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Subject: Open Space Needs Evidence

Report to: Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee – 10 November 2022

Report by: Nick Fountain, Principal Strategic Planner

SUBJECT MATTER

Open Space Needs Evidence

RECOMMENDATIONS

Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee endorses the content and recommendations to adopt:

1. The Open Space Needs Assessment
2. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Open Space Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy will set out the full set of open space needs arising across the Borough over the next 20 years. This evidence has been prepared to update and replace the findings of the Sport, Play and Leisure Strategy which was adopted in 2015.
- 1.2. On 16 February 2022, the Environment Committee were presented with some of the initial findings of the open spaces audit carried out by officers to inform the Needs Assessment. The 'Open Space Needs Assessment' covers five types of open space including play space, informal amenity, parks & gardens, accessible natural greenspace and allotments. The Needs Assessment identifies by Ward where there are surpluses or deficits having assessed each space against quantity, quality and accessibility (distance) standards.
- 1.3. Following endorsement on the draft Open Space Needs Assessment by this Committee on 14 July 2022, consultation took place (along with the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document which will be considered by Policy & Resources Committee) over a period of eight weeks between 2 August 2022 and 26 September 2022. The consultation responses have been reviewed, and necessary changes made to the document to form the final draft. A consultation report is appended to this report setting out how the comments have been addressed in the final draft document.
- 1.4. Specialist consultants, Tetra Tech, were appointed to prepare a 'Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy' which would assess formal outdoor sports provision. The assessment has been consulted amongst the affiliated sports association, Sport England and other local sport

bodies and clubs. The assessment broadly concludes that there is a deficit in all types of outdoor sport, not necessarily in terms of quantity but the quality and accessibility of existing facilities. Accordingly, most existing facilities must be protected and where possible, enhanced.

- 1.5. Subject to approval by the Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee, the Open Space Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy can be adopted as evidence documents. The two documents also provide a range of recommendations to improve open space standards across the Borough which can be used to help prioritise spending and/or bid for external funding.
- 1.6. The documents will also be material considerations in planning decisions, but crucially, they provide the basis on which surpluses and deficits have been identified to require open space provision from new residential development (such detail is set in Policy H4 of the [Local Plan Part 2](#) and the emerging Open Space SPD).
- 1.7. It is also important to acknowledge that the documents do not commit any specific works to open spaces by the Borough Council or any other body. Some of the Borough's open spaces are privately managed and/or maintained by communities. At present there are no identified sources of funding as new provision and/or enhancement of open spaces will be funded by new residential development (where there are identified open space needs).
- 1.8. The documents also provide a framework by which private landowners, clubs, organisations and local communities should consider when contributing to or making use of the Borough's open space provision.

2. Open Space Needs Assessment

- 2.1. The draft Open Space Needs Assessment had responses from 8 individuals/organisations, most of which contained multiple representations to be considered. Responses were received from two of the Borough's parish councils. A Consultation Statement is attached to this report setting out what comments were made and how they have been addressed. The following changes have been made to the Needs Assessment:

- Acknowledged that the area covers the entire Borough including the Broads
- Amended bar charts to display values at 2 decimal places
- Reference has been made to the role of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) within accessible natural greenspace
- Reference to the Norfolk GIRAMS in relation to mitigation
- Reference to whole Borough recommendations within paragraph 1.394 has been removed as this is explained in the first paragraphs of the recommendations chapter
- Reference has been made to include the link to poor mental and physical health within the health section of the introduction.

- 2.2. The recommendations contained within section 9 remain largely unchanged and set out potential priorities for each Ward. A deficit was identified where any open space within the Ward failed to meet any one of the quantity/quality/accessibility standards. Where a deficit has been identified, it is important that open spaces are retained and improved where

possible, and further provision or enhancement is likely to be required through new residential development. Where there is an identified surplus, further provision is unlikely to be required.

- 2.3. In terms of the general findings, the Borough is deficient in play space, informal amenity and parks and gardens which is reflective not just of the amount of space but the quality and accessibility to residents. There is a Borough surplus of accessible natural greenspace and allotments, though there are accessibility gaps for some communities.
- 2.4. Local Plan Working Party were presented with the assessment and its findings on 18 October 2022. The Party endorsed the assessment to this committee.

3. Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

- 3.1. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy provides an understanding of the full outdoor sports needs over the next 20 years. The Strategy also includes an action plan to take forward recommendations and priorities over the coming years. A common theme between the sports is the need for all agencies involved to support increased participation across a wider population.
- 3.2. The sport specific recommendations contain potential solutions to the issues identified. It is important to note that the recommendations are clearly aimed at a much wider group of stakeholders than just the Borough Council. Such recommendations will require actions from schools, clubs and affiliated bodies.
- 3.3. The full assessment report and Strategy and Action Plan are appended to this report. The key issues and recommendations by sport have been summarised as follows:

Cricket

- 8 pitches, 7 publicly available
- Qualitative deficits with existing facilities
 - Loss of pitches at Hemsby and Southtown
 - Overplay evident at Caister and Winterton
- Training & changing facilities required
- Need for sustainability of smaller clubs and long term recruitment of players
- Lack of junior teams
- Ambition to grow female sections and improvements to junior participation

Tennis

- 43 courts, 27 in community use, only 12 of which are floodlit
 - Geographical imbalance as provision is focussed in Gorleston, recommend opening up school facilities in the north of the Borough to the public
 - Lack of information to book courts (marketing/advertisement) – including school sites

- Need to protect quantity of existing provision
- Loss of Wellesley Recreation Ground court
- Lack of participation with the Borough's population (though if achieved would result in the number of courts being insufficient to meet demand)
- Qualitative & accessibility deficits with existing facilities
 - Generally public facilities have the lowest standards of quality
 - Gorleston Cliffs

Bowls

- Need to protect quantity of existing provision
 - 19 greens
 - Loss of greens at Fritton, St Olaves, Hemsby and (1 at) North Drive
- Qualitative deficits with existing facilities, particularly pitch surfaces
 - Pitch maintenance, succession planning and expertise
- Declining participation, retention and recruitment of club members required to increase participation

Athletics

- Need to protect quantity of existing provision – Wellesley Recreation Ground
 - County competitions (Level 1), aspirations for higher status
- Support quality improvements now (and future)
 - Current upgrades
 - Full refurbishment likely to be required by 2029
- Support ongoing efforts to sustain and increase participation and work with the club to support the promotion of athletics

