

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

STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN REPORT JUNE 2026

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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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
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
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
EA	England Athletics
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

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Southend-on-Sea. Building upon the preceding updated Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. It replaces the previous study, which was completed in 2018, and delivers

- ◀ A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations.
- ◀ A series of strategic objectives and recommendations.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritises key issues.
- ◀ A range of housing growth scenario to understand the potential impact of developments.
- ◀ Guidance as to how the PPOSS can be delivered.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPS) Guidance for playing pitch sports and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for "non-pitch" sports. Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy.
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date.

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete.

The ANOG has a similar staged approach, as follows:

- ◀ 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.

Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this strategy should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly kept up to date.

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 (and vice versa).

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 sub areas have been established and are known as Central, East and West, as summarised below. They have been created through grouping together ward boundaries.

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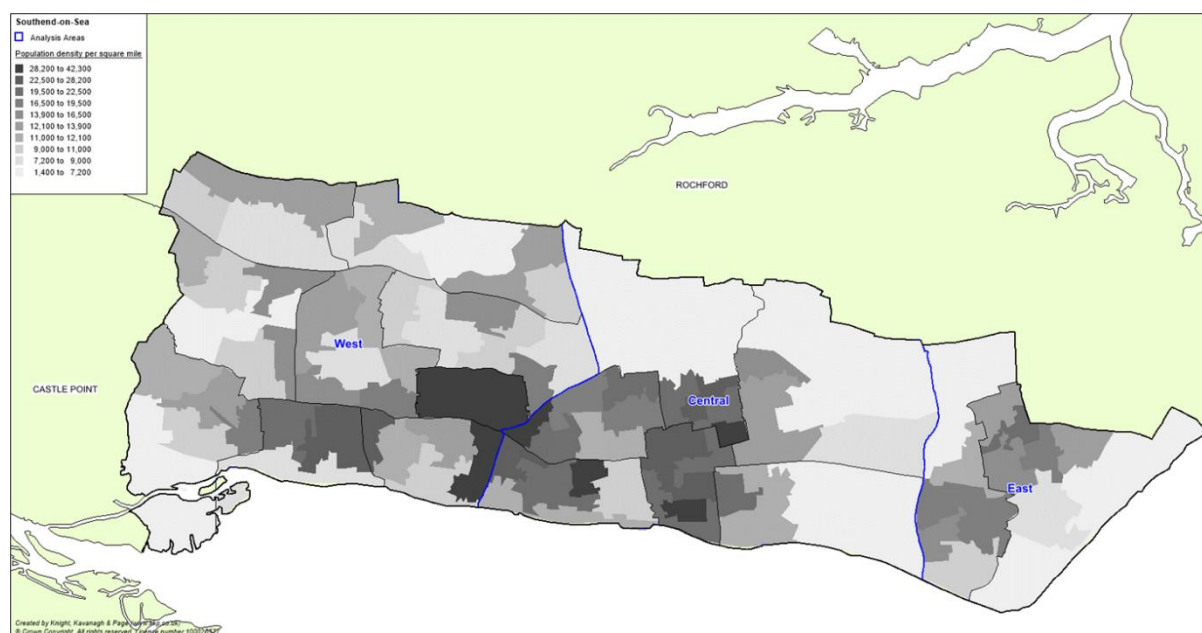
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Table 1.1: Wards within each analysis area

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.

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



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.

Scope

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

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

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Furthermore, specific 3G pitch detail is also 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 outdoor sport 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.

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PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Southend-on-Sea PPOSS (in conjunction with the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy).

To identify current levels of provision within Southend-on-Sea across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. This will then provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of outdoor sports facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents.

The overall vision will also assist in meeting Southend-on-Sea's wider health and wellbeing priorities. These have been developed from health intelligence and key local documents including the Annual Public Health Report, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and local health profiles, as well as in consultation with a range of stakeholders including community panels and the Your Say Southend digital platform:

- ◀ Addressing and reducing health inequalities and reducing variation within the wider determinants of health
- ◀ Effective Partnership including co-production and co-ordination of services
- ◀ Accessible services including social prescribing in the health and wellbeing offer and local access to sport and leisure services
- ◀ Workforce development including promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of employment, and promoting sport and leisure leadership and volunteering opportunities for children and young people
- ◀ Spatial planning, using active environment design to support healthy lifestyles, including maintaining and developing safe spaces for play, sport and social interaction
- ◀ Information and digital to ensure up to date information on local services is available to all
- ◀ Co-ordinated communications to promote preventative health measures and health and wellbeing activities

Additionally, the following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 2.1 below). It is recommended that these are also adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPOSS as well as Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

AIM 2

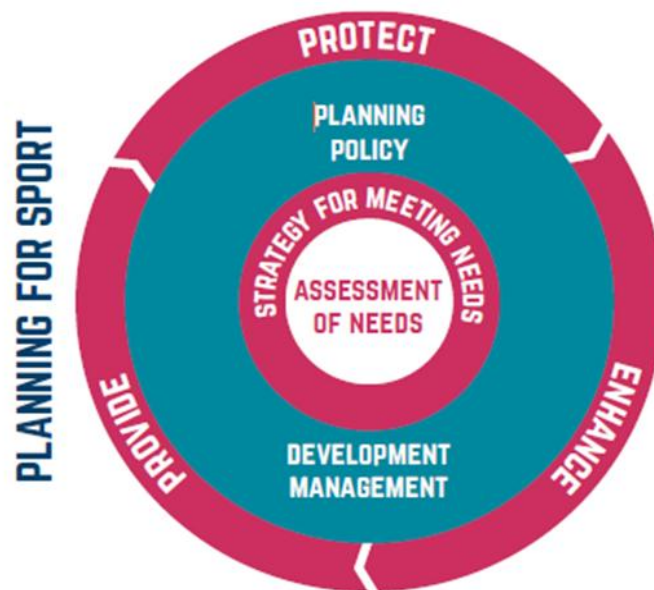
To **enhance** outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

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Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (2019)

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PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

The table below highlights the current and future quantitative shortfalls for each main pitch sport included within the PPOSS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report, both across Southend-on-Sea and on a sub area basis. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Natural turf 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 for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions. The table below therefore uses this for football, rugby union and cricket, converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place (its current use) into the same unit of demand to enable an analysis to be undertaken.

Based on how the sports tend to be played, the match equivalent session unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport, whereas for cricket, the number of match equivalent sessions is over the course of a season. This is because how much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a square, with only one match generally played per pitch per day and with the wickets rotated throughout a season to reduce wear and to allow for repair. Each wicket is therefore able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

For 3G and hockey pitches, the carrying capacity of the provision is generally much higher, meaning how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how usage adversely affects quality, as is the case with grass pitches. Therefore, the total number of pitches required is instead used to form an analysis.

For future demand, this is based on a variety of factors, including population growth and club aspirations (see the preceding Assessment Report for further information). It is identified up to the period until 2045, which is in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

Table 3.1: Current quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance	Future supply/demand balance
Football – grass pitches			
Central	Adult	7 match equivalent sessions	7 match equivalent sessions
Central	Youth 11v11	1 match equivalent session	1 match equivalent session
Central	Youth 9v9	4 match equivalent sessions	4 match equivalent sessions
Central	Mini 7v7	0.5 match equivalent sessions	0.5 match equivalent sessions
Central	Mini 5v5	0 match equivalent sessions	0 match equivalent sessions
East	Adult	11 match equivalent sessions	11 match equivalent sessions
East	Youth 11v11	0.5 match equivalent sessions	0.5 match equivalent sessions

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance	Future supply/demand balance
East	Youth 9v9	2.5 match equivalent sessions	2.5 match equivalent sessions
East	Mini 7v7	1 match equivalent sessions	1 match equivalent sessions
East	Mini 5v5	1 match equivalent sessions	1 match equivalent sessions
West	Adult	0.5 match equivalent sessions	0.5 match equivalent sessions
West	Youth 11v11	1.5 match equivalent sessions	1.5 match equivalent sessions
West	Youth 9v9	1.5 match equivalent sessions	1.5 match equivalent sessions
West	Mini 7v7	1 match equivalent session	1 match equivalent session
West	Mini 5v5	2.5 match equivalent sessions	2.5 match equivalent sessions
Southend-on-Sea	Adult	17.5 match equivalent sessions	21 match equivalent sessions
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 11v11	0 match equivalent sessions	4 match equivalent sessions
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 9v9	8 match equivalent sessions	11 match equivalent sessions
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 7v7	1.5 match equivalent sessions	0.5 match equivalent sessions
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 5v5	3.5 match equivalent sessions	2 match equivalent sessions
Football – 3G pitches			
Central	Full size (11v11)	1.5 pitches	1.5 pitches
East	Full size (11v11)	0 pitches	0 pitches
West	Full size (11v11)	0.5 pitches	0.5 pitches
Southend-on-Sea	Full size (11v11)	2 pitches	2.5 pitches
Cricket squares			
Central	Senior (Saturday)	32 match equivalent sessions	44 match equivalent sessions
Central	Senior (Sunday)	32 match equivalent sessions	32 match equivalent sessions
Central	Senior (midweek)	32 match equivalent sessions	38 match equivalent sessions
East	Senior (Saturday)	0 match equivalent sessions	0 match equivalent sessions
East	Senior (Sunday)	0 match equivalent sessions	0 match equivalent sessions
East	Senior (midweek)	12 match equivalent sessions	12 match equivalent sessions
West	Senior (Saturday)	74 match equivalent sessions	98 match equivalent sessions
West	Senior (Sunday)	62 match equivalent sessions	62 match equivalent sessions
West	Senior (midweek)	56 match equivalent sessions	62 match equivalent sessions

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Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance	Future supply/demand balance
Southend-on-Sea	Senior (Saturday)	106 match equivalent sessions	142 match equivalent sessions
Southend-on-Sea	Senior (Sunday)	94 match equivalent sessions	94 match equivalent sessions
Southend-on-Sea	Senior (midweek)	76 match equivalent sessions	98 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union - grass pitches			
Central	Senior	6.3 match equivalent sessions	6.3 match equivalent sessions
East	Senior	0 match equivalent sessions	0 match equivalent sessions
West	Senior	0 match equivalent sessions	0 match equivalent sessions
OUTSIDE ¹	Senior	2.6 match equivalent sessions	2.6 match equivalent sessions
Southend-on-Sea	Senior	8.9 match equivalent sessions	11.525 match equivalent sessions
Hockey – artificial grass pitches (AGPs)			
Southend-on-Sea	Full size	1 pitch	1 pitch

For the remaining (non-pitch) sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal activity. The current and future picture for each sport across Southend-on-Sea is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 3.2: Headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Headline findings
Bowls	Overall bowling green provision is sufficient to meet current demand, supported by access to indoor facilities. While some sites experience high membership levels, no clubs report issues. Ongoing monitoring and targeted quality improvements are recommended and most provision should be protected, although potential flexibility at Priory Park due to the number of greens available.
Tennis	For club-based tennis, supply is insufficient to meet demand, although this pressure is isolated to Garon's Tennis Academy at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre. To help better accommodate demand at this site, quality improvements to the outdoor courts are required. In contrast, no capacity issues are identified at non-club courts; however, supply cannot be considered sufficient due to the level of unmet and latent demand evidenced nationally. Notwithstanding this, Southend-on-Sea is better placed than many authorities, supported by generally good quality provision and the use of ClubSpark, although further improvements could still be made.
Padel	There is a clear need to increase padel provision in Southend-on-Sea to respond to growing demand, with only six padel courts currently considered to be available for community use compared to an identified requirement for fourteen. To address this gap, future padel provision should be prioritised at club-based and local authority managed sites, where open access, community programming and affordable pricing can be more effectively secured.
Netball	There is identified community demand for outdoor netball arising from the Southend & District Netball League, although this is currently exported outside the City following historic quality issues. Overall provision is therefore insufficient, with only nine courts available for community use, eight with sports lighting and just seven rated as good

¹ Westcliff RFC access The Gables site in Rochford owned by Southend-on-Sea City Council

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Sport	Headline findings
	quality. This shortfall is likely to be restricting club and team training, recreational play and the delivery of initiatives, regardless of whether league demand returns to the City.
Athletics	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 continued usability of both sites.
Cycling	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 most 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.
MUGA	Given that demand for MUGAs falls into informal use it is difficult to assess and quantity 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.
Parkour	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, however, on the assumption that the re-establishment of any demand can be directed to and adequately accommodated at Hadleigh Park.

Conclusion

The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being catered for. As a result, no provision can be deemed surplus to requirements, meaning that there is a clear need to protect all existing provision. This is unless a planning policy exception is met, as per Paragraph 104 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Notwithstanding the above, most of the shortfalls identified could be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, site re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting, enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites, and bringing unmarked pitches back into use. This means that significant levels of new provision will not necessarily be required, although this is dependent on the feasibility of delivering the other aforementioned actions.

In addition, there is also an overall shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches, hockey pitches and padel courts in Southend-on-Sea that cannot be addressed unless new facilities are constructed (as there are no alternative means to reducing these deficits). Furthermore, there is also a need to assess the impact of future demand linked to housing growth, with this also likely to result in the need for additional provision.

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the findings evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report on a sport-by-sport basis. This then informs the sport specific recommendations.

The included scenarios focus on the impact that they will have on the shortfalls and key issues identified, as well as how they can be overcome. However, whilst each can change the picture to a greater or lesser extent, it should be noted that carrying out some scenarios to the fullest degree is likely to be unviable and that a combination of actions will instead be required to ensure that all current and future demand can be met.

For some sports, no scenarios are included, although that is not to say that no action is required. Instead, recommendations are clear without the requirement for scenarios to be tested.

For site-specific and more localised recommendations, please refer to the Action Plan in Part 6 of this report.

4.1: Football

Assessment Report summary

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 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) and two pitches at Elm Road Playing Fields which are no longer marked out for use.
- ▶ 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.

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- 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.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality and addressing overplay

In Southend-on-Sea, 22 pitches across nine sites are overplayed by a combined total of 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving the quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that the large majority of existing overplay would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

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 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current quality	No. of pitches	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity created
7	Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea)	West	(11v11)	Standard	1	0.5	1.5	-
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	West	Adult	Standard	2	2	2	-
46	Priory Park	West	(9v9)	Standard	1	1.5	0.5	-
48	Shoeburyness High School	East	Adult	Standard	1	5.5	4.5	-
48	Shoeburyness High School	East	Adult	Poor	4	5.5	2.5	-
48	Shoeburyness High School	East	(9v9)	Standard	1	2.5	0.5	-
49	Shoeburyness Park	East	(11v11)	Standard	1	0.5	1.5	-
52	Southchurch High School	Central	Adult	Standard	1	1	0	-
53	Southchurch Park	Central	(11v11)	Standard	1	0.5	1.5	-
53	Southchurch Park	Central	(9v9)	Standard	1	1	1	-

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current quality	No. of pitches	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity created
56	Southend Garon Park	Central	(11v11)	Standard	1	0.5	1.5	-
56	Southend Garon Park	Central	(9v9)	Standard	1	0.5	1.5	-
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	Central	Adult	Poor	3	8.5	2.5	-
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	Central	(9v9)	Poor	2	2.5	3.5	-
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	Central	(7v7)	Poor	1	1	3	-
-	-	-	-	Total	22	33.5	12.5	-

As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality improved to good, with 12.5 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity created. Only five overplayed pitches across two sites remain, with these identified at Shoeburyness High School and The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club). However, no match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity would be established due to existing peak time usage and/or security of tenure issues.

