School & Nursery is unavailable). Of the NTPs, three accompany the grass wicket squares at Alleyn Court School, Southchurch Park and Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park), whilst the remaining eight are standalone.

The West Analysis Area has the greatest number of grass squares with seven (54%), in addition to greatest number of NTPs with six (55%). The East Analysis Area has the least number of grass squares with two (15%) and NTPs with one (9%).

Table 4.2: Summary of all cricket provision

Analysis area	No. of grass wicket squares	No. of NTPs
Central	4	4
East	2	1
West	7	6
Southend-on-Sea	13	11
Previous POSS	15	9

Since the previous study was completed in 2018, two grass wicket squares at Victory Sports Ground are no longer used to accommodate cricket demand (it is still accommodating football demand). The squares were last in use circa 2019. This therefore means there are two fewer grass wicket squares now provided, although two additional NTPs have been identified.

Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

As previously stated, there are 11 NTPs located sites across as many sites within Southend-on-Sea. Those at Alleyn Court School, Southchurch Park and Westcliffe-on-Sea Cricket Club accompany grass wicket squares, whilst the following sites provide the standalone provision:

- ❖ Belfairs Academy
- ❖ Bridgewater Drive Playing Fields
- ❖ Shoeburyness High School
- ❖ Southchurch High School
- ❖ Southend High School for Boys
- ❖ Thorpe Hall School
- ❖ Westcliff High School for Boys
- ❖ Eastwood Primary School and Nursery

NTPs, particularly when located at club sites, can also aid with training and practice, and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. NTPs are also frequently used for junior matches across the Country, whilst the ECB highlights that provision which follows its TS6 guidance on performance standards are also suitable for high level, senior play.

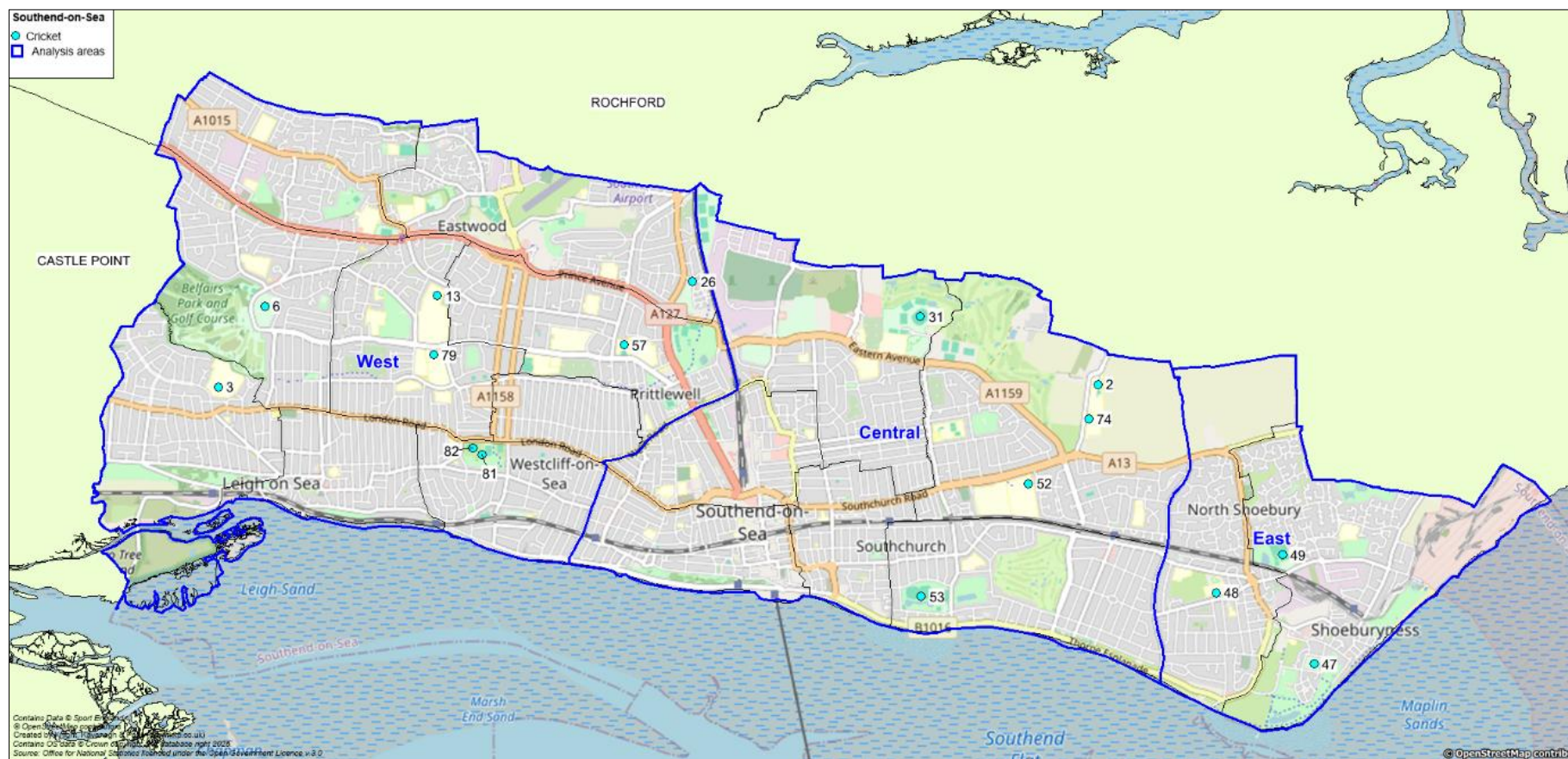
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

From a school perspective, NTPs provide a reliable cricket offer, without the need for specific cricket preparation to be taken on natural turf playing field. In many instances, schools do not have the resource or expertise to prepare natural turf wickets so NTPs provide a resource to ensure that cricket can remain a key element of curricular sport.

The map below shows the location of all cricket provision currently servicing Southend-on-Sea. See Table 4.3 for a key.

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Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Southend-on-Sea



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Table 4.3: Key to map of all cricket provision within Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	No. of NTPs
2	Alleyn Court School	SS3 0PW	Central	Education	Yes	1	6	1
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	West	Education	Yes	-	-	1
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	SS9 4LR	West	Council	Yes	1	8	-
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	SS9 4LR	West	Council	Yes	1	8	-
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	SS9 4LR	West	Council	Yes	1	8	-
13	Bridgewater Drive Playing Fields	SS0 0DS	West	Education	Yes	-	-	1
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	SS2 6PU	West	Sports Club	Yes	1	10	-
31	Garon Park Cricket Ground	SS2 4FA	Central	Sports Club	Yes	1	14	-
47	Gunners Park Cricket Ground	SS3 9QA	East	Sports Club	Yes	1	6	-
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	East	Education	Yes	-	-	1
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	East	Council	Yes	1	7	-
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Central	Education	Yes	-	-	1
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Central	Council	Yes	1	11	1
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Central	Council	Yes	1	12	-
57	Southend High School for Boys	SS0 0RG	West	Education	Yes	-	-	1
74	Thorpe Hall School	SS1 3RD	Central	Education	Yes	-	-	1
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	SS0 0BP	West	Education	Yes	1	9	-
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	SS0 0BP	West	Education	Yes	-	-	1
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	SS0 8NB	West	Council	Yes	1	9	1
82	Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	SS0 8NB	West	Council	Yes	1	11	-
88	Eastwood Primary School and Nursery	SS9 5UT	West	Education	No	-	-	1

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Disused provision

As previously mentioned, the 2018 PPOSS identified Victory Sports Ground as providing two grass cricket squares. Whilst the site is still utilised to accommodate football demand (meaning it is not entirely disused), cricket has not been provided for since 2019.

In addition, it has been identified that Eastwood Park formerly provided a cricket square in the early 2000's. Such provision has not been marked out in the more recent past.

Security of tenure

Table 4.4 below outlines the tenure agreement of cricket clubs at their primary sites in Southend-on-Sea. Where provision is owned by the Council and either rented or leased to clubs, unless otherwise known, it is considered that this provision is secure and will continue to be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS. This is because of its ongoing leisure offering commitment.

The broad position is that most clubs have secure tenure at their respective grounds and will therefore be able to service cricket for the foreseeable future (and as a minimum over the lifespan of the PPOSS). However, in the case of Mount CC, the Club is deemed to have unsecure tenure due to the nature of the agreement with Alleyn Court School being short term rather than through a formalised community use agreement. The School could theoretically prevent future access beyond the existing rental period.

Table 4.4: Summary of club tenure arrangements

Club	Site	Security of tenure	Comments
Eastwood CC	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Secure	Club has an agreement with Southend-on-Sea City Council.
Leigh-on-Sea CC	Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Secure	Club has an agreement with Southend-on-Sea City Council. 25 – year lease for the clubhouse, no tenure on the playing field.
Mount CC	Alleyn Court School	Unsecure	Club has a rental agreement with the school.
Old Southendians & Southchurch CC	Garon Park Cricket Club	Secure	Club has an agreement with Garon Park Community Trust.
Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC	Southchurch Park	Secure	Club has a lease agreement with Southend-on-Sea City Council.
Westcliff CC	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Secure	Club has an agreement with Southend-on-Sea City Council.

It should also be noted that Westcliff-on-Sea CC access Westcliff High School for Boys as a secondary venue. It therefore has unsecure tenure at this site, although this is considered less problematic as usage is more ad hoc.

Pitch quality

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to players.

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The quality of cricket pitches in Southend-on-Sea has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in August 2025 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) user consultation and PitchPower reports to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. The quality of wickets is assessed by considering factors such as evidence of the wicket being rolled, the wicket being correctly cut, evidence of cover usage, evidence of maintenance and the presence of line markings. Comparatively, an outfield is assessed on the provisions grass length, quantity of weeds, evenness of the surface, level of undulations, damage to the surface and evidence of dog fouling (the full assessment criteria can be seen via Appendix 2).

The audit of grass wicket cricket squares has found ten (77%) to be of standard quality, one (8%) to be of good quality at Garon Park Cricket Ground and two (15%) rated as poor quality at Belfairs Park/ Sports Ground

Table 4.5: Summary of quality for grass wicket squares

Good	Standard	Poor
1	10	2

Since the previous PPOSS was completed, the quality of squares across Southend-on-Sea remains relatively unchanged, with most continuing to be rated as standard. That being said, the number of good quality squares has reduced.

A further site-by-site summary can be seen below.

Table 4.6: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Club	No. of wickets	Square quality	Outfield quality
2	Alleyn Court School	Mount CC	6	Standard	Standard
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Eastwood CC	8	Poor	Standard
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Eastwood CC	8	Standard	Standard
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Westcliff CC	8	Poor	Standard
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	Leigh-on-Sea CC	10	Standard	Standard
31	Garon Park Cricket Ground	Old Southendians CC	14	Good	Good
47	Gunners Park Cricket Ground	Old Southendians CC	6	Standard	Standard
49	Shoeburyness Park	Old Southendians CC	7	Standard	Standard
53	Southchurch Park	Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC	11	Standard	Standard
53	Southchurch Park	Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC	12	Standard	Standard
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	Westcliff CC	9	Standard	Standard
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Westcliff CC	9	Standard	Standard
82	Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Leigh-on-Sea CC	11	Standard	Standard

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Eastwood CC states that its pitches at Belfairs Park/Sports Ground have decreased in quality recently, stating that the outfield is poorly maintained with the grass left too long to allow for the football pitches on the site to recover. This in turn impacts the cricket playing experience. In addition, with the site being open to the general public, issues with dog walkers and evidence of unofficial use is prominent at the site.

Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC also states that its pitch quality has deteriorated slightly, with this relating to provision at Southchurch Park. It reports that this is due to a lack of winter maintenance and mid-season remedial work, with this leading to large cracks on the wickets. In addition, it has been noted that tree roots are starting to protrude through the outfield.

Conversely, Leigh-on-Sea CC states that its pitch at Chalkwell Park has improved in quality as a result of more time spent working on the pitch by ground staff. Despite this, the Club identifies that the wicket provides an uneven bounce and that the outfield can be damaged due to utilisation to accommodate football training.

Old Southendians & Southchurch CC states that the pitch at Shoeburyness Park is subject to dog fouling, unofficial use and damage to the playing surface, whilst Westcliff CC states that its pitch has improved significantly since a new groundsman has been brought in. Notwithstanding this, the Club states that it does not have adequate water provision which can lead to the square and outfield drying up.

In relation to NTPs across Southend-on-Sea, seven (64%) are rated as standard quality, whilst four (36%) are rated as good quality. There are no poor quality NTPs identified.

Table 4.7: Summary of NTP quality within Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site	Square or standalone?	No. of NTPs	NTP quality
2	Alleyn Court School	Square	1	Standard
3	Belfairs Academy	Standalone	1	Standard
13	Bridgewater Drive Playing Fields	Standalone	1	Standard
48	Shoeburyness High School	Standalone	1	Good
52	Southchurch High School	Standalone	1	Standard
53	Southchurch Park	Square	1	Good
57	Southend High School for Boys	Standalone	1	Standard
74	Thorpe Hall School	Standalone	1	Good
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	Standalone	1	Standard
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Square	1	Good
88	Eastwood Primary School and Nursery	Standalone	1	Standard

PitchPower assessments

PitchPower (a technical assessment of quality) for cricket began to be used in 2024 with the initial reports being produced towards the end of the season. More information surrounding PitchPower, and its functionality is available in Part 2: Football, with the main difference for the analysis of cricket being that both the outfield and square are assessed for quality.

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The outfield assessments focus on analysing grass height, grass coverage, weed coverage, root depth, thatch depth, undesirable grasses, surface debris and percentage of pest and disease. In comparison, the square evaluation includes most of the above in addition to surface evenness, core profile, root break, worm casts, pitch markings and post-match repairs.

PitchPower assessments use the new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 4.8: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PitchPower ratings

PitchPower Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

In Southend-on-Sea, six sites have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below.

Table 4.9: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	PitchPower square rating	PPS square rating
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Basic	Poor
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Basic	Standard
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Basic	Poor
47	Gunners Park Cricket Ground	Basic	Standard
49	Shoeburyness Park	Basic	Standard
53	Southchurch Park	Basic	Standard
53	Southchurch Park	Basic	Standard
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Basic	Standard
82	Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Basic	Standard

Grass Pitch Improvement Fund ⁶

To coincide with the utilisation of PitchPower for cricket, the ECB, in partnership with Sport England and National Lottery, has released the Grass Pitch Improvement Fund (GPIF). The GPIF aims to tackle inequalities by providing improved access to good quality, safe playing facilities for targeted groups.

⁶<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/07/23/a754a60b-a11a-4dee-aa7e-06fbd040297/GPIF-guidance-notes.pdf>

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The Sport England Lottery Fund will provide funding for projects in England with projects in Wales supported by the England and Wales Cricket Trust. Priority will be given to applications which support cricket for the following groups:

- ◀ Women's and girls' cricket.
- ◀ Cricket in diverse communities.
- ◀ Disability cricket.
- ◀ Low socio-economic groups.

Investment will be targeted into three main areas:

- ◀ Improving the quality of squares and outfielders (for grass pitches rated 'unsuitable' or 'basic' to improve to at least 'good').
- ◀ Creating sustainable management of sites (through irrigation and machinery improvements).
- ◀ Installing hybrid pitches to increase playing capacity.

The fund will run until March 2027, or whenever the funding is fully allocated (whichever is sooner).

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility quality ratings for cricket is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire provision, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high-quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, South Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos cricket (detailed later in the section).

Notwithstanding the above, the extent of ancillary facilities required for cricket differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide refreshments, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

In addition, it is noted that open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As a result of this, those ancillary facilities that do not provide dedicated mixed-gender facilities cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document.

The audit of overall ancillary facilities at grass wicket cricket sites in Southend-on-Sea determines that three (38%) are serviced by good quality facilities whilst five squares (62%) are accompanied by standard quality provision (none have poor quality provision). Contrarily, in relation to changing rooms, one site (13%) is rated as good quality, two (25%) rated as standard quality and five (62%) rated as poor quality or do not have any changing rooms at all.

The quality findings across the sites are further summarised in the following table.

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Table 4.10: Community available changing room quality by site (excluding education sites)

Site ID	Site	Club	Analysis area	Overall ancillary facility quality	Changing room quality	Comments
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Eastwood CC	West	Standard	Poor	Eastwood CC states that the quality of the social area is of a good quality, however the changing rooms and toilets are standard quality. Facilities include showers however are not considered suitable to accommodate women's and girl's demand. No umpire changing is available. The Club states that there is evidence of attempted break ins.
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	Leigh-on-Sea CC	West	Good	N/A	Club consultation feedback is not available for this site. The site has overall good quality ancillary facilities including three function rooms, bar, kitchen and modern toilets. The facility does not provide any changing rooms. It is not considered suitable for women's and girl's demand.
31	Garon Park Cricket Ground	Old Southendians & Southchurch CC	Central	Good	Good	Old Southendians & Southchurch CC state that the clubhouse and accompanying changing and toilet facilities are of a good quality. Five changing rooms are available as well as a dedicated umpire's room with showering facilities which are also suitable for women's and girl's teams.
47	Gunners Park Cricket Ground	Old Southendians & Southchurch CC	East	Standard	Poor	Club consultation feedback is not available for this site. The Gunners Park Cricket Square is accompanied by a wooden clubhouse which contains basic facilities. It is considered outdated and not suitable for women's and girl's demand. No officials changing is available.
49	Shoeburyness Park	Old Southendians & Southchurch CC	East	Standard	N/A	Club consultation feedback is not available for this site. The site is serviced with toilets that are attached to the bowls club, a social space and small kitchenette area is also available.
53	Southchurch Park	Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC	Central	Standard	Standard	Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC states that the overall clubhouse facilities are standard however note that the toilets are of a poor quality. Facilities include changing rooms however do not include separate showers for each teams. No officials changing is available. The facilities are not considered to be suitable for women's and girl's demand. The Club states that the sight screens are regularly vandalised.
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Westcliff CC	West	Standard	Poor	Westcliff CC states that it has access to two changing rooms however these are very basic and do not include showering facilities or toilets. In addition there are no umpire changing room. The facilities are not suitable for women's and girl's demand. The Club states it has received vandalism to the clubhouse.
82	Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Leigh-on-Sea CC	West	Good	Standard	Leigh-on-Sea CC states that the overall clubhouse is of a good quality however the changing rooms and toilets are of a standard quality. Facilities include showers however are not considered suitable to accommodate women's and girl's demand. Officials changing is available.

In summary, ancillary facilities at cricket sites in Southend-on-Sea reveal disparities in facility quality and provision. Whilst Garon Park Cricket Ground offers good ancillary facilities, including suitable changing rooms and official's changing, most other sites are not up to an adequate standard, at least in some regard. Issues include poor quality changing rooms which include a lack of showers and toilets and no provision for umpires. Women's and girl's facilities are also not widely available, with only Garon Park meeting requirements for female demand.

Ekco Social & Sports Club Association, despite having good social spaces, provides no changing facilities at all. Several sites, such as Westcliff-on-Sea CC and Southchurch Park, also report vandalism or security concerns, whilst Gunners Park Cricket Ground's wooden clubhouse is outdated.

Overall, the key challenges are insufficient changing provision, lack of inclusive facilities and recurring maintenance and security problems.

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Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences, whilst during the season, outdoor practice provision supplies most of the use.

Across the sites accommodating grass wicket squares in Southend-on-Sea, only four sites provide access to outdoor fixed net training provision, supplying a total of 12 lanes. This is further summarised in the table below.

Table 4.11: Summary of training facilities

Site ID	Site	Practice nets?	Number of lanes?
2	Alleyn Court School	Yes	3
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	-	-
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	-	-
31	Garon Park Cricket Ground	Yes	3
47	Gunners Park Cricket Ground	-	-
49	Shoeburyness Park	-	-
53	Southchurch Park	-	-
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	-	-
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Yes	3
82	Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Yes	3

In relation to additional demand for training facilities, Eastwood CC and Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC states that it would like two fixed-lane practice nets. Elsewhere, Leigh-on-Sea CC states it would like a non-turf wicket.

Indoor facilities

Whilst the PPOSS only considers outdoor playing pitches, a cricket training programme includes accessing indoor net facilities over winter months in preparation for the start of the season. The table below therefore highlights the clubs that utilise indoor provision and where this takes place.

Table 4.12: Summary of indoor provision accessed by clubs

Club	Access indoor provision?	Name of site(s) used
Old Southendians CC	Yes	Thorpe Hall School
Westcliff CC	Yes	Westcliff High School for Boys

As seen, only two clubs currently have access to indoor practice net facilities, whilst four clubs do not (Eastwood CC, Leigh-on-Sea CC, Mount CC and Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC).

More information relating to indoor provision can be found in the Indoor and Built Facilities study that is being undertaken alongside the PPOSS.

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4.3: Demand

In total, there are six clubs in Southend-on-Sea generating 56 teams in total. As a breakdown, this consists of 34 senior men's, 20 junior boys' teams and two junior girls' teams. There are no senior women's teams identified across any of the six clubs within Southend-on-Sea.

Table 4.13: Summary of number of competitive teams by club

Club	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams	Total
Eastwood CC	6	-	2	-	8
Leigh-on-sea CC	5	-	4	-	9
Mount CC	1	-	-	-	1
Old Southendians CC	7	-	4	-	11
Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC	5	-	3	2	10
Westcliff CC	10	-	7	-	17
Southend-on-Sea	34	0	20	2	56
Previous PPOSS	26	0	13	0	39

The majority of senior teams play in the Hamro Foundation Essex League, whilst the remainder compete in either the T. Rippon Mid-Essex Cricket League, the Southend Evening Cricket League or the Essex Sunday League. All junior teams participate in South Essex District Board competitions, or in friendly matches that are arranged when required. Additionally, women's teams and softball cricket sections often play in Essex Women's County competitions or local development fixtures.

As seen in the table below, the West Analysis Area accommodates the most demand with 34 teams identified (61%). The area with the least amount of cricket demand is the East Analysis Area with 4 teams (7%).

Table 4.14: Summary of number of competitive teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	Total
Central	10	-	6	2	18
East	3	-	1	-	4
West	21	-	13	-	34
Southend-on-Sea	34	0	20	2	56

Participation trends

Since the previous PPOSS was completed, the number of teams has increased by 17 teams, representing a 44% growth rate. This is substantial. Most of this growth is attributed to senior men's and junior boy's teams, although it should be noted that the two junior girls' teams have also been established.

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Other demand

In addition to club-based demand across Southend-on-Sea, the audit has identified further demand originating from Essex County's Men and Women's teams. These generally access Garon Park Cricket Ground for midweek activity.

Additional activity

The ECB run several initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable during these periods. The most relevant initiatives currently being delivered are detailed below.

All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club delivers programmes which introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◆ Increase cricket activity for five- to eight-year-olds in the school and club environment.
- ◆ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
- ◆ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
- ◆ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
- ◆ Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

In Southend-on-Sea, both Eastwood CC and Old Southendians & Southchurch CC take part in the initiative. Table 4.15 below details the 2025 participation figures.

Dynamo's cricket

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' is the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds. This builds on the significant growth of the All Stars and develops a pathway to retain juniors who progress. Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamo's seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket.

In Southend-on-Sea, Leigh-on-Sea CC is part of the initiative. Table 4.15 below details the 2025 participation figures.

Softball cricket

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase female participation in cricket. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are generally played on the outfield of a square and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

The table below details the 2025 participation figures. Both Leigh-on-Sea CC and Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC field softball sections.

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Table 4.15: Summary of ECB initiatives participation

Club	All Stars participation figures (2025)	Dynamos participation figures (2025)	Softball participation figures (2025)
Eastwood CC	10	-	-
Leigh-on-Sea CC	-	10	15
Old Southendians & Southchurch CC	20	-	-
Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC	-	-	15
Southend-on-Sea	30	10	30

Mount CC and Westcliff CC do not have any All Stars, Dynamo or Softball participation.

Disability cricket

The ECB wishes to support cricket clubs to deliver cricket opportunities for those with disabilities and has setup the Disability Cricket Champion Club Programme to support clubs through guidance, resource and equipment. This is to enable them to welcome individuals with additional needs and varying abilities to support them to play, follow, officiate and volunteer.

There are currently no Disability Cricket Champion clubs in Southend-on-Sea It is, however, suggested that this should be targeted moving forward.

Unmet/latent demand

No clubs in Southend-on-Sea report any unmet demand, with none suggesting that pitch availability or capacity is limiting their play.

Exported/imported demand

No imported cricket demand into Southend-on-Sea has been evidenced. Similarly, no exported demand outside of the City has been identified.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through club ambitions and using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development plans within Southend-on-Sea.

Population growth

For population projections, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass wicket cricket squares that will arise from forecasted growth. This uses the current population within each relevant age group together with current participation levels to establish team generation rates that are applied to future population projections.

Using the above, the table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions. This is to 2045, aligned to the Council's emerging Local Plan.

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Table 4.16: Team generation rates based on population growth (2045)

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure
Senior Men's (18-55)	1:726	3.14	3
Senior Women's (18-55)	-	-	-
Junior Boys (7-18)	1:419	1.84	2
Junior Girls (7-18)	1:3,994	0.18	0

The total amount of future growth is anticipated to equate to five teams, broken down as three senior men's and one junior boys' side. The table below showcases this growth when applied to each analysis area, with the West Analysis Area attributed the most growth and the East Analysis Area showing no growth.