Golf

- Protect existing full courses (3) & retain par 3 courses (including Bure Park)
 - Par 3 considered more as 'recreational'
- Provision of driving range likely to be required
 - To aid training/coaching/practice and the development of skills for new and improving players
 - Currently only Browston Hall – uncertain future
 - Proposed new driving range at Great Yarmouth & Caister

Rugby Union

- Need to protect quantity of existing provision
 - 4 pitches, 2 of which are on public sites, 2 at school sites
 - Potential 4 further pitches at school sites (currently unmarked)
- Lack of tenure security for club
- Qualitative deficits with existing pitches & supporting facilities
 - Rust on goals, pitch maintenance
 - Poor changing facilities

Hockey

- Retain pitch suitable to support hockey
 - 1 sand based artificial pitch (Cliff Park Ormiston Academy)
 - Pitch in poor condition, re-surfacing required but must be suitable for other sports to be commercially viable & sustainable

Football

- Existing provision – various pitch sizes and 3x 3G artificial pitches
- 168 Teams playing, including 20 female teams and 2 walking football teams
- Qualitative deficits with existing facilities
 - Pitch quality generally low to poor standard
 - Poor maintenance and drainage, unofficial use of pitches and dog fouling
 - Over-play at multiple sites (particularly Gorleston & Bradwell), associated with lack of training facilities
 - Potential use of school facilities (such as Flegg High) could relieve peak time over-play, but requires improved quality
 - Increased use of 3G artificial pitches would also help to address overplay
 - Poor changing facilities
- Capacity pressure on key club sites
- Issues for ‘Pyramid Clubs’, Great Yarmouth FC and Gorleston FC

3.4. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy is in its final draft, therefore any changes at this stage are likely to be factual. Subject to approval by the Committee, the Strategy can be adopted as an evidence document.

4. Legal and Risk Implications

4.1. The two documents underpin the evidence of open space needs to deliver new and enhance existing open spaces across the Borough. Without their adoption, there are risks that open

spaces cannot be delivered as set out in planning policy. A lack of needs evidence could frustrate bids for external funding and prioritised local spending.

5. Conclusion

5.1. The recommendations are that the Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee endorses the content and recommendations to adopt:

1. The Open Space Needs Assessment
2. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

6. Appendices

A. Open Space Needs Assessment Consultation Statement

B. Final draft Open Space Needs Assessment

C. Final draft Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (full assessment)

D. Final draft Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (Strategy and Action Plan)

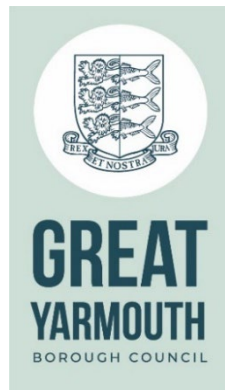
Areas of consideration: e.g. does this report raise any of the following issues and if so how have these been considered/mitigated against?

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	n/a
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	n/a
Existing Council Policies:	Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy, Local Plan Part 2, Sport, Play & Leisure Strategy
Financial Implications (including VAT and tax):	Referred to within the report. The recommendations of the Assessment and Strategy do not commit the Borough Council to any specific spending.
Legal Implications (including human rights):	n/a
Risk Implications:	See Section 4
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	n/a
Crime & Disorder:	n/a
Every Child Matters:	n/a

Consultation Statement

Open Space Needs Assessment

October 2022



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1. Introduction

This document provides a summary of the consultation undertaken on the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) under Regulation 12 of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 (as amended). It provides the information required under Regulation 12 and 13 of the above mentioned regulations. The document sets out:

- Which bodies and persons the local planning authority invited to make representations under regulation 12,
- How those bodies and persons were invited to make representations under regulation 12,
- A summary of the main issues raised by the representations made pursuant to regulation 12,
- How these representations have been taken into account in the production of the Final Draft SPD

The consultation took place between 2nd August 2022 and 26th September 2022. The consultation ran parallel with that of the draft 'Open Space Needs Assessment' which set out how surpluses and deficits of open space have been identified.

In accordance with the Councils adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), direct notification of the consultation was sent to:

- All Local Members
- Statutory and General Consultees on our Local Plan consultation database

The consultation itself was in the form of a first draft of the SPD. The document was available online and hard copies were available for inspection at the Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF

Comments to the consultation were accepted via post to Great Yarmouth Town Hall or email to localplan@great-yarmouth.gov.uk.

The consultation attracted responses from 10 individuals or organisations. These responses are reproduced in Appendix 1. The main issues raised in the response together with how they have been addressed in the production of the Final Draft SPD is set out below.

2. Summary of main issues raised and how they have been addressed

This section sets out the main issues raised by each respondent and how they have been taken into account in the Final Draft SPD.

Respondent: Belton with Browston Council

Summary of Main Issues Raised

Bradwell Parish Council raised the following issues:

- Nursery Close play space only has 3 items is aged and underused.
- Suggest focus upon, modernise, enlarge and improve the provision at Bell Lane
- There is a deficit of equipment serving the 14+ (teen)
- There is a deficiency (relative to population) of informal amenity green space within the parish, existing should be retained and protected.
- Allotment pressure with waiting list and likely loss of existing site as graveyard extends
- There are no parks or gardens within the parish
- There is no parish-owned accessible natural green spaces within the parish, such as Belton Common, which is in private ownership
- There are small, unregistered parcels of land which could be utilised for a park, garden or natural space

How issues have been addressed

- The recommendations for Lothingland play spaces includes the potential to remove Nursery Close at its end of life to consolidate at Bell Lane. No change required.
- Bell Lane is considered to offer adequate teenager facilities, which includes a MUGA and skatepark. No change required.
- The recommendations have identified a quantity and quality deficit in informal amenity spaces. No change required.
- The recommendations have identified the demand and land issues with allotment provision. No change required.
- The Ward has identified Accessible Natural Green Space at Belton Common and Burgh Castle Roman Fort. The former site, while in private ownership is recognised as accessible land under the Countryside Rights of Way Act. No change required.
- Any further sites to be considered within this audit need to be demonstrably accessible with community value. New off-site provision would likely require land acquisition or covenants to secure the intended use. No change required.