Improving quality as set out above will eradicate most shortfalls on a City-wide basis, with the only exception of youth 9v9 pitches (minimal overplay). Moreover, when assessing each analysis area, only deficits remain on adult and youth 9v9 pitches in the East Analysis Area. Notwithstanding this, no additional actual spare capacity is generated to accommodate additional match play demand.

Table 4.2: Impact on supply and demand if quality of overplayed pitches improved to good

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity created
Central	Adult	7	0	-
Central	Youth 11v11	1	0	-
Central	Youth 9v9	4	0	-
Central	Mini 7v7	0.5	0.5	-
Central	Mini 5v5	0	0	-
East	Adult	11	2	-
East	Youth 11v11	0.5	0	-
East	Youth 9v9	2.5	0.5	-
East	Mini 7v7	1	0	-
East	Mini 5v5	1	0	-
West	Adult	0.5	2.5	-
West	Youth 11v11	1.5	2	-
West	Youth 9v9	1.5	0	-
West	Mini 7v7	1	1	-
West	Mini 5v5	2.5	2.5	-
Southend-on-Sea	Adult	17.5	0.5	-

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Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity created
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 11v11	0	2	-
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 9v9	8	0.5	-
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 7v7	1.5	1.5	-
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 5v5	3.5	2.5	-

Where overplay remains following quality improvements, or if quality improvements are not possible at specific sites, play should be encouraged to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity and where actual spare capacity exists. Furthermore, where improvements do take place, this will likely require existing maintenance regimes and budgets to be enhanced in order for the betterment to be sustainable, which can put added pressures on operators. Notwithstanding this, the practicality of achieving this is unlikely given costs, ownership/ operational models and other capacity considerations.

Providing security of tenure / community use

Currently, 76 match equivalent sessions per week are played on unsecured pitches across Southend-on-Sea, which is a considerable amount. If these pitches were to fall out of use, on a City-wide level, significant shortfalls would be created on all pitch types across Southend-on-Sea, as shown in the following table.

Table 4.3: Current supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Adult	17.5	43
Youth 11v11	0	9.5
Youth 9v9	8	18.5
Mini 7v7	1.5	21.5
Mini 5v5	3.5	6

Should the above become reality, there would be an increased need to action the other scenarios featured within this section of the report (e.g., quality improvements and bringing disused sites back into use). However, given the significant shortfalls identified, this would not be enough to accommodate all demand, meaning a definitive need for new pitches would also be created.

Conversely, 35.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week are currently discounted due to multiple sites having unsecure tenure. As such, securing tenure across these would provide increased levels of spare capacity which would then reduce existing shortfalls. The relevant sites are:

- ◆ Alleen Court School
- ◆ Blenheim Primary School & Childrens Centre
- ◆ Bournes Green Junior School
- ◆ Cecil Jones Academy
- ◆ Earls Hall Primary School

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- ◀ Edwards Hall Primary School
- ◀ Prince Avenue Academy & Nursery
- ◀ Shoeburyness High School
- ◀ South Essex College (Wellstead Gardens Sports Ground)
- ◀ Southchurch High School
- ◀ Southend High School for Boys
- ◀ St Thomas More High School
- ◀ Temple Sutton Primary School
- ◀ The Eastwood Academy
- ◀ Thorpe Hall School
- ◀ Westcliff High School for Boys
- ◀ Westcliff High School for Girls

There are then a further ten match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity that are currently discounted due to schools being unavailable for community use. This means that gaining access to such provision would again provide increased level of spare capacity which would then reduce shortfalls. The sites with unavailable pitches are:

- ◀ Darlington Academy
- ◀ Fairways Primary School
- ◀ Friars Primary School
- ◀ Southend High School for Girls
- ◀ St Helens Catholic Primary School
- ◀ St Nicholas School
- ◀ Milton Hall Primary School

Across Southend-on-Sea as a whole, if community use and tenure was secured at all sites, shortfalls of adult and youth 11v11 provision would remain, albeit at a reduced level. Substantial actual spare capacity would exist across the remaining pitch types, although some level of deficit would remain in each analysis area.

Table 4.4: Current supply and demand balance with all sites secured

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity created
Central	Adult	7	6	1
Central	Youth 11v11	1	3.5	4.5
Central	Youth 9v9	4	0	4
Central	Mini 7v7	0.5	4.5	5
Central	Mini 5v5	0	5	5
East	Adult	11	11	-
East	Youth 11v11	0.5	0.5	-
East	Youth 9v9	2.5	2.5	-
East	Mini 7v7	1	8	8
East	Mini 5v5	1	0	-
West	Adult	0.5	3.5	3
West	Youth 11v11	1.5	4	4
West	Youth 9v9	1.5	0.5	1
West	Mini 7v7	1	9	8
West	Mini 5v5	2.5	6.5	4
Southend-on-Sea	Adult	17.5	13.5	4
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 11v11	0	8.5	8.5
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 9v9	8	3	5

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Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity created
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 7v7	1.5	21.5	21
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 5v5	3.5	11.5	19

Notwithstanding the above impact, it should be noted that community use and security of tenure at all sites will not always be viable, particularly in the case of education sites. This is especially the case at smaller sites (as external usage is less sustainable) or where it is not operationally viable for access to be enabled.

Bringing unmarked provision back into use

The Assessment Report identifies a total of five youth 11v11 pitches at Blenheim Pak (Leigh-on-Sea) in the West Analysis Area (three pitches) and Elm Road Playing Fields in the East Analysis Area (two pitches) that previously accommodated additional football pitches but are no longer marked out. Bringing these back into use would establish actual spare capacity across Southend-on-Sea (and in the East and West analysis areas) on youth 11v11 pitches, although minimal overplay would still exist when factoring in future demand.

Table 4.5: Impact on supply and demand if disused provision is brought back into use

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Central	Adult	7	7
Central	Youth 11v11	1	1
Central	Youth 9v9	4	4
Central	Mini 7v7	0.5	0.5
Central	Mini 5v5	0	0
East	Adult	11	11
East	Youth 11v11	0.5	1.5
East	Youth 9v9	2.5	2.5
East	Mini 7v7	0	0
East	Mini 5v5	0	0
West	Adult	0.5	0.5
West	Youth 11v11	1.5	4.5
West	Youth 9v9	1.5	1.5
West	Mini 7v7	1	1
West	Mini 5v5	2.5	2.5
Southend-on-Sea	Adult	17.5	21
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 11v11	0	1
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 9v9	8	11
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 7v7	0.5	1.5
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 5v5	2.5	1

Notwithstanding the above, depending on the current layout of other playing pitches at Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea), it may be difficult in practice to bring these pitches back into use due to the current demand on the site. This therefore needs to be assessed.

Actioning each of the above scenarios

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Via a combination of improving pitch quality at overplayed sites, securing tenure and bringing disused pitches back into use, all current shortfalls in Southend-on-Sea would be alleviated on a City-wide basis. Furthermore, spare capacity will exist on most pitch types in each analysis area, with the only exception being the East Analysis Area which would still accommodate shortfalls on adult and youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 4.6: Impact of actioning all scenarios

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Central	Adult	7	1
Central	Youth 11v11	1	3.5
Central	Youth 9v9	4	4
Central	Mini 7v7	0.5	5.5
Central	Mini 5v5	0	5
East	Adult	11	2
East	Youth 11v11	0.5	2
East	Youth 9v9	2.5	0.5
East	Mini 7v7	1	9
East	Mini 5v5	1	1
West	Adult	0.5	5.5
West	Youth 11v11	1.5	9
West	Youth 9v9	1.5	1
West	Mini 7v7	1	9
West	Mini 5v5	2.5	6.5
Southend-on-Sea	Adult	17.5	4.5
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 11v11	0	15.5
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 9v9	8	4.5
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 7v7	1.5	22.5
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 5v5	3.5	11.5

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that actioning each scenario to the fullest degree is unlikely to be reasonably practicable. As such, the potential need for new provision will increase for every scenario that cannot be undertaken, whilst future growth also needs to be monitored (see scenarios below).

Accounting for club future demand aspirations

During consultation, five clubs report ambitions to increase the number of teams that they provide, equating to a predicted growth of 25 teams. The table below explores the impact if such demand is realised. This had previously been discounted due to being more theoretical and aspirational than growth forecast via population increases; however, the level projected is considered to be reasonable based on recent growth trends and the wider, national picture of demand.

Table 4.7: Future supply and demand if club aspirations are realised

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Southend-on-Sea	Adult	17.5	19
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 11v11	0	1.5
Southend-on-Sea	Youth 9v9	8	9.5

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Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 7v7	0.5	2
Southend-on-Sea	Mini 5v5	2.5	3

As seen, across Southend-on-Sea, all actual spare capacity would be lost and existing shortfalls worsened.

Future demand being realised to align to this scenario will increase the requirement to carry out the other actions outlined, as well as potentially increasing the need for new pitches. This should therefore be monitored throughout the Stage E process as and when demand increases.

Continuation of growth trends

The Assessment Report identifies a 10% increase in demand (from 285 teams to 313) from the previous PPOSS study. The following scenario therefore seeks to establish the impact on the current stock of pitches within Southend-on-Sea should this trend continue over the next period, covering up to when the next iteration of the PPOSS is likely to be due (or delivered).

A 10% growth from 313 teams will increase demand to 344 teams (31 team increase). Broken down, this will equate to eight additional adult teams, nine additional youth 11v11 teams, seven additional youth 9v9 teams, four additional mini 7v7 teams and three additional mini 5v5 teams. The impact of this on the existing supply and demand balance is shown in the following table, with shortfalls evident on each pitch type.

Table 4.8 Future supply and demand balance if growth trends continue

Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Adult	17.5	21.5
Youth 11v11	0	4.5
Youth 9v9	8	11.5
Mini 7v7	0.5	1.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	1

As with the club aspiration scenario, future demand being realised to align to this scenario will increase the requirement to carry out the other actions outlined, as well as potentially increasing the need for new pitches. This should therefore be monitored throughout the Stage E process as and when demand increases.

It should also be noted that whilst a 10% (or more) growth across Southend-on-Sea is possible, it will likely not be equally distributed across each type as set out above. Instead, based on recent trends, it is probable that mini and youth pitches will be more substantially affected due to increases outweighing what would be expected for adult football. A particularly high growth of female demand is also thought to be likely.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches in line with national and local planning policy.

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- ◀ Improve pitch quality with a focus on overplayed pitches and pitches assessed as poor quality and utilise the FF's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure at sites, with a focus on those currently in use by clubs.
- ◀ Seek to gain community access to sites that are currently unavailable, with a focus on those providing the largest number of pitches.
- ◀ Consider bringing unmarked pitches back into use.
- ◀ Monitor future growth levels via the Stage E process to determine when and where new grass pitches may be required.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, particularly in relation to women's and girls' demand.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the requirements for new pitch provision to meet existing and future football needs through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls.

4.2: Third generation turf (3G)

Assessment Report summary

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.

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- 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.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

As shown in the proceeding Assessment Report, if all teams were to utilise 3G pitches to accommodate their training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for 8.5 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents in Southend-on-Sea. This means a current shortfall of two pitches based on the current available supply.

Table 4.9: Current demand for 3G pitches in Southend-on-Sea (based on 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 factoring in future demand from population growth, the overall requirement could increase by 0.5. This means a potential shortfall of 2.5 11v11 size pitches.

Table 4.10: Future shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

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

To further this analysis, the table below explores where the theoretical 3G pitch shortfalls exist by analysis area on the assumption that all demand will want to train within the area that they play matches in. This approach is beneficial for determining where new pitches should be located to overcome the identified shortfall.

Table 4.11: Current demand for 3G pitches in Southend-on-Sea by analysis area

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 also shows current 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 (demand is being met in the East Analysis Area).

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

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Moving match play to 3G pitches in addition to training demand is supported by the FA, which is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for 11v11 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are presently played on council pitches be transferred. This is due to a recognition that councils often have budget restraints, with improving and maintaining pitches to an appropriate standard not always possible.

Within Southend-on-Sea, there are 126 teams playing at local authority sites at peak time across the formats of play. This is broken down by pitch type in the following table.

Table 4.12: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	16
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	48
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	32
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	18
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	12
-	-	Total	126

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of 11v11 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below. This identifies that 24 11v11 3G pitches would be required to accommodate all matches played on council pitches in Southend-on-Sea.

Table 4.13: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	16	8	32	256	4
Youth 11v11	48	24	32	768	16
Youth 9v9	32	16	10	160	2.5
Mini 7v7	18	9	8	72	1.125
Mini 5v5	12	6	4	24	0.375

As there are currently six 11v11 3G pitches provided in Southend-on-Sea, this results in a deficit of 18 pitches. However, as this is more than the number of pitches required for existing training demand, it is not practical to provide this many as sustainability would then become questionable. Pitches generally need high levels of midweek usage to be operationally viable.

An alternative (or additional) approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football from grass to 3G pitches. As such, the table below tests a scenario that would enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer based on a programme of play at current peak time (Saturday AM).

Table 4.14: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

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Time	Playing format	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

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Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for 7.5 11v11 size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 30 teams playing 5v5 football and 41 teams playing 7v7 football. It could therefore be accommodated via an additional 1.5 pitches (although this would also require the re-programming of all existing pitches).

Below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football. Such demand could be accommodated using 10.5 11v11 pitches, based on 63 teams playing this format currently.

Table 4.15: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	1 x 9v9	1/2
Noon – 2pm	1 x 9v9	1/2
2pm – 4pm	1 x 9v9	1/2

Meeting the shortfall of 3G pitches

A planning application (REF: 24/01621/FULM) has been approved 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. This will therefore reduce the overall training demand shortfall in Southend-on-Sea to one 11v11 pitch and in the Central Analysis Area to 0.5 pitches.

For the remaining deficit in the Central Analysis Area, The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club) is identified as a potential option. The site currently accommodates three adult, two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 grass pitches, whilst Trinity Youth FC has 35 teams and is two star accredited. The existing ancillary facilities on site are poor quality and would also require investment to support 3G provision and the associated increased footfall.

For the West Analysis Area, The Len Forge Centre is considered an option to extend the 3G pitch offering. There is already one 11v11 3G pitch at the site in addition to four adult grass pitches. The site accommodates demand from a number of community clubs. As with The Youth Ground, the ancillary facilities on site would also require investment linked to existing issues.

No shortfall is identified in the East Analysis Area.

Southend United FC's aspiration to add at least one 11v11 3G AGP to their training ground could help meet community needs. While the training ground is technically in Rochford District the site is on the local authority boundary and the site has a strong functional relationship with Southend.