Table 4.17: Team generation rates based on population growth applied to analysis areas

Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	Total
Central	1	-	1	-	2
East	-	-	-	-	-
West	2	-	1	-	3
Southend-on-Sea	3	0	2	0	5

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of women and girl's participation in cricket in Southend-on-Sea is particularly likely as it is currently a national priority. This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives. As such, the following will be explored in the Strategy & Action Plan.

Participation growth

Through consultation only Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC expresses a desire to increase the number of teams that it fields, with this being the addition of one senior women's team. None of the other clubs report any aspirations to increase their demand.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only demand identified through ONS population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational. This is also to avoid any potential double counting (with club aspirations potentially incorporating population growth increases).

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised. It will also consider the expected rise in women's and girls' activity.

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4.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.

For good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where the level of play has not been made clear, an assumption has been made that all senior teams play between 10 and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition. This is then used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Please note that non-turf wickets have been discounted from the analysis. No non-turf wicket squares are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season; therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This generally translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and where matches can be played on a variety of days. However, this is not the case where midweek demand is particularly high, with capacity still limited due to general site usage.

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice is followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

Education usage

Whilst all squares based at school sites currently are available for community use, it must be recognised that the majority also cater for curricular and extra-curricular, especially at those with a relatively strong cricket programme. At such sites, internal usage leaves little capacity remaining for any external access, with this demand therefore built into the capacity analysis.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Southend-on-Sea is Saturday, although several teams also play on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both are considered within the supply and demand analysis.

For junior cricket, peak time is considered to be midweek. This is therefore also considered within the analysis.

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Spare capacity

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 4.19 and the actual spare capacity identified in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and midweek). This is required as not all potential spare capacity can be considered actual spare capacity.

Table 4.18: Spare capacity examples

Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
No	If the cell has a “no” it means that the pitch is played to capacity within this period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	If the cell has a “yes” that is not highlighted it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period; however, this is discounted due to unsecure tenure, poor pitch quality, the pitch not being available for community use or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed so it cannot accommodate any additional demand.
Yes	If the cell has a “yes” and is also highlighted in green, it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

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Table 4.19: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Users	Security of tenure	Pitch quality	Type of wicket	No. of grass wickets ⁷	Capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current use (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for midweek cricket
2	Alleyn Court School	Central	Yes	Mount CC	Unsecure	Standard	Senior	6	24	12	12	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	West	Yes	Eastwood CC	Secure	Poor	Senior	8	0	24	24	No	Yes	Yes
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	West	Yes	Eastwood CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	8	24	20	4	No	Yes	Yes
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	West	Yes	Westcliff CC	Secure	Poor	Senior	8	0	19	19	No	Yes	Yes
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	West	Yes	Leigh-on-Sea CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	10	40	18	22	No	Yes	Yes
31	Garon Park Cricket Ground	Central	Yes	Old Southendians & Southchurch CC	Secure	Good	Senior	14	70	100	30	No	No	No
47	Gunners Park Cricket Ground	East	Yes	Old Southendians & Southchurch CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	6	24	18	6	No	Yes	Yes
49	Shoeburyness Park	East	Yes	Old Southendians & Southchurch CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	7	21	12	9	Yes	Yes	Yes
53	Southchurch Park	Central	Yes	Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	11	22	24	2	No	Yes	Yes
53	Southchurch Park	Central	Yes	Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	12	36	32	4	No	Yes	Yes
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	West	Yes	Westcliff CC	Unsecure	Standard	Senior	9	36	20	16	No	Yes	Yes
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	West	Yes	Westcliff CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	9	27	58	31	No	No	No
82	Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	West	Yes	Leigh-on-Sea CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	11	33	27	6	No	Yes	Yes

⁷ Please note the number of wickets indicated are those which have been identified for actual competitive usage.

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Actual spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage during a particular peak period, has security of tenure and is at least standard quality. Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Saturday cricket

For senior men's cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site. As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity (at least 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required for an additional senior team to be accommodated) and neither are sites with insecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

Taking the above into consideration, no squares within Southend-on-Sea currently have the potential capacity to accommodate further demand. Potential actual spare capacity for additional cricket demand on a Saturday has been discounted at Alleyn Court School (Insecure tenure) and Shoeburyness Park (Not enough capacity).

Total actual spare capacity on a Saturday equates to 12 match equivalent sessions per season, with this falling in the East Analysis Area.

Sunday cricket

Sunday capacity provides capacity for additional senior men's demand to be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still being able to play within a competitive format. Moreover, it provides peak time availability for senior women's cricket (both hardball and softball) and for some junior demand.

Similar to Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is not already used by two teams at this time, has secure tenure and is not over, at, or close to capacity. Taking this into consideration, there is one square in Southend-on-Sea that has potential capacity to accommodate further demand.

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Potential actual spare capacity has been discounted at the following sites;

- ✦ Alleyn Court School (Unsecure tenure)
- ✦ Belfairs Park/Sports Ground (Overplay & poor quality)
- ✦ Belfairs Park/Sports Ground (Not enough capacity)
- ✦ Belfairs Park/Sports Ground (Overplay & poor quality)
- ✦ Gunners Park Cricket Ground (Not enough capacity)
- ✦ Shoeburyness Park (Not enough capacity)
- ✦ Southchurch Park (Overplayed)
- ✦ Southchurch Park (Not enough capacity)
- ✦ Westcliff High School for Boys (Unsecure tenure)
- ✦ Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park) (Not enough capacity)

Table 4.20: Actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket (match equivalent sessions')

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	West	22	1	12

Total actual spare capacity on a Sunday equates to 12 match equivalent sessions per season with this located within the West Analysis Area.

Table 4.21: Actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Central	-
East	-
West	12
Southend-on-Sea	12

Junior cricket (midweek)

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have more than six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play. However, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars and Dynamos).

Taking the above into consideration there are three squares across three sites in Southend-on-Sea that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek.

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Potential actual spare capacity has been discounted at the following sites;

- ✦ Alleyn Court School (Unsecure tenure)
- ✦ Belfairs Park/Sports Ground (Overplay & poor quality)
- ✦ Belfairs Park/Sports Ground (Not enough capacity)
- ✦ Belfairs Park/Sports Ground (Overplay & poor quality)
- ✦ Southchurch Park (Overplayed)
- ✦ Southchurch Park (Not enough capacity)
- ✦ Westcliff High School for Boys (Unsecure tenure)
- ✦ Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)

Table 4.23: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	West	22	3	18
47	Gunners Park Cricket Ground	East	6	1	6
49	Shoeburyness Park	East	9	1	6

Total actual spare capacity midweek equates to 30 match equivalent sessions per season. The West Analysis Area has the most actual spare capacity totalling 18 match equivalent sessions a season.

Table 4.24: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Central	-
East	12
West	18
Southend-on-Sea	30

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square.

In Southend-on-Sea, five squares are overplayed across four sites with this equating to 106 match equivalent sessions a season. The West Analysis Area has the most amount of overplay with 74 match equivalent sessions, whilst the Central Analysis Area has 32 match equivalent sessions a season of overplay (none is identified in the East Analysis Area).

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Table 4.25: Summary of overplay (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Square quality	Overplay
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	West	Poor	24
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	West	Poor	19
31	Garon Park Cricket Ground	Central	Good	30
53	Southchurch Park	Central	Standard	2
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	West	Standard	31

Overplay at the sites can be attributed to the high demand received from the respective clubs accessing the sites (Eastwood CC, Old Southendians & Southchurch CC, Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC and Westcliff CC). In addition, the poor quality nature of Belfairs Park/ Sports Ground reduces capacity.

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for Saturday and Sunday cricket and six matches for midweek junior teams).

Saturday supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday). For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

Table 4.26: Supply and demand analysis for Saturday cricket (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Central	-	32	32	12	44
East	-	-	-	-	-
West	-	74	74	24	98
Southend-on-Sea	-	106	106	36	142

As seen in the table above, there is a deficit of capacity for Saturday cricket in Southend-on-amounting to 106 match equivalent sessions per season. The majority of this shortfall is located within the West Analysis Area, although the Central Analysis Area also has a negative supply and demand balance.

After considering future demand derived from population growth, overall shortfalls worsen within the aforementioned analysis areas to 142 match equivalent sessions per season.

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Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams. Similar to Saturday cricket, actual spare capacity is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand

Table 4.27: Supply and demand analysis for Sunday cricket (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Central	-	32	32	-	32
East	-	-	-	-	-
West	12	74	62	-	62
Southend-on-Sea	12	106	94	-	94

As seen in the table above, there is a deficit of capacity for Sunday cricket in Southend-on-amounting to 94 match equivalent sessions per season. The majority of this shortfall is located within the West Analysis Area, although the Central Analysis Area also has a negative supply and demand balance.

After considering future demand derived from population growth, overall shortfalls worsen within the aforementioned analysis areas to 94 match equivalent sessions per season.

Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamos.

Table 4.28: Supply and demand analysis for midweek cricket (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Central	-	32	32	6	38
East	12	-	12	-	12
West	18	74	56	6	62
Southend-on-Sea	30	106	76	12	88

As seen in the table above, there is a deficit of capacity for midweek cricket in Southend-on-amounting to 76 match equivalent sessions per season. The majority of this shortfall is located within the West Analysis Area, although the Central Analysis Area also has a negative supply and demand balance.

After considering future demand derived from population growth, overall shortfalls worsen within the aforementioned analysis areas to 88 match equivalent sessions per season.

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4.6: Conclusion

Based on the supply and demand analysis provided above, there is an insufficient supply of cricket provision to meet existing demand levels in Southend-on-Sea, with this evident across all cricket activity. When considering future demand, these shortfalls worsen.

When broken down by analysis area, the identified shortfalls are evident in all analysis areas. This position worsens when factoring in future demand.

Table 4.29: Overall capacity balance of grass cricket squares (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	-	106	106	36	142
Sunday	12	106	94	-	94
Midweek	30	106	76	12	88

In comparison to the previous PPOSS, the position of cricket has worsened significantly, with overplay across all formats and in all analysis areas. This can be attributed to the rise in team numbers identified since the previous study was completed as well as the poor quality of some squares and significant usage.

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Cricket – supply and demand summary

- There is an insufficient supply of cricket provision to meet existing demand levels in Southend-on-Sea, with this evident across all cricket activity. When considering future demand, these shortfalls worsen.
- When broken down by analysis area, the identified shortfalls are evident in all analysis areas. This position worsens when factoring in future demand.

Cricket – supply summary

- The audit identifies 13 grass wicket cricket squares within Southend-on-Sea across nine sites, with all of these available for community use.
- There are also 11 non-turf pitches (NTPs) within Southend-on-Sea across as many sites, with 10 available for community use (the NTP at Eastwood Primary School & Nursery is unavailable).
- Two grass wicket squares at Victory Sports Ground are no longer used to accommodate cricket demand, whilst a square has also historically been provided at Eastwood Park.
- Security of tenure for clubs is generally secure, although this is not the case for Mount CC at Allyn Court School.
- The audit of grass wicket cricket squares has found ten (77%) to be of standard quality, one (8%) to be of good quality at Garon Park Cricket Ground and two (15%) rated as poor quality at Belfairs Park/ Sports Ground. Whereas seven NTPs are rated as standard quality and four as good quality.
- Three sites (38%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities and five (62%) by standard quality provision (none have poor quality provision), although five are considered to have poor quality changing rooms.
- Practice nets are supplied at only four sites, with 12 lanes provided across these.

Cricket – demand summary

- There are six clubs in generating 56 teams in total, with this as a breakdown consisting of 34 senior men's, 20 junior boys' teams and two junior girls' teams.
- The number of teams has increased by 17 teams since the 2018 study, with representing a significant 30% growth rate.
- In addition to club-based demand, further activity originating from Essex County's Men and Women's teams has been identified at Garon Park Cricket Ground.
- Two clubs participate in the All Stars initiative, one in Dynamos and two in women's softball.
- No unmet demand is identified, with all clubs suggesting that they can field their current and future demand without issue.
- Using population projection, an increase of three senior men's and two junior boys' teams is projected to 2045.
- Only Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC has future demand aspirations at a club-specific level; it wants to field an additional senior women's team.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into geographic areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers club and coach development, in conjunction with Constituent Bodies that are responsible for overseeing governance, discipline and safeguarding. It governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, small-sided contact rugby, TAG rugby and T1 Rugby. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

For traditional rugby union, there are generally three playing formats, based on the age of the players involved. These are now known as age grade mixed rugby (previously mini), age grade boys/girls rugby (previously junior) and senior rugby.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are two rugby union clubs located within Southend-on-Sea, with these being Southend RUFC and Westcliff RUFC. Both clubs have responded to consultation requests via, resulting in a 100% response rate.

Please note that Westcliff RUFC is identified as being based across the local authority boundary, in Rochford. However, it plays on land owned by Southend-on-Sea City Council, and the Club considers itself to be a Southend-on-Sea Club. This is why it has been included within the study.

5.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of nine rugby union pitches located across six sites within Southend-on-Sea, with these all senior sized. Of the pitches, six are available for community use, whilst three unavailable. All of these are at education sites.

Table 5.1: Supply of grass rugby union pitches in Southend-on-Sea

Analysis area	No. of community available rugby union pitches	No. of unavailable rugby union pitches
Central	5	-
East	-	-
West	1	3
Total	6	3

Further to the table above, Westcliff RUFC has four senior pitches on land just outside of Southend-on-Sea, in Rochford. Southend-on-Sea City Council rents this land to Westcliff RUFC, with this therefore adding to the overall supply.

Since the previous study was completed in 2018, the overall number of pitches within Southend-on-Sea has remained unchanged.

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The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches with goalposts at both ends. However, it is recognised that activity can occur on spaces not defined by line markings and/or goalposts.

Maximum pitch dimensions for all formats of play are shown in the table below.

Table 5.2: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres)	Recommended run off around the full perimeter of the pitch	Minimum in goal area
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12	2-metre	N/A
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22	2-metre	N/A
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30	3-metre	N/A
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35	3-metre	N/A
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43	4-metre	N/A
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43	5-metre	5-metre
U13	Age grade boys	90 x 60	5-metre	5-metre
U13/U14s	Age grade girls	60 x 43	5-metre	5-metre
U14	Age grade boys	100 x 70	5-metre	5-metre
U15	Age grade boys	100 x 70	5-metre	5-metre
U15/U16s	Age grade girls	100 x 70	5-metre	5-metre
U16	Age grade boys	100 x 70	6-metre	6-metre
U17	Age grade boys	100 x 70	6-metre	6-metre
U17/U18s	Age grade girls	100 x 70	6-metre	6-metre
U18	Age grade boys /girls	100 x 70	6-metre	6-metre
Adult	Adult	100 x 70	6-metre	6-metre

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches currently servicing Southend-on-Sea. For a key to the map, see Table 5.5.

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Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Southend-on-Sea



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Security of tenure

Remaining unchanged from the previous study in 2018, Southend RUFC continues to rent its pitches from the Council on an annual basis, with payment made retrospectively at the end of each season. While this arrangement provides a degree of stability, particularly as the pitches are not currently perceived to be under threat, the Club remains keen to instead secure a long-term lease. A lease of 25 years or more would improve security of tenure and help potential site development in terms of potential funding/investment.

Similarly, the position regarding the Club's clubhouse remains unchanged. The Club owns the building itself, while leasing the land beneath it. This lease has 26 years remaining.

Elsewhere, Westcliff RUFC has a long-term lease agreement with Southend-on-Sea City Council for the pitches and ancillary facilities at its site known as the Gables. This therefore provides security of tenure.

For other pitches within Southend-on-Sea, security of tenure is not considered to exist as no community use agreements are provided by the majority of schools with accessible provision. That being said, none of them are currently in use for community rugby and no demand is considered to exist.

Sports lighting

The presence of sports lighting on rugby union pitches can be vital for accommodating rugby union demand, with most clubs nationally utilising grass provision for midweek training activity. In Southend-on-Sea, three pitches at Southend Rugby Club are serviced, whilst only one is provided for at Westcliff Rugby Club, with both Southend RUFC and Westcliff RUFC therefore able to access their provision during evenings across the year.

Please note that a sports lit rugby union pitch is defined by the field of play and in-goal areas, where artificial lighting provides uniform illumination across the full perimeter and entire surface of the playing enclosure. This must ensure that all areas within the boundary lines are clearly visible and suitable for the safe conduct of play, effective match officiating, and, where applicable, spectator viewing. Any pitch that does not meet this criterion, such as back lit or half lit pitches, will not be considered as sports lit for the purposes of this document.

Where no form of permanent sports lighting is provided, mobile lighting can provide a solution, although this is not preferable for the RFU (it can however allow for training areas to be rotated). In addition, 3G pitches can be utilised where they are World Rugby compliant (see Part 3).

Pitch quality

The quality of rugby union pitches across Southend-on-Sea has primarily been assessed via pitch quality standard (PQS) assessments using the web app PitchPower. Clubs can utilise the services of the PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment.

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The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application.

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments (which were previously used to assess quality within a PPOSS). They are instead able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: July - October, November – March or June – June.

The PQS for rugby union examines thatch depth, root depth, average grass height, grass, weed coverage, topsoil depth, compaction, surface evenness, surface debris and line markings. Based on the inspection, bespoke recommendations are then made on how pitch improvements can be made through pitch maintenance including but not limited to decompaction, slitting, application of selective herbicide/fertiliser, scarifying, top dressing and overseeding.

The overarching quality score is provided on a scale of unclassified, basic, good, advanced and high, with recommended hours of use then attributed to each (the better quality the rating, the more capacity is considered to exist). Additional information for the ratings is provided in the table below.

Table 5.3: Rugby union pitch quality score ratings

PQS rating	Recommended hours of use (per week)	Comments
Unclassified	3	Pitch fails to meet minimum standards of the GMA's Grounds Management Framework and could be deemed poor quality.
Basic	4	A pitch that is safe for recreation sport and meets the minimum playing needs and expectations of community players nationwide.
Good	5	A pitch that is good quality and safe for recreation sport. It meets the playing needs and expectations of community players nationwide.
Advanced	5	A pitch that is high quality and meets the needs of top level recreational sport. It meets the playing needs and expectations of community and semi-professional players nationwide.
High	5	The playing surface is of a very high quality that meets the needs of professional and semi-professional sport in the UK.

It should be noted that where there is not a PQS rating, such as at education sites, the quality score defaults to basic. As part of the PPOSS, this is then checked and challenged with the RFU, Sport England as well as the Council and relevant operators for accuracy.

The GMA has determined that an unclassified pitch can accommodate three hours' worth of play per week, with this generally equating to 180 minutes of senior matches and, thus, two match equivalent sessions of demand per week. For basic quality pitches, this increases to four hours (2.6 match equivalent sessions per week), whilst for good/advanced pitches it is five hours (3.3 match equivalent sessions per week).

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Table 5.4: Pitch capacity guidance (conversion to match equivalent sessions per week)

PQS rating	Recommended hours of use (minutes) per week	Match equivalent sessions per week
Unclassified	3 (180)	2
Basic	4 (240)	2.6
Good	5 (300)	3.3
Advanced	5 (300)	3.3
High	5 (300)	3.3

A pitch-by-pitch breakdown of quality for Southend-on-Sea can be seen in the table overleaf. A PQS score is available for Westcliff RUFC with all pitches rated as basic, however, as no PQS is available for Southend RUFC. To provide quality scores, all pitches have been assumed to be basic quality, aligned to RFU expectations.

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Table 5.5: Overview of grass rugby union pitch supply within Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Club user/s	Analysis area	Community use?	Tenure	Management	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Quality rating	Midweek training pitch capacity (MES)	Weekend pitch capacity (MES)
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	-	West	No	Unsecure	Education	1	Senior	No	Basic	-	2.6
17	Chase High School	SS0 0RT	-	West	No	Unsecure	Education	1	Senior	No	Basic	-	2.6
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	-	Central	Yes	Unsecure	Education	1	Senior	No	Basic	-	2.6
57	Southend High School for Boys	SS0 0RG	-	West	No	Unsecure	Education	1	Senior	No	Basic	-	2.6
61	Southend Rugby Club	SS2 5RE	Southend RUFC	Central	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	1	Senior	No	Basic	-	2.6
61	Southend Rugby Club	SS2 5RE	Southend RUFC	Central	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	3	Senior	Yes	Basic	7.8	7.8
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	SS0 0BP	-	West	Yes	Unsecure	Education	1	Senior	No	Basic	-	2.6
99	Westcliff Rugby Club	SS4 1YG	Westcliff RUFC	OUTSIDE	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	3	Senior	No	Basic	-	7.8
99	Westcliff Rugby Club	SS4 1YG	Westcliff RUFC	OUTSIDE	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	1	Senior	Yes	Basic	2.6	2.6

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Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby union clubs as they can assist with income generation, player welfare, capacity of site/pitches, player experience.

Furthermore, it is important for the provision to be inclusive and meet club and participant needs from a welfare, diversity, quality of experience, financial sustainability and site capacity perspectives. As such, although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics. These are:

- ✦ Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- ✦ A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- ✦ Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- ✦ Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As such, facilities that provides such provision cannot be assessed as anything better than standard quality for the purposes of the PPOSS, regardless of what the overall condition is like. Aligned to this, the RFU provides guidance on [Changing Rooms](#) and [New Clubhouse](#) design on its website.

The table below summarises the ancillary facilities servicing the two Southend-on-Sea clubs. As seen, Southend RUFC is serviced by standard quality facilities, whilst Westcliffe RUFC has good quality provision.

Table 5.6: Ancillary provision of the clubs that responded to consultation

Site ID	Site name	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
61	Southend Rugby Club	Standard	Standard	Ancillary facilities include a clubhouse that provides eight changing rooms with showers, although these do not meet RFU specifications. In addition, there is officials changing as well as a bar, kitchen and large social area. Car parking is also available at the site but this is not considered adequate to accommodate all of the pitches on the site.
99	Westcliff Rugby Club	Good	Good	The ancillary facilities include six changing rooms with showers, two of which meet RFU specifications, as well as officials changing. In addition, there is a bar, kitchen and social area. A large car park also services the site.

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5.3: Demand

Demand for rugby union pitches within Southend-on-Sea tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive demand

There are two clubs within Southend-on-Sea generating a total of 40 teams across the City. As shown in the table below, Westcliff RUFC is the slightly bigger club with 21 teams, whilst Southend RUFC has 19. Regardless, both are significantly large clubs.

Broken down, the demand equates to nine adult male, two adult female, 17 age grade boys and girls, four age grade U12s and ten age grade mixed teams. This is further shown in the following table.

Table 5.7: Summary of number of teams (demand) by club

Club	Analysis area	Age grade mixed	Age grade girls U12s	Age grade boys U12s	Age grade boys / girls U13-U18	Adult male	Adult female	Total
Southend RUFC	Central	5	1	1	6	5	1	19
Westcliff RFC	OUTSIDE	5	1	1	9	4	1	21
Total	-	10	2	2	15	9	2	40
2018 Total	-	12	12			9	1	34

Participation trends

Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2018, the overall number of teams has increased by six. This is mainly through the establishment of age grade girls' teams and additional age grade boys' teams. It represents fairly significant growth for just two clubs.

Training demand

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which could reduce the capacity from a quality perspective. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting, as detailed earlier within this section of the report.

The activity and training arrangements for both clubs in Southend-on-Sea and the level of this is highlighted in the table below. As seen, both heavily utilise their pitches for training demand, with this adding significant usage to their sports-lit provision.

Table 5.8: Summary of rugby union club facility use for evening training

Club	Site ID	Site	Training demand	Match equivalent sessions (per week)
Southend RUFC	61	Southend Rugby Club	Adult	6
Southend RUFC	61	Southend Rugby Club	Age grade boys / girls	3

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Club	Site ID	Site	Training demand	Match equivalent sessions (per week)
Southend RUFC	61	Southend Rugby Club	Age grade U12s	0.5
Westcliff RUFC	99	Westcliff Rugby Club	Adult	5
Westcliff RUFC	99	Westcliff Rugby Club	Age grade boys / girls	4.5
Westcliff RFC	99	Westcliff Rugby Club	Age grade U12s	0.5
-	-	-	Total	19.5

For reference the following assumptions have been made to training demand, based upon findings and consultation with the RFU:

- Age Grade Mixed (U7s to U11s) demand is not accounted for midweek as they play/train at weekend.
- Each Age Grade U12s team is represented by 0.25 match equivalent sessions due to the reduce pitch size required to meet their demand.
- Each Age Grade (U13s to U18s) team are represented as 0.5 match equivalent sessions as they train once a week but require two teams for one full size pitch usage.
- Each adult team is represented as one match equivalent session as they train twice a week but need two teams for a full pitch.

Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training and playing on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for contact rugby union activity. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which may alleviate overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

There is currently one World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch in Southend-on-Sea, located at Cecil Jones Academy. The usage levels for this are not yet known given its development recency. It has, however, been stated that rugby union will be given priority access, if required.

See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Exported/imported demand

As previously mentioned, Westcliff RUFC is a Southend-on-Sea based club that technically plays within Rochford, despite the land being owned by Southend-on-Sea City Council. The Club is happy to continue doing this due to the close proximity of the pitches to Southend-on-Sea.

No imported demand into Southend-on-Sea is identified.

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Unmet/latent demand

There is no identified unmet or latent demand for rugby union in Southend-on-Sea reported by either Southend RUFC or Westcliff RUFC. Neither club expresses any concern with fielding their current demand or growing in the future.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined through multiple ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios to estimate additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments across Southend-on-Sea.

Participation growth

Southend RUFC states that it wishes to increase the number of its teams by a total of eight age grade boys' and girls' teams. This would represent substantial growth.