Respondent: Broads Authority

Summary of Main Issues Raised

The Broads Authority raised the following issues:

- After 1.29 acknowledge that the area covers the entire Borough including the Broads
- Bar chart above 1.57, 1.179, 1.271, 1.314 and 1.330 – suggest rounding to 2 decimal places

How issues have been addressed

- Paragraph 1.1 has been amended to reflect that the whole Borough includes those parts within the Broads
- The bar charts have been amended to show the data labels at 2 decimal places only

Respondent: Hopton Parish CouncilSummary of Main Issues Raised

- There is concern/confusion at the level of growth planned for Hopton
- Why have no allotments been planned for Hopton (e.g. at Bowlers Green or Links Road)?
- With the proposed increase of population in Hopton, the Rec pitch provision will be too small
- The accessible natural green space that we had now has bungalows on it (Teulon Close)
- Allotments should be only 15 minute walk away

How issues have been addressed

- The level of growth under the current adopted Local Plan is set out in the Core Strategy and Local Plan Part 2. The site allocation, GN1, is identified as being part of the settlement of Gorleston albeit that it is within the administrative parish boundary of Hopton. The Needs Assessment does not change the level of growth, including the new local plan. No change required.
- The recommendations of the Needs Assessment identify a deficit in accessibility to allotments for the residents of Hopton, with suggestion that provision could be made on Site Allocation GN1 as the open space provision for the site have not been determined. No change required.
- Playing pitch needs will be identified in a separate piece of evidence. It is worth noting that such provision may have a wider catchment for accessibility. No change required.
- The Needs Assessment has been audited on the basis of provision as it exists today, it cannot account for historic spaces. The Accessible Natural Green Spaces that have been identified have a particular special natural quality. No change required.
- The identified standard for accessibility is 900m. It is, however, recognised that the distances may be further for some rural communities. Provision at site allocation GN1 would be much more accessible for the residents of Hopton than those existing in Bradwell. No change required.

Respondent: Miss Katherine NewnhamSummary of Main Issues Raised

- Concern at the loss of open spaces & countryside

How issues have been addressed

- The Needs Assessment has identified open spaces within the broad categories, this will not include undeveloped areas of countryside, albeit that it is recognised that such areas will also have a recreational value. Local Plan Part 2 Policy E3 and national policy already addresses the protection of identified open spaces. No change required.

Respondent: Natural EnglandSummary of Main Issues Raised

- Paragraph 1.332, Natural England has published quality standards and a useful [checklist](#) which provide a helpful starting point for designing Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and might want to consider [guidance](#) published Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) which outline best practice benchmarks for standards of green infrastructure.
- Suggest providing cross-reference to Norfolk GIRAMS.

- Paragraph 1.394 refers to recommendations that apply to the whole Borough but there is no such section within the document

How issues have been addressed

- The Thames Basin SANG guidance is not necessarily appropriate in every circumstance. It is, however considered that reference to SANs should be made within the document (in paragraph 1.32) having regard to best practice from Natural England.
- Paragraphs 1.32-1.33 do make reference to Norfolk-wide mitigation work, this can be amended to specifically refer to the 'GIRAMS'
- Reference to whole Borough recommendations within paragraph 1.394 has been removed. Such recommendations are provided in the proceeding paragraphs.

Respondent: Norfolk County Council – Natural Environment Team

Summary of Main Issues Raised

- It has recommended that the Council seeks to maximise join-up between off-site provision of natural greenspace and the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

How issues have been addressed

- The Open Space SPD sets out on/off site provision. This is not a matter for the Needs Assessment. No change required.

Respondent: Norfolk County Council – Public Health

Summary of Main Issues Raised

- Could deprivation be more prominently reflected in the weighting allocated to assessments or improvements for open spaces, which are calculated using a per capita formula?
- Paragraph 1.26 cites recent Public Health England guidance which also highlights the relationship between access to good quality greenspaces and improvements on physical and mental health, particularly in reference to reducing inequality. Could this be more prominently reflected within the weighting allocated to assessments or improvements for open spaces, which are calculated using a per capita formula?
- In light of the above evidence and local population based needs, would it be beneficial to revisit the weighting of assessment formula so that additional funds are required and allocated in areas of particular deprivation, thereby tackling inequalities and ensuring equitability of greenspaces?

How issues have been addressed

- The open space standards have been set out and adopted through the Local Plan Part 2. The Needs Assessment does re-affirm these standards. The aim of the assessment is to highlight those areas that are deficient, and areas with deprivation may be considered as part of a prioritisation, but this is only one factor and provision will also dependent upon funding (such as from new development within the local area). Paragraph 1.395 of recommendations has been amended to reflect this.
- Paragraph 1.26 has been amended to include the link to poor mental and physical health.
- As above. The method for calculating the standards is best practice used by many local authorities and recommended by Fields in Trust. There are many other factors that may influence what can be achieved on the ground, not least viability of development which will also be constrained in some of the most deprived Wards. No change required.

Appendix 1 – Original Representations

Respondent: Belton with Browston Parish Council

The play equipment at Nursery Close, only three items, is aged and underused. It would be beneficial to focus upon, modernise, enlarge and improve the provision at Bell Lane, which is at the epicentre of the village. Having one central location would aid the ease of maintenance and monitoring. There is also a deficit of equipment serving the 14+ (teen) age group.

There is a deficiency (relative to population) of informal amenity green space within the parish of Belton with Browston, more green space is required. There is also a deficit in the quality of informal amenity green space, enhancements such as trees, seating and bins are required to address this issue. Existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected.

We have had a waiting list for allotments for some time and this situation will be exacerbated as the diocese land will very soon be utilised to address the lack of space for burials in the existing graveyard.

The Parish of Belton with Browston does not have any parks or gardens. There is no parish-owned accessible natural green spaces within the parish i.e. what was Belton Common is now in private ownership.

There are, however, some small parcels of unregistered land within the parish which could possibly be utilised for a park, garden or natural space, dedicated to wildlife and to enhance the biodiversity of the parish.

Respondent: Broads Authority

They are both relevant to the Broads as our open space policy has regard to/defers to your (and the other districts') policies on open space.

I would therefore suggest that the SPD needs to acknowledge that and also I would suggest we endorse it as well. We have done the same for the East Suffolk Affordable Housing SPD and will do the same for their walking and cycling study.

After 1.29, in the Local Policy section, it might be useful to say that the study area is the entire Borough and that the Local Plan for the Broads has regard to/defers to the open space policies and standard of its constituent districts.

Bar chart above 1.57 and 1.79 and 1.271 and 1.314 and 1.330 – you might want to round to two decimal places?

Respondent: Historic England

As the Government's adviser on the historic environment, Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully considered at all stages and levels of the local planning process.