World Rugby compliant 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 rugby union. The RFU generally supports the development of 3G pitches which support rugby union, particularly where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

There is one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Southend-on-Sea, located at Cecil Jones Academy, although neither Southend RUFC nor Westcliff RUFC currently utilise the

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provision. Future usage for both clubs would help to alleviate some of the midweek overplay that is identified for each (further detail on this can be found in Part 4.4).

Loss of access of 3G rubber crumb provision

The utilisation of 3G provision across Southend-on-Sea and nationally is strategically important to accommodate both training and competitive demand for various sports, particularly for football. As evidenced in the Assessment Report, where known through booking data, community available 11v11 3G pitches are extensively used midweek for football training with little spare capacity remaining. At the weekend, there are also 22 match equivalent sessions of competitive football demand taking place on the existing stock. This will only increase as new pitches are provided.

However, in September 2023 the European Commission completed the adoption of the EU REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) restriction on the sale of intentionally added microplastics onto the European market, which includes rubber infill for 3G AGPs. The Commission has confirmed an eight-year transition period before the new restriction becomes effective and from October 2031, by which point rubber crumb will no longer be purchasable within the EU. This results in a major threat to existing and new 3G pitch provision.

Following the UK's exit from the EU, the regulatory framework for such matters now sits at a UK level (except for Northern Ireland, which continues to follow EU REACH requirements) and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recently commissioned an evidence project to review emissions of intentionally added microplastics in the UK, including rubber infill. The project will inform any future regulatory actions in Great Britain. Sports England has provided more information on the matter with its position statement on 3G pitches.²

Subject to the above, if 3G pitches were unavailable for use at any point in the future, the table below identifies the number of good quality, sports lit grass pitches that would be required to accommodate all football training demand currently taking place in Southend-on-Sea for each relevant age format. This scenario assumes that each team undertakes one match equivalent training session per week on its preferred pitch type.

It should be noted, however, that the likelihood of 3G provision being wholly unavailable is low; in practice, any future changes such as the removal of rubber crumb infill would most likely be addressed through pitch resurfacing, with existing facilities transitioning to alternative design specifications that continue to support community use.

Table 4.16: Summary of grass pitch requirements without access to 3G provision

Format	Total number of teams	Good quality pitch capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Total number of good quality sports-lit pitches required
Adult	82	3	27
Youth 11v11	97	4	24
Youth 9v9	63	4	16
Mini 7v7	41	6	7
Mini 5v5	30	6	5

² [Position statement on 3G pitches | Sport England](#)

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As seen, there would be a requirement for circa 79 additional sports-lit grass football pitches (given that shortfalls exist on the current stock). This is wholly unfeasible and showcases just how crucial the provision of 3G is. As such, in the event that the existing rubber crumb infills become outlawed, there will be a need to resurface them with an alternative suitable and appropriate infill based on the findings of the DEFRA report. Several solutions are currently being tested.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ✦ Seek to develop additional 3G pitch provision, with priority placed on the ongoing project at Garon Park.
- ✦ Ensure all existing and new 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and seek resurfacing when pitches reach the end of their recommended lifespan.
- ✦ Ensure the community use agreement at Cecil Jones Academy that was secured through planning is completed and working with the Academy to maximise community football and rugby use.
- ✦ Ensure all existing and new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place and seek to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.
- ✦ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions (and RFU dimensions, if and where necessary).
- ✦ Seek FIFA/FA testing of all existing and new 3G pitches so that they can be (or can continue to be) used for competitive football matches and ensure re-testing when it is required.
- ✦ For the pitch at Cecil Jones Academy, ensure World Rugby testing every two years so that it can continue to be used for full contact rugby union activity.
- ✦ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are serviced by sports lighting (LED with controllable switch gear) to maximise usage potential.
- ✦ For pitches with existing sports lighting, encourage a switch to more energy efficient provision, where required.
- ✦ Ensure suitable infill containment is retro-fitted and that all pitches have containment and recycling strategies in place, with alternatives to rubber crumb to be explored, subject to the findings of the DEFRA report.
- ✦ Ensure ancillary facilities are appropriate to support 3G pitch provision.

4.3: Cricket

Assessment Report summary

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.

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- Security of tenure for clubs is generally secure, although this is not the case for Mount CC at Alleyn 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.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay and improving quality

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay, a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. Attempts should therefore be made to reduce identified overplay, although it is recognised that many clubs do not necessarily believe that there is an issue and are able to accommodate such demand.

In Southend-on-Sea, overplay is currently identified at five squares across four sites. The table below looks at the impact of quality improvements on this provision as a solution to alleviating overplay, with one currently assessed as good quality. As a reminder, for good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, it 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.

Table 4.17: Impact on overplay if squares were improved to standard or good quality

Site ID	Site name	Club users	Quality	No. of wickets	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions per season)	Potential capacity balance when improved to standard	Potential capacity balance when improved to good
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Eastwood CC	Poor	8	24	0	16

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Site ID	Site name	Club users	Quality	No. of wickets	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions per season)	Potential capacity balance when improved to standard	Potential capacity balance when improved to good
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	Westcliff CC	Poor	8	19	5	21
31	Garon Park Cricket Ground	Old Southendians & Southchurch CC	Good	14	30	30	30
53	Southchurch Park	Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC	Standard	11	2	20	31
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	Westcliff CC	Standard ³	9	31	22	13

As seen, when improved to standard or good quality, the squares at Garon Park Cricket Ground and Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park) will remain overplayed; however, the two others have spare capacity created. Overall, this will reduce existing shortfalls in Southend-on-Sea from 106 match equivalent sessions to 52 match equivalent sessions if quality improved to standard, and to 43 match equivalent sessions if quality improved to good.

Table 4.18: Overall impact of improving quality to standard (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Potential total
Central	-	30	30
East	12	-	12
West	30	22	8
Southend-on-Sea	42	52	10

Table 4.19: Overall impact of improving square quality to good (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Potential total
Central	-	30	30
East	12	-	12
West	30	13	17
Southend-on-Sea	42	43	1

As shown in the tables above, grass wicket squares across Southend-on-Sea will remain overplayed overall, albeit at a reduced level. Shortfalls in particular will remain in the Central Analysis Area.

³ Site ID 53 and 81 received a deduction in the number of match equivalent sessions each wicket can accommodate.

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The table below shows the overall impact addressing overplay and improving quality has on Saturday, Sunday and Midweek cricket. As shown, all peak periods would remain overplayed, albeit at a reduced rate.

4.20: Overall impact of improving square quality to standard and good.

Playing format	Current capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Standard potential capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Good potential capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	106	52	43
Sunday	94	40	31
Midweek	76	22	13

Installing non-turf pitches (NTPs) or hybrid wickets

Of the squares that would remain overplayed, Garon Park Cricket Ground is without an NTP. As such, installing one at the site could further contribute towards alleviating capacity issues, particularly at junior level, as usage could be transferred (although it is recognised that most cricket will remain on grass and that some leagues do not allow NTP usage).

Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park) already has an NTP, meaning greater utilisation of this should be encouraged, where possible (subject to league rules).

As an alternative to an NTP (or addition), although not readily available within grassroots cricket, there may be potential in the future to address overplay through the installation of hybrid wicket/s on competitive senior pitches. The ECB has been working with SIS Pitches on the installation of hybrid cricket wickets at county cricket clubs (2019) and more recently recreational squares such as Perry Hall Park in Birmingham (2021).

A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less than 5% of uniquely engineered, soft polyethylene yarn, which has already been used to improve golf tees, tennis courts and pitch surrounds. These wickets are to offer a greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Reports found that hybrid wickets improve surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time.

Ideally, once these become more readily available for community cricket clubs and have gone through the required testing, they could act as a way to increase levels of playing capacity on overplay squares. This would be particularly beneficial for those sites which are limited on space and cannot create additional wickets due to restrictions on things such as boundary length or ball strike.

Although it is difficult at this stage to understand what impact hybrid wickets could have on each site's capacity, it is suggested that it could potentially alleviate all the overplay on both junior and senior wickets. This is based on the assumption that more senior demand can take place on the hybrid wickets allowing for the outer senior wickets to be used/converted for junior demand. However, it should also be known that hybrid wickets are a new development and remain largely untested at grassroots level, meaning there is no data at present to formally promote them as a solution.

In addition, it should also be noted that hybrid wickets have generally been designed to support high quality provision. It is said that only sites achieving a 'good' standard or above via PitchPower assessments are suitable (meaning 'basic' and 'poor' sites are not). As such, this could only be applied to the square at Garon Park Cricket Ground.

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Reinstating disused provision

Within Southend-on-Sea, one site formerly provided grass cricket provision and could be brought back into use, with this located at Victory Sports Ground (it should be noted that Eastwood Park has been discounted from this scenario due to a wheeled sports facility being built upon where the square was formerly provided). This site provided two squares that were last used in 2018.

Overall, if the two unused grass squares were to be reinstated, this would create 48 match equivalent sessions a season of spare capacity for Saturday and Sunday cricket, whilst creating 72 match equivalent sessions a season of spare capacity for midweek cricket. The table shows the impact this would have on deficits across Southend-on-Sea.

Table 4.21: Overall supply and demand balance if unused provision was to be reinstated

Playing format	Current capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	106	58
Sunday	94	46
Midweek	76	4

When factoring in future demand, shortfalls for all cricket formats would still remain, albeit at a reduced level.

Table 4.22: Future supply and demand balance if unused provision was to be reinstated

Playing format	Future capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	142	94
Sunday	94	46
Midweek	88	16

Establishing new provision

Given the existing shortfalls across Southend-on-Sea, there is potentially a need for additional squares, particularly if quality improvements and NTP installation is not possible. The table below therefore explores exactly how many squares would be needed within each analysis area to address shortfalls, based on no other scenarios being undertaken and based on a new site being able to provide an average of 10 standard quality wickets.

Table 4.23: Number of squares potentially required to alleviate shortfalls

Playing format	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	No. of squares potentially required to meet shortfall
Saturday	106	6
Sunday	94	5
Midweek	76	5

As seen, up to six new squares could be required to accommodate all peak time usage.

Accommodating women's and girls' demand

The ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country over the next two years, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand

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across Southend-on-Sea above and beyond what is forecast through other methods. To quantify this, with two female teams currently fielded, it is expected that there will be six female teams in the City over the coming years, representing an increase of four teams. Furthermore, the average number of women's and girl's teams nationally is 16, thus highlighting that the City is behind in comparison to national averages.

As female demand commonly takes place either on Sundays or during midweek, this will increase existing shortfalls within these playing periods. This is shown further in the following table. It assumes that activity will be split across the two and that the new teams will play on average six match equivalent sessions a season (in line with existing teams).

Table 4.24: Impact on supply and demand via the predicted growth of female cricket

Format	Current total (match equivalent sessions)	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)	Potential total (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	106	-	106
Sunday	94	12	106
Midweek	76	12	88

Moreover, only three sites currently display actual spare capacity for female activity, with these being:

- ✦ Ecko Social & Sports Club Association
- ✦ Gunners Park Cricket Ground
- ✦ Shoeburyness Park

Whilst these could be initially prioritised to accommodate the growth of the female game, the suitability of the sites from an ancillary perspective also needs to be considered.

Improvements will be required across Southend-on-Sea in this regard, whilst for any new cricket pitches that are established, it will also need to be ensured that suitable provision for mixed gender usage is included.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares in line with national and local planning policy.
- ✦ Improve quality at sites assessed as poor and standard quality to increase capacity and reduce overplay.
- ✦ Install NTPs where they are not already in place at overused sites and encourage greater usage where they are already installed.
- ✦ Consider reinstating disused squares where possible.
- ✦ Explore the creation of new pitches in strategic areas and at strategic sites, particularly when other actions cannot be achieved and where there is a particular growth in demand.
- ✦ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a need to do so, particularly to ensure inclusive and mixed gender usage of sites.
- ✦ Improve existing and provide additional outdoor training facilities where there is demand.
- ✦ Ensure a co-ordinated approach with the findings of the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy to ensure improved quality and access to indoor provision (i.e., via sports halls).
- ✦ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is adequately provided for.

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- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the requirements for new pitch provision to meet existing and future football needs through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing or new cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g., through ball-strike issues).

4.4: Rugby union

Assessment Report summary

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.

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Scenarios

Alleviating midweek shortfalls

Within Southend-on-Sea, all overplay is identified midweek as a result of training demand using limited sports lit pitches at club sites. One potential way to alleviate these shortfalls is via improving pitch quality. Maintenance and drainage solutions are an integral method in improving pitch quality at rugby union sites, ensuring that pitches can accommodate demand throughout the season.

Locally, there are four pitches across two sites which are identified as being overplayed midweek in Southend-on-Sea and the following scenario explores what impact improving pitch quality by one increment (i.e. basic to good) would have on the capacity of the provision. The table below illustrates the RFU pitch quality scoring methodology which ascertains the capacity of pitches based on the scoring criteria.

Table 4.25: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

As seen in the table below, improving the pitch quality by one increment will reduce overplay. In the case of Westcliff RUFC, this will be by 6.7 match equivalent sessions, whilst deficits at Southend RUFC are eradicated with minimal spare capacity of 0.4 match equivalent sessions created.

Table 4.26: Capacity of overplayed pitches if quality was improved by one increment

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Midweek/ training demand	Sports lit pitches	Quality	Midweek capacity position	Improved quality	Improve capacity position
61	Southend Rugby Club	Central	9.5	3	Basic	1.7	Good	0.4
99	Westcliff Rugby Club	OUTSIDE	10	1	Basic	7.4	Good	6.7

Increasing access to training provision (sports-lit grass pitches)

Although pitch improvements should be explored, a more effective method of alleviating overplay would be to create more capacity for training demand to take place on club sites. This can be achieved through the installation of sports lighting. Within Southend-on-Sea, currently each club site has only 50% of its pitches sports lit.

The table below shows how many additional pitches would require sports lighting to alleviate midweek shortfalls. For both clubs, the supplementary sports lighting would be on basic quality pitches therefore generating 2.6 additional midweek match equivalent sessions for Southend Rugby Club and 7.8 for Westcliff Rugby Club.

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Table 4.27: Midweek capacity with additional sports lighting at club sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Midweek/training demand	Current number of sports lit pitches	Quality	Midweek capacity position	Number of additional sports lit pitches required	Improved capacity position
61	Southend Rugby Club	Central	9.5	3	Basic	1.7	1	0.9
99	Westcliff Rugby Club	OUTSIDE	10	1	Basic	7.4	3	0.4

As seen, if additional sports lighting was provided, overall spare capacity would be established at both Southend Rugby Club and Westcliff Rugby Club.

World Rugby complaint 3G pitches

A World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch is located within Southend-on-Sea at Cecil Jones Academy. The pitch was installed in 2025 and, as part of the planning condition, a community use agreement was required to be put in place. However, neither Southend RUFC nor Westcliff RUFC are accessing the facility, although both have expressed an interest in doing so.