Westcliff RUFC wishes to field an additional adult female team.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2045 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby union pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions. As seen, growth of one adult male, one age grade boys and one age grade mixed team is projected.

Table 5.9: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Training demand (MES)	Weekend matches (MES)
Men (19-45yrs)	1:3,305	0.79	1	1	0.5
Women (19-45yrs)	1:15,240	0.17	0	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:428	1.40	1	0.5	0.5
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:2,174	0.26	0	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:1,429	0.87	1	0	0.125

Notwithstanding the above, team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas, or focused toward certain groups, such as via NGB initiatives. As such, increased further future growth is still considered possible despite population projections indicating that there will only be minimal growth. A growth in women and girls' rugby is thought to be particularly likely given current RFU aspirations the 2025 Women's World Cup win.

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Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only demand identified through ONS population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational. This is also to avoid any potential double counting (with population growth potentially incorporating club aspirations). Nevertheless, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised.

5.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby union. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

As mentioned earlier, an unclassified pitch quality equates to two match equivalent sessions per week, basic pitch quality equates to 2.6 match equivalent sessions per week and a good/advanced pitch quality equates to 3.3 match equivalent sessions per week. The table below then identifies how both competitive and training demand has been equated for in the capacity table.

Table 5.10: Competitive and training demand (match equivalent sessions per week)

Age group	Match equivalent sessions	Comments
Competitive demand		
Age grade boys / girls and Adult	0.5	The current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
Age grade girls / boys U12s	0.25	One match equates to 0.25 match equivalent sessions as a smaller pitch area is utilised and matches are shorter.
Age grade mixed	0.125	Play on only a proportion of senior pitch, with match play equating to 0.125 match equivalent sessions per week
Training demand		
Adult	1	Each adult teams is represented as one match equivalent session as they train twice a week but need two teams for a full pitch.
Age grade boys / girls	0.5	Each age grade (U13s to U18s) team are also represented as 0.5 match equivalent sessions as they train once a week but require two teams for one full size pitch usage.
Age grade girls / boys U12s	0.25	Each age grade U12s team is represented as 0.25 match equivalent sessions due to the reduce pitch size required to meet their demand.
Age grade mixed	-	Age grade mixed (U7s to U11s) are not accounted midweek as they play/train at weekend.

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In addition, to enable an accurate supply and demand assessment, the following assumptions are applied:

- ◀ All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches, with age grade teams playing on overmarked pitches, unless dedicated age grade pitches are known to be instead.
- ◀ From U13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ All club training is assumed to take place on clubs' sites on sports lit marked pitches unless known otherwise from consultation.
- ◀ A total of one match equivalent session of demand, per pitch, has been added for educational sites to accommodate for curricular and extracurricular activities. This is identified in the overall site capacity column.
- ◀ Need to include commentary on whether club is operating separate gender teams within mixed age-grade definition.
- ◀ Other usage of pitches (e.g., by football teams) is added as match equivalent sessions based on the level and regularity of play.

Midweek capacity position

Midweek capacity has been calculated based on the total amount of training demand from clubs across the number of sports lit pitches that they have access to and the quality and capacity rating of these.

Weekend capacity position

Weekend capacity has been calculated based on the total amount of competitive demand fielded by a club across the total number of pitches it uses for matches on its site. This is regardless of whether they are sports lit or not.

Overall site capacity

The overall site capacity has been calculated based on the training (midweek/training demand) and competitive demand (weekend matchplay demand) combined across the total number of pitches across the site and their quality and associated capacity rating.

Identified additional activity / capacity

Historically, spare capacity for rugby union has been identified on Saturday afternoons as this is when adult senior men's team play nationally; however, participation trend data from the RFU identifies that demand now is spread across the week. This is because pitches are substantially used for midweek training demand (as explored earlier), whilst weekends are used to accommodate competitive fixtures for various age groups.

As a result of the above, spare capacity is examined on a site as a whole rather than at any given peak period. The proceeding Strategy & Action Plan will then provide bespoke recommendations in order to determine how additional capacity could be created, based on where and when shortfalls are identified.

In addition, it should be noted that sites that have unsecure tenure or that are unavailable for community use are not considered to have any additional capacity, with long-term access not guaranteed. Similarly, poor quality pitches have any spare capacity discounted as further usage should not be encouraged until improvements take place.

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Table 5.11: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Tenure	Community use?	Midweek/training demand (MES)	Sports lit Pitches	Midweek training pitch capacity (MES)	Midweek capacity position (MES)	Weekend demand (MES)	Total pitches	Weekend pitch capacity (MES)	Weekend capacity (MES)	Overall site capacity ⁸ (MES)	Overall capacity in hours
61	Southend Rugby Club	Central	Secure	Yes	9.5	3	7.8	1.7	7.2	4	10.4	3.2	6.3	9.5
99	Westcliff Rugby Club	OUTSIDE	Secure	Yes	10	1	2.6	7.4	8.2	6	15.6	7.4	2.6	4
3	Belfairs Academy	West	Unsecure	No	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.6	2.6	1.6	2.5
17	Chase High School	West	Unsecure	No	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.6	2.6	1.6	2.5
52	Southchurch High School	Central	Unsecure	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.6	2.6	1.6	2.5
57	Southend High School for Boys	West	Unsecure	No	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.6	2.6	1.6	2.5
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	West	Unsecure	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.6	2.6	1.6	2.5

⁸ One match equivalent has been removed per pitch on education sites to account for curricular and extracurricular demand

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5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identifies the overall supply and demand balance (capacity against overplay) in each of the analysis areas based on match equivalent sessions per week. There are separate tables for midweek and weekend demand based on the different requirements for training demand and match play activity.

Midweek capacity

Midweek capacity differs from overall site capacity, as highlighted further below in Table 5.16, because only sports-lit grass pitches or World Rugby-compliant 3G pitches can be feasibly used to meet midweek demand. Pitches without sports lighting are effectively unusable during this period. As community rugby clubs must train during autumn and winter evenings in line with the rugby union season, the provision of sports lighting is essential to ensure sufficient midweek training capacity.

The table below highlights the midweek capacity position in Southend-on-Sea on sports lit pitches.

Table 5.12: Midweek capacity balance (sports-lit pitches only)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Midweek/training demand	Sports lit pitches	Quality	Midweek training pitch capacity (MES)	Midweek capacity position (MES)
61	Southend Rugby Club	Central	9.5	3	Basic	7.8	1.7
99	Westcliff Rugby Club	OUTSIDE	10	1	Basic	2.6	7.4
						Total	9.1

As shown in the table above, there is an overall shortfall of midweek training capacity within Southend-on-Sea totalling 9.1 match equivalent sessions. This is due to a lack of sports lit pitches, basic quality across the two sites, and high levels of usage from Southend RUFC and Westcliff RUFC.

The above means that there is a current shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions during midweek across the City. This increases to 10.6 match equivalent sessions when factoring in future demand from population projections (note that this is applied City-wide due Westcliff RUFC being based outside of the local authority).

Table 5.13: Overall midweek supply and demand balance on rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Midweek capacity position (MES)	Future demand (MES)	Future total (MES)
Central	1.7	-	1.7
East	-	-	-
West	-	-	-
OUTSIDE	7.4	-	7.4
Total	9.1	1.5	10.6

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Weekend capacity

Weekend capacity differs from midweek capacity as the majority of rugby activity takes place during daylight hours, meaning sports lighting is not a requirement for pitch usage. As a result, both lit and unlit grass pitches can contribute to overall weekend capacity.

The table below highlights the weekend capacity position in Southend-on-Sea across all pitches.

Table 5.14: Weekend capacity balance

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Weekend demand	Total pitches	Quality	Weekend pitch capacity (MES)	Weekend capacity position (MES)
61	Southend Rugby Club	Central	7.2	4	Basic	10.4	3.2
99	Westcliff Rugby Club	OUTSIDE	8.2	6	Basic	15.6	7.4
						Total	10.6

As shown in the table above, there is current capacity for weekend matches within Southend-on-Sea totalling 10.6 match equivalent sessions. This results in overall spare capacity of 10.6 match equivalent sessions, although this reduces to 9.475 match equivalent sessions when factoring in future demand from population projections (note that this is applied City-wide due Westcliff RUFC being based outside of the local authority).

Table 5.15: Overall weekend supply and demand balance on rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Weekend capacity position (MES)	Future demand (MES)	Future total (MES)
Central	3.2	-	3.2
East	-	-	-
West	-	-	-
OUTSIDE	7.4	-	7.4
Total	10.6	1.125	9.475

Overall site capacity/overplay

Overall, across Southend-on-Sea, there is considered to be an insufficient supply of rugby union pitches to accommodate current levels of demand, with a combined total of 9.3 match equivalent session of deficits identified. This equates to 14 hours of usage.

Table 5.16: Summary of overall site capacity of rugby union pitches in Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sports lit Pitches	Total pitches	Midweek capacity position	Weekend capacity position	Overall site capacity
61	Southend Rugby Club	Central	3	4	1.7	3.2	6.7
99	Westcliff Rugby Club	OUTSIDE	1	4	7.4	7.4	2.6
		Total	5	10	9.1	10.6	9.3

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It should be noted that the overall site capacity is based on the total amount of midweek and weekend demand across the capacity of all pitches. As such, a site as a whole can display a shortfall despite having spare capacity at the weekend or during midweek.

5.6: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is a clear and evident shortfall of grass rugby union provision within Southend-on-Sea, with this equating to 8.9 match equivalent sessions or 13.5 hours of usage. This is due to the large amount of overplay identified, despite weekend capacity available. It is predominately due to a high level of training demand using a relatively limited number of sports lit pitches.

Furthermore, after factoring in future demand from population growth, the identified shortfalls are projected to worsen. This conclusion is summarised further via the following table.

Table 5.17: Overall supply and demand balance on rugby union pitches in Southend-on-Sea

Analysis area	Overall site capacity (MES)	Future demand (MES)	Future total (MES)
Central	6.7		6.7
East	-	-	-
West	-	-	-
OUTDSIDE	2.6	-	2.6
Total	9.3	2.625	11.925

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Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 9.1 match equivalent sessions for midweek rugby union activity, whilst overall spare capacity exists on weekends.
- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of 9.3 match equivalent sessions or 14 hours of usage, with this predominately due to a high level of training demand using a relatively limited number of sports lit pitches.
- ◀ Based on the above, there is a clear and evident shortfall of rugby union provision.

Rugby union – supply summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of nine rugby union pitches located across six, with six available for community use.
- ◀ Further to the above, Westcliff RUFC has four senior pitches on land just outside of the City that are considered as part of the study due to being owned by the Council.
- ◀ Both Southend RUFC and Westcliff RUFC are considered to have security of tenure, although the former is keen to secure a long-term lease from the Council rather than continuing its rental agreement.
- ◀ All pitches are considered basic quality. Westcliff RUFC has had a PQS report carried out.
- ◀ Three pitches at Southend Rugby Club are serviced by sports lighting, which can aid training activity, whilst one is provided for at Westcliff Rugby Club.
- ◀ Southend RUFC is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities, whilst Westcliffe RUFC has good quality provision.

Rugby union – demand summary

- ◀ There are two clubs generating a total of 40 teams, with this equating to nine adult male, two adult female, 17 age grade boys and girls, four age grade U12s and ten age grade mixed teams.
- ◀ Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2018, the overall number of teams has increased by six.
- ◀ Both clubs heavily utilise their pitches for training, in addition to match play demand.
- ◀ Westcliff RUFC is a Southend-on-Sea based club that technically plays within Rochford, with this equating to exporting demand albeit no issues are reported with this.
- ◀ Neither club expresses any concern with fielding their current demand or growing in the future, with no unmet or latent demand perceived to exist.
- ◀ Southend RUFC states that it wishes to increase the number of its teams by a total of eight age grade boys' and girls' teams, whereas Westcliff RUFC wishes to field an additional adult female team.
- ◀ Population projections to 2045 forecast a growth of one adult male, one age grade boys and one age grade mixed team.

PART 6: RUGBY LEAGUE

6.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League, and the Championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game structure in the UK. The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

Most community club rugby league is played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training can also be required throughout winter months.

Senior rugby league is played on a pitch measuring 100 x 68 metres. The preferred pitch size for U7s, U8s and U9s is 60 x 40 metres, whereas for U10s and U11s it is 80 x 30 metres, with U12s and above generally playing on senior pitches. Teams from U7s to U11s are known as primary teams, whilst teams from U12s to U18s are known as junior teams.

Consultation

In the absence of current rugby league demand in Southend-on-Sea, the RFL has been consulted to inform this section of the report.

6.2: Supply

There are currently no identified grass rugby league pitches in Southend-on-Sea.

The previous PPOSS in 2018 recorded one grass rugby league pitch at Shoeburyness High School that was utilised by Southend Spartans RLFC. This was a dual use rugby union pitch and was assessed as being of poor quality, but it is no longer provided.

Since 2018, a pitch has also been provided at Southend Rugby Club that was also utilised by Southend Sharks RLFC. However, this pitch is also no longer in use for rugby league.

6.3: Demand

There are currently no rugby league teams in Southend-on-Sea.

Previously, there have been two clubs. However, Southend Spartans RLFC has been inactive since 2016, whereas Southend Sharks RLFC has been inactive since 2021.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis / conclusion

The RFL suggests that it would be keen to support the re-establishment of demand within Southend-on-Sea, although in the short term any demand would likely be minimal. As such, it is unlikely that any rugby league provision is required over the lifespan of the PPOSS, with the stock of rugby union pitches being above to become dual-use considered sufficient to cater for any activity (as was the case at Southend Rugby Club).

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Rugby league – supply and demand summary

- ◆ The RFL suggests that it would be keen to support the re-establishment of demand within Southend-on-Sea, although in the short term any demand would likely be minimal.
- ◆ It is unlikely that any rugby league provision is required over the lifespan of the PPOSS, with the stock of rugby union pitches being above to become dual-use considered sufficient to cater for any activity.

Rugby league – supply summary

- ◆ There are currently no identified grass rugby league pitches in Southend-on-Sea.
- ◆ The previous PPOSS in 2018 recorded one grass rugby league pitch at Shoeburyness High School that was utilised by Southend Spartans RLFC.
- ◆ A pitch was provided at Southend Rugby Club for Southend Sharks RLFC until 2021.

Rugby league – demand summary

- ◆ There are currently no rugby league teams in Southend-on-Sea.
- ◆ Previously, there have been two clubs - Southend Spartans RLFC has been inactive since 2016, whereas Southend Sharks RLFC has been inactive since 2021.

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PART 7: HOCKEY

7.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH).

Competitive league hockey matches, and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable for introductory level hockey, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 7.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Essential Playing Level	Desirable Playing Level
1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	International hockey (training and matches).	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (performance centres and upwards).
2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (academy centres and upwards).	All adult and junior league hockey; Intermediate or advanced school hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools.
3	Sand filled surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	All adult and junior club training and league hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools; Intermediate or advanced school hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level).
4	All 3G surfaces	No hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2⁹, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it is a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including at schools, with a dynamic carpet which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek for senior activity and requires access to a pitch and sports lights, whereas many junior teams train on a Sunday as well as during midweek.

⁹ <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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Consultation

There are currently two clubs fielding competitive hockey teams within Southend-on-Sea known as Old Southendians HC and Southend HC. Both clubs have responded to consultation via an online survey resulting in a 100% response rate.

7.2: Supply

For senior teams, a full-size pitch for hockey matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. EH's preference is for four metre sides and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres.

Within Southend-on-Sea, it has been identified that there is only one full size hockey suitable AGP, with this located at Warners Bridge Park within the Central Analysis Area. It is available for community use and is serviced by sports lighting. It also has current community hockey usage via Old Southendians HC for training and matches as well as Southend HC for training.

In addition to the full sized AGP at Warners Bridge Park, there are also two smaller sized AGPs across Southend-on-Sea. However, neither are available for community use or sports lit.

Table 7.2: Summary of hockey suitable pitches in the Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports-lit?	Size (metres)
Full size						
77	Warners Bridge Park AGP	SS2 5RE	Central	Yes	Yes	91 x 55
Smaller sized						
35	Hamstel Junior School	SS2 4PQ	Central	No	No	38 x 20
41	Leigh North Street Primary School	SS9 1QE	West	No	No	45 x 25

Nationally, most smaller size pitches are considered too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, although some larger ones are utilised for training demand and junior play. However, in Southend-on-Sea, none of the smaller size pitches are considered suitable as they are all too small, unavailable for community use and without sports lighting. Based on this, the stock is discounted from this point forward as the pitches are not relevant from a hockey perspective.

The previous PPOSS completed in 2018 identified a second full size AGP at St Thomas More High School as well as a smaller sized AGP at The Eastwood Academy. These have both been resurfaced to a 3G surface since finalisation. In addition, another smaller sized AGP located at St Christophers School has been lost to the development of a new school building.

For the location of the full size hockey suitable AGPs currently servicing Southend-on-Sea, please see Figure 7.1 overleaf.

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Figure 7.1: Location of full size hockey pitches



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Future supply

A planning application for the development of a new full size hockey AGP at Garon Park has been approved, subject to the completion of a Section 106 agreement. The new AGP will be community available and sports lit. As a result of the construction, Southend HC will relocate to the pitch for its training and match demand, bringing an end to its exported demand (this is detailed further later on in this section of the report).

Management and security of tenure

The AGP at Warners Bridge Park is managed by Old Southendians HC. The Club has a long term lease agreement for its management with Southend-on-Sea City Council, with this lasting until 2051. As such, the Club is considered to have security of tenure.

Contrarily, Southend HC is not considered to have security of tenure. It exports demand via a rental agreement to Sweyne Park School, in Rochford as well as other sites for training demand (including Warners Bridge Park). No long-term use agreements are in place for the Club at any of these sites.

Availability / usage

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). In Southend-on-Sea, the pitch at Warners Bridge Park is available to the community every day from 09.00 until 22.00, meaning it is fully accessible during the peak period.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that some providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed, leading to many pitches now being outside of their recommended lifespan and, consequently, poor quality.

For the PPOSS, AGPs are assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following non-technical site assessments. This rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance that is undertaken (for the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).

The AGP at Warners Bridge Park is considered to be of a standard quality. It was last resurfaced in 2012, meaning it is four years past its recommend lifespan. Notwithstanding this, Old Southendians HC states that it has undergone regeneration through its maintenance company, with this extending its usability in the interim. In addition, the Club has a sinking fund in place which it hopes to use for resurfacing when the time comes.

Elsewhere, Southend HC states that the pitch at Sweyne Park School is of a good quality due to its recent resurface. This is, however, outside of Southend-on-Sea.

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Ancillary provision

Warners Bridge Park has a good quality clubhouse that contains changing rooms and a social area for post-match refreshments, which can often be a league requirement. However, it is reported that the car parking that services the pitch is of a poor standard and inadequate to accommodate demand, especially at weekends. This is also due to the site being shared with Southend RUFC.

Although the majority of Southend HC's competitive demand is based in Rochford, the Club does have a clubhouse in Southend-on-Sea at Belfairs Park/Sports Ground. It utilises this for post-match activities but notes that attendance can be affected due to the time it takes to travel from Sweyne Park School.

7.3: Demand

There are a total of 18 senior teams originating from two hockey clubs based in Southend-on-Sea. Old Southendians HC fields six senior men's and five senior women's teams equating, whilst Southend HC fields three senior men's and four senior women's teams. This is further shown in the table below.

Table 7.3 Summary of number of hockey teams in Southend-on-Sea

Club	Senior men	Senior women	Total
Old Southendians HC	6	5	11
Southend HC	3	4	7
Total	9	9	18
2018 PPOSS	9	5	14

To further explore demand, the table below breaks down club membership. Across both clubs, there are a total of 147 senior men, 124 senior women, 91 junior boys' and 68 junior girls' members.

Table 7.4: Summary of hockey club membership in Southend-on-Sea

Club	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boy's	Junior girl's	Total
Old Southendians HC	107	77	63	47	294
Southend HC	40	47	28	21	136
Total	147	124	91	68	430

Participation trends

Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2018, the overall number of teams within Southend-on-Sea has increased by four. As shown in Table 7.3 this increase can be attributed to senior women's demand.

Additional demand

Away from club-based match play and training demand, there are also several initiatives supported by EH that operate across the Country. These include:

- ◀ Back to Hockey
- ◀ Flyerz Hockey
- ◀ Hockey Heroes

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- ◀ Quicksticks
- ◀ Walking Hockey

Where undertaken, these initiatives add to the hockey demand at sites. In Southend-on-Sea, Back to Hockey currently has a presence at Warners Bridge Park, hosted by Old Southendians HC.

No other initiatives are identified within the City.

Exported/imported demand

As referenced elsewhere within this section of the Assessment Report, Southend HC currently exports all of its competitive demand to the AGP located at Sweyne Park School in Rochford. Notwithstanding this, once the planned construction of the AGP at Garon Park is complete, the Club will relocate to this pitch and it will accommodate all of its demand back in Southend-on-Sea.

No imported hockey demand is evidenced.

Unmet/latent demand

Southend HC identifies unmet demand in that pitch capacity and its need to travel has impacted its growth. However, it states that this will be resolved via the planned pitch at Garon Park.

Future demand

Growing participation is the number one aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Growth in participation will not only come from the traditional 11-a-side game but from the informal, recreational ways to play hockey such as small-sided hockey, which can be played at any time during the week or at weekends. Such growth will therefore require increased access to AGPs across the week.

Due to the above, unlike other pitch sports, EH does not use team generation rates to determine future demand and instead likes to understand growth by participation, rather than dedicated teams. As such, team generation rates have not been used to calculate future growth for hockey in Southend-on-Sea. However, the forthcoming Strategy document will include the use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator which will forecast additional demand for hockey arising from new housing developments.

In relation to club aspiration, through consultation, neither club reports any growth plans. However, Southend HC states that it will reassess this following its planned relocation to Garon Park.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

When assessing the capacity of hockey suitable AGPs, all usage needs to be taken into account. This is because, in addition to hockey activity, there is often heavy football usage of the provision and occasionally other sporting use which can take capacity away from hockey-based demand.

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Match play analysis

It is suggested that a full-size hockey suitable, sports-lit AGP can accommodate up to four matches on one day, providing no usage limitations are in place. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (which is Saturdays for seniors and Sundays for juniors).

Using the calculations, on the basis that there is currently one full size hockey suitable pitch in Southend-on-Sea, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to eight senior teams at peak time across the City. With 11 teams presently fielded by Old Southendians HC and seven by Southend HC, this therefore equates to a deficiency of hockey suitable AGP provision.

This above aligned to Southend HC currently exporting demand to Rochford. However, the planned development at Garon Park will alleviate the identified issues, with this increasing capacity within Southend-on-Sea and providing a resolution for the displaced activity. That being said, its impact should be monitored to ensure it is sufficient.

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time). As such, resolving the capacity issues for senior demand will also likely ensure that all junior demand can continue to be accommodated.

Training demand

Capacity for training in Southend-on-Sea is considered to be sufficient to accommodate current demand. This is because Old Southendians HC access the Warners Bridge Park AGP on Tuesday's and Thursday's for four hours each evening, with no further access reported as being required. Similarly, Southend HC also utilises the pitch at Warners Bridge Park AGP on Wednesday evenings.

Furthermore, once the AGP at Garon Park has been completed, Southend HC will move its demand to the site. As a result, this will free up capacity for additional training slots for both clubs across the two venues, should they wish to increase their number of teams in the future.

7.6: Conclusion

There is a need for two full size hockey suitable AGPs in Southend-on-Sea, meaning the current supply of hockey provision is insufficient to meet demand, with only one full size AGP provided at Warners Bridge Park. However, given that planning permission has been granted for the construction for a new pitch at Garon Park, this will provide a solution to alleviating the capacity shortfalls and bring an end to the identified exported demand. Its impact should be monitored to ensure that the overall supply becomes adequate.

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Hockey – supply and demand summary

- There is a need for two full size hockey suitable AGPs in Southend-on-Sea, meaning the current supply of hockey provision is insufficient to meet demand, with only one pitch provided.
- The planned development at Garon Park will alleviate the identified issues, with this increasing capacity within Southend-on-Sea and providing a resolution for the displaced activity.
- The impact of the development should be closely monitored to ensure that the overall supply becomes adequate.

Hockey – supply summary

- There is only one full size hockey suitable AGP in Southend-on-Sea, with this located at Warners Bridge Park.
- The pitch is sports-lit and available for community use.
- There are also two smaller sized AGPs but these are all too small for purposeful hockey and are unavailable for community use as well as being without sports lights.
- The AGP at Warners Bridge Park is managed by Old Southendians HC.
- The pitch is assessed as standard quality, but it has exceeded its recommended 10-year lifespan having been last resurfaced in 2012.
- Warners Bridge Park has a good quality clubhouse that contains changing rooms and a social area for post-match refreshments, although car parking is reported as being problematic.
- A planning application for the development of a new full size hockey AGP at Garon Park has been approved, with Southend HC to relocate to the provision once it is in place.

Hockey – demand summary

- There are a total of 18 senior teams originating from two hockey clubs based in Southend-on-Sea.
- Old Southendians HC fields six senior men's and five senior women's teams equating, whilst Southend HC fields three senior men's and four senior women's teams.
- Across the clubs, there are a total of 147 senior men, 124 senior women, 91 junior boys' and 68 junior girls' members.
- Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2018, the overall number of teams has increased by four.
- In addition to club-based demand, Back to Hockey currently has a presence at Warners Bridge Park, hosted by Old Southendians HC.
- Southend HC currently exports all of its competitive demand to the AGP located at Sweyne Park School in Rochford, although it will return to Southend-on-Sea when the pitch at Garon Park is developed.
- Southend HC reports unmet demand, linked to a lack of capacity and it displacing its demand.
- Neither Southend HC nor Old Southendians HC report any future demand.