Historic England would highlight that Open Space should not only be considered in terms of the natural environment, health and recreation but also the role it can play in conserving and enhancing the historic environment. It can be used to:

- conserve and enhance heritage assets
- improve setting of heritage assets
- improve access to heritage assets
- create a sense of place and tangible link with local history
- create linkages between heritage assets and other green infrastructure

Conservation and enhancement of the natural environment is an important facet of sustainable development. There is an important synergy between the historic and natural environment. Open spaces in our cities, towns and villages often have heritage interest, and it would be helpful to highlight this. It is important not to consider 'multi-functional' spaces only in terms of the natural environment, health and recreation. It may be helpful to make reference in the text to the role open space can have to play in enhancing and conserving the historic environment. It can be used to improve the condition and setting of heritage assets and to improve access to them. Likewise the historic environment can help contribute to the quality, character and distinctiveness of open spaces by helping to create a sense of place and a tangible link with local history. Opportunities can be taken to link new GI networks into already existing green spaces in town or existing historic spaces such as church yards to improve the setting of historic buildings or historic townscape.

Conclusions

I hope that you find the above comments helpful. We'd like to stress that this response is based on the information provided by the Council in its consultation. To avoid any doubt, this does not affect our obligation to provide further advice and, potentially, object to specific proposals, which may subsequently arise as a result of this plan, where we consider that these would have an adverse effect upon the historic environment. If you have any questions with regards to the comments made, then please do get back to me. I would be very happy to meet to discuss these comments further.

Respondent: Hopton Parish Council

1.12 The draft local plan on housing states that the Urban areas are Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Bradwell and Caister. Why then is there such a large plan proposed for Hopton?

1.27 If the plan allows for allotment space then why are there no allotments planned for the new development (Bowlers Green) or the proposed new development Links Road?

1.37 With the proposed increase in the population of Hopton the pitch provision (rec) will be too small.

1.38 The accessible natural green space that we had now has bungalows on it (Teulon Close)

1.48 Allotments should be only 15 minute walk away

Respondent: Miss Katherine Newnham (summarised response)

People need green space, nature habitat, it is goof for nature and the human race.

I know of other Filby residents who like me, despair, because the developers have been 'let loose' and given the totally ruin the countryside and villages of the Great Yarmouth area. Like me they moved into the older homes no 'new builds' and wanted a countryside view and lifestyle. They know

the consequences of over-development and ruining a beautiful area. People come on holiday to see the sea, beaches, Norfolk Broads, windmills and countryside. As a holiday maker say how Great Yarmouth area has changed; so built up and other parts allowed to become more like slum areas. You as a Council have something special, to look after and maintain the beauty.

Here in Filby we have a lands trust which with the help of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, residents are planting trees, planting meadows, maintaining the orchard they planted, keeping space for wildlife, all things you as a Council should be doing. Give us more land, and we will help our wildlife to survive with the knowledge and instruction from our area Norfolk Wildlife Trust personnel.

Respondent: Natural England

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Our remit includes protected sites and landscapes, biodiversity, geodiversity, soils, protected species, landscape character, green infrastructure and access to and enjoyment of nature.

Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space

In the Open Space Needs Assessment point 1.332 refers to Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and a lack of quality standards available to refer to. Natural England has [published quality standards and a useful checklist](#) which originated from the Thames Basin Heath Planning Zone. These guidelines provide a helpful starting point for designing SANG.

Your authority might also consider [guidance](#) published Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) which outline best practice benchmarks for standards of green infrastructure.

It is noted that neither the Needs Assessment or the SPD links open space needs to the Norfolk Green Infrastructure Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS) evidence base for which Great Yarmouth Borough Council have adopted. In particular SANGs principles which should be aligned with page 135 (page 142 in the on the [electronic version](#)) for developments of over 50 houses as advised by Natural England in August 2019. We would encourage both documents to align their 'quality standards' with the Norfolk GIRAMS evidence and principles.

Access and connection to open spaces

Natural England notes the commitment within the Open Space Assessment document to improve access for people with disabilities and the formation of a Disability Awareness Group. Natural England strongly supports this initiative and encourages this to be taken forward.

The Green Infrastructure Principles outlined in [Natural England's Principles and Standards for England](#) outlines the importance of good governance and long-term management with a particular emphasis on local stewardship and community involvement. The aim of this is to engage with communities so that they make a connection with open and natural spaces resulting in highly valued spaces which are sustainably managed and protected. We suggest options for greater community engagement is integrated into the SPD with considerations for local stewardship where appropriate. Further information is available on the Natural England [website](#) and in [Guide 9: Long-Term Stewardship](#) from the Guides and Principles for Garden Communities.

Natural England welcomes the use of ANGSt benchmark standards for access to greenspace used within the needs Assessment.

Other notes

There is reference in the Open Space Assessment to recommendations that apply to the whole borough, but this section of the document appears to be missing.

Natural England supports the production of the Open Space Needs SPD and is happy to provide further advice on the plan as it evolves. Should the plan be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment, then, please consult Natural England again.

Respondent: Norfolk County Council – Natural Environment Team

The reference to biodiversity net gain and local nature recovery strategies in section 1.31 of the OS Needs Assessment is noted; it is recommended that the Council seeks to maximise join-up between off-site provision of natural greenspace and the delivery of the LNRS which has the potential, if well designed, to deliver more than the sum of its parts.

Respondent: Norfolk County Council – Public Health

The documents are comprehensive and valuable in terms of open space improvement and the wide ranging benefits this brings.

- 1.16-1.18 provide an overview of local deprivation and comment that *'The provision of good, accessible open spaces can contribute to improvements within deprived areas.'* Could this be more prominently reflected in the weighting allocated to assessments or improvements for play spaces, informal amenity green space, allotments, parks and gardens or accessible natural green space, which are calculated using a per capita formula?
- 1.26 cites recent Public Health England (now the UK Health Security Agency and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities) guidance 'Improving access to greenspace' and comments on the link between poor access to good quality green spaces and deprivation. The report also highlights the relationship between access to good quality greenspaces and improvements on physical and mental health, particularly in reference to reducing inequality. Could this be more prominently reflected within the weighting allocated to assessments or improvements for play spaces, informal amenity green space, allotments, parks and gardens or accessible natural green space, which are calculated using a per capita formula?

In light of the above evidence and local population based needs, would it be beneficial to revisit the weighting of assessment formula so that additional funds are required and allocated in areas of particular deprivation, thereby tackling inequalities and ensuring equitability of greenspaces? This decision and the logic behind it could then be reflected within the Draft SPC.