Providing access to the 3G pitch at Cecil Jones Academy would help address the midweek capacity constraints identified at both Southend Rugby Club and Westcliff Rugby Club, although to what extent is dependent on how much demand they transfer. By maximising such activity, the need for significant grass pitch quality improvements and sports light installation will reduce, with this often a burden on clubs due to the increase maintenance costs they can result in.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing pitches in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ✦ Improve pitch quality at sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems.
- ✦ Support clubs in taking part in the GMA pitch advisory service to explore technical requirements to improve pitch quality.
- ✦ Consider an increase to the level of sports lighting used by clubs to further alleviate identified midweek overplay and to better accommodate training demand at all club sites.
- ✦ Ensure the community use agreement at Cecil Jones Academy that was secured through planning is completed and working with the Academy to maximise community football and rugby use.
- ✦ Explore utilisation of the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch to further assist in accommodating demand levels and to reduce the need for quality and sports lighting improvements.
- ✦ Ensure future demand can be adequately accommodated, particularly regarding women's and girls' demand.
- ✦ Sustain the quality of the ancillary facilities servicing the clubs and ensure facilities continue to be inclusive and have appropriate segregation.
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ✦ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.

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- Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality

4.6: Rugby league

Assessment Report summary

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.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- Ensure rugby league demand can be accommodated should it exist in the future.
- Explore club/school links to assist in developing demand.

4.7: Hockey

Assessment Report summary

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.

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- ◀ 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.

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

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.

Notwithstanding the above, given that planning permission has been granted for the construction of 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 from Southend HC. Its impact should, however, be monitored to ensure that the overall supply becomes adequate.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the AGP at Warners Bridge Park in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy for continued hockey use.
- ◀ Support the development of a hockey suitable AGP at Garon Park to help alleviate authority wide shortfalls and to bring an end to the exported demand being experienced.
- ◀ Ensure all current and future AGP providers have a sinking fund in place and a robust maintenance programme to support for long-term sustainability and seek to resurface provision when it is required.
- ◀ Seek FIH testing of all existing and new hockey AGPs to ensure pitches are being appropriately maintained to sustain quality for all players and community user groups.
- ◀ Ensure supporting ancillary facilities are appropriate to accommodate usage levels.

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- ◀ Ensure that future growth from housing developments is provided for and seek contributions to improve existing provision (the need for further new hockey provision is unlikely).

4.8: Golf

Assessment Report summary

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.

Scenarios

Potential loss of provision

The Garon Park Golf Complex is being promoted as part of a strategic development scheme. Should this proposal come forward, any loss should be justified by a site-specific Golf Impact Assessment, and mitigation proposals will be required to contribute to enhancing the quality and access of the retained golf provision at the Garon Park Complex and/or other golf facilities in the Southend-on-Sea area, including investment in course infrastructure, new golf facilities and ancillary facilities, the delivery of which should be secured by legal agreement.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect all sites for continued golf activity in line with national and local planning policy.
- ◀ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing golf sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).

4.9: Bowls

Assessment Report summary

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.

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

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. Currently, there are three sites operating above the capacity limit in Southend-on-Sea, with these being Essex County Bowls Club, Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club and Thorpe Bay Bowling Club.

Notwithstanding the above, 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.

Club sustainability

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Bowls England suggests that clubs operating with a membership of below 20 could be unsustainable. This, however, is not presently an issue within Southend-on-Sea as all clubs have demand levels above this. No clubs are therefore considered to be at risk from a sustainability perspective.

Loss of active provision

Nationally, many active bowls greens are faced with closure and/or development pressures, especially where usage levels are declining. This is often warranted where provision is unused, or where clubs with a low membership can be amalgamated onto a fewer number of greens.

Within Southend-on-Sea, Priory Park currently has four greens, however only Prittlewell BC accesses the site with a membership of 65. On this basis, at least two of greens are not required at present. An option could therefore exist for provision to be developed for other sporting and/or open space requirements (alternative development should not be encouraged given that the greens are park-based).

No other greens are suitable for development given existing usage levels.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect all existing in-use greens, in line with national and local planning policy.
- ◆ Improve green quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good quality.
- ◆ Improve ancillary facility quality where required.
- ◆ Continue to monitor membership levels to ensure that clubs remain adequately provided for and sustainable.

4.10: Tennis

Assessment Report summary

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 are 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.

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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.

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

For club-based tennis, LTA guidance indicates that non-sports lit courts can accommodate up to 40 members per court, increasing to 60 members where sports lighting is provided. In addition, sites with access to indoor provision are able to accommodate at least a further 200 members, as is the case at David Lloyd Club and Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre.

In Southend-on-Sea, there is a sufficient supply of tennis courts at five club sites. However, both Garon's Tennis Academy and Westcliff Hardcourt TC are operating above the recommended thresholds. For the former, it has an excess of 178 members, meaning a need for three additional sports-lit courts or five non-lit courts, although its access to indoor provision at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre suggests that its pressures may be less acute than this analysis suggests.

Westcliff Hardcourt TC theoretically requires two additional sports-lit courts or three non-lit courts. However, it reports no current capacity issues. It was also more excessively oversubscribed in 2018, suggesting that it can accommodate high demand levels, although this should continue to be monitored.

Recommendations

- Protect existing courts in line with national and local planning policy.
- Support continued investment into local authority sites to better provide for recreational tennis – focus should be placed on improved existing poor and standard quality courts, as well as implementing sustainable operational models.
- Explore investment opportunities at school sites, particularly where community demand could be accommodated following improvements.
- Explore the installation of sports lighting where it is not currently provided to increase the capacity of courts, especially at park sites that are or could be well used.
- Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via further utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark and Gate Access) to support the customer journey.
- Improve ancillary provision servicing courts where demand is, or could be, high.
- Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- Support clubs operating with a high membership base to ensure demand can be more adequately accommodated.

4.11: Padel

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.

Scenarios

Development of Padel provision across Southend-on-Sea

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 start 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.

Recommendations

- Support the development of community padel courts within Southend-on-Sea, ensuring they do not impede on the traditional tennis offering or other sporting provision such as netball and football (smaller sized 3G).
- Engage with the LTA to ensure a strategic approach to developing provision, with priority placed on existing community-based sites such as parks, leisure centres and sports clubs.

4.12: Netball

Assessment Report summary

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.

Scenarios

The Southend & District Netball League

Westcliff High School for Girls previously hosted the Southend & District Netball League before quality issues resulted in demand exporting to Castle Point. The School has now refurbished the courts in order to encourage the League to return; however, it is unknown if the League intends on doing so. This should be further explored.

Recommendations

- ▶ Protect existing quantity of courts in line with national and local planning policy.
- ▶ Explore options for the Southend & District Netball League to return to Southend-on-Sea.
- ▶ Explore improving court quality at additional sites where sufficient demand exists or where access could be needed in the future.
- ▶ Consider establishing additional sports lighting at additional venues to increase the supply of useable supplementary provision.
- ▶ Seek access to sites currently unavailable for community use to increase the supply of accessible courts.
- ▶ Improve ancillary provision where required.

4.13: Athletics

Assessment Report summary

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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.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- Protect existing track and field facility Southend Tennis & Leisure Centre and The Eastwood Academy in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sustain quality and look to make improvements when necessary to ensure that demand can continue to be met and that TrackMark accreditation can be sustained.
- Sustain ancillary facility quality.
- Explore if an opportunity exists to establish supplementary provision within the Borough, linked to England Athletics' NewGen products, particularly within any major new developments.
- Continue to support clubs, running groups, events and initiatives such as Park Run.

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4.14: Cycling

Assessment Report summary

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

- Cycle Southend was established in 2008 with an aim to increase the usage of bikes both recreationally and as a preferable method of transport across Southend-on-Sea.
- 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.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- Continue and explore growth of Cycle Southend initiative.
- Ensure athletics track at Southend Tennis & Leisure Centre remains useable for Just Ride cycling sessions.
- Ensure all clubs utilising the road network remain provided for.
- Ensure any formal cycling activity can be accommodated within neighbouring local authorities.

4.15: Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAS)

Assessment Report summary

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.

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- 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.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- Protect existing MUGA supply in line with national and local planning policy.
- Improve quality of existing facilities, with priority given to poor quality provision.
- Consider installation of sports lighting on existing sites to increase useability.
- Establish additional MUGAs where gaps in provision currently exist in high population density areas e.g., in the Central Analysis Area.

4.16: Parkour

Assessment Report summary

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.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- Support Parkour UK to grow parkour activity within Southend-on-Sea, supported by provision and continued access at Hadleigh Park in Castle Point.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed across Southend-on-Sea based on the sport-by-sport and overall findings. As such, they apply across the playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport or one area.

OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

Recommendations:

- a) Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b) Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c) Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or appropriate mitigation until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls i.e., following improvements.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless appropriate mitigation is provided and agreed upon, in line with national planning policy. NPPF Paragraph 104 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

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

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

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In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of provision used within the last five years and will use the PPOSS to help assess planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

Policy Exception E1:

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

Policy Exception E2:

‘The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use’.

Policy Exception E3:

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ✦ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- ✦ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- ✦ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- ✦ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- ✦ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site’.

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

Policy Exception E5:

‘The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field’.

Disused provision

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with the NPPF and Sport England’s policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. As such, any disused sites are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate permanent loss via a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

In relation to the above, Elm Road Playing Fields in Shoeburyness be identified as an example of a disused site. The site was last marked out for pitches circa 2010 and is expected to be progressed as a residential site allocation in the emerging Local Plan.

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For playing pitch sports, the lawful use of a disused playing field is still that of a playing field until such time as it is developed for a non-pitch sport use or its use is formally changed through the planning system. There is no positive obligation, under planning law, for a playing field to be actively used as such.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of provision and that replacement facilities are in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost (e.g., taking into account a “bedding in” period).

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

Some school and commercial sites are being used in Southend-on-Sea for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of such facilities has been classified as secure; however, it is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have high levels of unsecured community use e.g., at Shoeburyness High School, Southchurch High School and St Thomas More High School

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

Given current budgetary pressures, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds for the acquisition and development of sites, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position manage assets and to apply for external funding for site improvements. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be enhanced and sites developed.

Local sports clubs that could be able to manage their own assets should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop business and sports development plans to show how facilities can be sustainable and to maximise income generation.

Relevant clubs could also be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁴. They should also be signposted to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

⁴ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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

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

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

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

- ◀ Increasing participation, particularly in target areas such as women's and girls' activity.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

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

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain so that extensions can be secured, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site development. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding (unless the agreement has been recently entered into).

Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed

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

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and the local clubs. The Council and other key partners must work with schools to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where

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appropriate, to address underlying problems. Consideration could also be given to a centralised booking system for community use of schools to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

The following is a list of schools that have outdoor sports facilities in Southend-on-Sea but that do not allow for community use of some or all of their provision:

- ✦ Alley Court School
- ✦ Blenheim Primary School & Children's Centre
- ✦ Bournemouth Park Primary Academy
- ✦ Bournes Green Junior School
- ✦ Cecil Jones Academy
- ✦ Chase High School
- ✦ Darlington Academy
- ✦ Earls Hall Primary School
- ✦ Eastwood Primary School and Nursery
- ✦ Edwards Hall Primary School
- ✦ Fairways Primary School
- ✦ Friars Primary School
- ✦ Heycroft Primary School
- ✦ Leigh North Street Primary School
- ✦ Milton Hall Primary School
- ✦ Our Lady of Lourdes
- ✦ Shoeburyness High School
- ✦ South Essex College (Wellstead Gardens Sports Ground)
- ✦ Southchurch High School
- ✦ Southend High School for Boys
- ✦ Southend High School for Girls
- ✦ Southend United FC (Roots Hall)
- ✦ St Helens Catholic Primary School
- ✦ St Mary's Prittlewell C of E Primary School
- ✦ St Nicholas School
- ✦ St Thomas More High School
- ✦ Temple Sutton Primary School
- ✦ Westcliff High School for Girls

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

In addition, linked to Recommendation (b), currently all of the schools that do offer community use do so without providing security of tenure, which can limit the level of access that they receive. Such schools include:

- ✦ Alley Court School
- ✦ Blenheim Primary School & Childrens Centre
- ✦ Bournes Green Junior School
- ✦ Cecil Jones Academy
- ✦ Darlington Academy
- ✦ Earls Hall Primary School
- ✦ Edwards Hall Primary School
- ✦ Fairways Primary School
- ✦ Friars Primary School

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- ✦ Milton Hall Primary School
- ✦ Prince Avenue Academy & Nursery
- ✦ Shoeburyness High School
- ✦ South Essex College (Wellstead Gardens Sports Ground)
- ✦ Southchurch High School
- ✦ Southend High School for Boys
- ✦ Southend High School for Girls
- ✦ St Helens Catholic Primary School
- ✦ St Nicholas School
- ✦ St Thomas More High School
- ✦ Temple Sutton Primary School
- ✦ The Eastwood Academy
- ✦ Thorpe Hall School
- ✦ Westcliff High School for Boys
- ✦ Westcliff High School for Girls

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large education sites offering several pitches/facilities, with focus therefore placed predominately on secondary schools rather than primary schools. Securing access to such sites will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.

The above also ties in with recommendations made in the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy, which makes a recommendation to work with selected schools to increase their availability for community use, particularly relating to sports halls. It is therefore suggested that the schools that are considered priorities for securing access to in both the PPOSS and the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy are identified to evidence overlap and to provide focus.

Another recommendation made in the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy is to work with colleagues in education to ensure that any new schools or improvements to sports facilities in existing schools are accompanied by a community use agreement. This should also apply to outdoor sports facilities in order to provide greater security of tenure to club users. Current education sites within Southend-on-Sea that have community use agreements include namely Belfairs Academy, Hamstel Junior School and Hinguar Primary School.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the providers where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

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

Where possible, a strategic approach to working with schools should be taken across the local authority and the wider South Essex region, with support from the education authorities. For schools that form part of multi-academy trusts, these should be addressed on a collective basis, with securing community access a co-ordinated approach with other engagement that takes place between the schools and relevant stakeholders e.g., sports development initiatives.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, these should be designed to facilitate community access via a community use agreement, with opportunities

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for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as artificial pitches (e.g., 3G) or courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets, it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g., the largest, well used sites that are overplayed and/or poor quality). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which should be prioritised for improvement.

Notwithstanding the above, with pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore also be considered. This could be via clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include the use of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

Quality in Southend-on-Sea is variable but generally facilities are assessed as standard quality, although poor quality provision is more prevalent than good quality provision for some sports. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality pitches is also essential.

Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites 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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It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the facilities tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that quality can vary year on year dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall, although maintenance regimes could be altered to reduce this impact.

If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues). Where this occurs, it is vital that the improvements are advertised and marketed towards potential users as their perception of the provision may need altering.

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer (although other provision can be key for income generation) and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.

For football, 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 Football Foundation'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. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and 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 Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.

For rugby union and cricket, the respective NGBs are now also utilising Pitch Power, with reports being produced similar to those for football.

For the improvement/replacement of 3G pitches and hockey AGPs, this is most commonly linked to age, with any surfaces older than 10 years generally requiring replacement. Where pitches are provided, sinking funds should be put into place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when it is required.