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PART 8: GOLF

8.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in the Country, with around 730,000 members belonging to one of 1,750 affiliated clubs. It is a unique sport in that through the handicapping system it allows players of all abilities, ages and genders to play together on an equitable basis.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'. The core source of funding for England Golf comes from members of affiliated golf clubs who pay an annual fee to their club, with this collected and returned through county bodies.

England Golf's "The Course Planner" sets out its strategic direction and aims to re-focus priorities, energy, and passion on key areas to help widen golf's appeal, highlighting the sport as more inclusive and accessible than ever. It also utilises "18 Tee Shots to Success" which is designed to best position growth in the game.

Consultation

The section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which has provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Southend-on-Sea.

8.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 8.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Within Southend-on-Sea there are four golf facilities conforming with the above definition. These are summarised in the table below.

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Table 8.2: Golf facilities within Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Postcode
5	Belfairs Park Golf Course	West	SS9 4LR
32	Garon Park Golf Complex	Central	SS2 4FA
73	Thorpe Hall Golf Club	Central	SS1 3AT
96	Leigh Golf Range	West	SS9 2GB

Figure 8.1 below highlights the location of the golf provision in Southend-on-Sea.

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Figure 8.1: Location of golf provision in Southend-on-Sea



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Standard hole golf courses

There are two 18-hole golf courses and three 9-hole golf courses identified within Southend-on-Sea across three sites. The table below provides a summary of the par, yardage and slope rating of these.

Table 8.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ¹⁰			Slope rating
5	Belfairs Park Golf Course	18	70	5,840	5,507	5,514	112 - 126
32	Garon Park Golf Complex	9	35	3,034	2,846	2,618	108 – 124
		9	35	3,122	2,947	2,708	113 – 127
		9	35	3,063	2,936	2,634	110 – 125
73	Thorpe Hall Golf Club	18	71	6,210	5,959	5,661	124 – 133

Nationally, many nine-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase. Garon Park Golf Complex is an exception to this, offering three different nine-hole courses that are often combined to provide a full 18-hole experience whilst providing more variety for visitors and members. This provision is therefore more aligned to the 18-hole course offerings.

Slope ratings

Slope ratings are relatively new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155 and the minimum is 55, whilst the standard difficulty is considered to be 113. As such, the provision across Southend-on-Sea is generally of average difficulty, although the course at Thorpe Hall Golf Club is of a more difficult variety.

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game. In Southend-on-Sea, a Par 3 9-hole golf course is provided at Garon Park Golf Complex in addition to its standard hole courses. This therefore adds to the variety across the City.

Driving range bays

Garon Park Golf Complex provides a 30-bay driving range whilst Leigh Golf Range offers a 22-bay range. Both driving ranges are covered, sports-lit and offer pay and play access.

Garon Park Golf Complex provides its driving range to supplement its course provision, whereas Leigh Golf Range is a standalone driving range facility. They are further summarised in the following table.

¹⁰ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

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Table 8.4: Summary of driving range bays

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of bays provided	Sports lighting?	Ball Tracking Technology?
32	Garon Park Golf Complex	Central	30	Yes	Yes
96	Leigh Golf Range	West	22	Yes	No

Nationally, many driving range providers are updating their facilities with technology enhancements in a bid to increase demand, with this including the installation of automatic tees or entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. These allow for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback. In Southend-on-Sea, such technology is offered at Garon Park Golf Complex.

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England: members clubs, proprietary clubs, and municipal facilities. Each of these is summarised in the table below.

Table 8.5: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed with regard to dress codes and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales.

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Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability.

In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment. On the other hand, more income can be brought in through regular users compared to what would be the case had they been part of a membership scheme.

In Southend-on-Sea, there is one municipal site, two proprietary venues and one members golf facility, with this therefore providing a varied mix. The table below explores this further.

Table 8.6: Summary of ownership/management in Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Ownership / management
5	Belfairs Park Golf Course	Municipal
32	Garon Park Golf Complex	Proprietary
73	Thorpe Hall Golf Club	Members
96	Leigh Golf Range	Proprietary

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, most facilities now offer a more flexible pricing structure to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership, with England Golf encouraging this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when varied packages are available. For instance, some now offer five and/or six-day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over).

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £1,071. All three golf clubs within Southend-on-Sea charge more than this for a full membership, with the average being £1,456 (36% higher than the national rate). This implies that the three are relatively high end offerings. Moreover, Thorpe Hall Golf Club also has a joining fee for access, although the extent of this is unclear.

In addition, all clubs within Southend-on-Sea offer green fees, with weekday fees ranging from £24.50 to £80 and from £31 to £80 on weekends. This, together with membership pricing, is summarised in the following table.

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Table 8.7: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee?	Full membership (per year)	Green fee (per round) ¹¹	
				Weekday	Weekend
5	Belfairs Park Golf Course	-	£1,145.00	£24.50	£31.00
32	Garon Park Golf Complex	-	£1,400.00	£26.00	£32.00
73	Thorpe Hall Golf Club	Yes	£1,822.00	£80.00	£80.00

No membership scheme is offered at Leigh Golf Range as it is a standalone driving range facility. It has therefore not been included within the above.

Quality

Judging the condition of golf facilities can be difficult, with there being no official national or county golf facility rankings to inform quality aspects and with it often being relative to the provision on offer and the price point for access. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines. However, quality can also be subjective and can be dependent on, amongst other aspects, golfer preference and ability.

In terms of golf course quality at golf clubs across Southend-on-Sea, this is seen to be of a very good quality at Garon Park Golf Complex and Thorpe Hall Golf Club, with this likely linked to the price points for access. Conversely, at Belfairs Park Golf Course, quality has previously been raised as an issue, with maintenance reportedly diminishing.

Ancillary facilities across the golf course venues are also of a good quality and include a variety of amenities. All three offer a clubhouse with bar and catering facilities, although Belfairs Park Golf Course is without a function/meeting room.

Table 8.8: Summary of ancillary facilities at each golf club

Site ID	Site name	Clubhouse?	Bar and catering?	Function / meeting room?
5	Belfairs Park Golf Course	Yes	Yes	No
32	Garon Park Golf Complex	Yes	Yes	Yes
73	Thorpe Hall Golf Club	Yes	Yes	Yes

Golf clubs often need clubhouse revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped building is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals.

From a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g. by providing gender specific changing facilities.

¹¹ Where more than one course is provided, the price displayed is for the larger course.

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8.3: Demand

The following section examines current demand for golf in Southend-on-Sea as well as recent trends and potential future demand. Nationally, there has been a recent growth in golf demand, particularly following Covid-19 where the sport benefitted from being one of the first activities allowed to take place. Prior to this, participation in golf had generally been in decline, although the reduction had been levelling off. Priority is now on trying to retain the increases that have been experienced, with early signs suggesting that this is achievable.

Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 407, which is based on a central national handicap platform. Within Southend-on-Sea, membership numbers are higher, with this totaling 446 (9% above the national average).

The current and previous membership average across Southend-on-Sea is further summarised in the table below. Please note that data by club is not available as this is considered to be commercially sensitive information.

Table 8.9: Average membership numbers within Southend-on-Sea

Local authority	2015	2016	2017	2018	2022	2023	2024	2025
Southend-on-Sea	306	262	294	165	351	374	401	446

As seen in the above table, membership numbers have also grown overall during the documented period. Between 2015 and 2025, there was an average membership increase of 46% (306-446), with a sharp decrease seen up to 2018 before year-on-year growth (data between 2019 and 2021 was not collected). Whilst this overall increase is in line with the national picture, the continued rise following Covid-19 (rather than just in the immediate aftermath) is relatively unique, at least to this extent.

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within Southend-on-Sea are not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf. That being said, all courses offer green fee access, suggesting that a degree of such usage will be received at each, despite high membership numbers. It would be expected that Belfairs Park Golf Course would receive the highest level given its municipal nature.

In addition to the courses, Garon Park Golf Complex and Leigh Golf Range both offer pay and play for their driving ranges. The former is likely accessed by members as well as visitors, whilst the latter is set up entirely for visitors given that no membership scheme is in place. This is standard practice for standalone driving ranges.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access.

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Within Southend-on-Sea, Garon Park Golf Complex is currently known to have a waiting list in place. This therefore members that there is unmet demand for this site, although that does not mean that there is unmet demand for golf in general.

In the past, it was common for clubs to have membership waiting lists, but this has become rarer since the turn of the millennium. That being said, a rise in demand following the Covid-19 pandemic has tested this and resulted in increased capacity pressures, with a third of clubs nationally now thought to have waiting times before new members can join.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision.

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e. through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

In addition, England Golf has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility, with the population broken down into nine golfing segments. These segments are defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Younger actives
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional time pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments in Southend-on-Sea. The highest demand is from “relaxed members” (10,352 people), whilst the lowest is from “older traditionalists” (8,663 people).

Exported/imported demand

Displaced demand for golf is relatively common, with golfers not tending to adhere to local authority boundaries, and site selection more likely to reflect individual preferences in terms of access costs, quality and playability as well as social aspects. In Southend-on-Sea, whilst levels are not known, it is considered that there will be a relatively high amount of imported demand from golfers looking for a relatively high end offering, as well as to Par 3 provision and the standalone driving range given that some neighbouring authorities are without such facilities.

Conversely, significant levels of exported demand are also likely to be experienced. This is especially the case for residents that are being priced out of access to the golf course sites, with more affordable offerings found outside of Southend-on-Sea.

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Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

In addition to the above, it should be noted the population of Southend-on-Sea is expected to increase significantly up to 2045 (aligned to the Council's Local Plan). If this increase is realised, it will likely lead to continued increases in golf demand which could place further pressure on the existing facilities.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

Across Southend-on-Sea, there is a good mix of golf venues, with a blend of standard hole courses, a Par 3 facility and two driving ranges as well as a variety in the operational models in place. However, membership and usage levels is considerably high and is likely to continue to grow in the future. As such, it is questionable as to whether the supply is sufficient in quantitative terms. Furthermore, the City is without a more affordable offering, with all three existing course sites seen relatively high-end.

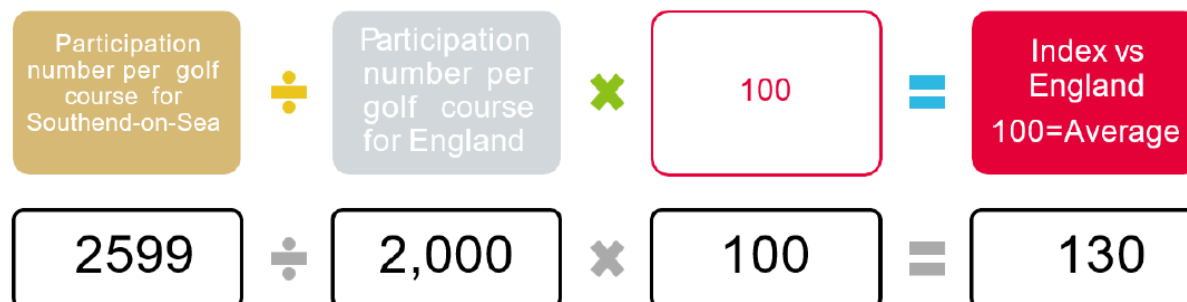
The above is supported by England Golf's Relative Demand tool. Within this, it calculates the participation number in an area by establishing what proportion of the population is likely to be golfers, which can then be used to determine the number of participants per facility. This can then be compared to the national rate, with an index created for comparison purposes. Using 100 as the average, anything below this suggests that an area has either low demand or a high facility count, whereas anything above provides evidence that an area has high demand and/or a low level of provision.

Figure 8.2: Regular golfer demand index calculations for Southend-on-Sea

Diagram 1 – Regular Golfer Demand Index Calculation



Diagram 2 – Regular Golfer Demand Index Calculation for Southend-on-Sea Authority



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As shown, the index rating for Southend-on-Sea (130) exceeds the national benchmark (100). This therefore indicates the number of golf facilities provided is insufficient to meet the demand for regular golfers within the City.

8.5: Conclusion

Whilst there is a good mix of golf facilities within Southend-on-Sea, the quantity levels are insufficient to meet growing demand levels. As a result, all existing golf facilities need to be protected and retained, whilst opportunities should also be explored to offer increased provision, particularly in relation to more affordable offerings.

Golf – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Whilst there is a good mix of golf facilities within Southend-on-Sea, the quantity levels are insufficient to meet growing demand levels.
- ◀ All existing golf facilities need to be protected and retained, whilst opportunities should also be explored to offer increased provision, particularly in relation to more affordable offerings.

Golf – supply summary

- ◀ Within Southend-on-Sea there are four golf sites.
- ◀ There are two 18-hole courses and three 9-hole courses provided across three sites.
- ◀ A Par 3 9-hole golf course is also provided at Garon Park Golf Complex.
- ◀ Garon Park Golf Complex also provides a 30-bay driving range, whilst Leigh Golf Range offers a standalone 22-bay range (both are covered and sports-lit).
- ◀ There is one municipal, two proprietary and one members golf facility.
- ◀ Pricing across the golf venues is high and in excess of the national average across each.
- ◀ Linked to high price points, the quality of the provision is very good at Thorpe Hall Golf Club and Garon Park Golf Complex; however, issues are identified at Belfairs Park Golf Course.

Golf – demand summary

- ◀ The current average golf club membership across Southend-on-Sea is 446, which is 9% above the national average of 407.
- ◀ Between 2015 and 2025 there has been a membership increase of 9% across the City.
- ◀ Whilst pay and play usage is unknown, all sites offer access, and it is expected to be highest at Belfairs Park Golf Course and Leigh Golf Range due to their nature.
- ◀ Garon Park Golf Complex has a waiting list in place, with this representing unmet demand for the site.
- ◀ Levels of exported and imported demand are likely to be experienced, particularly from high end golfers entering the City and those looking for more affordable offerings leaving.

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PART 9: BOWLS

9.1: Introduction

All bowls greens in Southend-on-Sea are flat green. Bowls England is the NGB for flat green bowls with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance. Regionally, flat green bowls is administered by the Essex County Bowling Association.

The flat green bowling season runs from May to September.

Consultation

There are currently 13 bowls club in Southend-on-Sea. However, only four of these have responded to consultation requests, with this representing a 31% response rate. The four responsive clubs are:

- ▶ Alexandra BC
- ▶ Essex County BC
- ▶ Southend-on-Sea BC
- ▶ Thorpe Bay BC

Whilst a low level of correspondence is not uncommon for bowls, this is particularly short of expectations. The Southend Parks Bowls Circle, which represents all clubs using park sites in the City, states that it is not willing to be involved in the study, with this therefore impacting upon the responses. Relevant information pertaining to these has instead been provided by the Council.

9.2: Supply

There are 17 bowls greens in Southend-on-Sea located across 12 sites. The large majority of these are located in the West Analysis Area (11), whilst just one is found in the East Analysis Area.

Table 9.1: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens
Central	5
East	1
West	11
Total	17

Additionally, there is indoor bowls activity taking place within Southend-on-Sea. Indoor bowls is further examined in the accompanying Indoor and Built Facilities Needs Assessment, with the following summarised:

- ▶ There are two indoor bowls facilities in Southend-on-Sea located at Essex County Indoor Bowls Club and Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club.
- ▶ Essex County Indoor Bowls Club is assessed as above average quality, whilst Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club is below average.
- ▶ All of the population in Southend-on-Sea are located within 30 minutes' drive of a facility.

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- ◆ Essex County Indoor Bowls Club has circa 700 members, whereas Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club has circa 100.
- ◆ There is also one indoor bowls club with over 300 members based just outside of the City at Rayleigh Leisure Centre (in Rochford).

Additionally, it should be referenced that outdoor greens are provided at both of the indoor bowls sites and it is noted that many members of outdoor clubs are also members at the indoor facilities. This enables such participants to continue playing during the winter, when outdoor greens are generally inaccessible.

Figure 9.1 below identifies the location of all bowls sites in Southend-on-Sea. For a key to the map, see Table 9.2.

Figure 9.1: Location of bowls greens



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Table 9.2: Summary of bowls greens in Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Club user/s
1	Alexandra Bowling Green	SS1 1EY	Central	1	Alexandra BC
4	Belfairs Park bowling greens	SS9 4LR	West	2	Belfairs BC / Fairwood BC
10	Bournemouth Park Bowls Club	SS2 4JR	Central	1	Bournemouth Park BC
14	Cavendish Gardens	SS0 0 AX	West	1	White Hall BC
16	Chalkwell Bowls Club	SS0 8JJ	West	1	Chalkwell BC
24	Eastwood Park	SS9 5YF	West	1	Eastwood Park BC
28	Essex County Bowling Club	SS0 8NE	West	2	Essex County BC
46	Priory Park	SS2 6NB	West	4	Prittlewell BC
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	East	1	Shoebury Park BC
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Central	1	Southchurch Park BC
55	Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club	SS2 6LT	Central	1	Southend-on-Sea BC
93	Thorpe Bay Bowling Club	SS1 3HL	Central	1	Thorpe Bay BC

Ownership/management

The majority of greens in Southend-on-Sea are owned and managed by the Council. Members of clubs which utilise these greens have to buy annual season tickets to access them.

Southend-on-Sea BC has a long-term lease from the Council for the green at Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club. Although it does not specify an exact length it reports that the agreement is in excess of 50 years.

Similarly, Thorpe Bay BC has a long-term lease from the Council for the green located at Thorpe Bay Lawn Tennis Club.

Sports lighting

No greens in Southend-on-Sea are serviced by sports lighting. This means that opportunities for access for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months is limited. That being said, lit greens are relatively rare across the Country and this should therefore not be considered as a significant issue, especially given that the indoor facilities exist.

Green quality

The quality of bowling greens across Southend-on-Sea has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. The non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs off unofficial use (for further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2).

Of greens in Southend-on-Sea, 10 are assessed as good quality, five as standard quality and two as poor quality. The table below summarises the quality on a site-by-site basis.

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Table 9.3: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of greens	Quality of green
1	Alexandra Bowling Green	Central	1	Poor
4	Belfairs Park bowling greens	West	2	Good
10	Bournemouth Park Bowls Club	Central	1	Good
14	Cavendish Gardens	West	1	Good
16	Chalkwell Bowls Club	West	1	Standard
24	Eastwood Park	West	1	Standard
28	Essex County Bowling Club	West	2	Good
46	Priory Park	West	4	Good
49	Shoeburyness Park	East	1	Poor
53	Southchurch Park	Central	1	Standard
55	Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club	Central	1	Standard
93	Thorpe Bay Bowling Club	Central	1	Standard

The poor quality greens are located at Alexandra Bowling Green and Shoeburyness Park. At the former, significant levels of wear and tear are identified, with overhanging trees also causing problems in terms of leaf fall and a lack of sunlight. Wear and tear is also the main cause of concern at Shoeburyness Park.

Ancillary facilities

All bowls greens in Southend-on-Sea are serviced by some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining venue, although the quality of these ranges from purpose-built, good quality brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters. It is therefore important to recognise the importance of ancillary provision to bowling clubs as, if the facilities onsite are of suitable quantity/quality and meet players' needs, this can help sustain and grow membership levels. This is also acknowledged by Bowls England as it offers potential grants for clubs looking to make ancillary facility improvements.

The ancillary provision across Southend-on-Sea is summarised below. Five sites have good quality facilities, five have standard quality facilities and two have poor quality facilities.

Table 9.4: Summary of ancillary facility quality for bowls greens

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of greens	Ancillary facility quality
1	Alexandra Bowling Green	Central	1	Poor
4	Belfairs Park bowling greens	West	2	Good
10	Bournemouth Park Bowls Club	Central	1	Standard
14	Cavendish Gardens	West	1	Good
16	Chalkwell Bowls Club	West	1	Poor
24	Eastwood Park	West	1	Standard
28	Essex County Bowling Club	West	2	Good
46	Priory Park	West	4	Standard
49	Shoeburyness Park	East	1	Standard
53	Southchurch Park	Central	1	Standard
55	Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club	Central	1	Good
93	Thorpe Bay Bowling Club	Central	1	Good

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The poor quality facilities are identified at Chalkwell Bowls Club and Alexandra Bowling Green. At Chalkwell Bowls Club, the clubhouse is considered small and is without changing rooms, whilst there is also currently no running water. At, Alexandra Bowling Green, the facility is in need of modernisation, with both the exterior and interior extremely dated. There are also no showering facilities provided.

In contrast, the facilities servicing both Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club and Essex County Bowling Club are of a particularly high standard. This is likely linked to them also offering indoor greens, with this providing supporting infrastructure to provide all-encompassing clubhouse provision.

9.3: Demand

There are 13 bowls clubs currently playing in Southend-on-Sea. Membership across these, as shared by the clubs themselves or the Council, equates to 1,324 people. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 9.5: Summary of bowls demand (2025 season)

Club name	Number of members
Alexandra BC	30
Belfairs BC	46
Bournemouth Park BC	30
Chalkwell BC	24
Eastwood Park BC	24
Essex County BC	699
Fairwood BC	48
Prittlewell BC	65
Shoebury Park BC	38
Southchurch Park BC	42
Southend-on-Sea BC	100
Thorpe Bay BC	110
White Hall BC	68
Total	1,324

The largest membership is catered for by Essex County BC, with 699 members. However, this is influenced by the presence of extensive indoor provision at its site, with most users therefore not necessarily accessing the outdoor provision (many members of the Club will also be members of an alternative club during the summer months). The same can also be said for Southend-on-Sea BC (100 members), albeit to a lesser extent.

At Essex County BC, there are 494 senior male members, 187 senior female members and 18 junior members. A breakdown across the other clubs cannot be provided due to a reliance on council-data (with most clubs not responding to consultation requests). However, it can be assumed that the large majority of members are senior, with junior membership relatively rare at outdoor green sites.

A further club was identified in the previous PPOSS, known as Victoria Ladies BC. It utilised Priory Park but folded after the 2020 playing season.

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Unmet/latent demand

None of the four responding bowls clubs in Southend-on-Sea report any latent or unmet demand, with all suggesting that their current membership can be adequately accommodated on the provision that is available to them and that no potential members are being turned away.

Future demand

Using ONS projections, the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase in Southend-on-Sea for the period up to 2045. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase, although exactly to what extent is unclear.

Of responding clubs in Southend-on-Sea, only Alexandra BC and Thorpe Bay BC quantify plans to increase their membership. Both identify an aspiration for 20 additional senior members, resulting in total growth of 40 across the two.

Essex County BC also reports plans to increase membership; however, it does not quantify this ambition.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 80 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting the required level of demand. It is also agreed that capacity should be assessed on a site-by-site and club-by-club basis as the club-orientated nature of the sport means that demand cannot and does not easily transfer, especially in larger authorities and in authorities that have more rural areas.

Based on the above, capacity ratings for bowling greens in Southend-on-Sea is classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
At capacity range	Membership is at the capacity limit of the green
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green receives, taking into account both current and expressed future demand.

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Table 9.6: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club user/s	No. of greens	Capacity threshold	Current membership	Future membership
1	Alexandra Bowling Green	Central	Alexandra BC	1	20-80	30	30
4	Belfairs Park bowling greens	West	Belfairs BC / Fairwood BC	2	40-160	46	46
10	Bournemouth Park Bowls Club	Central	Bournemouth Park BC	1	20-80	30	30
14	Cavendish Gardens	West	White Hall BC	1	20-80	68	68
16	Chalkwell Bowls Club	West	Chalkwell BC	1	20-80	24	24
24	Eastwood Park	West	Eastwood Park BC	1	20-80	24	24
28	Essex County Bowling Club	West	Essex County BC	2	40-160 (plus indoor)	699	699
46	Priory Park	West	Prittlewell BC	4	80-240	65	65
49	Shoeburyness Park	East	Shoebury Park BC	1	20-80	38	38
53	Southchurch Park	Central	Southchurch Park BC	1	20-80	42	42
55	Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club	Central	Southend-on-Sea BC	1	20-80 (plus indoor)	100	100
93	Thorpe Bay Bowling Club	Central	Thorpe Bay BC	1	20-80	110	110

As seen, three sites are currently operating above the capacity limit, with these being:

- ✦ Essex County Bowls Club
- ✦ Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club
- ✦ Thorpe Bay Bowling Club

However, both Essex County Bowls Club and Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club also provide indoor facilities, with the capacity of these far outweighing the capacity of the outdoor provision. As such, no pressures are considered to exist in relation to these, with the findings of the accompanying Indoor and Built Facilities Needs Assessment taking precedence. This identifies no capacity concerns.

In addition, no capacity issues are reported by Thorpe Bay BC, which states that it can accommodate both its current and future demand on the current provision available to it. This should, however, be closely monitored to ensure it remains the case.

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At the other end of the scale, the green located at Priory Park is operating below the current recommended capacity range, this is due to four greens being provided, despite only one club utilising the site. All remaining greens are within the recommended capacity thresholds. This applies to eight greens across eight sites.

9.5: Conclusion

There are some potential capacity pressures on bowling greens in Southend-on-Sea, although the presence of indoor facilities reduces this and no affected clubs report any resultant issues. As such, the overall supply of provision is considered sufficient to meet demand levels, although ongoing monitoring is required where membership is particularly high. In addition, quality improvements would assist, particularly where poor quality green and ancillary facilities have been identified.