Great Yarmouth Borough Open Space Need Assessment

October 2022



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1. Introduction

1.1. This Open Space Needs Assessment forms part of the evidence base supporting Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Local Plans and planning policies. This assessment, including an audit of existing open space sites, provides an opportunity to consider whether the open space standards set out in the Local Plan part 2 are appropriate. The assessment clearly identifies where there are surpluses or deficits in open space provision and how and where such deficits can be redressed. This assessment is a strategic approach, looking forward to 2041 with Borough-wide coverage (i.e. including those parts within the designated Broads Area).

1.2. Open spaces have been assessed in light of 3 standards:

- Quantity – how much open space there should be
- Quality – how good the open space is
- Accessibility – how far someone would expect to travel to use open space

1.3. This assessment excludes outdoor sports (formal sports provision) open spaces as these spaces are being assessed in a separate **Playing Pitch Strategy** which will sit alongside this assessment. The Open Space Needs Assessment includes assessment of the following categories of open space:

- **Children's play space** - Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
- **Informal amenity green space** - Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas which are publicly accessible.
- **Parks & gardens** - Accessible, high quality, tend to be formally planned out, opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
- **Allotments** - Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
- **Accessible Natural Greenspace** - Areas with a predominant feeling of 'naturalness' important for wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and environmental education and awareness, which are accessible to the public.

1.4. It is also important to acknowledge open spaces and other types of infrastructure or resources which contribute to meeting recreation needs that are outside of the above categories. These include:

- Churchyards & cemeteries
- Private amenity space (e.g. surrounding communal housing)
- Public House & Tourist Accommodation play/open spaces
- School grounds (with the exception of sports provision covered by the Play Pitch Strategy)
- Blue spaces, waterways (ponds, rivers, the Broads and the sea)
- Civic spaces (hard surfaced seating/performance areas, such as Great Yarmouth Market Place)
- Beaches (with the exception of Winterton-Horsey Dunes which is an Accessible Natural Greenspace)
- Green corridors, Public Rights of Way & pathways
- Local Green Spaces identified in neighbourhood plans (where they do not meet the categorisation of the typologies covered in this assessment)

1.5. An audit of each open space typology (those listed in paragraph 1.3) has been carried out. Each open space has been mapped and recorded with its own reference number.

1.6. Finally, this report will make recommendations following a detailed assessment of needs for each type of open space in each of the Borough's Wards. The intention is that the recommendations provide a mechanism to focus investment (particularly from funds raised through off-site developers contributions under Policy H4 of the Local Plan Part 2) on open spaces to those areas that need it most. It is important to note that the recommendations do not, however, predetermine or commit any specific works by the Council or other body. However, they will be used to help prioritise the spend of developer contributions and other funding sources which may come available.

2. Background

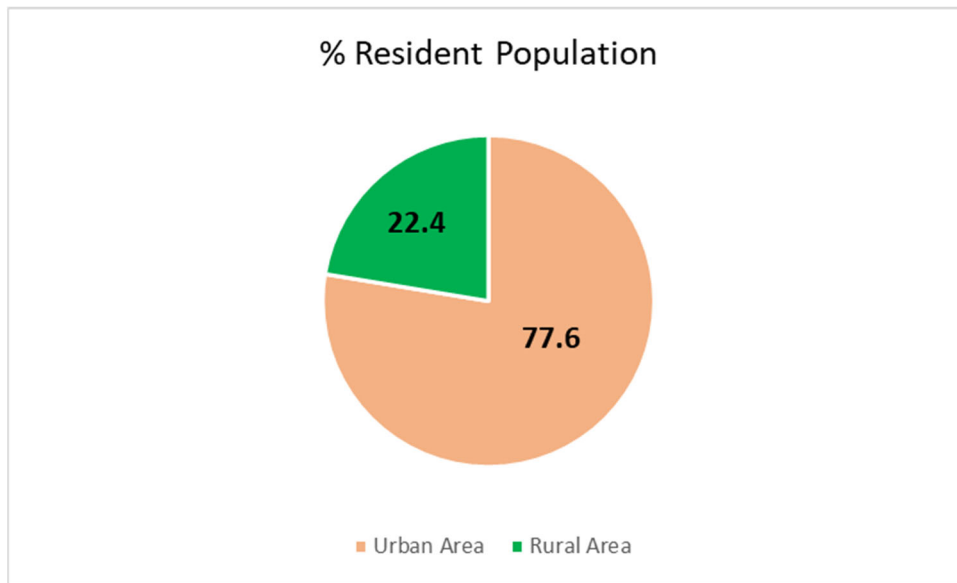
Geographic, Social & Economic Context

1.7. Located in the East of England, the Borough of Great Yarmouth is bounded by the North Sea to the east, the city of Norwich to the west and the coastal town of Lowestoft to the south. The town of Great Yarmouth is a well-established coastal tourist resort; with many other resorts along the borough's 24 kilometres of coastline. The hinterland of the borough is rural and forms part of the protected

Broads landscape and also includes part of the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Winterton-on-Sea.