As improving all sites is unlikely to be feasible from a budgetary and logistical perspective, key sites with a larger number of pitches/facilities should be prioritised, particularly where they are well used or could be well used following improvements. The table below identifies sites in Southend-on-Sea that could be focused on for each relevant sport, based on their current status and issues.

Table 5.2: Key sites requiring quality improvements (by sport)

Sport	Sites for improvement
Football	Belfairs Academy Cecil Jones Academy

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Sport	Sites for improvement
	Darlinghurst 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
Cricket	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground Victory Sports Ground
Rugby union	Southend Rugby Club Westcliff Rugby Club
Rugby league	-
Hockey	Warners Bridge Park AGP
Golf	-
Bowls	Alexandra Bowling Green Shoeburyness Park
Tennis	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre
Padel	-
Netball	Priory Park
Athletics	Southend Tennis & Leisure Centre
Cycling	-
Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAS)	All
Parkour	-

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock, it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (e.g., via a non-technical site assessment and/or technical PitchPower assessments) and allocating a match/usage limit to each.

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

Table 5.3: Recommended carrying capacity of grass pitches in number of matches

Sport	Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Senior pitches	3.3 per week	2.6 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season

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Sport	Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Cricket	One non-turf wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	4 per day	4 per day	N/A

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 hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use, but which may be in the future.

For rugby union, additional sports lighting, in conjunction with quality improvements, can further reduce levels of overplay at club sites as it allows clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting can be provided as an alternative.

Similarly, additional sports lighting can help resolve capacity issues for both tennis and netball as it can allow for greater court usage, especially during winter months. The same could also be said for bowls and MUGA usage, although less guidance exists in relation to this.

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

The table below identifies sites in Southend-on-Sea that are currently overplayed for each sport. This can be used as a guide for action.

Table 5.4: Overplayed sites (by sport)

Sport	Sites for improvement
Football	Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea) Ekco Social & Sports Club Association Priory Park Shoeburyness High School Shoeburyness Park Southchurch High School Southchurch Park Southend Garon Park The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)
Cricket	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground Garon Park Cricket Ground Southchurch Park Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)

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Sport	Sites for improvement
Rugby union	Southend Rugby Club Westcliff Rugby Club
Rugby league	-
Hockey	Warners Bridge Park AGP
Golf	-
Bowls	Essex County BC Prittlewell BC Thorpe Bay BC
Tennis	Garon's Tennis Academy Westcliff Hardcourt TC
Padel	-
Netball	-
Athletics	-
Cycling	-
Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAS)	-
Parkour	-

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but which are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality was improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a City-wide and sporting context. As such, this takes into account the level of demand accommodated and the potential impact the recommended actions will have on addressing the identified shortfalls/issues. The proposed site-hierarchy is summarised in the following table.

Table 5.5: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the City. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches / facility types, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches / facility types.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for more at a basic level.

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Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school/college/university with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

Hub sites are of City-wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. Actions at these sites are likely to have a greater impact on addressing the issues identified in the PPOSS.

Key centres are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports.

For council sites in this tier, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

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

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need. This should be underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with the PPOSS able to be used as an evidence base for attracting investment.

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Furthermore, to address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPOSS Steering Group as well as with neighbouring local authorities. Cross-border developments can accommodate demand from within Southend-on-Sea (and vice versa) and lessen requirements within the City.

To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the PPOSS Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development. This includes delivery from education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector.

Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing developments.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required. This should form the basis of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions and should aid the negotiation process with developers.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sport and by pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport and on that provision. That percentage is then applied to the population growth and the additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions. This then provides the associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) provided. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

For tennis, Sport England has worked with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator. This works by turning an estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent number of courts which will be needed to meet this. It helps quantify additional demand for new growth populations, development and regeneration areas, and is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations. The tool, however, should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- ◀ Facility location compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◀ Cross boundary movement of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ Attractiveness of facilities.

Once the calculators have been utilised, the PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development (or group of developments) on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for contributions to be put towards

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improvements to increase the capacity of existing provision, or if new provision is required (or a combination of both). Where development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused.

The preference for Sport England and the NGBs is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become underused (or unused), unviable and unsustainable (although it may be suitable in more rural areas).

Where new provision is not required but where contributions to existing sites is instead to be sought, the PPOSS Action Plan should be used to identify suitable sites within the locality that should receive the funding. This may involve directing investment into provision most likely to receive demand from the housing development, or into provision that is most in need (e.g., due to quality issues).

Sport England also recommends that a number of objectives which should be implemented to enable best use of the calculators:

- ✦ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ✦ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ✦ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ✦ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ✦ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

Whilst neither the Playing Pitch Calculator nor the Sports Facilities Calculator identify demand for other types of pitches (outside of football, rugby, cricket and hockey) or non-pitch provision (outside of tennis), a similar assessment of need process can still be undertaken. As with the sports that are covered, this should entail utilisation of the PPOSS and engagement with the NGBs.

Developer contributions - step by step guide

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For any application warranting a developer contribution the following processes should be followed in order to help inform the potential needs a new housing development may require and/or should look to consider. In accordance with National Planning Policy Guidance, contributions should not be sought from developments of 10 units or less, and which have a maximum combined gross floor space of no more than 1,000 square metres (gross internal area).

Any obligations sought should be based on a tailored approach to each development, considering the population derived from the development, determining if the demand can be met by existing facilities and identifying the project/s that any required contribution will be used towards. All of this should be carried out using the robust evidence base provided as part of the PPOSS to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met.

Step 1	Determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from the development
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The main tool for determining this is Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, which is a Sport England tool provided on completion of the Strategy. The calculator will be pre-populated with the current population of the local authority and the current demand data from the PPOSS. Until this requires updating, to determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from a development, all that is required is the input of the new population that will derive from a proposal.

The calculator provides an estimation of the number of new pitches that would be required to meet the match equivalent sessions that will derive from the development. The associated costs for providing these new pitches are also identified (although please note that these are indicative costs only and appropriate local work should be undertaken to determine the true costs involved).

Step 2	Determine whether new provision is required and whether this should be on or off site
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For large-scale developments that generate high levels of demand, new pitch provision may be required to meet the population growth. This is particularly the case when the calculator identifies a need for multiple pitches and across multiple sports.

When on site provision is required, priority should be placed on the creation of multi-pitch and multi-sport sites with appropriate ancillary facilities such as a clubhouse and adequate car parking, as well as ensuring the provision contributes towards reducing current shortfalls. This will ensure that the provision is sustainable and attractive to potential users. Emphasis should also be on ensuring the site can accommodate an AGP given current sporting trends.

Other useful questions when deciding on new provision include:

- ◀ Are there any teams/clubs playing outside of the local area (displaced demand) which could utilise provision at the site?
- ◀ Do any local clubs identify existing plans/demand for access to new provision?
- ◀ Are there any overplayed sites in the local area where existing demand could be transferred to a new site?
- ◀ Do any local clubs identify any latent demand (i.e. if they had access to more pitches they could they field more teams?)

To further help determine the sustainability of establishing new provision, consideration should be given to the potential management opportunities which may be available onsite:

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- ◀ Is the local authority (or town/parish council) in a position to take on further outdoor sports facilities from a financial point of view?
- ◀ Is an education establishment to be provided as part of the development which offers a potential management option of outdoor sports facilities?
- ◀ Is there a leisure trust in place which has the capacity to take on the management of outdoor sports facilities?
- ◀ Is there an opportunity for a trust based model of management, for example, by formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)?
- ◀ Is there an existing sports club that has the capacity to take on the management of another site?

Where the calculator does not create demand for a whole pitch, which is often the case for smaller sized developments, it is recommended to make a contribution to increasing the capacity of an existing site to meet demand generated from the development. When identifying a site for off-site contributions, the proximity and location of existing playing pitch sites should be considered and whether they could help serve the new development – this could be informed by identifying the analysis area in which the development sits and if there are any hub sites or key centres within the locality. Initially, a one-mile radius could be drawn around the site in order to help identify the nearest priority sites, which may require consultation with neighbouring authorities when the development sites too close to the boundary.

The off-site decision should be based on the potential to improve existing facilities within an appropriate catchment of a development to create additional capacity, and how realistic it is given the nature of the local area to provide new provision. For example, there may be some poor quality playing fields that could potentially be improved with additional drainage and long-term maintenance works, along with enhanced changing provision, to enable use to be increased, thereby creating additional capacity to meet the increased demand generated from the development.

Discussions should be held with relevant parties (e.g. NGBs, landowners, facility operators and user groups), and any further necessary evidence gathered (e.g. a feasibility study) to help identify the specific works that are required, and to ensure they will provide the necessary additional capacity to meet the needs. It will also be important to demonstrate that the specific works can be delivered within an appropriate timescale in relation to the occupation of the development site.

Step 3	Determine the other pitch and non-pitch requirements resulting from the development
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The Sports Facility Calculator now calculates tennis demand so this can therefore be used to inform tennis requirements; however, neither this nor the Playing Pitch Calculator determine needs for any other sports. That being said, the PPOSS identifies (where relevant) current and future demand requirements and can therefore still be used to determine if contributions are required towards these sports or if new provision is required, in conjunction with NGB discussions.

Where there is no identified shortfall in provision or future demand for new provision within an area relevant to the development (e.g. an analysis area or settlement), consideration should be given to the nearest site to the development containing that type of provision. If this could accommodate the increased demand from the development, no action is required; if it could not accommodate the demand, consider if the site could benefit from a contribution towards increasing capacity to meet likely need. For example, this could include increasing quality and/or addition of ancillary facilities such as floodlighting, changing rooms or car

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parking. The PPOSS Action Plan should be used as a starting point to identify site by site recommendations.

Where there is an identified shortfall that could not be overcome through contributions, new provision may be required within or nearby to the development as part of a multi-sport development.

Step 4	Consider design principles for new provision
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The exact nature and location of provision associated with onsite developments should be fully determined in partnership with each relevant NGB. Further to this, each pitch sport NGB provides national guidance in relation to provision of new pitches.

There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

Step 5	Calculate the financial contribution required
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After using the PPOSS Playing Pitch Calculator and the PPOSS as a starting point, the local cost of provision should be fully determined in order to calculate the financial contributions required.

A clear and transparent methodology for calculating up to date costs for the specific works, including appropriate ancillary provision, should be presented. Where appropriate, depending on how the needs are to be met, the cost of any required land purchase should be included in the financial contribution. If an obligation will be directed to an off-site project it should be ensured the costs are limited to meet the needs of the individual development.

Along with any capital costs for the works, an obligation should ensure an appropriate level of lifecycle costs towards the new or enhanced provision. This is required to cover the day to day maintenance for an agreed long-term period and to help ensure a sinking fund exists for any major replacement work, e.g. the future resurfacing of an artificial grass pitch.

Wherever possible, specific local costs should be used, especially if the works are to improve the existing quality of a site to increase capacity as there may be a number of site specifics to consider. Sport England does provide indicative costs for new provision: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

For all developments community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term.

OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Recommendations:

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

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

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6). In addition, first and foremost, it is imperative that the current levels of provision are protected and maintained to ensure that the overall picture does not worsen in the future.

To reduce the identified shortfalls, there is not necessarily a need for a significant level of new provision, with the current provision instead able to be better utilised to overcome most deficits. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◆ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◆ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity and/or to artificial surfaces.
- ◆ The re-designation of facilities e.g., converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◆ Securing long-term tenure at sites that are currently unsecured.
- ◆ Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- ◆ Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◆ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage and secure tenure.
- ◆ Establishing additional sports lighting.
- ◆ Installing artificial (or hybrid) surfaces.

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome. This is done on a site-by-site basis in the proceeding Action Plan.

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

Better utilising the stock of provision across Southend-on-Sea will lessen the need for new provision. Although there are identified shortfalls, most existing shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock is therefore not recommended as a priority solution, although for certain sports and in specific areas it could be required depending on the feasibility and success of other solutions. This is particularly the case in relation to football and cricket.

Notwithstanding the above, there is a discrete need for additional 3G pitches and padel courts that cannot be overcome via other actions. However, such provision could be provided via utilisation of existing playing fields, subject to meeting the relevant NPPF requirements. There is also the requirement for an additional sand-based AGP, as proposed at Garon Park.

Where new pitches/facilities are likely to be needed, consideration should be given to allocating land for new pitches to meet existing need as part of the Local Plan process. This should be done in addition to residential allocations and their requirements, although it could be via providing additional land for playing fields as an extension to the playing fields required to service large-scale developments.

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As intimated above, large scale housing developments may also necessitate the need for new provision, as will the establishment of any new schools. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the School to the development of a new multi-sport site that can be of a benefit to the School as well as the wider community, subject to any design issues and providing that long-term security of tenure can be provided.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator should be used to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report as well as linking to the sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations section of this document. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

Please note that if a site is not identified/included in the Action Plan, it does not mean that it is not needed or that it is not playing field or sports facility. Where provision is not recorded within the PPOSS, 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.

Also note that where national planning policy requirements are referenced within any recommendation actions, this refers to meeting the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

Site hierarchy

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on identified key issues, local priorities and available funding. To help enable this, as stated in Recommendation (e), the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of sites and associated facilities. This is done via classifying sites as hub sites, key centres or local sites.

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council should look to work with to support delivery of the actions. It generally relates to the NGB that governs the sport/s played at the site as well as the operators and any other relevant stakeholders. Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not directly referenced. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council-operated venues).

Priority

Although hub sites are most likely to have **high** priority actions, as they have wider importance, these have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the PPOSS. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are on occasion also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

In addition to being included within the main action plan, the high priority actions have also been separated out. This is to assist with the start of the Stage E process following adoption of the PPOSS.