Whilst no shortfalls are identified, it is also clear that most of the supply requires protection to ensure that demand can continue to be accommodated. That being said, exceptions to this could be found at Priory Park given the quantity of greens provided.

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- ◀ The overall supply of bowls provision is considered sufficient to meet demand levels, although ongoing monitoring is required where membership is particularly high.
- ◀ Whilst most of the supply requires protection to ensure that demand can continue to be accommodated, exceptions to this could be found Priory Park given the quantity of greens provided.

Bowls – supply summary

- ◀ There are 17 bowling greens in Southend-on-Sea located across 12 sites.
- ◀ Additionally, there is indoor bowls activity taking place within Southend-on-Sea at two sites.
- ◀ The majority of greens are owned and managed by the Council (71%).
- ◀ No greens are serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ Of the 17 greens, 10 are assessed as good quality, five as standard quality and two as poor quality.
- ◀ Five sites have good quality ancillary facilities, five have standard quality facilities and two have poor quality facilities.

Bowls – demand summary

- ◀ There are 13 bowls clubs currently playing in Southend-on-Sea.
- ◀ Membership across the clubs equates to 1,324 people.
- ◀ The largest membership is catered for by Essex County BC, with 699 members, although this is influenced by the presence of extensive indoor provision at its site.
- ◀ An additional club, Victoria Ladies BC, utilised Priory Park but folded after the 2020 playing season.
- ◀ None of the four responding bowls clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with all suggesting that their current membership can be adequately accommodated on the provision that is available to them.
- ◀ Alexandra BC and Thorpe Bay BC quantify plans to increase their membership, with both aspiring to add 20 additional senior members.

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PART 10: TENNIS

10.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Southend-on-Sea. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target a number of national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

In addition, the LTA is also the NGB for padel. This therefore also features within this section of the report, albeit within its own subsection (Part 10a).

Consultation

There are 10 tennis clubs identified in Southend-on-Sea. Of these, eight replied to consultation requests resulting in an 80% response rate, as seen in the table below.

Table 10.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Crowstone & St Saviours TC	Yes
David Lloyd TC	No
Garons Tennis Academy	Yes
Leigh Road Baptist Church TC	Yes
Invicta TC	Yes
Southend TC	Yes
St Peters TC	No
Thorpe Bay TC	Yes
Westcliff Hard Court TC	Yes
Westcliff TC	Yes

St Peters TC and David Lloyd TC are the only clubs that did not respond. For the latter, this is likely due to the nature of it withing a wider health and fitness provider, whereas as the former is a small, private club.

10.2: Supply

There are 122 tennis courts identified in Southend-on-Sea across 33 sites, with 82 courts available for community use across 22 sites. Most courts are identified in the West Analysis Area, with 63 (48 available for community use), whilst the fewest are in the East Analysis Area, with 11 (five available for community use).

Table 10.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use	Total
Central	29	19	48
East	5	6	11
West	48	15	63
Total	82	40	122
2018 PPOSS total	84	35	119

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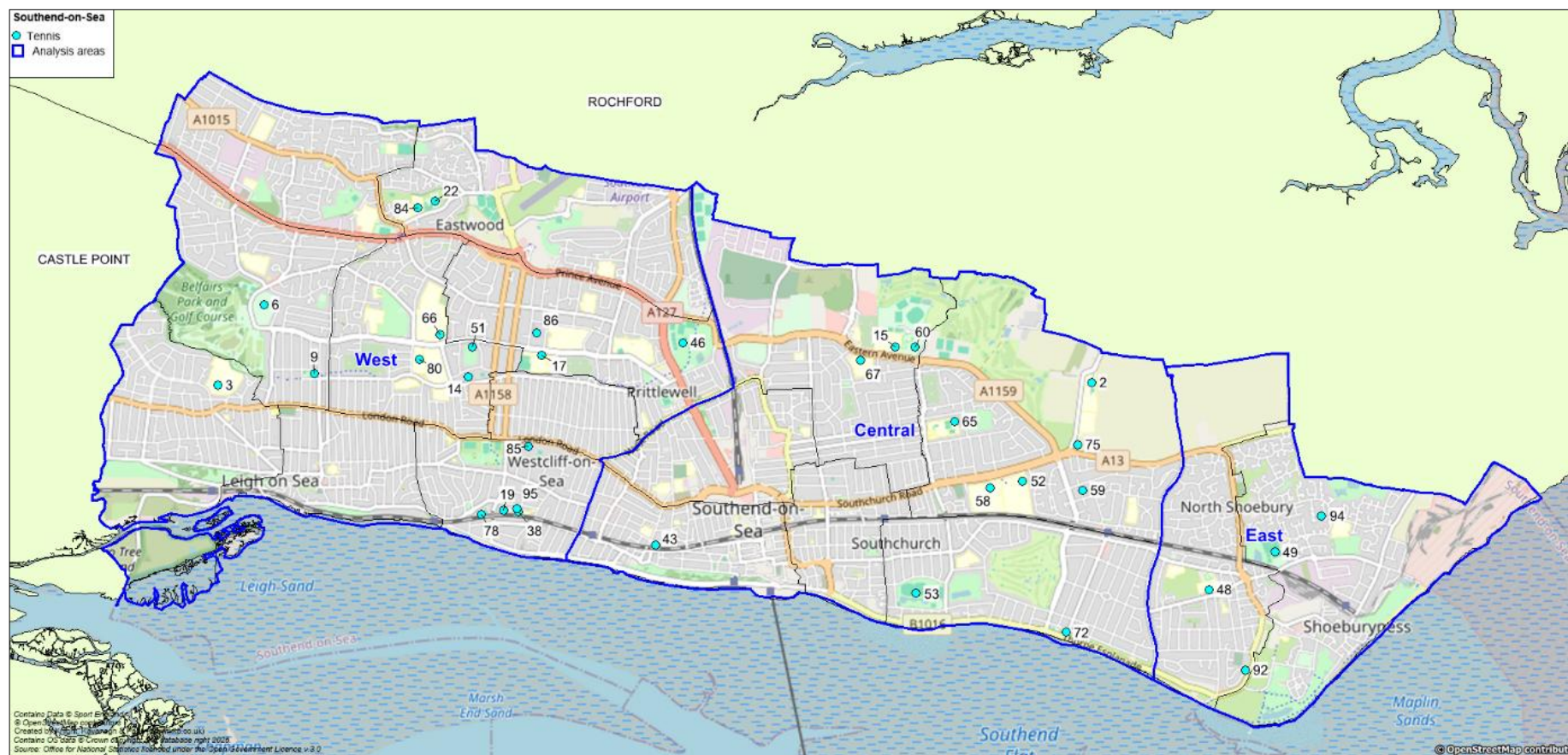
Since the 2018 PPOSS, there has been an overall increase of three courts. However, there has been a reduction of community available courts, with two fewer now considered to be accessible. This is due to Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre converting two of its courts into indoor padel courts.

For the purposes of this report, availability for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs. This also includes availability for social use and pay and play.

Figure 10.1 below identifies the location of all tennis courts in Southend-on-Sea, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, please see Table 10.3.

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Figure 10.1: Location of tennis courts in Southend-on-Sea



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Table 10.3: Summary of tennis court provision by site

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports-lit?	Court type
2	Alleyn Court School	SS3 0PW	Central	School	No	2	No	Macadam
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	West	School	No	3	No	Macadam
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	SS9 4LR	West	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
9	Bonchurch Park	SS9 3AP	West	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
14	Cavendish Sports Ground	SS0 0AX	West	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
15	Cecil Jones Academy	SS2 4BU	Central	School	No	4	No	Macadam
17	Chase High School	SS0 0RT	West	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam
19	Crowstone & St Saviours Lawn Tennis Club	SS0 8LG	West	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes (1)	Macadam
22	David Lloyd (Southend)	SS2 6XT	West	Commercial	No	3	Yes	Artificial turf
38	Invicta Tennis & Table Tennis Club	SS0 8LG	West	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
43	Milton Road Gardens	SS0 7PT	Central	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
46	Priory Park	SS2 6NB	West	Council	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	East	School	No	6	No	Macadam
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	East	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
51	South Essex College (Wellstead Gardens Sports Ground)	SS0 0AY	West	College	No	3	No	Macadam
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Central	School	No	3	Yes	Macadam
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Central	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
58	Southend High School for Girls	SS2 4UZ	Central	School	No	6	No	Macadam
59	Southend Lawn Tennis Club	SS1 3QP	Central	Spots Club	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam
59	Southend Lawn Tennis Club	SS1 3QP	Central	Spots Club	Yes	1	Yes	Artificial turf
60	Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre	SS2 2FA	Central	Council	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam
65	St Nicholas School	SS2 4RL	Central	School	No	1	No	Macadam
66	St Thomas More High School	SS0 0BW	West	School	No	6	Yes (3)	Macadam
67	Temple Sutton Primary School	SS2 4BA	Central	School	No	3	No	Macadam
72	Thorpe Bay Lawn Tennis Club	SS1 3HL	Central	Sports Club	Yes	14	Yes (4)	Artificial turf

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports-lit?	Court type
72	Thorpe Bay Lawn Tennis Club	SS1 3HL	Central	Sports Club	Yes	2	No	Macadam
75	Trugym (Thorpe Bay)	SS1 3RB	Central	Commercial	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam
78	Westcliff Hardcourt Tennis Club	SS0 8NT	West	Sports Club	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial turf
78	Westcliff Hardcourt Tennis Club	SS0 8NT	West	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
80	Westcliff High School for Girls	SS0 0BS	West	School	Yes	4	Yes (3)	Macadam
84	Chalkwell Park	SS2 6XT	West	Council	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam
85	Leigh & Westcliff Lawn Tennis Association	SS0 9HW	West	Sports Club	Yes	10	Yes	Artificial turf
86	St Peters Lawn Tennis Club	SS0 0QF	West	Sports Club	Yes	1	No	Macadam
92	Gunners Park	SS3 9FW	East	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
94	Jaytrack Tennis	SS3 9YS	East	Council	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam
95	Leigh Road Baptist Church Tennis Club	SS0 8LG	West	Sports Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam

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Additional supply

There are nine permanent indoor courts in Southend-on-Sea with five located at David Lloyd Club and four located at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre. Information regarding these can be found in the Indoor & Built Facilities Needs Assessment, which summarises:

- ♦ Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre offers pay and play opportunities.
- ♦ The David Lloyd Club is a private members club which is generally not affordable to a significant proportion of the local community.
- ♦ All of Southend's population live within 20 minutes' drive time of an indoor tennis facility.

Ownership and management

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Southend-on-Sea. As seen, most are operated by sports clubs (48), with this influenced by the presence of 16 courts at Thorpe Bay Lawn Tennis Club. There are 45 courts across education sites, although only eight of these are available for community use (at Chase High School and Westcliff High School for Girls), whilst 24 courts are council owned and five courts are at commercial venues.

Table 10.4: Courts available for community use by ownership

Council	Sports club	Education	Commercial
24	48	45	5

Within Southend-on-Sea, all Council park sites are operated by a third party operator (NTA).¹² Regarding Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre indoor centre, this is operated by Freedom Leisure.

No responding clubs' express concerns with regards to security of tenure. In principle, all clubs are happy with the agreements currently in place, whether that is through ownership, an annual rental agreement or a long-term lease arrangement. Invictus, Westcliff, Thorpe Bay and Westcliff Hard Court tennis clubs all own their courts, whereas the remaining clubs rent their courts. Southend TC rents its site from a private company, whilst both Crowstone & St Saviour and St Peters tennis clubs rent from local churches.

Court type

The majority of courts in Southend-on-Sea have a macadam surface (74%). The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs).

The remaining courts have an artificial turf surface. Such provision generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

¹² [Clubspark / Southend Parks Tennis / Southend Parks Tennis](#)

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In addition, David Lloyd Club also has the capability of covering two selective outdoor courts with air domes to enable all-year round usage, regardless of weather conditions.

Sports lighting

Sports-lit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being particularly key for growing participation. It reports that sports lighting allows for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis. In Southend-on-Sea, 58 courts are serviced by sports lighting, with this relating to the following venues:

- ◆ Chalkwell Park
- ◆ Chase High School
- ◆ Crowstone & St Saviours Lawn Tennis Club
- ◆ David Lloyd (Southend)
- ◆ Jaytrack Tennis
- ◆ Leigh & Westcliff Lawn Tennis Association
- ◆ Invicta Tennis & Table Tennis Club
- ◆ Priory Park
- ◆ Southchurch High School
- ◆ Southend Lawn Tennis Club
- ◆ Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre
- ◆ Thorpe Bay Lawn Tennis Club
- ◆ Trugym (Thorpe Bay)
- ◆ Westcliff Hardcourt Tennis Club
- ◆ Westcliff High School for Girls

Access to courts with sports lighting is also considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for greater use of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. To that end, it must be noted that only two clubs in Southend-on-Sea are unprovided for, with these being St Peters TC and Leigh Road Baptist Church TC.

In addition, Thorpe Bay TC identifies an aspiration to have more of its courts serviced by sports lighting. Currently, only four of its 16 courts are provided for in this regard.

Increasing the number of local authority courts with sports lighting is a particular strategic aim for the LTA due to the additional recreational demand and tennis programmes such provision can help accommodate. In Southend-on-Sea, only three council-managed sites are serviced, with these being Chalkwell Park, Priory Park and Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre (albeit courts are currently unusable). Aspirations are noted for such provision at Shoeburyness Park.

Away from clubs and local authority courts, a lack of sports lighting at school sites presents a key reason as to why most of the courts are unavailable for community use. Many of the school's state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this, including initiatives such as ClubSpark and Gate Access (detailed further on).

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Court quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use e.g. vandalism and/or littering (for the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).

Of the courts in Southend-on-Sea, 74 (61%) are assessed as good quality, which represents a high proportion. There are 31 (25%) assessed as standard quality and 17 (14%) assessed as poor quality.

Table 10.5: Summary of community available court quality

Community use?	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	65	16	4
Unavailable	9	15	13
Total	74	31	17

The poor quality courts are located at Belfairs Academy, Belfairs Park/Sports Ground, South Essex College, Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre, St Nicolas School and St Thomas High School. Issues recorded at these sites include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel. Moreover, maintenance is also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the poor quality sites, which can lead to further deterioration.

At Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre, Garons Tennis Academy reports that Padel4all was due to resurface the poor quality courts as part of the package that led to it acquiring two other courts that have seen been converted to padel (see Part 10a). However, this has not been completed. The courts are considered unsafe for use.

In relation to the good quality courts, those at Southchurch Park, Bonchurch Park, Cavendish Gardens, Milton Road Gardens and Shoebury Park were all resurfaced in 2023 as part of investment into Council-operated provision.

The site-by-site quality ratings can be seen below.

Table 10.6: Site-by-site court quality summary

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	No. of courts	Quality rating
2	Alleyn Court School	No	2	Good
3	Belfairs Academy	No	3	Poor
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Yes	2	Poor
9	Bonchurch Park	Yes	2	Good
14	Cavendish Sports Ground	Yes	2	Good
15	Cecil Jones Academy	No	4	Good
17	Chase High School	Yes	4	Good
19	Crowstone & St Saviours Lawn Tennis Club	Yes	3	Good
22	David Lloyd (Southend)	No	3	Good
38	Invicta Tennis & Table Tennis Club	Yes	3	Good
43	Milton Road Gardens	Yes	2	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Community use?	No. of courts	Quality rating
46	Priory Park	Yes	3	Standard
48	Shoeburyness High School	No	6	Standard
49	Shoeburyness Park	Yes	2	Good
51	South Essex College (Wellstead Gardens Sports Ground)	No	3	Poor
52	Southchurch High School	No	3	Standard
53	Southchurch Park	Yes	2	Good
58	Southend High School for Girls	No	6	Standard
59	Southend Lawn Tennis Club	Yes	5	Good
60	Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre	Yes	2	Poor
65	St Nicholas School	No	1	Poor
66	St Thomas More High School	No	6	Poor
67	Temple Sutton Primary School	No	3	Standard
72	Thorpe Bay Lawn Tennis Club	Yes	16	Good
75	Trugym (Thorpe Bay)	Yes	2	Standard
78	Westcliff Hardcourt Tennis Club	Yes	7	Good
80	Westcliff High School for Girls	Yes	4	Standard
84	Chalkwell Park	Yes	4	Good
85	Leigh & Westcliff Lawn Tennis Association	Yes	10	Good
86	St Peters Lawn Tennis Club	Yes	1	Standard
92	Gunners Park	Yes	2	Standard
94	Jaytrack Tennis	Yes	1	Standard
95	Leigh Road Baptist Church Tennis Club	Yes	3	Good

Ancillary provision

Only two tennis sites in Southend-on-Sea are identified as having poor quality ancillary facilities, with these being St Peters Lawn Tennis Club and Jaytrack Tennis. The provision at both sites relatively basic in nature, as evidenced by the wooden hut that is servicing the former.

Other than St Peters TC, most clubs are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, with dedicated, purpose-built buildings provided. That being said, the provision servicing Crowstone & St Saviours TC is in need of a degree of modernisation, with no showering facilities currently provided.

Westcliff TC has no issues with its changing facilities but does report issues with limited car parking at its site. The same is also presumed to apply to Crowstone & Saviours, Leigh Road Baptist Church and Invicta tennis clubs as no dedicated parking is provided at their sites, with users instead having to park on nearby roads.

Despite overall quality findings, ancillary provision is also generally considered to be problematic at non-club sites. Whilst most of the council and school sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are generally not specific for tennis and can be too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service other forms of provision e.g. football and cricket pitches and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users.

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Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, storage and cafes/ social space encourage players to visit provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of local authority provision in particular would be to invest in suitable amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

10.3: Demand

There are 10 tennis clubs in Southend-on-Sea. Across seven clubs where membership is known, there are 2,150 members. This is derived from 839 senior men, 474 senior women, 520 junior boys and 317 junior girls. This is summarised further in the table below.

Table 10.7: Summary of club membership

Club	No. of senior male members	No. of senior female members	No of junior boys' members	No of junior girls' members	Total members
Crowstone & St Saviours TC	30	15	2	2	49
David Lloyd TC	-	-	-	-	-
Garon's Tennis Academy	202	46	175	75	498
Leigh Road Baptist Church TC	-	-	-	-	-
Invicta TC	40	30	12	11	93
Southend TC	60	22	18	16	116
St Peters TC	-	-	-	-	-
Thorpe Bay TC	317	231	93	73	714
Westcliff Hardcourt TC	120	80	200	120	520
Westcliff TC	70	50	20	20	160
Total	839	474	520	317	2150
Previous PPOSS	1,144		629		1,773

The biggest club with known membership is Thorpe Bay TC, followed by Westcliff Hardcourt TC and Garon's Tennis Academy. All three of these are significantly large clubs. In comparison, Crowstone & St Saviours TC is a relatively modest club with just 49 members.

For David Lloyd TC, the LTA reports a membership totalling 1,812 senior and 1,911 junior members; however, this takes into account membership figures for the entire club and not those that access the tennis facilities. It is therefore not clear how many actually utilise the tennis provision.

St Peters TC has been unresponsive to consultation requests, whilst Leigh Road Baptist Church TC did not disclose its numbers.

Participation trends

Since the 2018 PPOSS, Thorpe Bay TC and Westcliff Hardcourt TC have both seen a decrease in membership, although the latter indicates more recent increases. That being said, overall membership is now seemingly higher, with this accounted for via Garon's Tennis Academy that did not feature in the last study.

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Informal and parks tennis

To help grow the use of tennis courts, the LTA has developed a package of support for councils and other providers by removing key barriers to participation. This is via three products known as ClubSpark as well as LTA Play and Gate Access Technology, which are linked. These represent what the LTA calls a major improvement to the customer journey and provide a clear revenue stream to reinvest into court provision.

In Southend-on-Sea, most park venues utilise ClubSpark. This therefore covers Bonchurch Park, Cavendish Gardens, Chalkwell Park, Gunners Park, Milton Gardens, Priory Park, Shoeburyness Park and Southchurch Park. In addition, several clubs are also utilising the platform including Thorpe Bay and Southend tennis clubs.

The products are further summarised below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. It is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s). Its important functions include managing membership, enabling participants to check availability, book courts in advance and pay.

LTA Play

Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Gate Access

The LTA has developed two Gate Access gate systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA has supported the installation of 177 gate access systems within the last two years. Furthermore, it states that sites with Gate Access installations attracted 65,751 unique players, led to 791,226 court bookings, and generated £1.5 million of income.

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Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Barclays Local Tennis Leagues

Recreational Tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which is owned by the LTA. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

The Barclays Local Tennis League is prevalent within Southend-on-Sea via the Southend Tennis League. It is directed at park and recreational players wishing to play competitive matches, with matches encouraged at any venue.

LTA Youth Programme

The LTA coordinate courses for children aged 4-18, consisting of fun games and dynamic training. Specialist coaches make sure every child has the best start to their tennis journey in a safe and inclusive environment. Sessions cater to all abilities and split into the following:

- ◀ Blue Stage (Age 4-6)
- ◀ Red Stage (Age 6-8)
- ◀ Orange Stage (Age 8-9)
- ◀ Green Stage (Age 9-10)
- ◀ Yellow Stage (Age 10+)

Key points:

- ◀ There are assigned ages to each stage, but this only serves as a guide.
- ◀ Young people want to play in groups and with their friends, and so whatever stage they start at, all kids will see progression.
- ◀ In every LTA Youth stage, young people will be active, having fun and developing skills

Several clubs in Southend-on-Sea report involvement in this programme, with Thorpe Bay TC making direct comment in regards to it via its consultation response.

Barclays Free Parks Tennis

The LTA has launched the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. This is due to the following needs:

- ◀ Player Trends:
 - ◀ 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
 - ◀ The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.

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- ◀ Barriers:
 - ◀ 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
 - ◀ 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often
 - ◀ 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
 - ◀ 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players
 - ◀ 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

The key points of a free park tennis session are:

- ◀ Free for all players to book and attend
- ◀ Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators
- ◀ Sessions should run all year round (weather depending)
- ◀ Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites – a three court site can have up to 34 players attending.

The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

Barclays Free Parks Tennis is currently offered at Southchurch Park.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed.

Furthermore, the LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, with headline findings as follows:

- ◀ Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks.
- ◀ 46% of tennis played by those 14 years is on park courts.
- ◀ 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to see parks as their first option.
- ◀ Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.
- ◀ Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards.
- ◀ Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes.

Further research carried out by the LTA also suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand. As such, there is a potential opportunity in Southend-on-Sea for the Council and other providers to address such barriers, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage.

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In Southend-on-Sea, Garon's Tennis Academy highlights unmet demand, linked to the two poor quality courts at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre that are now considered to be unusable. It states that this is limiting its capacity to grow membership.

No other unmet or latent demand is identified by clubs. This suggests that the latent demand identified through other methods is mostly for non-club activity, or that other barriers aside from club facilities are preventing activity.

Future demand

Of the clubs which responded to consultation, only Thorpe Bay TC indicate plans to increase membership. However, it does not quantify this.

Away from club-based demand, it is considered that all remaining future demand will be picked up via the latent/unmet demand noted above and attracted to non-club and particularly council courts. The LTA also expect significant future growth for such provision via its insight tools.

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

Club tennis

For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that non-sports lit courts can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas courts with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. In addition, any site serviced by indoor provision can cater for at least an additional 200 members (i.e. at David Lloyd Club and Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre.). Using the above figures, the table below analyses whether or not courts currently in use by clubs are sufficient to meet both current and future demand, where known.

Table 10.8: Summary of supply and demand

Club name	Current Demand	Site Capacity	Capacity rating
Crowstone & St Saviours TC	49	140	91
David Lloyd TC	Unknown	380	-
Garon's Tennis Academy	498	320	178
Leigh Road Baptist Church TC	Unknown	380	-
Invicta TC	93	180	87
Southend TC	116	300	184
St Peters TC	Unknown	40	-
Thorpe Bay TC	714	720	6
Westcliff Hardcourt TC	520	420	100
Westcliff TC	160	460	300

As seen in the table above, there is a sufficient supply of courts at five of the club sites. However, both Garon's Tennis Academy and Westcliff Hardcourt TC are operating above the recommended capacity guidance. This is likely linked to the unmet demand expressed by Garon's Tennis Academy, although its access to indoor provision means the problem may not be as significant as the analysis suggests.

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Westcliff Hardcourt TC reports no current capacity issues. It was more excessively oversubscribed in 2018, suggesting that it can accommodate its demand levels, although this should continue to be monitored.

Non-club courts

For non-club courts, analysing supply and demand is difficult in Southend-on-Sea as usage figures are not generally known. However, no capacity issues have been identified, and it is therefore assumed that all sites have capacity for additional growth. That being said, this does not equate to a surplus of courts given the high levels of unmet/latent demand identified by the LTA.

Notwithstanding the above, the supply of non-club courts in Southend-on-Sea is seemingly better placed than in most authorities, especially following recent investment and with ClubSpark already rolled out across park venues. That being said, further usage could be attracted via continued improvements at sites assessed as standard and poor, as well as through exploring additional sports lighting across sites that are currently not serviced.

10.5: Conclusion

For club-based tennis, supply is considered insufficient to meet demand levels, although this is only identified as being problematic for Garon's Tennis Academy at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre. Quality improvements are required to the outdoor courts at the site to better accommodate demand.

For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced nationally. Southend-on-Sea is, however, better placed than most authorities given the utilisation of ClubSpark and because of the general good quality of provision, although improvements could still be made.