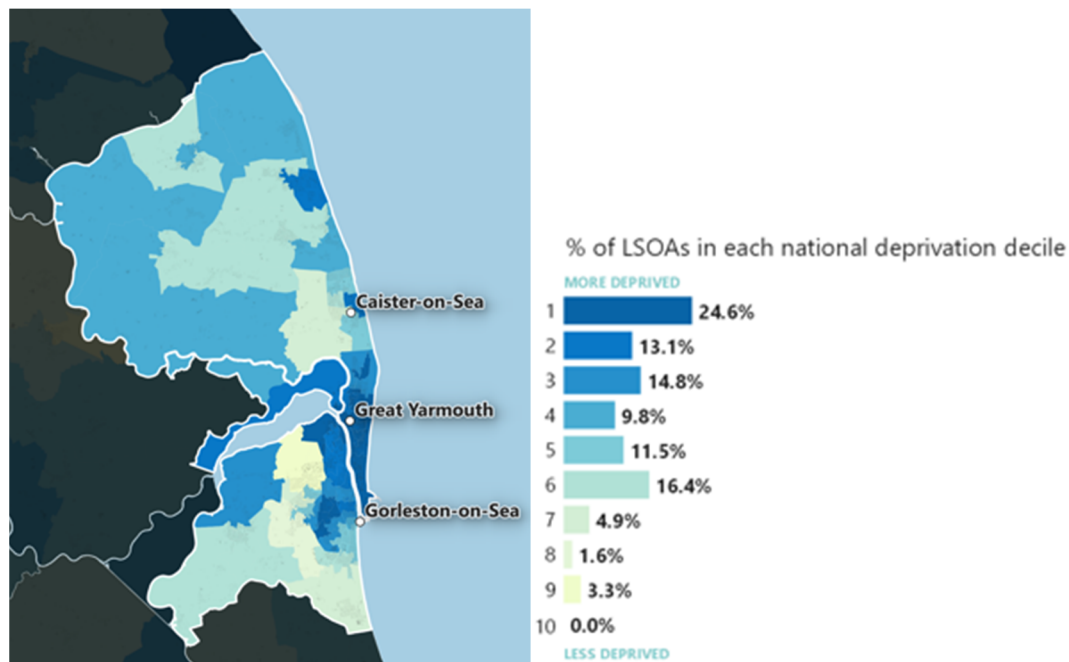
- 1.8. The Borough is consequently rich in 'Blue Infrastructure' with a long stretch of coastline offering plentiful space for recreational access. Part of The Broads network spans through the Borough with The River Yare, River Bure, River Thurne, and River Waveney flowing through or around the Borough. In addition to the main watercourses, The Broads comprises a network of dykes and lakes. One of the more significant features (referred to later within this document) is Breydon Water which connects the Rivers Yare, Bure and Waveney and is recognised for its biodiversity importance and is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Local Nature Reserve. In addition to its nature conservation importance, The Broads is also a key tourist attraction.
- 1.9. Great Yarmouth Borough covers over 17,000 hectares with a population in the region of just approximately 99,200. The largest settlements are Great Yarmouth and Gorleston which combined form the third largest urban area in Norfolk. Adjoining Gorleston is Bradwell, which is the next largest settlement in the borough, and the rural areas of the borough are intermittently scattered with small and medium-sized settlements.
- 1.10. The 2014-based population projections identified a population increase of 3,079 people representing a 2.94% increase between 2022 and 2030 (these have been used to align with the 2014-based household projections which were used to calculate the Borough's housing needs). To 2039 (the latest year available in the published data), the projected increase is 6,800 people or 6.71%.
- 1.11. The latest, 2018-based population projections over the same period suggest this may be an increase of 2,309 people representing a 2.39% increase. To 2041, the projected increase is 5,395 people or 5.35%. In both of the year based scenarios the base year population is projected to be higher than the actual existing population.
- 1.12. The Local Plan Part 2 plans for 7,020 homes between April 2013 and March 2030. However, some of those houses have been built over the past nine years. Therefore, between April 2022 and March 2030, the plan forecasts that approximately 4,250 homes will remain to be built. The houses will be distributed in accordance with the Core Strategy settlement hierarchy which focuses growth on the main towns, key service centres and then to the primary villages.
- 1.13. Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Bradwell and Caister form the 'urban' areas for the purpose of this assessment. As can be seen from below, the urban areas are home to over three quarters of the population of the Borough. Meanwhile, the actual built extent of these areas only represents 11% of the area within the Borough boundary (or 1,970ha as defined by the Development Limits within the Local Plan). The implication of this distribution of population is that the densely populated urban areas will have a greater need or pressure to provide open space with limited available land to meet such needs.

Percentage of population split between urban and rural areas



- 1.14. Great Yarmouth is a principal centre for retail, services and employment, including port related activities. Gorleston is the secondary town in the borough and contains a well-functioning high street and is also a popular seaside resort. There are two sites of Enterprise Zone status within the borough, at Beacon Park, Gorleston and South Denes, Great Yarmouth providing opportunities to further strengthen the boroughs economy in terms of the energy sector.
- 1.15. Tourism is still one of the key pillars to the local economy. While the town of Great Yarmouth is the primary destination for most tourists, there is a significant tourism offer up and down the coast, also within the Borough with the Broads network, and in other rural destinations. Some of the Borough’s open spaces are tourist destination in their own right, a good example being the recently restored ‘Venetian’ Waterways, a Grade II listed structure and registered Park and Garden, which holds a prestigious Green Flag award.
- 1.16. The Borough has high levels of multiple deprivation (the authority being ranked as the 24th most deprived in the country out of 317 local authorities in 2019), concentrated upon health and disability, crime and skills and training and is largely polarised in the inner urban wards of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston. The diagram below shows this pattern with the darker shading reflecting areas with higher deprivation; with approximately a quarter of the areas assessed (Lower Super Output Areas) falling within the greatest deprivation decile.

2019 Indices of Deprivation for the Borough of Great Yarmouth



1.17. There are also deprivation issues which concern accessing services in the rural hinterland. While deprivation is more often associated with indices such as income and employment, health and living environment are also key indices. The provision of good, accessible open spaces can contribute to improvements within deprived areas.

1.18. There are 16 wards within the Borough which provide ideal catchment areas. Consequently, this is how much of the localised data has been collected. This provides the ability to compare facilities with the associated ward population and is particularly useful in Great Yarmouth and Gorleston as they are large unparished areas.

National Planning Policy, Guidance

1.19. There is a strong link between open space, human health and the state of the environment. The [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) requires planning authorities to have planning policies and decisions that aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places. This includes access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision.

1.20. Open spaces are community facilities and will be generally protected unless there is a clear reason for their loss or where they are appropriately compensated. Paragraphs 101-103 of the NPPF supports the designation of Local Green Spaces for communities to identify which green spaces are most important to them.

1.21. National practice guidance builds on the NPPF and suggests working with other bodies including Sport England to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities.

1.22. Land within the Borough falls under three identified National Character Areas (NCAs) to describe the landscape:

- [North East Norfolk and Flegg](#)
- [The Broads](#)
- [Suffolk Coast and Heaths](#)

Broadly speaking, the Borough is characterised by a flat rural landscape comprising waterways (The Broads) with long a long stretch of coast that includes dune systems.

Fields in Trust – Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015)

1.23. Fields in Trust (FiT) is a national independent charity that works with the government, local authorities, landowners and community groups to protect and enhance parks and green spaces. In 2015, FiT published open space standards and benchmarking guidance for England.

The Green Flag Award

1.24. The 'Green Flag Award' scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world. It assesses the quality of green spaces through the following categories:

- Welcoming place
- Health, safe and secure
- Well maintained and clean
- Environmental management
- Biodiversity, landscape and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing and communication
- Management

Natural England

1.25. Natural England is in the process of updating its guidance for providing Green Infrastructure (GI), its new standards. This follows the publication of the Government's [25 Year Environment Plan](#). Natural England has developed a set of [GI Principles](#) that

underpin the GI Framework. In addition, Natural England has prepared a new [GI Mapping Tool](#) to assist local planning authorities to identify needs within their area.