Medium priority actions have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

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The **low** priority actions tend to be where little work is required, or where the status quo can be maintained, or they are for single pitch or single sport sites with only local specific importance. However, the actions may still contribute to addressing issues for specific users and there may also be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

Costs

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The brackets are:

- ◀ (L) - Low - less than £150k
- ◀ (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k
- ◀ (H) - High £750k and above

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

Timescales

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

- ◀ (S) -Short (1-2 years)
- ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years)
- ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years)

Aim

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three Sport England aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

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CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Alexandra Bowling Green	SS1 1EY	Bowls	Council	One poor quality bowling green accompanied with poor quality ancillary facilities which are in need modernisation both externally and internally. The green is currently operating within the recommended capacity limit with spare capacity for 50 additional members.	Improve green quality through enhanced levels of maintenance, and seek to improve ancillary facilities to better cater for demand.	BE Council	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
2	Alleyn Court School	SS3 0PW	Football	Education	Three standard quality mini 7v7 and one standard quality mini 5v5 pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of providing security of tenure to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect
2	Alleyn Court School	SS3 0PW	Cricket	Education	One standard quality six wicket grass square accompanied by a standard quality NTP utilised by Mount CC. The Club has a rental agreement with the school. The provision is supported by three fixed lane practice nets. Actual spare capacity on the grass square is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain square and NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to provide security of tenure for Mount CC to allow for potential funding opportunities and establish actual spare capacity.	ECB ECCB School	Local	H	S	L	Protect
2	Alleyn Court School	SS3 0PW	Tennis	Education	Two good quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance to accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand.	LTA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
2	Alleyn Court School	SS3 0PW	Netball	Education	Two good quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance to accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
10	Bournemouth Park Bowls Club	SS2 4JR	Bowls	Council	One good quality bowling green accompanied with standard quality ancillary facilities. The green is currently operating with the capacity limit with spare capacity for 50 additional members.	Sustain green and ancillary facility quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	BE Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Bournemouth Park Primary Academy	SS2 5JN	3G	Education	One standard quality small sided 3G pitch that is unavailable for community use, without sports lighting, and was last resurfaced in 2016.	Ensure that a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Explore the option of installing sports lighting an enabling community use for small sided teams.	FA FF Education	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
12	Bournes Green Park	SS2 4SW	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions a week.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity via transfer of demand from sites with overplay or via future demand.	FA Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect
15	Cecil Jones Academy	SS2 4BU	Football	Education	One poor quality adult pitch that is available for community use with unsecure tenure and is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the option of providing clubs with security of tenure to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Key	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
15	Cecil Jones Academy	SS2 4BU	3G	Education	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch available for community use and is serviced with sports lighting that was installed in 2025. The pitch is on the FF 3G pitch register until 31/05/2028. The pitch is also WR complaint.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Ensure the pitch is retested and remains on the FF 3G pitch register. Complete the community use agreement that was required by planning permission	FA FF School	Key	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						and work with the academy to maximise community football and rugby use.						
15	Cecil Jones Academy	SS2 4BU	Tennis	Education	Four good quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Secure completion of community use agreement. Explore options to provide sports lighting.	LTA School	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
15	Cecil Jones Academy	SS2 4BU	Netball	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Secure completion of community use agreement. Explore options to provide sports lighting.	EN School	Key	L	L	L	Protect Provide Enhance
31	Garon Park Cricket Ground	SS2 4FA	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality 14 wicket grass square utilised by Old Southendians & Southchurch CC as well as Essex County Cricket which is overplayed by 30 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is serviced with good quality ancillary facilities as well as three fixed lane practice nets.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option to install an NTP to alleviate some overplay of the square where possible.	ECB ECCB Sports Club	Hub	M	M	L	Protect Provide Enhance
32	Garon Park Golf Complex	SS2 4FA	Golf	Commercial	Two standard hole 9-hole courses, one par-3 9-hole course and a 30-bay driving range equipped with sports lighting and ball tracking technology.	Sustain course and facility quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Given the potential Local Plan site allocation (as set out in Preferred Approach with Options Reg 18 consultation ⁵) affecting the complex, any loss should be justified by a Golf Impact Assessment and mitigation proposals will be required to contribute to enhancing the quality and access of the retained golf provision at the Garon Park Golf Complex and/or other golf facilities in the Southend-on-Sea area, including investment in course infrastructure, new golf facilities and ancillary facilities, the delivery of which should be secured by legal agreement.	EG Commercial	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
33	Garons 5-a-Side Centre	SS2 4FA	3G	Commercial	Four good quality small sided 3G pitches serviced with sports lighting. The pitches were last resurfaced in 2024. The pitches receive high levels of recreational and commercial use but are not on the FF 3G pitch register.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitches. Explore the option of getting the pitches FA/ FIFA tested to enable affiliated match play demand.	Commercial	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
35	Hamstel Junior School	SS2 4PQ	Football	Education	Two poor quality youth 9v9 pitches that are played to capacity via curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced level of maintenance to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
35	Hamstel Junior School	SS2 4PQ	Hockey (AGP)	Education	One small sided hockey suitable AGP that is unavailable for community use and without sports lighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch.	FA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect

⁵ [Southend New Local Plan Preferred Approach with Options | Southend Local Plan](#)