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Tennis – supply and demand summary

- ◀ For club-based tennis, supply is considered insufficient to meet demand levels, with this relating to Garon's Tennis Academy at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre.
- ◀ For non-club courts, Southend-on-Sea is better placed than most authorities given the utilisation of ClubSpark and because of the general good quality of provision, although improvements could still be made.

Tennis – supply summary

- ◀ There are 122 tennis courts identified in Southend-on-Sea across 33 sites, with 82 courts available for community use across 22 sites.
- ◀ Since the 2018 PPOSS, there has been an overall increase of three courts; however, there has been a reduction of community available courts, with two fewer now considered to be accessible.
- ◀ There are also nine permanent indoor courts in Southend-on-Sea with five located at David Lloyd Club and four located at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre.
- ◀ Most courts are operated by sports clubs (48), whilst there 45 courts across education sites, 24 courts at council owned sites and five courts are at commercial venues.
- ◀ The majority of courts in Southend-on-Sea have a macadam surface (74%), with the remainder being artificial turf (26%).
- ◀ 58 courts are serviced by sports lighting across 15 sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 74 (61%) are assessed as good quality, which represents a high proportion, 31 (25%) assessed as standard quality and 17 (14%) assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Only two tennis sites are identified as having poor quality ancillary facilities, with these being St Peters Lawn Tennis Club and Jaytrack Tennis.

Tennis – demand summary

- ◀ There are 10 tennis clubs in Southend-on-Sea.
- ◀ Where membership is known (across seven clubs), there are 2,150 members (839 senior men, 474 senior women, 520 junior boys' and 317 junior girls').
- ◀ Overall demand has seemingly grown since the 2018 PPOSS, although reductions have been seen at some of the larger clubs (Thorpe Bay TC and Westcliffe Hardcourt TC).
- ◀ Recreational demand is being accommodated via the utilisation of Clubspark at most local authority sites as well as at some club venues.
- ◀ There is also a Parks Tennis League currently operating in Southend-on-Sea.
- ◀ Garon's Tennis Academy highlights unmet demand, linked to the two poor quality courts at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre that are now considered to be unusable.
- ◀ Of clubs, only Thorpe Bay TC reports future demand aspirations.

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PART 10A: PADEL TENNIS

Introduction

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA in 2020. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

To grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway, with £6 million invested by the NGB since 2021.

Padel supply

Nationally, at the end of 2020, there were 87 padel courts, with this growing to 350 in 2023 and 500 in 2024. Now, there are over 1,000 courts provided, with it envisaged that, with growing infrastructure, participation in padel will continue to increase significantly over the coming years.

In Southend-on-Sea, there are currently only six padel courts, with these located at Padel4all Garon Park (four courts) and David Lloyd (two courts). Three of these are indoor (all at Padel4all Garon Park), whilst the remaining three are outdoor. Both sites are operated by commercial operators, which can impact on accessibility in terms of cost of access when compared to club and local authority managed provision.

In terms of future supply, a variety of environments can be considered. Padel courts are often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities (e.g., at tennis clubs and parks). Additionally, development at leisure centre sites, golf clubs and other sports sites can be particularly beneficial as the provision can be tied into other facilities and profit from an already established operating model. The LTA reports that it is seeing more padel development at multi-sport sites alongside a growth in the use of warehouse spaces.

The LTA are not encouraging clubs or local authorities to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts. This is to ensure that the provision of traditional courts remains sufficient. It is the stance of the LTA that the development of padel courts should not be to the detriment of tennis and it will therefore not support the loss of operational tennis courts for padel.

Padel demand

Padel is one of the fastest growing sports in Great Britain, with latest figures from the LTA showing that just over 400,000 adults and juniors in Great Britain played padel at least once across 2024. This is up from 15,000 in 2019, 89,000 in 2021, and 129,000 in 2023. In addition, Sport England records that the number of adults who play twice monthly has doubled from 23,000 in 2022-2023 to 51,000 in 2023-2024 (neither Sport England nor the LTA have released 2025 figures).

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Building on from the above, LTA has outlined a Padel Strategy (2024-2029). The key demand objectives are to:

- ✦ Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation.
- ✦ Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000.
- ✦ Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700.
- ✦ Enable 10 players to break into the World top 200 and two players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience.

Despite the above, with there being only six padel courts in Southend-on-Sea, activity is currently confined to just two venues. This, together with both providers being commercially minded, will likely be inhibiting demand. The presence of six courts is considered to be an undersupply for an authority of this size.

To emphasise the above, the LTA has established, by authority, the number of padel courts that it believes can be sustained, with this based on population density and assumed padel demand. In Southend-on-Sea, this identifies a need for 14 community-based courts, which is based on 20% of the population being interested in padel (taken from a YouGov survey), penetration levels of 8%, and one court being able to accommodate up to 200 players. This means an existing shortfall of at least eight courts, although it is likely that more will be needed given the commercial nature of the existing six.

The above figures form a starting point for conversation and strategic planning; it does not mean that the suggested number should be seen as a cap, but that the LTA has confidence that there is sufficient demand for the number of courts identified. Some areas where the sport is more established will create higher levels of demand. The figures also only represent the first stage in strategic planning for padel by local authority boundary, with a second phase able to begin to look at potential locations and the demography of the catchment and how they overlay. In many instances, this will cut across boundary lines.

Supply and demand analysis / conclusion

There is a clear need to provide additional padel provision in Southend-on-Sea to meet growing demand levels, with only six community available courts presently provided and a total of fourteen being required. This highlights a current shortfall of at least eight padel courts, although more are likely to be required given that the existing stock is provided at commercially orientated sites.

Linked to the above, there is a clear need to increase the availability of padel courts at venues that are genuinely accessible to the wider community. Whilst courts are currently provided at David Lloyd, access is restricted to members paying premium fees, meaning there is no formal community use. As a result, these courts do not contribute to the accessible supply available to casual or pay-and-play participants.

To address this gap, future padel provision should be prioritised at club based and local authority managed sites, where opportunities for open access, community programmes and affordable pricing can be better secured. In addition, spatial distribution must be considered to ensure that new courts are well spread geographically and accessible to all communities.

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Padel – supply and demand summary

- ◆ There is a clear need to provide additional padel provision to meet growing demand levels, with a shortfall of at least eight courts identified.
- ◆ Development at community focused sites across the authority should be targeted to ensure appropriate access to all communities.

Padel – supply summary

- ◆ There are currently six padel courts in Southend-on-Sea.
- ◆ There are four courts at Padel4all Garon Park and two courts at David Lloyd.
- ◆ Three of the courts are indoor (all at Padel4all Garon Park).
- ◆ Both sites are commercially operated.

Padel – demand summary

- ◆ Whilst some padel demand is identified in Southend-on-Sea, activity levels are likely being impacted on by the lack of provision.
- ◆ Based off population density, there is demand for 14 community-based courts in Southend-on-Sea, meaning a shortfall of at least eight.
- ◆ More courts are required than the shortfall suggests if the commercial nature of the existing supply is impacting on accessibility.

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PART 11: NETBALL

11.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body for the sport across England. Its aim is to provide its members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport. Levels of participation in netball are quickly increasing, with over 100,000 affiliated members and at least 1,000,000 women and girls playing during a typical week.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoors. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility and a lack of sports lighting can also be problematic.

Consultation

Information to inform this section of the report has been primarily obtained through discussions with England Netball. The Southend & District Netball League has also been contacted to provide information on behalf of itself and, where possible, its clubs.

11.2: Supply

There are 55 outdoor netball courts in Southend-on-Sea across 26 sites. However, of the courts, only nine are available for community use, with these being across three sites (Chase High School, Priory Park and Westcliff High School for Girls). This represents a very low proportion of accessible courts (16%).

As seen in the table below, all community available courts are in the West Analysis Area, which also has the highest total number of courts (27). The fewest number of courts are seen in the East Analysis Area (five).

Table 11.1: Summary of community available netball courts

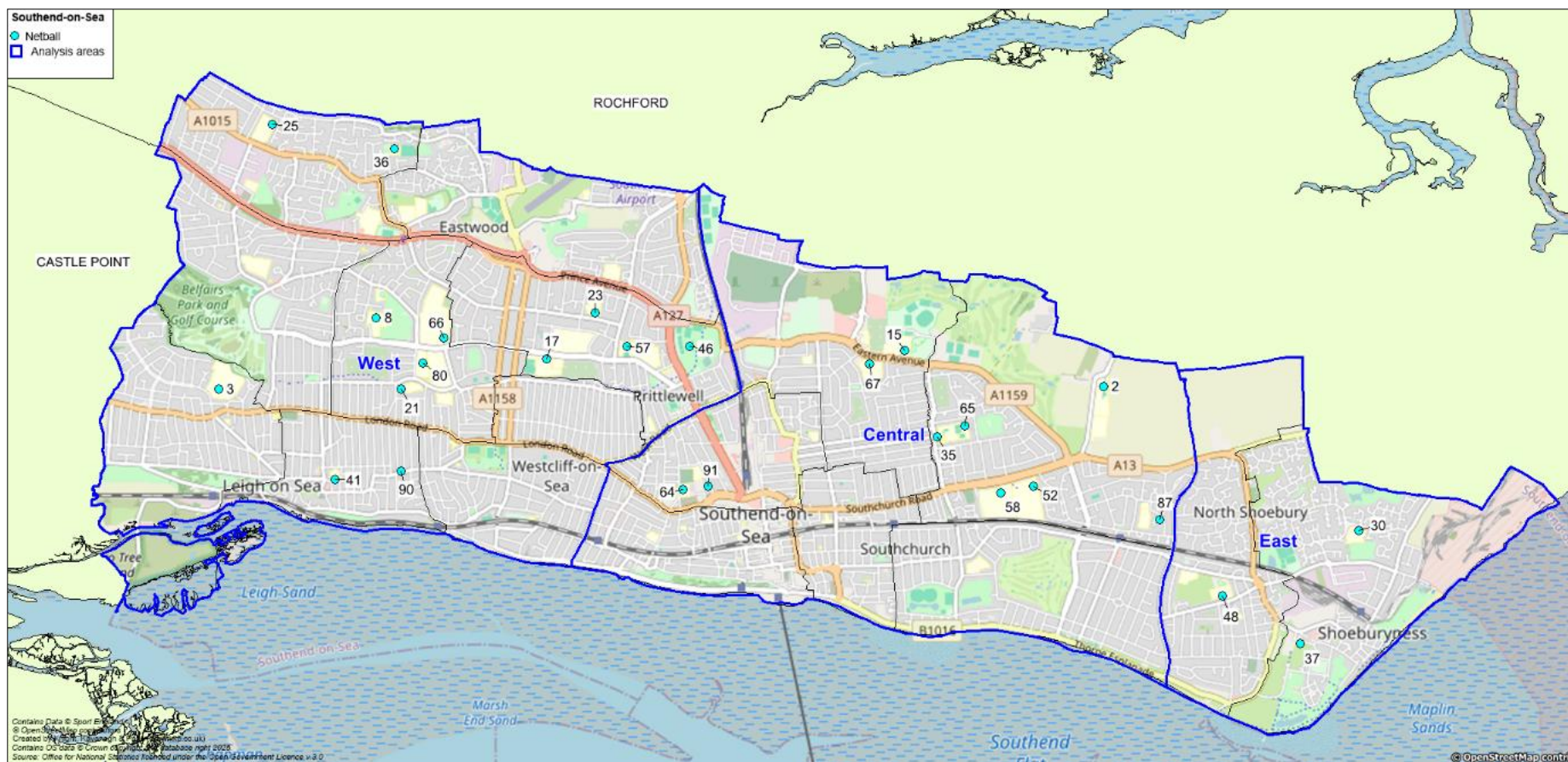
Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use
Central	-	23
East	-	5
West	9	18
Total	9	46

A traditional netball court is 30.5 metres long and 15.25 metres wide. As such, please note that some additional courts are not included in the above figures due to them being undersized, especially those located at primary schools. Such courts are generally marked out on generic playgrounds and are not considered to be permanent or conducive for formal play. It is, however, recognised that such provision can meet a curricular and extra-curricular needs.

Figure 11.1 overleaf shows the location of all netball courts in Southend-on-Sea, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 11.2.

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Figure 11.1: Location of netball courts in Southend-on-Sea



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Table 11.2: Key to figure 11.1

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Quality
2	Alleyn Court School	SS2 0PW	Central	No	2	No	Good
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	West	No	3	No	Poor
8	Blenheim Primary School & Children's Centre	SS9 4HX	West	No	1	No	Poor
15	Cecil Jones Academy	SS2 4BU	Central	No	4	No	Standard
17	Chase High School	SS0 0RT	West	Yes	4	Yes	Good
21	Darlinghurst School	SS9 3JS	West	No	1	No	Standard
23	Earls Hall Primary School	SS0 0QN	West	No	2	No	Standard
25	Edwards Hall Primary School	SS9 5AQ	West	No	2	No	Standard
30	Friars Primary School	SS3 9XX	East	No	1	No	Standard
35	Hamstel Junior School	SS2 4PQ	Central	No	1	No	Standard
36	Heycroft Primary School	SS9 5SJ	West	No	3	No	Standard
37	Hinguar Primary School	SS3 9FE	East	No	1	No	Good
41	Leigh North Street Primary School	SS9 1QE	West	No	1	No	Standard
46	Priory Park	SS2 6NB	West	Yes	1	No	Poor
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	East	No	3	No	Standard
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Central	No	1	No	Poor
57	Southend High School for Boys	SS0 0RG	Central	No	4	No	Standard
58	Southend High School for Girls	SS2 4UZ	Central	No	4	No	Standard
64	St Helens Catholic Primary School	SS0 7AY	Central	No	1	No	Standard
65	St Nicholas School	SS2 4RL	Central	No	1	No	Poor
66	St Thomas More High School	SS0 0BW	West	No	1	No	Poor
67	Temple Sutton Primary School	SS2 4BA	Central	No	2	No	Standard
80	Westcliff High School for Girls	SS0 0BS	West	Yes	4	Yes	Standard
87	Bournes Green Junior School	SS1 3PX	Central	No	3	No	Standard
88	Eastwood Primary School & Nursery	SS9 5UT	West	No	1	No	Standard
90	Our Lady of Lourdes	SS9 1JF	West	No	2	No	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Quality
91	St Mary's Prittlewell C of E Primary School	SS2 6JH	West	No	1	No	Standard

Disused provision

Since the 2018 PPOSS, four dedicated, sports-lit netball courts have been lost at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre, with these since converted to 3G (Garons 5-a-side Centre). However, this provision is still used for netball to some extent (see demand section), despite not being fully marked out.

Management/ownership

The large majority of netball courts in Southend-on-Sea are located at school sites. The only exception to this is a single court at Priory Park, with this being operated by the Council.

A heavily weighted school supply of netball courts is common. However, it results in a lack of security of tenure for the sport, with most schools able to state their own policies in terms of access. This is also linked to there being a large proportion of courts in Southend-on-Sea that are unavailable for community use.

Court type

All outdoor netball courts in Southend-on-Sea have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is 10 years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

Sports lighting

Outdoor netball courts that are serviced by sports lighting enable all year round evening use, thus allowing outdoor winter netball activity to take place as well as the more common summer netball activity. In Southend-on-Sea, only eight courts are serviced by sports lights, with these based at Westcliff High School for Girls and Chase High School.

An absence of sports lighting on courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are with sports lighting throughout the Country (38%). This percentage is still substantially higher than in Southend-on-Sea, where only 16% of courts are serviced, suggesting that this could be a particular issue in the City.

The lack of sports lighting across sites is offered as a key reason by many providers for them being unavailable for community use. The general perception is that this makes them unviable for external access as capacity would be limited outside of summer months. The only sites that provide sports lighting are available for access.

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Quality

Following site assessments, seven netball courts are assessed as good quality, 40 as standard quality and eight as poor quality. The poor quality courts are found at:

- ✦ Belfairs Academy
- ✦ Blenheim Primary School & Children's Centre
- ✦ Priory Park
- ✦ Southchurch High School
- ✦ St Nicholas School
- ✦ St Thomas More High School

Issues pertaining to these include poor line markings, poor grip underfoot and loose gravel. It is also generally considered that maintenance is lacking, with no dedicated regime in place at most of the sites.

In contrast, the good quality courts are located at Chase High School, with these only being recently provided, as well as at Alleyn Court School and Hinguar Primary School.

Ancillary provision

In Southend-on-Sea, no ancillary facilities are reported as being regularly accessed by netball users, with this linked to a large proportion of demand that would usually utilise such provision taking place outside of the City (see demand section below). The demand that does access the court supply generally shows up ready to play, meaning changing room access is not needed (although toilets are).

More broadly, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic for community netball. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are often not specific for netball and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Moreover, given that most courts are located at schools, the facilities predominately service sports halls or grass pitches and are therefore not readily available or suited to netball court users. Access can then also be limited, even at sites that allow for community use as this may entail opening the main school buildings.

11.3: Demand

Club-based demand

The Southend & District Netball League generates the majority of netball demand from within Southend-on-Sea. It runs a winter league on a home and away basis, commencing in September and running through to the end of March, whilst a summer league also takes place but is considered to be more relaxed with players rotating positions. All teams and players must be affiliated through England Netball.

The League has three divisions each hosting eight teams which play on Saturdays from 10:00 until 13:00. From an outdoor perspective, this demand was previously located on the courts at Westcliff High School for Girls; however, due to quality issues, the League decided to export its demand to Deanes School Sports Centre (Castle Point). This occurred before 2018 and has not changed since. Westcliff High School for Girls previously reported that it purposely resurfaced its courts (following grant funding) to a netball suitable surface as it had aspirations to re-host the League.

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Commercial leagues

Nationally, there are several commercial netball leagues providing for netball, with these run by operators such as Power League, Play Netball and Go Mammoth. They generally cater for teams outside of the normal club environment on more of a casual/recreational basis and run all-year round (a new season begins as soon as the previous one ends). In addition to welcoming already established teams, individual players are also encouraged to sign up before being placed within a team that suits their ability.

There is Play Netball activity in Southend-on-Sea, with this utilising the provision at Westcliff High School for Girls every Thursday evening.

Initiatives

Nationally, England Netball has a variety of initiatives aimed at increasing netball participation for players of all abilities and ages. These include:

- ◀ Back to Netball
- ◀ Walking Netball
- ◀ Netball Now
- ◀ Bee Netball

Back to Netball sessions are running across England and provide women of all ages a welcoming re-introduction to the sport. In Southend-on-Sea, sessions are currently delivered at Chase High School.

Walking netball has evolved from a growing demand of walking sports such as walking football; it is a slower version of the game and has been designed so that anyone can play regardless of age and fitness level and therefore offers opportunities for older adults to participate and enjoy. There are currently sessions taking place in Southend-on-Sea, also via Chase High School.

No other initiatives are identified as having a presence within the City.

Exported/imported demand

As expressed above, the Southend & District Netball League currently exports outside of Southend-on-Sea to utilise provision in Castle Point. This means that all affiliated match play demand will be taking place outside of the City, resulting in substantial exported demand.

No imported demand is identified.

Future demand

England Netball states that numbers are beginning to increase across Essex for netball and that demand is very high in the region. This could therefore lead to future participation growth and demand for courts in Southend-on-Sea.

In addition to club-based activity, it is hoped by England Netball that there will be an increase in the number of its initiatives held and the demand for them.

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11.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is currently community demand for outdoor netball provision in Southend-on-Sea generated from the Southend & District Netball League, although this demand is currently exported to Castle Point due to prior quality issues at Westcliff High School for Girls. Further exploration is required to determine whether this has demand to return to Southend-on-Sea, although it is assumed that this is not the case given how long it has been exported for and with its issues being resolved (improvements at Westcliff High School for Girls).

Notwithstanding the above, it remains clear that the supply of netball provision is insufficient, with only nine courts being available for community use, only eight courts being serviced by sports lighting, and only seven courts being rated as good quality. Even if the Southend & District Netball League does not have an aspiration to return to the City, this will be inhibiting demand in terms of club/team training and recreational/social play as well as via England Netball's initiatives.

11.4: Conclusion

The supply of netball courts is insufficient to meet demand levels in Southend-on-Sea. There is a clear need to improve the provision in terms of accessibility and quality, whilst providing additional sports lighting across the stock is also required.

Netball – supply and demand summary

- ◀ The supply of netball courts is insufficient to meet demand levels in Southend-on-Sea, with only nine courts being available for community use, only eight courts being serviced by sports lighting, and only seven courts being rated as good quality.
- ◀ There is a clear need to improve the provision in terms of accessibility and quality, whilst providing additional sports lighting across the stock is also required.

Netball – supply summary

- ◀ There are 55 outdoor netball courts in Southend-on-Sea across 26 sites, although only nine courts are available for community use at three sites.
- ◀ All but one of the courts (at Priory Park) are provided at school venues.
- ◀ All courts have a macadam surface.
- ◀ Only eight courts are serviced by sports lights, with these based at Westcliff High School for Girls and Chase High School.
- ◀ Seven netball courts are assessed as good quality, 40 as standard quality and eight as poor quality.

Netball – demand summary

- ◀ The Southend & District netball league generates the majority of netball demand from within Southend-on-Sea, although it currently exports to Castle Point.
- ◀ The League previously utilised Westcliff High School for Girls but left the site prior to 2018 due to quality issues (although these have since been resolved).
- ◀ There is Play Netball activity (commercial league), with this utilising the provision at Westcliff High School for Girls every Thursday evening.
- ◀ Chase High School hosts Back to Netball and Walking Netball sessions.
- ◀ England Netball expects demand for netball in Southend-on-Sea to continue to grow in the future.

PART 12: ATHLETICS

12.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

England Athletics (EA) is the not-for-profit membership and development body responsible for grassroots athletics and running in England. It supports 1,750 affiliated clubs and organisations, 147,000 registered athletes, 18,700 licensed coaches and leaders, 3,800 officials and 6,200,000 regular running participants. EA's purpose is to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport. Its vision is for athletics and running to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

From a formal, built facility perspective, the focus with athletics is on track and field provision. However, EA also covers road running, fell, hill, trail and cross-country clubs, with these therefore also covered within this section of the report.

Consultation

Based on affiliation data, there are four athletics clubs identified across Southend-on-Sea namely. These are:

- ✦ City of Southend-on-Sea AC
- ✦ Fordy Runs Running Club
- ✦ Leigh-on-Sea Striders
- ✦ SS Athletics

Of the clubs, three have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a 75% response rate. The unresponsive club is Fordy Runs Running Club.

12.2: Supply

There are currently two track and field facilities in Southend-on-Sea, with one located at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre and one at The Eastwood Academy.

Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre provides an eight lane, 400-metre track that is fully sports lit. As well as track disciplines, the site also caters for all field events including throwing events and jumping events, with a throwing cage, a dedicated shot putt area, a dedicated high jump area and three sand pits for long jump and triple jump.

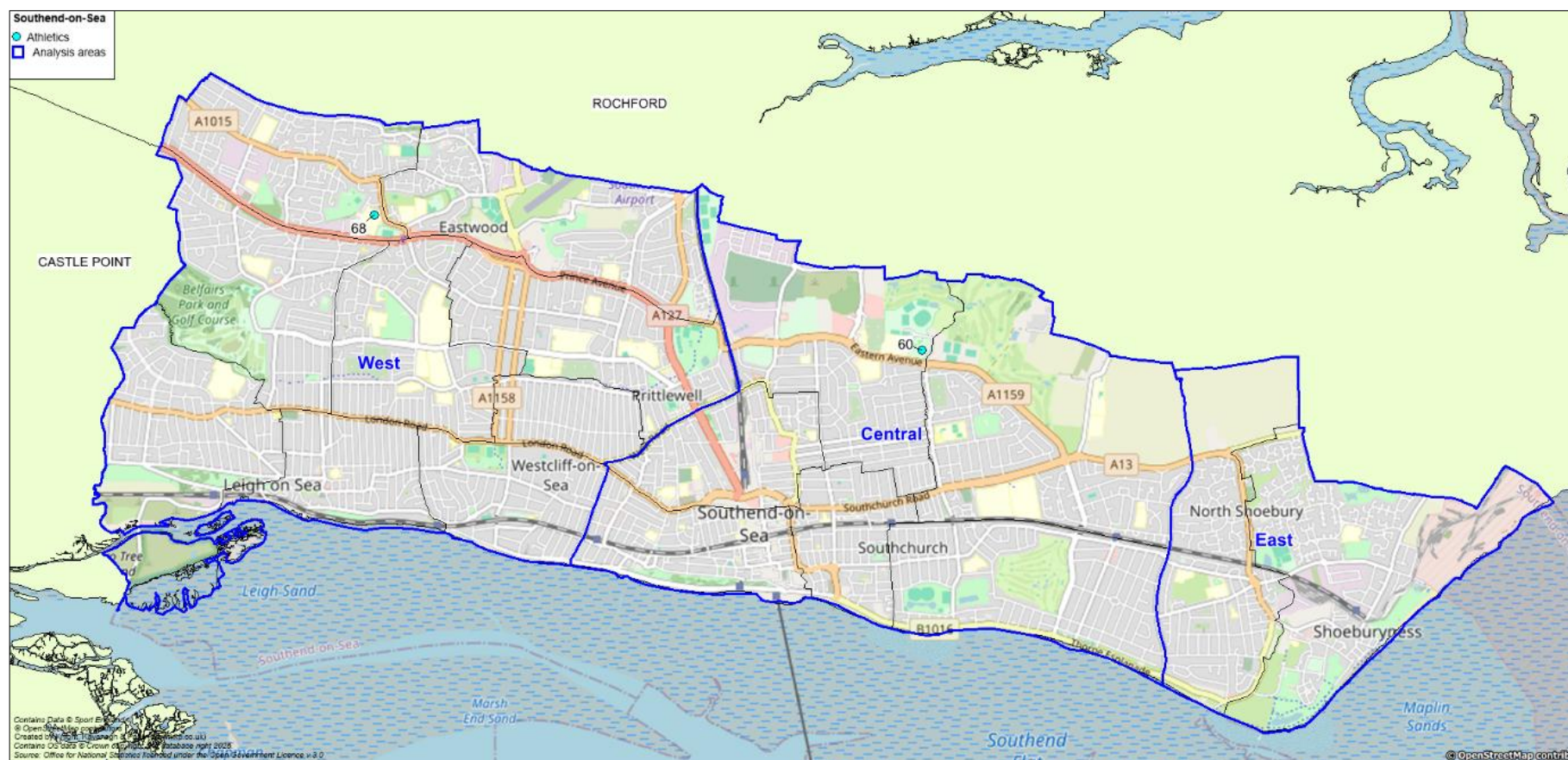
The facility at The Eastwood Academy is also a 400-metre track, although it contains six lanes rather than eight and it is without sports lighting. Situated between the track is an adult football pitch, which doubles up as an area for throwing events. Dedicated shot put and high jump areas are present, as are two sand pits for long jump and triple jump.