Public Health England

1.26. Public Health England published its report 'Improving access to greenspace: A new review for 2020'. The report seeks to highlight the role of greenspace in supporting healthy lifestyles and reducing inequality, to support engagement across local government and communities and to recommend actions to facilitate improved access to greenspaces. The report identifies the links between deprivation, poor mental and physical health to poor access to good quality public green space. Clearly, the recent Covid-19 pandemic has further reinforced the importance of greenspaces for local communities.

Local Planning Policy

1.27. The Core Strategy seeks to improve access to and the provision of open spaces and sports facilities. Core Strategy Policy CS15 seeks to provide and protect community assets and infrastructure. The Core Strategy also identifies that open spaces are integral to enhancing the natural environment and ensuring that new development contributes to well-designed, distinctive places. Building on this, the Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) introduces: 'Policy H4: Open space provision for new housing development'.

Policy H4 on Open Space Provision for New Housing Development

Policy H4: Open space provision for new housing development

New residential developments will be expected to make provision for publicly accessible recreational open space to the following standards.

- a. **103 square metres per dwelling, comprising approximately:**
 - **24% for outdoor sport;**
 - **18% for informal amenity green space;**
 - **6% for suitably equipped children's play space;**
 - **2% for allotments;**
 - **10% for parks and gardens; and**
 - **40% for accessible natural green space.**
- b. **This provision will generally be expected to be provided on site, except to the extent that the size, circumstances and surroundings render this impractical or undesirable, in which case an equivalent financial contribution will be required for the improvement or enhancement of public open space provision in the locality.**
- c. **Flexibility may be provided in the balance between on and off-site provision, and between the types of open space, in the light of the nature of the development and the availability of existing recreational play space in the vicinity. Developments of 20 dwellings and above, however, will generally be expected to meet the requirement for children's play space on or adjacent to the site (i.e. other requirements may, subject to the foregoing criteria, be provided elsewhere).**

- d. **Robust arrangements for the management and maintenance of the on-site provision in perpetuity will be required to be demonstrated. (This will not be relevant where a financial contribution is accepted in lieu of the whole of normal on-site provision.) This requirement may be met by:**
- **the Borough Council's agreement to adopt recreation space, which will require a minimum of 20 years financial contribution paid to it for by the developer in advance of adoption; or**
 - **an agreement with the relevant Parish or Town Council for it to adopt the space and commit to (for which it may require an appropriate financial contribution from the developer); or**
 - **the establishment of an adequately funded private management entity with responsibility for its maintenance and management in perpetuity.**
- e. **Acceptability of a financial contribution in lieu of on-site provision will be dependent on meeting the following additional requirements:**
- **a development that contains sufficient space to ensure a high standard of layout and amenity to the residents and neighbours of the proposed development and to ensure it integrates well into the wider landscape or townscape setting; and**
 - **a reasonable prospect of delivery of appropriate off-site provision in the locality in the near future, having regard to the amount of the financial contribution, the existence of administrative arrangements for delivery, and (where relevant) the availability of suitable land.**
- f. **All types of outdoor open space should seek to enhance biodiversity by improving the potential for habitat connectivity.**
A Supplementary Planning Document will be produced by the Borough Council to provide further detail and guidance on providing open space in new residential development.

1.28. The requirement is 103 square metres, and this is split down into percentages of different types of open space. The following section will explain how this quantity standard has been calculated.

1.29. Policy E3 protects open spaces largely in line with national policy.

Biodiversity

1.30. Biodiversity is a collective term that refers to all of the natural world and all living organisms within it, including plants, animals, bacteria and micro-organisms. Clearly, open spaces have an impact on biodiversity, particularly in urban areas where opportunities for habitats may be extremely limited. Open spaces form part of a wider network of green infrastructure, supporting green corridors and wildlife networks. Some open spaces provide much better value for biodiversity than others.

- 1.31. National planning policy seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity, avoiding harm or loss to the most important habitats. The emerging Environmental Act brings forward biodiversity net gain which will require new development to secure measurable improvements for biodiversity on or off site. Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) will be prepared to map out current biodiversity levels and identify opportunities for enhancement.
- 1.32. ‘Policy GSP5: Internationally protected habitats and species impact avoidance and mitigation’ and ‘Policy GSP6: Green Infrastructure’ – may seek further open space provision (beyond Policy H4) where it is necessary to mitigate potential impacts on internationally designated sites of biodiversity importance. One way to address such issues is to provide or incentivise access to Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs). In taking such action, the Borough Council will have regard to Natural England’s best practice.
- 1.33. Further work is being undertaken at a more strategic level, across the County, to identify opportunities to enhance areas of strategic importance and mitigate County-wide impacts upon National Site Network designated habitat sites from recreational disturbance caused by residential and tourist development. The document, Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy, is also known as the ‘Norfolk GIRAMS’.

3. Required standards

Quantity Standards

- 1.34. The open space standards and requirements are already established through a combination of evidence documents including the ‘Open Space Study’ (2013) and ‘Sport, Play and Leisure’ Strategy (2015), combined with best practice set out in the [Fields in Trust \(FiT\) standards – ‘Guidance for outdoor sport and play: Beyond the six acre standard’](#).
- 1.35. With the exception of accessible natural greenspace, the open space standards are based on the findings and recommendations of these local evidence documents. This is because evidence had indicated a much higher standard (approximately 16ha per 1,000 population) which was based on access to existing semi-natural areas that on reflection are not considered to be easily accessible (primarily the Broads network).
- 1.36. The standards are still considered to be appropriate based on the updated audit and there is no available evidence to suggest they should change.

Open Space Study (2013) Recommendations

Open Space	Ha/Per 1000 Population	m2/per 1000 Population	m2/Per Person
Urban Parks & Gardens	0.4	4,000	4

Accessible Natural Greenspace	16	160,000	160
Outdoor Sport	1.2	12,000	12
Amenity Greenspace	0.8	8,000	8
Children's Play Space	0.2	2,000	2
Allotments	0.18	1,800	1.8
Totals	18.78	18,7800	187.8

1.37. The 2015 Sport, Play and Leisure Strategy sought to drill down further the open space needs covering indoor sport and leisure provision, children's play and open space, and outdoor playing pitches. The strategy provided a set of recommendations for local standards as follows:

Sport, Play and Leisure Strategy (2015) Recommendations

Open Space	Ha/Per 1000 Population	m2/per 1000 Population	m2/Per Person
Grass Pitch Provision	1.067	10,670	10.67
Children's Play Space	0.2	2,000	2
Informal Amenity Greenspace	0.8	8,000	8
Accessible Natural Greenspace	16	160,000	160
Allotments	0.18	1,800	1.8
Totals	18.247	182,470	182.47

1.38. While both local evidence documents provided a strong platform to meet open space needs with clear standards, there is a concern that both documents seek to over-provide 'accessible natural greenspace'. This may have been misrepresented through the audit of existing spaces by including areas of the Borough around the Broads network that are not publicly accessible. A further complication arises in that it would be extremely difficult to provide this high standard of 160sqm per person (estimated at 370sqm per household), owing to both the lack of space within the Borough to provide such spaces and the limited viability of development to afford such requirements.