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						As a community use agreement is in place at the site provide community availability of the pitch.						
35	Hamstel Junior School	SS2 4PQ	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. As a community use agreement is in place at the site provide community availability of the court.	FA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
39	Jones Memorial Ground	SS2 5NF	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult and three standard quality youth 9v9 pitches that are played to capacity within the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Milton Road Gardens	SS0 7PP	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting.	Explore the option to install sports lighting to better cater for and attract community demand.	LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week. Two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches with unsecure tenure that are played to capacity within the peak period. One standard quality mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore option to provide security of tenure to clubs via community use agreement to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	3G	Education	One good quality small sided 3G pitch that is available for community use and is serviced with sports lighting. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2024 and is not on the FF 3G pitch register.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Explore the option to test the pitch to be put on the FF 3G pitch register so that it can be utilised for affiliated matches.	FA FF School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Cricket	Education	One standard quality standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Sustain NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	ECB ECCB School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Rugby union	Education	One basic quality senior pitch that is available for community use with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. The pitch is not used by the community.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance to accommodate curricular and extracurricular demand	RFU School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance and explore the option to provide community availability given these are sports lit.	LTA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
52	Southchurch High School	SS2 4XA	Netball	Education	One poor quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Improve court quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	EN School	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week. One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve and sustain pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to alleviate overplay.	FA	Key	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is played to capacity within the peak period.							
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Cricket	Council	One standard quality 11-wicket grass square accompanied by a good quality NTP and one standard quality 12-wicket grass square. The squares are utilised by Southend Echo Monarch & Trojans CC through a secure lease agreement with the City Council. Both squares have actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket with 20 and 16 match equivalent sessions a season respectively.	Sustain square and NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	ECB ECCB	Key	L	L	L	Protect
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Bowls	Council	One standard quality green serviced with standard quality ancillary facilities. The green is currently operating within the capacity limit with spare capacity for 38 additional members.	Sustain green and ancillary facility quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	BE	Key	L	L	L	Protect
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting. The courts were last resurfaced in 2023.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to provide sports lighting to better cater for and to attract community demand.	LTA	Key	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	Athletics	Council	Southend 10km annual road race held in early October.	Continue hosting the event at this site.	EA	Key	L	L	L	Protect
53	Southchurch Park	SS1 2YN	MUGA	Council	One poor quality type one/two MUGA without sports lighting.	Retain as an informal, free to use facility and seek to improve quality to improve offer.		Key	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
54	Southchurch Park Arena	SS1 2XB	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance	FA Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
55	Southend-on-Sea Bowls Club	SS2 6LT	Bowls	Council	One standard quality green serviced with good quality ancillary facilities. The green is currently operating over the capacity limit although indoor facilities are provided. As such no capacity pressures are considered to exist.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
56	Garon Park	SS2 4FA	Football	Commercial	Two standard quality adult pitches played to capacity within the peak period. One standard quality youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches that are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. One standard quality mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches that are played to capacity within the peak period.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to alleviate overplay at the site.	FA Commercial	Hub	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
56	Garon Park	SS2 4FA	3G	Commercial	One standard quality 11v11 3G pitch that is available for community use and is serviced with sports lighting, previously resurfaced in 2019. The pitch is currently on the FF 3G pitch register until 31/05/2026. A planning application (REF: 24/01621/FULM) has been for a second 11v11 3G pitch at the site. The pitch will be available for community use and sports lit.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Ensure the pitch is retested and remains on the FF pitch register so that it can continue accommodating affiliated football.	FA FF Commercial	Hub	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						Support the development and securing of funds for a second 11v11 3G pitch to help alleviate authority wide shortfalls.						
56	Garon Park	SS2 4FA	Hockey	Commercial	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.	Support the development and securing of funds for a hockey suitable AGP to help alleviate authority wide shortfalls. Ensure the pitch maximises its potential in terms of bringing an end to the exported demand. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	EH Commercial	Hub	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
58	Southend High School for Girls	SS2 4UZ	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand. Explore the option of providing community availability to help alleviate local shortfalls.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
58	Southend High School for Girls	SS2 4UZ	Tennis	Education	Six standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
58	Southend High School for Girls	SS2 4UZ	Netball	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
59	Southend Lawn Tennis Club	SS1 3QP	Tennis	Sports Club	Four good quality macadam and one artificial turf courts that are available for community use and are serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
60	Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre	SS2 4FA	Tennis	Council (Freedom Leisure)	Two poor quality macadam courts that are serviced with sports lighting. The courts are considered to be unusable.	Improve court quality through enhanced levels of maintenance or resurfacing.	LTA	Hub	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
60	Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre	SS2 4FA	Padel	Council (Padel4all)	Four good quality court that is serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
60	Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre	SS2 4FA	Athletics	Council (Freedom Leisure)	One standard quality eight lane 400-metre track that is fully sports lit. The site also caters for field events including throwing events and jumping events, with a throwing change, a dedicated shot putt area, a dedicated high jump area and three sand pits for long jump and triple jump. The track is currently TrackMark accredited until 24 th April 2026. Also utilised by Just Ride Southend.	Sustain track quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Resurface the track when required. Ensure the track maintains its TrackMark accreditation when retested.	EA	Hub	M	M	M	Protect
61	Southend Rugby Club	SS2 5RE	Rugby union	Sports Club	Four basic quality senior pitches three of which are serviced with sports lighting. The pitches are overplayed by 1.7 match equivalent sessions midweek whilst 3.2 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exist on the weekend. Overall site capacity is overplayed by 6.7 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to alleviate some overplay. Explore the option of providing additional sports lighting on unlit pitches to alleviate some overplay on pitches.	RFU Sports Club	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
64	St Helens Catholic Primary School	SS0 7AY	Football	Education	Two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	Football School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
64	St Helens Catholic Primary School	SS0 7AY	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
65	St Nicholas School	SS2 4RL	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
65	St Nicholas School	SS2 4RL	Tennis	Education	One poor quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Improve court quality through enhanced levels of maintenance or resurface to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	FA School	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
65	St Nicholas School	SS2 4RL	Netball	Education	One poor quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Improve court quality through enhanced levels of maintenance or resurface to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	FA School	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
67	Temple Sutton Primary School	SS2 4BA	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to provide security of tenure for community clubs to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
67	Temple Sutton Primary School	SS2 4BA	3G	Education	One standard quality small sided 3G pitch that is available for community use and is serviced with sports lighting. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2015.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch.	FA FF School	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
67	Temple Sutton Primary School	SS2 4BA	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
67	Temple Sutton Primary School	SS2 4BA	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	SS2 4FA	Football	Sports Club	Three poor quality adult, two poor quality youth 9v9 and one poor quality mini 7v7 pitches all of which are overplayed by 8.5, 2.5 and one match equivalent sessions. Three poor quality mini 5v5 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site is serviced with poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to alleviate overplay. Support the Club in improving the offering of ancillary facilities onsite to better cater for demand. Explore the feasibility of providing an 11v11 3G pitch on the site given the analysis area shortfalls.	FA FF Sports Club	Hub	H	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
72	Thorpe Bay Lawn Tennis Club	SS1 3HL	Tennis	Sports Club	16 good quality courts 14 of which are an artificial turf surface with four of these sports lit and two macadam courts without sports lighting. The Club has spare capacity for an additional six members.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of providing additional sports lighting to increase court capacity.	LTA Sports Club	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
73	Thorpe Hall Golf Club	SS1 3AT	Golf	Sports Club	One good quality standard hole 18-hole golf course. The Club has an annual membership fee of £1,822 and includes a joining fee. Additional facilities include a clubhouse, bar and catering and a function/meeting room.	Sustain course quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EG Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
74	Thorpe Hall School	SS1 3RD	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches available for community use with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore option to provide security of tenure to clubs via community use	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						agreement to establish actual spare capacity.						
74	Thorpe Hall School	SS1 3RD	Cricket	Education	One good quality NTP that is available for community use.	Sustain NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance	ECB ECCB School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
75	Trugym (Thorpe Bay)	SS1 3RB	Tennis	Commercial	Two standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and are serviced with sports lighting. Site is subject to a current planning application for residential development and involves redevelopment of the facility without replacement provision being made.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Should any redevelopment take place at the site ensure tennis courts are appropriately mitigated inline with NPPF.	LTA Commercial	Local	L	L	L	Protect
76	Victory Sports Ground	SS2 5RA	Football	Council	Four poor quality adult pitches with spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to establish actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
76	Victory Sports Ground	SS2 5RA	Cricket (unused)	Council	Two unused cricket squares with an approximate boundary radius of 59 metres from the middle of the pitch previously provided 2018.	Explore the feasibility of bringing the squares back into use given authority wide shortfalls across all formats of play.	ECB ECCB	Local	H	M	M	Protect Provide
77	Warners Bridge Park AGP	SS2 5RE	Hockey	Sports Club	One standard quality hockey suitable AGP previously resurfaced in 2012. The pitch is utilised by Old Southendians HC who hold a long term lease agreement for the use of the pitch. Southend HC also utilise the pitch to meet some of its demand.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Explore options to resurface the pitch given it has significantly passed its life span.	EH Sports Club	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance
93	Thorpe Bay Bowling Club	SS1 3HL	Bowls	Council	One standard quality green serviced with good quality ancillary facilities. The green is operating over the recommended capacity limit by 30 members.	Improve green quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to accommodate high levels of demand. Monitor membership levels to ensure the Club remains sustainable.	BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
100	Former Cecil Jone Academy Playing Fields	SS2 5PX	Football	Education	A disused unattached School playing field which previously provided up to three adult pitches; anecdotal evidence suggests it has not been utilised for formal sports provision since 2014.	If the site comes forward for development, ensure appropriate mitigation in line with NPPF.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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EAST ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
27	Elm Road Playing Fields	SS3 9RZ	Football (unused)	Council	The site formerly provided two youth 11v11 pitches circa 2011.	Explore the option of bringing the site back into use if required. If the site is to be lost to development, ensure appropriate mitigation is provided in line with NPPF.	Council FA/FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
30	Friars Primary School	SS3 9XX	Football	Education	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand. Explore the option of providing community availability to help alleviate local shortfalls	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
30	Friars Primary School	SS3 9XX	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
37	Hinguar Primary School	SS3 9FE	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, each with spare capacity of one match equivalent session	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	FA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
37	Hinguar Primary School	SS3 9FE	Netball	Education	One good quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. As a community use agreement is in place at the site provide community availability of the court.	FA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
47	Gunners Park Cricket Ground	SS3 9QA	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality six wicket grass square. The square has actual spare capacity to accommodate Sunday and midweek demand. The site is serviced with poor quality changing rooms.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to improve changing rooms to better cater for demand.	ECB ECCB Sports Club	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch overplayed by 5.5 match equivalent sessions. Four poor quality adult pitches overplayed by 5.5 match equivalent sessions. One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Two good quality mini 7v7 pitches played to capacity within the peak period. Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to alleviate overplay. Explore options to provide community clubs with security of tenure given the large number of pitches at the site and to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	3G	Education	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch that is available for community use and is serviced with sports lighting installed in 2025. The pitch is currently on the FF 3G pitch register until 31/05/2028.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Retest the pitch when required to ensure that it remains on the FF 3G pitch register to host affiliated matches.	FA FF School	Local	L	M	L	Protect
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	Cricket	Education	One good quality standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Sustain NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	ECB ECCB School	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	Tennis	Education	Six standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance to cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	LTA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
48	Shoeburyness High School	SS3 9LL	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance to cater for curricular and extracurricular demand	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to alleviate overplay.	FA	Hub	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	Cricket	Council	One standard quality seven wicket grass square. The site is utilised by Old Southendians & Southchurch CC and has actual spare capacity to accommodate additional Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity via transfer of demand from sites with overplay or via future demand.	ECB ECCB	Hub	L	S	L	Protect
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	Bowls	Council	One poor quality green utilised by Shoebury Park BC that has substantial wear and tear. The green is serviced with standard quality ancillary facilities. The green has spare capacity to accommodate 42 additional members.	Improve green quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to better cater for demand.	BE	Hub	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to provide sports lighting to better cater for and to attract community demand.	LTA	Hub	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
49	Shoeburyness Park	SS3 9SF	MUGA	Council	One poor quality type one/two MUGA that is without sports lighting.	Retain as an informal, free to use facility and seek to improve quality to improve offer.	-	Hub	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
87	Bournes Green Junior School	SS1 3PX	Football	Education	Four standard quality mini 7v7 pitches that are available for community use. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of providing clubs with security of tenure to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect
87	Bournes Green Junior School	SS1 3PX	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
89	Milton Hall Primary School	SS0 7AU	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore option of providing community use to help alleviate local shortfalls.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
92	Gunners Park	SS3 9FW	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options of providing sports lighting to better cater for and to attract community demand.	LTA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
94	Jaytrack Tennis	SS3 9YS	Tennis	Council	One standard quality macadam court that is serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
97	Colne Drive	SS3 8XP	MUGA	Council	One standard quality type one/ two MUGA without sports lighting.	Retain as an informal, free to use facility.	-	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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WEST ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches played to capacity through curricular and extracurricular demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide Enhance
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	Cricket	Education	One standard quality NTP.	Sustain NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	ECB ECCB School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	Rugby union	Education	One basic quality senior pitch.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	RFU School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	Tennis	Education	Three poor quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting.	Improve court quality through enhanced levels of maintenance.	LTA School	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
3	Belfairs Academy	SS9 3TG	Netball	Education	Three poor quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting.	Improve court quality through enhanced levels of maintenance.	LTA School	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
4	Belfairs Park bowling greens	SS9 4LR	Bowls	Council	Two good quality greens which are serviced with good quality ancillary facilities. The greens have spare capacity to accommodate up to 114 additional members.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	BE	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
5	Belfairs Park Golf Course	SS9 4LR	Golf	Council	One standard quality standard hole 18-hole golf course. The Club has an annual membership fee of £1,145. Additional facilities include a clubhouse, bar and catering. The course receives a high amount of pay and play demand.	Sustain course quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EG	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	SS9 4LR	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches played to capacity. One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch played to capacity within the peak period. One good quality mini 7v7 pitch with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session in the peak period. The pitches are served by poor quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Improve the quality of onsite ancillary facilities to better cater for demand.	FA	Hub	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	SS9 4LR	Cricket	Council	Three standard quality eight wicket grass squares utilised by Eastwood CC and Westcliff CC. Two squares have actual spare capacity to accommodate additional Sunday and midweek demand with one able to accommodate only midweek demand. The squares are served by poor quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Improve the quality of onsite ancillary facilities to better cater for demand.	ECB ECCB	Hub	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	SS9 4LR	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting.	Improve court quality through enhanced levels of maintenance or through resurfacing and explore sports lighting	LTA	Hub	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						potential to better cater for and to attract demand. Adopt a sustainable operation model.						
7	Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea)	SS9 4AA	Football (Disused)	Council	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitches that are currently unmarked.	Explore the feasibility to bring the pitches back into use given local shortfalls.	FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide Enhance
7	Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea)	SS9 4AA	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. One youth 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity within the peak period. Identified within the 2025 LFFP as a priority project for ancillary facility improvement.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to establish actual spare capacity and alleviate overplay. Ensure ancillary facilities are upgraded in line with the LFFP.	FA	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
8	Blenheim Primary School & Childrens Centre	SS9 4HX	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches that are available for community use with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of providing clubs with security of tenure to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect
9	Bonchurch Park	SS9 3AP	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance and explore the option of providing sports lighting to better cater for and to attract community demand.	LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
13	Bridgewater Drive Playing Fields	SS0 0DS	Football	Council	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches with actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions. Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches played to capacity within the peak period. Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity to accommodate demand from sites with overplay or via future demand.	FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
13	Bridgewater Drive Playing Fields	SS0 0DS	Cricket	Council	One standard quality standalone NTP.	Sustain NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	ECB ECCB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
14	Cavendish Sports Ground	SS0 0AX	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance and explore sports lighting potential to better cater for and to attract community demand.	LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
16	Chalkwell Bowls Club	SS0 8JJ	Bowls	Council	One standard quality green serviced with poor quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Improve ancillary facility offering to better cater for demand.	BE	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
17	Chase High School	SS0 0RT	3G	Education	One standard quality 11v11 3G pitch that was installed in 2019. The pitch is on the FF 3G pitch register until 31/05/2026.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Ensure the pitch is retested and remains on the FF 3G pitch register to continue hosting affiliated matches.	FA FF School	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
17	Chase High School	SS0 0RT	Rugby union	Education	One basic quality senior pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	RFU School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
17	Chase High School	SS0 0RT	Tennis	Education	Four good quality macadam courts that are available for community use and serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
17	Chase High School	SS0 0RT	Netball	Education	Four good quality macadam courts that are available for community use and serviced with sports lighting. Back to Netball and Walking Netball sessions are hosted at the site.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
19	Crowstone & St Saviours Lawn Tennis Club	SS0 8LG	Tennis	Sports Club	Three good quality macadam courts with one court serviced with sports lighting. The courts have spare capacity for 91 additional members.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance and explore options to provide sports lighting on remaining courts.	LTA Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
21	Darlinghurst Academy	SS9 3JS	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand. Explore the option of providing community availability to help alleviate local shortfalls.	FA School	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
21	Darlinghurst Academy	SS9 3JS	3G	Education	One standard quality small sided 3G pitch that was installed in 2018. The pitch is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch.	FA FF School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
22	David Lloyd (Southend)	SS2 6XT	Tennis	Commercial	Three good quality artificial turf courts that are unavailable for community use and serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
23	Earls Hall Primary School	SS0 0QN	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of providing clubs with security of tenure to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
23	Earls Hall Primary School	SS0 0QN	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
24	Eastwood Park	SS9 5YF	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions. One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is currently unused and with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Utilise actual spare capacity to accommodate demand from sites with overplay or via future demand.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect
24	Eastwood Park	SS9 5YF	Bowls	Council	One standard quality green serviced with standard quality ancillary facilities. The green has spare capacity to accommodate 56 additional members (24 existing members).	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
24	Eastwood Park	SS9 5YF	MUGA	Council	One poor quality type one/ two MUGA without sports lighting.	Retain as an informal, free to use facility and seek to improve quality to improve offer.	-	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
25	Edwards Hall Primary School	SS9 5AQ	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 and three standard quality mini 5v5 pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						Explore the option of providing clubs with security of tenure to establish actual spare capacity.						
25	Edwards Hall Primary School	SS9 5AQ	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	SS2 6PU	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality adult pitches that are overplayed by two match sessions. One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is played to capacity within the peak period. One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. Whilst the site has overall good quality ancillary facilities, no changing rooms are available at the site.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility of providing changing rooms at the site to better accommodate demand.	FA Sports Club	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
26	Ekco Social & Sports Club Association	SS2 6PU	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality 10 wicket grass square with actual spare capacity. Whilst the site has overall good quality ancillary facilities, no changing rooms are available at the site.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the feasibility of providing changing rooms at the site to better accommodate demand.	ECB ECCB Sports Club	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
28	Essex County Bowling Club	SS0 8NE	Bowls	Sports Club	Two good quality greens serviced with good quality ancillary facilities. The site also provides indoor provision.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Monitor membership levels to ensure club remains sustainable.	BE Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
29	Fairways Primary School	SS9 4QW	Football	Education	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches which are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand. Explore the option of providing community availability to help alleviate local shortfalls	FA School	Local	L	M	L	Protect
34	Goals (Southend)	SS0 0RT	3G	Commercial	Seven good quality small sided 3G pitches that are serviced with sports lighting and last resurfaced in 2023.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitches.	FA FF Commercial	Local	L	L	L	Protect
36	Heycroft Primary School	SS9 5SJ	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
38	Invicta Tennis & Table Tennis Club	SS0 8LG	Tennis	Sports Club	Three good quality macadam courts that are serviced with sports lighting. The Club has spare capacity for 87 additional members.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
40	Leigh Marshes	SS9 2ET	MUGA	Council	One poor quality type one/two MUGA without sports lighting.	Retain as an informal, free to use facility and seek to improve quality to improve offer.	-	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	Leigh North Street Primary School	SS9 1QE	Hockey	Education	One standard quality small sided hockey suitable AGP that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch.	EH Education	Local	L	L	L	Protect
41	Leigh North Street Primary School	SS9 1QE	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN Education	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
44	Oakwood Park	SS9 5LY	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session. One standard quality youth 11v11, one standard quality youth 9v9 and one standard quality mini 7v7 pitches played to capacity within the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
45	Prince Avenue Academy & Nursery	SS0 0LG	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches that are available for community use with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of providing clubs with security of tenure to establish actual spare capacity.	FA Education	Local	L	M	L	Protect
46	Priory Park	SS2 6NB	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches that are played to capacity. One standard youth 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to reduce overplay.	FA	Key	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
46	Priory Park	SS2 6NB	Bowls	Council	Four good quality greens serviced with standard quality ancillary facilities. The greens are currently operating below capacity with only 65 playing members out of potential for 240 with Prittlewell BC only utilising two of the four.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Retain unused greens as strategic reserve, unless evidence is provided to support development – where this is the case, priority should first and foremost be given to repurposing the provision to meet other sporting requirements.	BE	Key	L	L	L	Protect
46	Priory Park	SS2 6NB	Tennis	Council	Three standard quality macadam courts that are serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA	Key	L	L	L	Protect
46	Priory Park	SS2 6NB	Netball	Council	One poor quality macadam court that is without sports lighting.	Consider re-purposing court given lack of demand.	EN	Key	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
46	Priory Park	SS2 6NB	MUGA	Council	One poor quality type one/two MUGA without sports lighting.	Retain as an informal, free to use facility and seek to improve quality to improve offer.	-	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance.
51	South Essex College (Wellstead Gardens Sports Ground)	SS0 0AY	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch that is available for community use. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore option to provide security of tenure to clubs via community use agreement.	FA Education	Local	L	L	L	Protect
51	South Essex College (Wellstead Gardens Sports Ground)	SS0 0AY	Tennis	Education	Three poor quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Improve court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance to better cater for curricular and extracurricular demand.	LTA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
57	Southend High School for Boys	SS0 0RG	Football	Education	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches that are available for community use. Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore option to provide security of tenure to clubs via community use agreement.	FA School	Local	M	S	L	Protect
57	Southend High School for Boys	SS0 0RG	Cricket	Education	One standard quality standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Sustain quality of NTP through appropriate levels of maintenance.	ECB ECCB School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
57	Southend High School for Boys	SS0 0RG	Rugby union	Education	One basic quality senior pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	RFU School	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
57	Southend High School for Boys	SS0 0RG	Netball	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
62	Southend United FC (Roots Hall)	SS2 6NQ	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch that is unavailable for community use. Stadia pitch for Southend United FC playing in the National League. The Club has proposed investment into improving the stadiums ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance Support the Club with its ancillary facility development.	FA Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
66	St Thomas More High School	SS0 0BW	Football	Education	Five standard quality youth 11v11 pitches available for community use with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch played to capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore option to provide security of tenure to clubs via community use agreement to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Key	L	S	L	Protect
66	St Thomas More High School	SS0 0BW	3G	Education	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch that is available for community use and is serviced with sports lighting installed in 2025. The pitch is on the FF 3G pitch register until 31/05/2028.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Ensure the pitch is retested when required to ensure it remains on the FF 3G pitch register to continue hosting affiliated matches	FA FF School	Key	L	M	L	Protect
66	St Thomas More High School	SS0 0BW	Tennis	Education	Six poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use. Three courts are serviced with sports lighting.	Improve court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance and explore community use option.	LTA School	Key	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
66	St Thomas More High School	SS0 0BW	Netball	Education	One poor quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Improve court quality through enhanced levels of maintenance.	EN School	Key	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
68	The Eastwood Academy	SS9 5UU	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available for community use with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore option to provide security of tenure to clubs via community use agreement to establish actual spare capacity.	FA Education	Key	L	L	L	Protect
68	The Eastwood Academy	SS9 5UU	3G	Education	One good quality small sided 3G pitch that is available for community use and is serviced with sports lighting. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2024. The pitch is not on the FF 3G pitch register.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Explore the option to have the pitch tested for the FF 3G pitch register to enable it to accommodate affiliated matches.	FA FF School	Key	L	M	L	Protect
68	The Eastwood Academy	SS9 5UU	Athletics	Education	A standard quality 400m six lane synthetic athletics track which is not sports lit. The track is available for community use; however, it is currently only utilised by the School. The track is in need of resurfacing.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Support the school with the resurfacing of the track and explore sports lighting potentially to better cater for and to attract community demand.	EA School	Key	L	S	L	Protect
69	The Len Forge Centre	SS2 6UH	Football	Community	Four good quality adult pitches that are played to capacity within the peak period. The ancillary facilities serving the site are considered to be poor quality and requires investment.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to help improve ancillary facilities at this site to better cater for demand.	FA FF Community	Key	H	S	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
69	The Len Forge Centre	SS2 6UH	3G	Community	One standard quality 11v11 3G pitch that was last resurfaced in 2015 and that is on the FF 3G pitch register until 31/05/2028. The site has been highlighted for the potential development of a second 11v11 3G pitch.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place to the eventual resurfacing of the pitch and resurface the pitch imminently given age. Retest the pitch when required to ensure it remains on the FF 3G pitch register for accommodating affiliated matches. Explore the feasibility of providing a second 11v11 3G pitch onsite to help alleviate authority wide shortfalls.	FA FF Community	Key	H	M	H	Protect Enhance
78	Westcliff Hardcourt Tennis Club	SS0 8NT	Tennis	Sports Club	Four good quality artificial turf and three good quality macadam courts all serviced with sports lighting. The courts are over capacity by 100 members.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Monitor club membership and ensure it is sustainable.	LTA Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	SS0 0BP	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch that is available for community use with unsecure tenure and is played to capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore option to provide security of tenure to clubs via community use agreement to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	SS0 0BP	Cricket	Education	One standard quality eight wicket grass square utilised by Westcliff CC and one standard quality standalone NTP. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore option to provide security of tenure to clubs via community use agreement to establish actual spare capacity.	ECB ECCB School	Local	L	S	L	Protect
79	Westcliff High School for Boys	SS0 0BP	Football	Rugby union	One basic quality pitch that is available for community use.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	RFU School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
80	Westcliff High School for Girls	SS0 0BS	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch that is available for community use. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore option to provide security of tenure to clubs via community use agreement to establish actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect
80	Westcliff High School for Girls	SS0 0BS	Tennis	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and are serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
80	Westcliff High School for Girls	SS0 0BS	Netball	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and are serviced with sports lighting. Play Netball activity takes place at the site.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options for the Southend & District Netball League to return to Southend-on-Sea.	EN School	Local	M	S	L	Protect
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	SS0 8NB	Cricket	Council	One standard quality eight wicket square accompanied by a goof quality NTP. The square is overplayed by 22 match equivalent sessions. The square is serviced with poor quality ancillary facilities. In addition three fixed-lane practice nets are provided.	Improve square quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to reduce overplay. Improve the quality of ancillary facilities to better cater for demand.	ECB ECCB	Key	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
82	Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	SS0 8NB	Cricket	Council	One standard quality 11 wicket square. The square is overplayed by 22 match equivalent sessions.	Improve square quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to reduce overplay.	ECB ECCB	Key	H	S	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					The square is serviced with standard quality ancillary facilities. In addition three fixed-lane practice nets are provided. The square has actual spare capacity to accommodate Sunday and midweek demand.	Improve the quality of ancillary facilities to better cater for demand.						
84	Chalkwell Park	SS2 6XT	Tennis	Council	Four good quality macadam courts that are serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA	Key	L	L	L	Protect
84	Chalkwell Park	SS2 6XT	MUGA	Council	One poor quality type one/ two MUGA without sports lighting.	Retain as an informal, free to use facility and seek to improve quality to improve offer.	-	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
85	Leigh & Westcliff Lawn Tennis Association	SS0 9HW	Tennis	Sports Club	10 good quality artificial turf courts that are serviced with sports lighting. The courts have spare capacity for 300 additional members	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
86	St Peters Lawn Tennis Club	SS0 0QF	Tennis	Sports Club	One standard quality macadam court that is without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
88	Eastwood Primary School and Nursey	SS9 5UT	Cricket	Education	One standard quality standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	ECB ECCB School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
90	Our Lady of Lourdes	SS9 1JF	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
91	St Mary's Prittlewell C of E Primary School	SS2 6JH	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	EN School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
95	Leigh Road Baptist Church Tennis Club	SS0 8LG	Tennis	Sports Club	Three good quality macadam court that is without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	LTA Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
96	Leigh Golf Range	SS9 2GB	Golf	Private	22-bay driving range that is sports lit and provides ball tracking technology.	Sustain quality.	EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
98	St Laurence Park	SS2 6TQ	MUGA	Council	One poor quality type one/ two MUGA without sports lighting.	Retain as an informal, free to use facility and seek to improve quality to improve offer.	-	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
99	Westcliff Rugby Club	SS4 1YG	Rugby union	Council	Four basic quality senior pitches one of which is serviced with sports lighting. The pitches are overplayed by 7.4 match equivalent sessions midweek whilst 7.4 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exist on the weekend. Overall site capacity is overplayed by 2.6 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to alleviate some overplay. Explore the option of providing additional sports lighting on unlit pitches to alleviate some overplay on pitches. Explore options of access to existing World Rugby compliant 3G provision.	RFU	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