Both sites are available for community use, with Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre being used by SS Athletics, Leigh-on-Sea Striders and Southend-on-Sea Athletics Club. In contrast, the Eastwood Academy is generally unused by the community, with the lack of sports lighting limiting accessibility should demand exist.

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The image below identifies the location of the two track and field facilities. Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre is located within the Central Analysis Area and is therefore well placed to meet demand from across the City. The Eastwood Academy is found in the West Analysis Area.

Figure 12.1: Location of athletics tracks in Southend-on-Sea



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Ownership/management

Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre is owned by the Council but managed by Freedom Leisure as part of a lease arrangement. Elsewhere, the provision at The Eastwood Academy is managed in house by the school.

Security of tenure

Through consultation, it has been identified that SS Athletics, City of Southend Athletics Club and Leigh-on-Sea Striders all have rolling contracts with Freedom Leisure for the use of the track at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre. As the site forms part of the Council's leisure portfolio, security of tenure is considered to be provided within these arrangements due to its ongoing commitment to provide such an offering.

Quality

The track and field provision at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre is rated as standard quality. Whilst the track has consistent, visible lane markings, adequate track fencing and good grip underfoot, consultation with SS Athletics and City of Southend Athletics Club has revealed that it has clear signs of wear and tear and has got significantly poorer in recent years due to overuse by the clubs. It will soon need to be resurfaced. In addition, both clubs report that the pole vault bed is condemned and out of use, with this soon to also be the case for the high jump bed.

Regarding the track at The Eastwood School, this was installed as part of a legacy program for the 2012 Olympic Games. The School states that it is now ageing, with some crumbling of the surface within certain sections. It is therefore also considered to be standard quality. However, the School states that it is unlikely to be able to fund any resurfacing.

TrackMark

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre has received TrackMark accreditation and is accredited until 24th June 2026. The site received full level 2 competition status, with the cages compliant with UKA standards.

The track at The Eastwood Academy is not currently accredited with TrackMark. This means that the venue is not eligible to apply for a competition licence.

Ancillary provision

City of Southend Athletics Club reports that it owns and maintains a clubhouse at Southend Tennis & Leisure Centre. In addition, the leisure centre has two sets of changing rooms, enclosed showers and toilets and a separate equipment storage area. It is of good quality. That being said, neither SS Athletics nor Leigh-on-Sea Striders report having access to the clubhouse, with SS Athletics in particular explaining that having its own dedicated clubhouse would enable them to increase membership and support operations on training nights. In

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addition Southend Tennis & Leisure Centre has a 249 seat spectator stand next to the track which opened in 2020.

At The Eastwood Academy, there is no dedicated changing provision servicing the track, with the changing rooms inside the School being used instead. This is not an issue for the School but could be an issue for any future community demand given the distance from the facilities to the track.

Future provision

There are no known new athletics tracks proposed to be constructed in Southend-on-Sea. In addition, consultation with EA reveals that, nationally, no new standard 400-metre athletics tracks are planned to be established, with focus instead on the retention and improvement of existing provision and the development of new, innovative, entry level facilities such as mini tracks and endurance loops. This is particularly the case if they can be provided as part of sports-lit, multi-sport developments.

Priority for both NewGen developments will be given to those areas that sit outside EA's recommended drivetime catchment of existing facilities or where there is additional, demonstrable demand.

Four alternative approaches have been developed in designing new athletics provision, with these presenting alternative approaches to development via more affordable and feasible means. The NewGen designs are known as Play Track, Compact Track, Mini Track and Active Track, with each further summarised below (for more information relating to the designs, please see <https://www.englandathletics.org/?media-alias=4fcc0dfb81a559e39bf7>).

Play Track

The first of the four alternative designs is a 'play track' featuring visually hardstanding areas which can be located in school playgrounds (KS1 & KS2), parks and play areas. The track encourages participation through challenging environments and promotes independent learning and skills development.

Compact Track

A 'compact track' featuring sprint straight (minimum four lanes and 40-metre length) with a accompanying long jump runways, landing pit(s) and shot put circles/landing areas. This provision is the smallest of the four and England Athletics recommends that they are suitable for both education and club settings.

MiniTrack

A 'mini track' features a sports-lit synthetic oval track (minimum 100-metre, maximum 200-metre), ideally with a sprint straight and accompanying shot put and jumps provision.

An advantage to a mini track design is that it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump, or alternatively it can be used for other sports such as football pitches or an outdoor gym.

Mini track sites also feature a new design of shot put practice areas in which it flattens a natural slope and athletes throw into a hill allowing for the put to roll back to the participant thus reducing time spent retrieving the put after each throw.

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ActiveTrack

Finally, an 'active track' is a macadam surface or synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. An Active Track attracts users of all ages and abilities across a wide variety of activities (runners, joggers, walkers (particularly the elderly), cyclists, wheelchair users).

12.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by EA. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

Club demand

There are four affiliated clubs in Southend-on-Sea, with three of these using the formal provision at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre. Each is summarised below.

City of Southend-on-Sea AC

The City of Southend-on-Sea AC currently has 399 members, with this equating to 170 senior men, 112 senior women and 117 junior members. The Club is based at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre and offers weekly training sessions on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays for 2.5 hours each. It also runs a junior academy for primary school aged children.

The Club has plans to continue increasing membership into the future, with an aim for 50 more members across the men's, women's and junior sections.

Fordy Runs Running Club

Fordy Runs Running Club forms part of Fordy Runs (a national running club with local groups) and offers weekly social runs at Southchurch Park, welcoming runners of all abilities. The Club emphasises fun and inclusivity over performance. There is no obligation to attend every week, with emphasis instead on encouraging a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

As a running club, the Club has no requirement to access formal facilities.

Leigh-on-Sea Striders

Leigh-on-Sea Striders currently has 185 male and 226 female athletes. It accesses the track at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre once a week for an hour and reports that membership has increased in recent years, with plans to continue increasing this by 50 male and 50 female members each.

The Club caters to all abilities from casual runners to seasoned athletes and those returning to the sport. Members regularly participate in a wide range of events including road races, cross-country, and track competitions. The Club also runs an annual championship, starting each October, and maintains a calendar of local events for members to join.

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SS Athletics

SS Athletics Club is a junior focus club, with a total of 529 U18 members alongside 10 senior men's and five senior women's members. This represents significant demand. The Club offers a specialist athletics programme tailored for primary and secondary aged athletes, with training takes place at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's, each for two hours.

The Club reports that it is currently at capacity with its current allocated track time. A waiting list of 284 juniors exists, with this reported to be continually increasing. The Club has aspirations to continue increasing its membership but cannot offer this without a dedicated clubhouse space and access to more track time.

Additional demand

Southend 10k

The Southend 10K is an annual road race held in early October along the Southend-on-Sea seafront. Starting and finishing at Southchurch Park East, the event features a flat, traffic-free, certified 10K course. It attracts around 2,000 participants and includes individual, age-category, and team prizes, as well as the Essex County Championship for eligible runners. Race-day facilities include secure baggage storage, toilets, water stations, and first aid support, with refreshments available before and after the run. Organised by the City of Southend-on-Sea Athletic Club, the event has a strong community focus and supports local charities such as Havens Hospices, making it both a competitive and charitable occasion.

Leigh on Sea 10k & 5k Spooktacular

The Spooktacular run, hosted by Leigh-on-Sea Striders is an annual night time Halloween themed event. The event starts at 18:00 with headtorches a must. Halloween costumes are encouraged with a prize for best dressed. The 2025 event had 447 finishers. This is a not-for-profit event with all proceeds going to charity partners.

Race for Life

Race for Life is an initiative by Cancer Research UK to provide a series of women only events to raise money for research into various cancers. As part of this, a 5k run is hosted at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre every May, utilising the grass area within the whole of Garon Park rather than just the athletics track.

RunTogether

RunTogether is an official EA recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. The role of RunTogether is to provide enjoyable, supportive and inclusive running opportunities across England in the form of set routes, running groups and access to programmes such as Find a Guide and Mental Health Ambassadors.

In Southend-on-Sea, Flyers Southend is a registered RunTogether group.

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Just Ride Southend

Just Ride Southend is based out of Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre and accesses the athletics track to provide a safe cycling experience with specially adapted bikes to cater for all disabilities and health conditions. Sessions are run Tuesdays and Wednesdays (10am till and Saturdays (10am till 1pm).

Park Run

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. For those aged between 4 and 14, junior Park Run events are also available. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to access a barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events.

In Southend-on-Sea, there are two Park Runs located at Chalkwell Beach and Gunners Park. The nearest junior Park Run is located at Great Wakering Rec, in Rochford.

Active Southend

Active Southend runs and supports various initiatives that centre around running or include running activity. This includes its Running Sisters programme, which is especially aimed at those who take part in little or no physical activity and would like to get fitter in a friendly environment. A six week course is delivered by female instructors to encourage women aged 16 and over to take up running. It is delivered at Chalkwell Park.

Latent/unmet demand

A substantial level of unmet demand is identified by SS Athletics, with a large waiting list in place amounting to 284 potential members. It is said that this is due to a lack of track time at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre as well as a lack of a dedicated clubhouse.

No additional unmet demand has been identified, with the remaining clubs seemingly open to increasing membership and no barriers to achieving this noted.

Exported/imported demand

With the presence of two 400-metre athletics tracks in Southend-on-Sea, an element of imported demand is likely to exist, particularly from neighbouring authorities that are without such provision. This, however, cannot be quantified. It is considered that less exported demand will exist due to the provision on offer within the City.

Future demand

All three clubs consulted with express an aspiration to grow membership, with both City of Southend-on-Sea AC looking to attract 50 more members and Leigh-on-Sea Striders looking to attract 100 more members. In addition, SS Athletics has significant future demand, with this linked to its existing waiting list and the unmet demand referred to above.

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In addition to future demand expressed by the clubs, EA believes that demand for initiatives such as Park Run is likely to continue to increase in the future, although to what extent is difficult to quantify. It is also to be expected that the popularity of the Race for Life event as well as demand for RunTogether groups will increase in the future, with this aligned to national trends.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

With two formal track and field facilities provided in Southend-on-Sea, there is a good level of provision to meet demand levels. However, this is not currently proving adequate, with a high level of unmet demand evidenced by one of the three clubs that utilise the provision. As such, a resolution is required. This can be achieved through increasing access to Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre, exploring alternative access arrangements to The Eastwood Academy, or potentially through providing supplementary provision aligned to EA's NewGen products.

In addition, quality improvements across both Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre and The Eastwood Academy will be required in the near future to ensure the usability of both sites. Precedence should also be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the numerous running events taking place within the City as well as exploring the growth of initiatives such as RunTogether groups.

12.5: Conclusion

Whilst there is a good level of athletics provision within Southend-on-Sea, action is required to better accommodate demand and to meet unmet demand levels. Improvements are also required to ensure the continued usability of the provision.

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Athletics – supply and demand summary

- ▶ With two formal track and field facilities provided in Southend-on-Sea, there is a good level of provision to meet demand levels; however, this is not currently proving adequate, with a high level of unmet demand evidenced.
- ▶ A resolution is required, which could be achieved through increasing access to Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre, exploring alternative access arrangements to The Eastwood Academy, or through providing supplementary provision aligned to EA's NewGen products.
- ▶ Precedence should also be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the numerous running events taking place within the City as well as exploring the growth of initiatives such as RunTogether groups.

Athletics – supply summary

- ▶ Southend-on-Sea has two traditional 400-metre track and field facilities located at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre and at the Eastwood Academy.
- ▶ Both sites are available for community use, although The Eastwood Academy is without sports lighting and not currently accessed externally.
- ▶ The provision across both track and field venues is assessed as standard quality, with resurfacing required at the sites in the near future.
- ▶ City of Southend Athletics Club owns and maintains a clubhouse at Southend Tennis & Leisure Centre, with this is of good quality.
- ▶ Neither SS Athletics nor Leigh-on-Sea Striders report having access to the provision, with SS Athletics in particular explaining that having its own dedicated clubhouse would enable them to increase membership.

Athletics – demand summary

- ▶ There are four affiliated athletics clubs identified across Southend-on-Sea (City of Southend-on-Sea AC, Fordy Runs Running Club, Leigh-on-Sea Striders, and SS Athletics).
- ▶ SS Athletics, Leigh on Sea Striders, and City of Southend Athletics Club all use the facilities at Southend Tennis & Leisure Centre.
- ▶ SS Athletics has a waiting list of 284 juniors (unmet demand).
- ▶ Leigh-on-Sea Striders has ambitions to increase by 50 male and 50 female members, whilst City of Southend AC has future demand for 50 additional members.
- ▶ Fordy Runs Running Club is based in Southend-on-Sea but does not require access to built provision.
- ▶ The Southend 10K operates annually, attracting 2,000 participants – it starts and finishes at Southchurch Park East.
- ▶ Race for Life involves an annual 5k run at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre (Garon Park).
- ▶ There is one registered RunTogether group in the City known as Flyers Southend.
- ▶ There are two Park Runs located at Chalkwell Beach and Gunners Park.

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PART 13: CYCLING

13.1: Introduction

British Cycling is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ◀ Track cycling – velodromes
- ◀ Road cycling – closed road circuits
- ◀ Mountain biking – trails
- ◀ BMX racing – race/pump tracks
- ◀ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks
- ◀ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues

British Cycling aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased since recent, elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

Whilst it is recognised that significant levels of cycling will be taking place outside of the sporting sphere, this section of the report only focuses on formal demand for any of the aforementioned six formats. That being said, it is clear that there will be some level of crossover, particularly in relation to road cycling.

ForwardMotion

ForwardMotion is an initiative to encourage people to think differently about the way they travel around south Essex instead of jumping in the car for every journey. Its goal is to reduce the reliance on car travel and encourage people to consider alternative ways of travelling, to improve mental and physical wellbeing, and reduce emissions across the region. The initiative is supported by Essex County Council, in partnership with Southend-on-Sea City Council, Thurrock Council, Basildon Council, Castle Point Borough Council and Rochford District Council.

In Southend-on-Sea, the initiative has links with both Just Ride Southend and Southend Wheelers Cycling Club. In addition, it provides/promotes the following services:

- ◀ Mobile Cycle Hub (Southend High Street) – provides free bike checks and bike maintenance, minor repairs, and security tagging.
- ◀ Cycle training (bikeability) – for adults, children and schools across the whole City.
- ◀ Secure cycle parking – several facilities located at Leigh-on-Sea, Chalkwell, Southend East and Shoeburyness stations and on Southend High Street.
- ◀ Go Jauntly – a walking app for Southend heritage walks.
- ◀ Travel Essex – a free-to-use sustainable journey planning app.

Consultation

Information for cycling was gathered through online research and via consultation with British Cycling.

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13.2: Supply

There are no purpose-built facilities within Southend-on-Sea with the nearest dedicated facility located approximately six miles away, at Hadleigh Park. This is in neighbouring authority Castle Point and is generally accessible for Southend-on-Sea residents.

There are no velodrome facilities in Southend-on-Sea, with only five provided nationally. There are also no closed road circuits or cycle speedway tracks, although these are considered to be more feasible in the future should enough demand exist.

13.3: Demand

This section summarises cycling demand within Southend-on-Sea from a sporting perspective, with a focus on clubs based within the City as well as other initiatives and events that are undertaken.

Southend Wheelers

Southend Wheelers Cycling Club is one of the premier cycling clubs in Essex and the Eastern Region. It caters for all ages from 12+ and most aspects of the sport, offering everything from leisure cycling to road racing, track racing and time trialling. It also provides for those who like to ride off-road, such as via Cyclo Cross, mountain biking and gravel opportunities.

The Club hosts a full programme of activities from weekly Sunday club rides and some Saturday rides to a full racing calendar throughout the year. It currently has over 150 members (an increase from 133 for the 2018 PPOSS).

Richardsons-Trek RT

The Club is a small racing club that focuses mostly on cyclo-cross, time trials and road racing. It has no known home base.

Just Ride Southend

Just Ride Southend is based out of Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre and accesses the athletics track to provide a safe cycling experience with specially adapted bikes to cater for all disabilities and health conditions. Sessions are run Tuesdays and Wednesdays (10:00 till noon) and Saturdays (10:00 till 13:00).

The organisation has recently established two additional containers at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre, located on a hard standing area. These provide a dedicated workshop and expansion space for wheelchair platform bikes and specialist side-by-side bikes.

Bike sharing stations

Southend-on-Sea has three bike sharing stations across the City. These are known as Civic Centre, City Beach B and City Beach C.

For those interested in the scheme, users can sign up to it via Motion Hub.

Go-Ride

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Go-Ride is a British Cycling's development programme for young people. It offers a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the sport and provides a platform to improve cycling skills. People can get involved through holiday coaching programmes or through their local accredited club which allows them to sample the various disciplines of the sport. Progression is obtainable with Go-Ride Racing, offering competition for riders to transition from school or club coaching to inter club and open regional competitions.

In Southend-on-Sea, there are no Go-Ride sessions identified.

Breeze

Breeze is a British Cycling's development programme for women. It offers three categories easy going, steady and challenging to allow women of all abilities to get involved. The programme offers exercise whilst also creating a comfortable environment to meet people.

In Southend-on-Sea, there are no Breeze sessions identified.

Imported/exported demand

Whilst exact levels are unknown, exported demand from Southend-on-Sea is likely for cycling given the presence of purpose-built provision at Hadleigh Park, in Castle Point. However, some imported demand is also likely experienced in the form of individuals joining clubs within the City, especially in regard to Southend Wheelers and Just Ride Southend.

Similarly, it is considered that an element of exported demand is likely experienced from cyclists seeking access to purpose built, dedicated cycling facilities (e.g., velodromes, pump tracks and closed road circuits). This is because no such provision has been identified within Southend-on-Sea.

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Latent/future demand

The lack of dedicated, specialist provision for some forms of cycling may be creating a level of unmet demand, where it is not being exported. However, this is difficult to determine given the informal nature of the majority of activity. As such, whilst some latent and future demand is likely to exist for cycling, exact levels are difficult to determine given that most activity takes place outside of a club environment and is not monitored.

Linked to the above, most future growth will not require space within a club or at a dedicated facility, aligned to existing demand. Instead, most new participants will likely take up cycling by themselves (or with friends) on a recreational basis and will utilise the local infrastructure in place to fulfil this.

13.4: Supply and demand analysis / conclusion

High demand for cycling is identified within Southend-on-Sea; however, it is considered that most of this demand does not require dedicated facilities as the majority of participants will utilise roads and cycle paths. As such, there is no clear evidence to suggest that dedicated provision is required within the City, especially considering the close proximity of the facilities at Hadleigh Park in neighbouring Castle Point. This is also aided by the provision that is in use at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre and the ForwardMotion initiative.

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Cycling – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Whilst high demand for cycling is identified within Southend-on-Sea, there is no clear evidence to suggest that dedicated provision is required within the City, especially considering the close proximity of the facilities at Hadleigh Park in neighbouring Castle Point.
- ◀ The adequacy of meeting demand is further aided by the provision that is in use at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre and the ForwardMotion initiative.

Cycling – supply summary

- ◀ There are no purpose-built facilities within Southend-on-Sea with the nearest dedicated facility located approximately six miles away, at Hadleigh Park.
- ◀ The athletics track at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre is utilised by Just Ride Southend.
- ◀ ForwardMotion is an initiative to encourage people to think differently about the way they travel around South Essex – accompanying its schemes is capital investment to improve the quality of several key cycle routes and cycling infrastructure across the City.

Cycling – demand summary

- ◀ Formal demand is accounted for by three clubs in the City (Southend Wheelers, Just Ride Southend and Richardsons-Trek RT).
- ◀ Just Ride Southend is based out of Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre and accesses the athletics track to provide a safe cycling experience with specially adapted bikes to cater for all disabilities and health conditions.
- ◀ Three bike sharing stations are in place across Southend-on-Sea.
- ◀ No clubs partake in British Cycling's Go-Ride or Breeze programmes.

PART 14: MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

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14.1: Introduction

MUGAs include any sport or games areas which are often used for social and recreational sport in the community. They are generally enclosed (although not always) and categorised into five typologies, as seen in the table below.

Table 14.1: Types of MUGAs

Type	Surface	Characteristics	Preferred sport/s
Type One	Open textured porous macadam	Used for ball rebound sports and suitable for wheelchair sports.	Tennis, netball, basketball
Type Two	Open textured porous macadam	Used for ball rebound sports and suitable for wheelchair sports.	Tennis, netball, basketball
Type Three	Polymeric surface over macadam base	Used for ball rebound sports and suitable for wheelchair sports.	Tennis, netball, basketball
Type Four	Polymeric surface over macadam base	Greater shock absorbency and lower surface friction than types one, two and three.	Football (recreational), basketball
Type Five	Sand/water based or third generation turf (3G)	Artificial surface installed over a shock pad and either heavily doused with water before play or filled or dressed with sand or rubber crumb.	Hockey, football, American football, lacrosse and rugby (union and league).

Type one, two, three and four MUGAs are included within this section of the report, unless they are solely marked out for tennis and/or netball, where they are instead covered in the specific tennis and netball sections. Type five MUGAs are not included as they are instead covered in either Part 3 (for rubber crumb pitches) and Part 6 (for sand-based pitches).

14.2: Supply

There are eight sites identified as providing MUGAs in Southend-on-Sea. The majority are concentrated within the West Analysis Area (five), with only two provided in the East Analysis Area and only one provided within the Central Analysis Area.

Table 14.2: Summary of MUGAs in Southend-on-Sea

Analysis area	Number of MUGA sites
Central	1
East	2
West	5
Total	8
2018 Total	7

The supply of MUGAs has increased by one since the 2018 study, although this is due to provision being missed at Eastwood Park. For the location of the MUGAs, see Figure 14.1 overleaf (Table 14.3 provides a key).

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Figure 14.1: Location of MUGAs in Southend-on-Sea



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Table 14.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Type	Ownership
24	Eastwood Park	SS9 5YF	West	Type One / Two	Council
40	Leigh Marshes	SS9 2ET	West	Type One / Two	Council
46	Priory Park	SS2 6ND	West	Type One/ Two	Council
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	East	Type One / Two	Council
56	Southchurch Park	SS1 2XB	Central	Type One / Two	Council
84	Chalkwell Park	SS0 8NA	West	Type One / Two	Council
97	Colne Drive	SS3 8XP	East	Type One / Two	Council
98	St Laurence Park	SS2 6TQ	West	Type One / Two	Council

Management

As seen in the table above, all MUGAs across Southend-on-Sea are owned by the Council. As such, each MUGA is available as open access.

Quality

Following non-technical assessments, seven MUGAs have been identified as poor quality, and one as standard. None are considered to be good quality.

Table 14.4: Summary of MUGA quality in Southend-on-Sea

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality rating
24	Eastwood Park	West	Poor
40	Leigh Marshes	West	Poor
46	Priory Park	West	Poor
49	Shoeburyness Park	East	Poor
56	Southchurch Park	Central	Poor
84	Chalkwell Park	West	Poor
97	Colne Drive	East	Standard
98	St Laurence Park	West	Poor

The MUGAs deemed to be poor quality have inadequate grip underfoot, loose gravel and evidence of litter, glass and moss with maintenance of such provision also considered to be basic and infrequent.

The standard quality MUGA is located at Colne Drive.

Sports lighting

The presence of sports light is considered to encourage more demand of MUGAs as it enables evening use all year round. That being said, it is also acknowledged that it also encourages higher levels of unofficial use resulting in increased anti-social behaviour, vandalism and littering. As such, only MUGAs that are in well-lit and secure areas should be targeted for the accompaniment of sports lighting.

In Southend-on-Sea, the MUGAs at both Chalkwell Park and Leigh Marshes are serviced by sports lighting. The remaining six facilities are not.

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Ancillary facilities

The majority of MUGAs in Southend-on-Sea are not directly serviced by ancillary provision such as a clubhouse and changing rooms, although some are located on sites which have facilities such as Priory Park. That being said, such provision is not considered to be overly important due to the nature of use that MUGAs receive, with this generally being informal and recreational whereby access is not required. Toilets are, however, desirable.

Similarly, car parking is not considered to be a key issue for MUGAs, with most users travelling via other means e.g., walking and cycling.

Future developments

The FF, using investment from the Premier League, the FA and the Government via Sport England has released a new capital investment programme called the PlayZones Programme. This aims to engage with local communities across the Country to create outstanding sports and activity spaces with a focus on tackling inequalities in participation. The priority groups for the funding are:

- ✦ Lower socio-economic groups
- ✦ Women and girls
- ✦ Disabled people with people with long term health conditions
- ✦ Ethnically diverse communities

Despite the investment being football-led, the FF wants other sports to benefit, including basketball, netball, rugby, hockey and cricket. The aim is therefore to deliver new or refurbished outdoor areas designed for multiple activities that will allow the priority groups to be more active. As such, whilst the facilities provided will likely be classified as MUGAs, they will be innovative in design and created bespoke to the areas in which they will be located.

In total, the FF aims to deliver 330 PlayZones across the Country via a phased approach. This is therefore something that could be explored in Southend-on-Sea, either via the improvement of existing MUGAs or through the creation of new facilities in areas of need.

14.3: Demand

Current demand

Given the open access nature of the MUGAs provided within Southend-on-Sea, usage is not recorded, which means that demand levels are generally unknown. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that the majority of the provision is relatively well used, especially during summer months and predominately for recreational/informal football and basketball. However, it is likely to be more limited than it could be due to only two of the facilities being serviced by sports lighting and with quality assessed as poor across the stock.

In addition, it should be noted that most of the MUGAs share sites with other sport and recreational provision, including playing fields, play areas, outdoor gyms and skate parks. This is likely to result in higher levels of usage than standalone facilities.

Future demand

With current MUGA demand difficult to assess, so too is future demand. However, as the population of Southend-on-Sea grows it would be considered likely that MUGA demand and usage will also increase.

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Traditionally, large scale housing developments include the provision of open space and recreational provision, with MUGAs often supplied as part of this. As such, this should be encouraged within Southend-on-Sea, alongside considering other sporting needs identified within the PPOSS.

In addition, it should be noted that there is a growing student population in Southend-on-Sea, particularly within the Central Analysis Area where currently only one MUGA is provided. This may generate greater demand for informal sports areas in the locality, with this also noted by the Council as part of its Local Plan consultation process.

Linked to the above, Essex University has recently declared (Autumn 2025) that it will close its Southend Campus. However, the Council notes that it has ambitions to retain an education focus in the city centre.

14.4: Supply and demand analysis

Given that demand for MUGAs falls into informal use it is difficult to assess and quantify demand and whether supply is sufficient. However, it is considered likely that there is a provision shortfall in Southend-on-Sea due to the low quantity provided. In particular, there is likely to be a requirement for additional facilities in the Central Analysis Area to support a population base that is most likely to want access.

Furthermore, even where provision levels are adequate within the City, demand levels are likely being affected by a lack of sports lighting and quality issues. The potential installation of lighting at suitable sites in addition to quality improvements is therefore also required in relation to the existing facilities.

14.5: Conclusion

There is an inadequate supply of MUGAs across Southend-on-Sea. This can be overcome through enhancing the existing provision as well as via creating new facilities in high-population density areas that are currently without nearby access.

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MUGAs – supply and demand summary

- It is likely that there is a provision shortfall of MUGAs in Southend-on-Sea due to the low quantity provided, particularly in the Central Analysis Area.
- The potential installation of sports lighting at suitable sites in addition to quality improvements is also required in relation to the existing facilities.

MUGAs – supply summary

- In total there are eight sites identified as providing MUGAs in Southend-on-Sea.
- The West Analysis Area supplies five, the East Analysis Area provides two and the Central Analysis Area provides one.
- All MUGAs are owned by the Council, meaning all provision is open access.
- Seven of the MUGAs are assessed as poor quality, whilst one is rated standard (there are no good quality MUGAs).
- Only two of the MUGAs is accompanied by sports lighting (at Chalkwell Park and Leigh Marshes).

MUGAs – demand summary

- Given the open access nature of the MUGAs, no usage is recorded, which means that demand levels are generally unknown.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that most of the sites are well used, particularly for recreational football and basketball, although this will be impacted by quality and a lack of sports lighting.
- Demand levels are likely to increase in the future, aligned to general population growth.
- A growing student base could lead to particularly high demand in the Central Analysis Area.

PART 15: PARKOUR

15.1: Introduction

Parkour UK is the national governing body for parkour across the UK. Its role is to provide governance and regulation, act as a custodian of the sport/art and protect the rights and freedoms, as well as promote the interests of Traceurs/Freerunners and their member organisations and the UK community.

15.2: Supply and demand

Due to the inclusivity and accessibility of parkour, it has grown in popularity over recent years and has seen a large increase in participants. The 2025 Active Lives Survey identifies that 261,000 people took part in parkour or free running over the 12 months prior.

Notwithstanding the above, the only known club in Southend-on-Sea, known as Southend Parkour, has recently folded. As a result, no current, monitored parkour demand is identified in the City, although that is not to say that it is not happening informally given the nature of the sport.

When operational, Southend Parkour utilised a dedicated, purpose-built parkour facility at Hadleigh Park, in Castle Point. This has equipment that meets both British and European standards and was a popular destination for parkour groups across South Essex. However, Active Essex reports that it is no longer in use by any formal clubs. A lack of lighting was previously referenced by Southend Parkour as an issue at the site, with this confining activity to summer months.

Southend Parkour also ran satellite sessions at St Bernard's High School for Girls. It was also reported to have had strong links to other schools and organisations to help drive activity, with this including Southend High School, Waterman Primary School (in Rochford), Barons Court Primary School, Friars Primary School, Chadwell Hall Junior School (in Thurrock) and Southend YMCA.

15.2: Conclusion

Following the loss of Southend Parkour and due to the main parkour site being outside of Southend-on-Sea, no action is thought to be required in relation to the sport. This is on the provision that the re-establishment of any demand can be directed to and adequately accommodated at Hadleigh Park.

Parkour – supply and demand summary

- Following the loss of Southend Parkour and due to the main parkour site being outside of Southend-on-Sea, no action is thought to be required in relation to the sport.
- It should be ensured that the re-establishment of any demand can be directed to and adequately accommodated at Hadleigh Park.

Parkour – supply summary

- There is no purpose-built parkour facility in Southend-on-Sea, with Hadleigh Park in Castle Point instead providing for the City.
- St Bernard's High School for Girls was also previously accessed for activity.

Parkour – demand summary

- The only known parkour club in Southend-on-Sea (Southend Parkour) has recently folded.
- No current, monitored parkour demand is identified in the City, although that is not to say that it is not happening informally given the nature of the sport.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Department of Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
 - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
 - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
 - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
 - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
 - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
 - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
 - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector.

These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

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Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2025)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

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Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2018, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: Survive. Revive. Thrive. (2018-24)

This new strategy aims to ensure the grassroots game in England will survive, revive, and thrive over the next four years.

The strategy outlines seven transformational objectives through to 2024:

- ◀ **Male Participation:** Modernised opportunities to retain and re-engage millions of male participants in the game.
- ◀ **Female Participation:** A sustainable model based on a world-class, modernised offer.
- ◀ **Club Network:** A vibrant national club network that delivers inclusive, safe local grassroots football and meets community needs.
- ◀ **Facilities:** Enhanced access to good quality pitches across grassroots football.
- ◀ **Grassroots Workforce:** A transformation in community football by inspiring, supporting and retaining volunteers in the game.
- ◀ **Digital Products and Services:** An efficient grassroots digital ecosystem to serve the administrative and development needs of players, parents, and the workforce.
- ◀ **Positive Environment:** A game that's representative of out diverse footballing communities, played in a safe and inclusive environment.

This strategy was launched as grassroots football was able to safely return after lockdown from Monday 29 March, it also identifies the immediate challenge, in light of COVID-19, to get grassroots football back on its feet.

The new strategy sets out a number of goals to revive the game by addressing the areas that require particular attention. This includes increasing opportunities to ensure girls have the same access as boys to football in schools and clubs, and improving quality of pitches, with the aim of seeing 5000 good quality pitches added to the current number by 2024.

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The FA: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)¹³

The FA launched its new Strategy which aims to 'take English football forward, with clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed'.

To achieve this, eight key strategic priorities are identified which include four 'Game Changer' objectives and four 'Drivers' objectives as detailed below. The strategy also outlines how The FA's plans to achieve these objectives.

Game Changers:

- ◀ Win tournaments
 - ◀ Develop pathways
 - ◀ Support elite players
 - ◀ Enhance environments
 - ◀ Collaborate and influence
- ◀ A game free from discrimination
 - ◀ Boost representation
 - ◀ Drive more inclusion
 - ◀ Tackle discrimination
- ◀ Equal opportunities for women & girls
 - ◀ Increase school participation
 - ◀ Increase club participation
 - ◀ Enhance women's competitions
 - ◀ Support female coaches and referees
- ◀ Transform the pitch landscape
 - ◀ Sustain and grow high-quality grass pitches
 - ◀ Deliver new 3G pitches
 - ◀ Support inclusivity accessibility and environmental sustainability of facilities

Drivers:

- ◀ Thriving community clubs
 - ◀ Develop club opportunities
 - ◀ Support the current and future generation of club leaders
 - ◀ Equip clubs to add long-term value to local communities
- ◀ World-class FA cups
 - ◀ Broaden commercial appeal
 - ◀ Evolve the Adobe Women's FA Cup format
- ◀ Participant led
 - ◀ Place participants at the centre of decision making
 - ◀ Create flexible models to meet participants needs
 - ◀ Provide digital tools to improve experiences
- ◀ Progressive governance
 - ◀ Support integration of women's and girls' football
 - ◀ Support governance of the NLS
 - ◀ Support our County Football Associations (CFAs)

The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)¹⁴

The FA's 2018-2024 strategy, 'Inspiring Positive Change', coincided with record growth across the sport, with more women and girls playing, coaching, officiating and supporting the flourishing professional game than ever before.

¹³ [FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association](#)

¹⁴ [The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28](#)

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This strategy aims to build on the success achieved to date and strives to continue working to unlock the full potential of the women's and girls' game. The strategy outlines four strategic priorities as seen below.

1. **Build and Protect the Uniqueness of the Women's Game:** Continue to honour the history of women's football and recognise those who have contributed towards making it so unique, whilst ensuring the distinct qualities and unique culture of the women's game are valued and protected.
2. **Win a Major Tournament:** Continue to be world-leaders both on and off the pitch, developing players and building an inclusive talent pathway system to make football more equal and accessible at every level of the game, ensuring the England pathway and teams represent society.
3. **Build Robust, High-Quality Competition:** Create compelling competition structures and support clubs to develop to the appropriate level within the game, while enabling people to grow and develop within The FA's competition structures.
4. **Deliver Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls to Play:** Sustain growth in schools whilst tackling inequalities. Continue to grow the number of female teams and deliver vibrant league offers whilst extending and enhancing the sessional football offer. The ambition is for 90% of schools to deliver equal access for girls to play football in key stages two and three.

There are five golden threads which weave through each of the four strategic priorities and across all levels of the women's and girls' game, which will be instrumental for delivering the next phase of growth by 2028:

1. **Female Health and Wellbeing:** Develop the game to support women and girls with their health and wellbeing needs, providing them with environments in which they can thrive.
2. **Safeguarding:** Support the evolution of an ever-safer culture across the women's and girls' game.
3. **Refereeing:** Grow and nurture a new generation of referees who are representative of our society.
4. **Coaching:** Support and develop brilliant coaches capable of unleashing every player's potential in a safe and inclusive game.
5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure the game is more reflective of our society.

Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28)^[1]

In October 2024 the ECB released its updated Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025–28). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2018-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say 'Cricket is a game for me' through its vision:

- ◀ To become the most inclusive team sport
- ◀ To grow and unite the game
- ◀ Lead the game through global transformation

^[1]<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/10/22/19a925d7-3c92-4a36-8e7b-f49cb470377f/ECB-Inspiring-Generations-2025-2028.pdf>

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It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives:

- ✦ Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
- ✦ Transform Women's and Girl's cricket
- ✦ Connect communities through play
- ✦ Inspire through winning England teams
- ✦ Support a thriving and sustainable men's and women's professional game
- ✦ Win the battle for attention

Underpinning these six ambitions are a series of enablers that cut-across multiple areas of the game, alongside Cricket's Core Values.

The Rugby Football Union Strategy Plan (2026-2030) ¹⁵

In January 2026, the RFU launched its new Strategy for the next four years- Plan 2030: More than a Game - setting out a clear, ambitious and realistic plan to grow the game, enrich lives and ensure rugby continues to thrive at every level across the country.

The strategy recognises that while rugby remains one of England's most popular sports, the world around it is changing fast, and presents a plan focused on making sure the game continues to thrive for future generations.

Built around four connected goals – Play, Perform, Follow and Fund – the strategy reflects rugby's unique values, its deep community roots and world in which the sport now operates.

The four big goals are:

- ✦ **Play:** getting more people playing rugby, for longer.
- ✦ **Perform:** consistently winning senior international competitions.
- ✦ **Follow:** building a new generation of passionate fans.
- ✦ **Fund:** investing sustainably in the whole game

Delivering these goals will require change. The strategy identifies four critical areas of focus where England Rugby will do things differently:

- ✦ Making it easier for clubs and volunteers to run the game, reducing complexity and supporting those who give their time to rugby.
- ✦ Breaking new ground as global leaders in the women and girls' game, on and off the field, from performance and welfare to governance and innovation. A standalone women and girls' strategy was launched in 2025.
- ✦ Ensuring rugby remains relevant to young people, reflecting how they live, play and engage with sport today.
- ✦ Relentlessly pursuing the safest possible version of the game, protecting rugby's physical identity while constantly learning and improving.

The strategy is rooted in the belief that rugby is more than just a sport. It is a force for good, a source of belonging and a game that connects people and communities across England.

¹⁵ <https://rfu.widen.net/s/pxxrjxrvps/rfu-plan-2030-more-than-a-game>

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Rugby Football League – National Community Facilities Strategy (2024 – 2030)

The RFL has developed a new National Facilities Strategy which will guide investment into the game from 2024 through to 2030. The proposed investment package aligned to the Strategy will not only transform facilities, but also bolster the sport's social impact, reinforcing its position as a vital part of the nation's sporting and social fabric.

The four focus areas of the Strategy are:

- ◀ **Security of Tenure** – allowing clubs to plan for the long-term
- ◀ **Accessible and Inclusive Facilities** – providing suitable facilities for all and creating safe spaces for the wider community
- ◀ **Adequate and Appropriate Pitch Provision**– investment both in playing surfaces, and in upskilling a volunteer workforce to maintain them
- ◀ **Sustainability**– both environmental and financial

The Strategy will deliver on the four focus areas by delivering against a set of five recommendations which are set within the Strategy and are detailed below. These recommendations reflect the wider strategic aspirations across the sport and are for the RFL to work to deliver.

- ◀ **Focus community clubs**
 - ◀ Ensure the RFL has sufficient capacity and resource to deliver the recommendations identified within this Strategy to support its community clubs.
 - ◀ Ensure all community clubs have the knowledge and resource to provide good quality grass pitches.
 - ◀ Supporting clubs to have good quality changing and social facilities which can support the scale of need at each club. These must be inclusive for all participants and benefit target user groups such as women and girls' participants.
 - ◀ Ensure clubs can accommodate a sustainable operational programme for clubhouses to ensure the longevity of provision.
 - ◀ Work with clubs and key partners to increase the number of clubs with secured tenure of their club facilities.
 - ◀ Develop a dedicated funding programme which is specifically aimed at supporting clubs to gain security of tenure at their respective site.
 - ◀ Highlight success stories and best practices from community clubs to inspire others and showcase the positive impact of these efforts.
- ◀ **Deliver positive social and environmental impact**
 - ◀ Support clubs through training and advice on how to promote facilities for non-rugby league purposes.
 - ◀ Work with Active Partnerships across England to enable higher usage and activation of rugby league assets for non-rugby league activity.
 - ◀ Prioritise clubs for wellbeing hubs which may offer the widest social benefit (relative to local need) – particularly those in high deprivation areas.
 - ◀ Use the activation of club facilities as a prerequisite to capital funding for club house improvements / new development.
 - ◀ Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies
- ◀ **Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies**
 - ◀ Ensure continued working with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of other sports to capitalise on shared investment opportunities.
 - ◀ Work with the Football Foundation to maximise Multi-Sport funding opportunities – utilising the framework provided in this Strategy as the baseline of shared investment.

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- ◀ Work closely with Active Partnerships in areas with high club densities to establish opportunities for pitch access via the Open School Facilities programme.
- ▶ **Technological solutions**
 - ◀ Ensure the RFL gathers greater levels of information from clubs via affiliation. To include (e.g.) security of tenure information and an integrated self-assessment audit of community facilities.
 - ◀ Continue expanding the use and application of PitchPower so all clubs can self-assess provision and support clubs to make positive contributions to improving the quality of grass pitches.
 - ◀ Promote technological solutions which progress clubs into being more sustainable, energy efficient and ensure their long-term viability as community assets.
 - ◀ Create a platform or resource hub where clubs can access information on funding opportunities, facility management, and sustainable operational practices.
- ▶ **Working with Charitable Community Organisations and Wheelchair Rugby League**
 - ◀ Develop an investment package to support the operational delivery of professional club foundation led wheelchair activity focusing on storage and logistical solutions.
 - ◀ Prioritise capital investment into community club sites which also accommodate professional club foundations as tenants for community Rugby League activity.
 - ◀ Begin work on the feasibility of developing a national wheelchair centre which includes exploring partnership opportunities with other sports to maximise multisport value and return on investment.
 - ◀ Consult with professional club foundations, where possible, to understand the need for 3G access and work to ascertain sufficient access hours during peak times of need.

England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3rd October. The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

1. Lead Positive Change: to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.
2. Meaningful Growth: to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. Drive Visible Impact: to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.

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4. **Responsible Leadership:** to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. **Inspirational International Success:** inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

England Netball

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-

- ▶ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- ▶ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ▶ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

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Facility Development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ✦ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ✦ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ✦ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.
- ✦ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ✦ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ✦ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ✦ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ✦ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ✦ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ✦ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

LTA – Tennis Opened Up 2024-2026

The LTA's vision for 2024-2026, is Tennis Opened Up. Its mission is to transform communities through tennis, by making it by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring. The objectives of the LTA are:

- ✦ Put tennis at the heart of communities.
- ✦ Grow and diversity our audience of fans and players.
- ✦ Attract and engage the tennis workforce for the next generation.
- ✦ Be one of the most respected nations in the world for player development.
- ✦ Secure a sustainable future for tennis in Britain.

These objectives will be delivered through six strategies: Invest, Grow, Engage, Perform, Diversity and Lead. The LTA will implement a facilities strategy with a focus on parks, covered courts, Community Indoor Tennis Centres and Padel.

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

Bowls England's Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

The priorities that will get it the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf's influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

<https://www.englandgolf.org/englandgolfstrategy/>

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023) and Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031). Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

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British Cycling Lead our Sports – Inspire our communities¹⁶

British Cycling's Strategy identifies seven key priorities for cycling before the Paris Olympics in 2024. These priorities are:

- ✦ Inspiring Performances
- ✦ Grow Communities
- ✦ Engage the Next Generation
- ✦ Flagship Events
- ✦ Cycling for Everyone
- ✦ Work Together
- ✦ Equipped for Success

The seven priorities are not everything that British Cycling will do, but that can have the greatest impact over the next 36 months. The priorities are all interconnected and are cross interdependencies – achieving one strategic priority is often reliant upon achieving the other.

For each of the priorities, the Strategy sets out the measures of success:

Priority	Sub priority	Measures
Inspiring Performances	Sustain inspirational global elite cycling success	✦ Win 10 Olympic and 15 Paralympic medals. ✦ Creation of a development plan to support elite non Olympic and Paralympic disciplines. ✦ Increase by 10% the number of riders in the talent pathway across ethnic communities, disability and low socioeconomic backgrounds.
Grow Communities	Grow and serve our cycling communities	✦ Diversify and grow our cycling communities. ✦ Grow membership from 150k to 250k. ✦ Increase affiliated clubs and groups by 20%
Engage the Next Generation	Encourage more children and young people to make cycling a lifelong habit	✦ Increase the number of children and young people in clubs or groups by 20%. ✦ Increase by 10% the number of children and young people participating across ethnic communities, disability and low socio-economic backgrounds. ✦ Increased awareness and perception of British Cycling in a younger audience through yearly tracking.
Flagship Events	Host world class major events to excite and inspire	✦ Achieve major event hosting targets across disciplines. ✦ Support the legacy impact of both the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the Cycling World Championships 2023. ✦ Increase the opportunities for British riders to perform on home soil.

¹⁶ [British Cycling Lead our Sports](#)

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

Priority	Sub priority	Measures
Cycling for Everyone	Ensure cycling is open to everyone	- Put in place robust tracking and increased diversity in facilitators and governance. 90% of our communities to believe cycling is an inclusive activity and a sport for them. - Increase participation in our sport across genders, ages, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and low socioeconomic backgrounds by 10%.
Work Together	Work together with everyone who makes cycling happen	- A 25% increase in the percentage of cycling facilitators that feel appreciated for the work they do. - Retain, grow and diversify the range of partners in line with our strategic priorities.
Equipped for Success	Deliver our strategy effectively and efficiently	100% increase in the diversity of the industries represented in the British Cycling partnership portfolio. - Grow and diversify income streams.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference:				Site Name:					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s):					
Number of football pitches on site:				Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)				
Availability				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
				If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues					
Weather at time of visit & date of visit									
Pitch Issues:									
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 (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments		
Playing surface									
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%		Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch		
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No		See size chart below for recommended dimensions		
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe				
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short		Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less		
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage				
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)							Section total		
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No				
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No				
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No				
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
							Section total		
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.									
PITCH SCORE				0.0%	RATING	Poor			

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

Grass rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference					Site Name				
6 figure grid reference					Pitch ID(s)				
Date of assessment					Pitch size		(Senior, Mini/Midi)		
Number of pitches on site					Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?				
Availability					If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues				
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Weather at time of visit									
General comments/observations									
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)									
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments		
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor	>90% = good. <80% = poor			
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)	Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.			
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short	Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm			
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots				
GOALPOSTS									
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No						
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No						
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No						
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No						
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No						
ANCILLARY									
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No						
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No						
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below									
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never		
								Pitch Maintenance Score	
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0
Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.									

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID						
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)			
Availability									
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Type of pitch	{	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)		Short Pile 3G (40mm)			
		Sand Dressed		Sand Filled		Water based			
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	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No						
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No						
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No						
Cricket non-technical assessment									
Maximum score	93	Scoring:	Poor	<=50	Total Score	0			
			Standard	51-79	Potential Rating	Poor			
			Good	80+					

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

Cricket pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Element	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield					
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	CBEX falls below the ECB basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 12mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even		Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	May also wish to refer to sewer survey, if yes, refer to sewer survey/site manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to sewer survey, if yes, refer to sewer survey/site manager	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg from animals/vehicles - rabbits, quills and faeces etc may also wish to refer to sewer survey	
Artificial wickets					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes	No	There should be no trip points		
Evenness of wicket	Even	Uneven	There should be no undulations in surface levels		
Stump holes	Yes	No	Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball		
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes	No	There should be none		
Rips or surface lifting	Yes	No	16 "yes" - manual site manager		
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes	No	16 "yes" - manual site manager		
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes	No			
Grass wickets					
Presence of line markings	Yes	No			
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes	No			
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes	No	3mm max width wicket/12mm max of square		
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No	CBEX falls below the ECB basic standard		
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes	No			
Changing/ Pavilion					
Umpires provision	Yes	No			
Toilets	Yes	No			
Hot/cold water	Yes	No			
Heating	Yes	No			
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention		
NTP					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes	No			
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even	Uneven			
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes	No			
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes	No			
No rips or surface lifting	Yes	No			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes	No			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes	No			
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes	No			
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes	No			
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes	No			
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes	No			

Tennis/netball court non-technical assessment

KKPref											
Site name:											
Number of courts -		Tennis		Netball		Basketball		Five-a-side			
General Playground or specific sports court area?											
Court surface					Management				Community Use?		
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale				Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School						

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						Comments			
About the courts										
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate					
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate					
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Access for disabled players - i.e. ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Changing Accomodation										
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No							
About the equipment										
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No							
Practice wall	Yes		No							

Bowling green non-technical assessment

[illegible]

Element	Rating					Comments
About the greens						
Grass cover	Over 70%		40-69%		less than 40%	
Evenness of surface	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Signs of wear and tear	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Condition of ditches/boarding	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes		No			
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Ancillary facilities						
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No			
Toilets	Yes		No			
Car parking	Yes		No			
General comments about the site:						

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

Athletics track non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks

KKPref						
Site name:						
Track surface	Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify		Specify If 'Other'			
No. of Lanes		Length of track:		Community Use:		

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

Element	Rating						Comments
About the track facilities							
Damage to the track surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Track edging	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Disabled access	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Floodlighting	Yes			No			
Is the track fenced?	Yes			No			
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No-but adequate		No-not adequate		
Take off boards	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Landing mats	Yes			No			
Surface of throwing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Adequate safety margins - throws	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Throwing cages	Yes			No			
Access to toilets	Yes			No			
Changing accommodation	Yes			No			
Changing accommodation - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Club room	Yes			No			
Car parking	Good		Adequate		Poor		
General Comments							
						ENTER Athletics	Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !