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HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Postcode	Sport	Management	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Aim	Recommended actions
2	Alleyn Court School	Central	SS3 0PW	Cricket	Education	ECB ECCB School	Local	Protect	Sustain square and NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to provide security of tenure for Mount CC to allow for potential funding opportunities and establish actual spare capacity.
56	Garon Park	Central	SS2 4FA	3G	Commercial	FA FF Commercial	Hub	Protect Provide Enhance	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Ensure the pitch is retested and remains on the FF pitch register so that it can continue accommodating affiliated football. Support the development and securing of funds for a second 11v11 3G pitch to help alleviate authority wide shortfalls.
56	Garon Park	Central	SS2 4FA	Hockey	Commercial	EH Commercial	Hub	Protect Provide Enhance	Support the development and securing of funds for a hockey suitable AGP to help alleviate authority wide shortfalls. Ensure the pitch maximises its potential in terms of bringing an end to the exported demand. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.
60	Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre	Central	SS2 4FA	Tennis	Council (Freedom Leisure)	LTA	Hub	Protect Enhance	Improve court quality through enhanced levels of maintenance or resurfacing.
71	The Youth Ground (Trinity Football Club)	Central	SS2 4FA	Football	Sports Club	FA FF Sports Club	Hub	Protect Provide Enhance	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to alleviate overplay. Support the Club in improving the offering of ancillary facilities onsite to better cater for demand. Explore the feasibility of providing an 11v11 3G pitch on the site given the analysis area shortfalls.
76	Victory Sports Ground	Central	SS2 5RA	Cricket	Council	ECB ECCB	Local	Protect Provide	Explore the feasibility of bringing the squares back into use given authority wide shortfalls across all formats of play.
77	Warners Bridge Park AGP	Central	SS2 5RE	Hockey	Sports Club	EH Sports Club	Local	Protect Enhance	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Explore options to resurface the pitch given it has significantly passed its life span.
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	West	SS9 4LR	Football	Council	FA Council	Hub	Protect Enhance	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Improve the quality of onsite ancillary facilities to better cater for demand.
6	Belfairs Park/Sports Ground	West	SS9 4LR	Cricket	Council	ECB ECCB Council	Hub	Protect Enhance	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Improve the quality of onsite ancillary facilities to better cater for demand.
7	Blenheim Park (Leigh-on-Sea)	West	SS9 4AA	Football	Council	FA FF	Local	Protect Enhance	Improve pitch quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to establish actual spare capacity and alleviate overplay.

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Postcode	Sport	Management	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Aim	Recommended actions
									Ensure ancillary facilities are upgraded in line with the LFFP.
69	The Len Forge Centre	West	SS2 6UH	Football	Community	FA FF Community	Key	Protect Enhance	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to help improve ancillary facilities at this site to better cater for demand.
69	The Len Forge Centre	West	SS2 6UH	3G	Community	FA FF Community	Key	Protect Enhance	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure a sinking fund is in place to the eventual resurfacing of the pitch. Resurface the pitch when required given that it has passed its recommended life span. Retest the pitch when required to ensure it remains on the FF 3G pitch register for accommodating affiliated matches. Explore the feasibility of providing a second 11v11 3G pitch onsite to help alleviate authority wide shortfalls.
81	Westcliff-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	West	SS0 8NB	Cricket	Council	ECB ECCB	Key	Protect Enhance	Improve square quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to reduce overplay. Improve the quality of ancillary facilities to better cater for demand.
82	Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club (Chalkwell Park)	West	SS0 8NB	Cricket	Council	ECB ECCB	Key	Protect Enhance	Improve square quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to reduce overplay. Improve the quality of ancillary facilities to better cater for demand.

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2045 (in line with the emerging Local Plan), with this future demand then translated into teams likely to be generated. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases before converting the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches that may be required to meet the growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision and splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required.

Similarly, the Sports Facilities Calculator identifies the potential need for tennis courts from the population growth associated to housing developments. This element has therefore also been added to this section of the document.

The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the additional demand for pitch sports and tennis that could be generated from housing growth in Southend-on-Sea, thus showing how the calculators work and what they can provide. For the playing pitch sports, the demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions; where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will use either a 3G pitch (football demand) or an AGP (hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on sports-lit grass pitches (i.e., for rugby union).

The scenarios used represent the Council's allocation for housing growth over its Local Plan period. They are as follows:

- ✦ Scenario One: Urban Area + Fossetts + Land North of Southend (LNOS) - 14,700 dwellings over the plan period (735 dwellings per annum).
- ✦ Scenario Two: Urban Area + Fossetts - 9,800 dwellings over the plan period (490 dwellings per annum).

They explore the potential requirements relating to all existing resolutions, subject to S106 agreements being put into place, urban brownfield sites in the Council's building program, all major applications submitted, all major pre-applications, and all major appeals pending.

The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.3 per dwelling. This is based on a national average.

Scenario One – Urban Area + Fossetts + LNOS (14,700 dwellings)

The demand generated from housing growth totalling 14,700 dwellings can be seen in the following table. This is based on resultant population increase of 33,810.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 14,700 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 14,700 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Adult football	7.29 Match equivalent sessions	55.6 Hours
Youth football	14.21 Match equivalent sessions	
Mini soccer	6.31 Match equivalent sessions	

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Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 14,700 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Rugby union	2.89 Match equivalent sessions	3.11 Match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0 Match equivalent sessions	0
Adult hockey	1.6 Match equivalent sessions	4.8
Junior hockey	0 Match equivalent sessions	0.66
Cricket	77.43 Match equivalent sessions	N/A

The table below translates the estimated demand into new provision, with associated capital and lifecycle costs. In total, it is set out that 34.26 pitches will be required to meet the demand in addition to 4.4 tennis courts. The capital cost of providing this is estimated at £6,529,855 in addition to lifecycle costs of £786,708. In addition, 44.72 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £9,777,828.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (14,700 dwellings)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number to meet demand	Capital cost ⁶	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁷	Number	Capital cost
Total	34.26	£6,529,855	£786,708	44.72	£9,777,828
Adult football	7.29	£888,050	£174,946	14.57	£3,185,396
Youth football	14.21	£1,430,907	£289,043	17.23	£3,766,708
Mini soccer	6.31	£200,533	£39,705	0	£0
Rugby union	2.89	£535,540	£99,075	5.77	£1,262,343
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	1.71	£653,516	£120,247	3.43	£748,820
Hockey	0.4	£423,704	£11,016	0.8	£174,778
3G	1.46	£1,861,185	£52,675	2.93	£639,782
Tennis	4.4 courts	£536,421	-	-	-

Scenario Two – Urban Area + Fossetts (9,800 dwellings)

The demand generated from housing growth totalling 9,800 dwellings can be seen in the following table. This is based on resultant population increase of 22,540.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 9,800 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 9,800 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Adult football	4.86 Match equivalent sessions	37.07 Hours
Youth football	9.47 Match equivalent sessions	
Mini soccer	4.2 Match equivalent sessions	
Rugby union	1.92 Match equivalent sessions	2.07 Match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0 Match equivalent sessions	0 Match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	1.07 Match equivalent sessions	3.2 Match equivalent sessions
Junior hockey	0 Match equivalent sessions	0.44 Match equivalent sessions

⁶ Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2025 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

⁷ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 9,800 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Cricket	51.62 Match equivalent sessions	N/A

The table below translates the estimated demand into new pitch provision, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. In total, it is set out that 22.84 pitches will be required to meet the demand in addition to 2.93 tennis courts. The capital cost of providing this estimated at £4,353,234 in addition to lifecycle costs of £524,471. In addition, 29.82 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £6,518,511.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (9,800 dwellings)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ⁸	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ⁹	Number	Capital cost
Total	22.84	£4,353,234	£524,471	29.82	£6,518,511
Adult football	4.86	£592,037	£116,631	9.71	£2,123,610
Youth football	9.47	£953,929	£192,694	11.49	£2,511,082
Mini soccer	4.2	£133,690	£26,471	0	£0
Rugby union	1.92	£357,027	£66,050	3.85	£841,564
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	1.14	£435,678	£80,165	2.28	£499,214
Hockey	0.27	£282,470	£7,344	0.53	£116,519
3G	0.98	£1,240,789	£35,117	1.95	£426,521
Tennis	2.93 courts	£357,614	-	-	-

Conclusion

Up to 2045, it is clear that demand will be generated for each pitch sport and tennis in Southend-on-Sea to a lesser or greater extent, although this position is indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing sites the additional demand is likely to migrate to (more will be known as and when the Local Plan process develops). Nevertheless, the scenarios above indicate that growth is likely to be significant enough to warrant the creation of additional provision for most of the included sports when looked at as a whole.

As explained in further detail in Part 5, where new pitches/facilities are required, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing rooms and car parking. Single pitch/facility sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are generally not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports. Separate consideration will also be required in regards to other non-pitch sports, using this document as an evidence base for what could be needed.

⁸ Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2025 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

⁹ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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Notwithstanding the above, experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created in their own right. As such, many individual developments will not warrant new provision when assessed in isolation, although the Council could consider pooling S106 contributions from major housing schemes or using CIL receipts or a combination of both, to invest in priority sites.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document (whilst taking into account any future updates) should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required), or whether contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision.

As part of the process for determining off-site contributions, consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements. The Council should also consider pooling S106 contributions from major housing schemes or using CIL receipts or a combination of both, to invest in priority sites.

PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for Southend-on-Sea based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group. This could also be tied into the process undertaken by other South Essex authorities to enable better collaboration.

Delivery

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Southend-on-Sea in relation to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities as well as supporting ancillary facilities. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and by using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the City can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this moving forward.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner and that continued engagement takes place with partners to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life that contribute to the achievement of the Council's priorities. The creation of this document should therefore be regarded as only part of the planning process. The success of the Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. To that end, each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as a key document within the study area, alongside the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy. This is so that they can guide the improvement and protection of sports provision, be used to attract and distribute both internal and external investment, and be used as an evidence base to support or oppose any development proposals. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on how current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. The Steering Group also needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

Local government reorganisation will see Councils across Greater Essex move from 15 councils to 5 councils and the abolition of Essex County Council. For South Essex, this means Southend-on-Sea, Rochford and Castle Point Councils merging to form a single tier South Essex Unitary Authority. This will have implications for the implementation and review of the PPOSS and those of the adjoining authorities, with the potential for a more strategic overview and delivery of infrastructure for pitch sports.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the Steering Group, Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

As part of the monitoring and review process, and to extend the lifespan of the PPOSS for as long as possible, it is advised that regular Steering Group meetings take place to review the study. Ideally, these should take place twice yearly, aligned to the split of summer and winter sport seasons and in line with affiliation periods. This process should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task; however, it should highlight:

- ◆ Actions undertaken since the adoption of the PPOSS or since the last review, as well as any actions that have been attempted but have been unsuccessful (and for what reason).
- ◆ Any changes required to the priority afforded to each remaining action (as the priority of some may change following the delivery of others or for more general reasons e.g., alterations in participation trends or focus areas).
- ◆ Any significant changes to supply and demand information and what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◆ Any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area (e.g., via PitchPower).
- ◆ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◆ Any new or emerging issues (e.g., development pressures) and opportunities (e.g., S106 contributions or club aspirations).
- ◆ Priority actions to be focused on before the next review.
- ◆ How the PPOSS has been applied to date and the lessons learnt.

The above process is already implemented within the South Essex region for other local authorities. As such, the Council could look to tie into a wider process to enable improved collaboration, to share knowledge and learnings, and to improve input from external stakeholders. It is also possible that between reviews, the Steering Group could operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically - when and where relevant.

Part 6 of this document provides table of the current high priority actions. This is to assist the start of the Stage E process to identify the actions that should be initially prioritised following adoption of the PPOSS (although that is not to say that lower priority actions should not also be explored where possible).

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Checklist

To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the Steering Group can refer to Sport England's Stage E Checklist, as shown below.

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 9: Apply & deliver the strategy		
Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work?		
Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered?		
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust & up to date		
Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