1.39. The FiT benchmark standards are similar, with the exception of accessible natural greenspace, which is significantly lower.

Fields in Trust 'benchmark' standards (2015)

Open Space	Ha/Per 1000 Population	m2/per 1000 Population	m2/Per Person
Outdoor Sport	1.60	16,000	16
Children's Play Space	0.55	5,500	5.5
Informal Amenity Greenspace	0.6	6,000	6
Allotments	0.3	3,000	3
Parks and Gardens	0.8	8,000	8
Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.8	18,000	18
Totals	5.65	56,500	56.5

1.40. The accessible natural green space standard from the Fields and Trust is a much more realistic target for provision in the Borough and this will align provision with national best practice. The remaining standards appear to broadly align with the FiT benchmarks. On this basis, the accessible natural greenspace figure of 1.8ha per 1,000 population (or 18m per person) is taken to be a more appropriate requirement and is to be combined with the local standard recommendations.

Combined open space policy requirements

Open Space	GY Ha/Per 1000 Population	m2/per 1000 Population	m2/Per Person
Outdoor Sport	1.067	10670	10.67
Children's Play Space	0.2	2000	2
Informal Amenity Greenspace	0.8	8000	8
Allotments	0.18	1800	1.8
Parks and Gardens	0.4	4000	4
Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.8	18000	18
Totals	4.447	44470	44.47

1.41. To set a requirement per household, the above standards have been applied to the average household size (current ONS data calculates this as 2.31 persons per

household), this can be done by simply multiplying the metre squared requirement by person by the average household size. The result is 103 square metres of open space per household.

1.42. The policy has proportioned the requirements across each type of open space. The proportions were rounded up as appropriate to total 100%.

Open space requirements per household

Open Space	GY Ha/Per 1000 Population	m2/per 1000 Population	m2/Per Person	m2/Per Household	% Requirement for Policy
Outdoor Sport	1.067	10670	10.67	24.65	24
Children's Play Space	0.2	2000	2	4.62	6
Informal Amenity Greenspace	0.8	8000	8	18.48	18
Allotments	0.18	1800	1.8	4.16	2
Parks and Gardens	0.4	4000	4	9.24	10
Accessible Natural Greenspace	1.8	18000	18	41.58	40
Totals	4.447	44470	44.47	103	100

Quality Standards

1.43. To assess quality, a set of criteria has been identified, having regard to national and local guidance (such as the Green Flag Award). Each of the criteria were then scored 1-5 based on a consistent, objective assessment. The scores were then appropriately weighted according to the most important criteria associated with the typology of open space.

Accessibility Standards

1.44. Accessibility standards are set out in Appendix D of the Local Plan Part 2 and are derived from the Open Space Study (2013) and Sport, Play & Leisure Strategy (2015). These standards were set following a previous audit of the Borough's open spaces using the methodology suggested in PPG17 and national benchmark standards. The standards remain relevant in the Fields in Trust national benchmarks and have therefore been carried forward to this assessment.

1.45. **Children's play space** can vary according to the intended age range; therefore, accessibility is considered in straight line distances as follows:

- Junior (ages 0-8) up to 100m

- Intermediate (ages 6-12) up to 300m
- Senior (ages 8-14) up to 600m
- Teen facilities up to 1km.

1.46. **Informal amenity green space** should be considered accessible by residents or workers within the following straight line distances:

- Sites up to 1ha within 150m
- Sites 1-3ha within 200m
- Sites 3-10ha within 500m

1.47. **Parks & Gardens** are primarily located in urban areas, and should be considered accessible based on the following:

Percentage Population	Catchment Radius	Park Size
20%	500m	Neighbourhood
25%	1km	Middle order
55%	2km	Strategic

1.48. **Allotments** are local facilities serving local catchment populations, in

particular those with little garden space, it was assumed that an acceptable distance to travel would be about 900 metres (which equates to roughly a 15 minute walk or a short car journey).

1.49. The Borough Council applies the Natural England recommended standards for **Accessible Natural Green Space**. Every person should have access to:

- At least 2 ha in size, no more than 300 metres (5 mins walk) from home
- At least one accessible 20 ha site within 2 km of home
- One accessible 100 ha site within 5 km of home
- One accessible 500 ha site within 10 km of home
- A minimum of 1 ha of statutory Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population

1.50. The standards are still considered to be appropriate based on the updated audit and there is no available evidence to suggest they should change.

4. Children's play space

1.51. Children's play spaces are areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters. They are usually formally laid out and often feature equipment and are enclosed/fenced areas.

1.52. The play areas in the borough are defined according to age groupings of 0-8 years (Junior), 6-12 years (Intermediate), 8-14 years (Senior), and 14+ (Teen). Fields In Trust (FiT) has identified three categories of equipped play:

- Local Areas for Play (LAPs) – small area of play (approx. 100m²)
- Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAPs) – play area (approx. 400m²)
- Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAPs) – large play area (approx. 1,000m²) with at least 8 types of play equipment

1.53. Broadly speaking, LAPs will be appropriate only for junior ages, LEAPs are suitable for some junior and intermediate children, while NEAPs can cater for junior, intermediate and senior children. It is anticipated that achieving a junior play space that is accessible for all residents within 100m is highly unlikely. While this report can make recommendations towards better provision, this particular standard is somewhat aspirational.

1.54. There are also Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) which are enclosed hard surfaced areas to be used for playing sports such as football, tennis, basketball, and netball. Skate parks are purpose built play area to support activities using skateboards, scooters, in-line skates and BMX cycles usually containing half and quarter pipes, sliding rails, bowls, and banking and other hard surfaced equipment. Such facilities have the potential to cater for some of the need in each of the age categories, including teens.

Quantity of equipped play space

1.55. Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) Policy H4 requires **0.2ha per 1,000 population**, which equates to 2m² per person or 4.62m² per household.

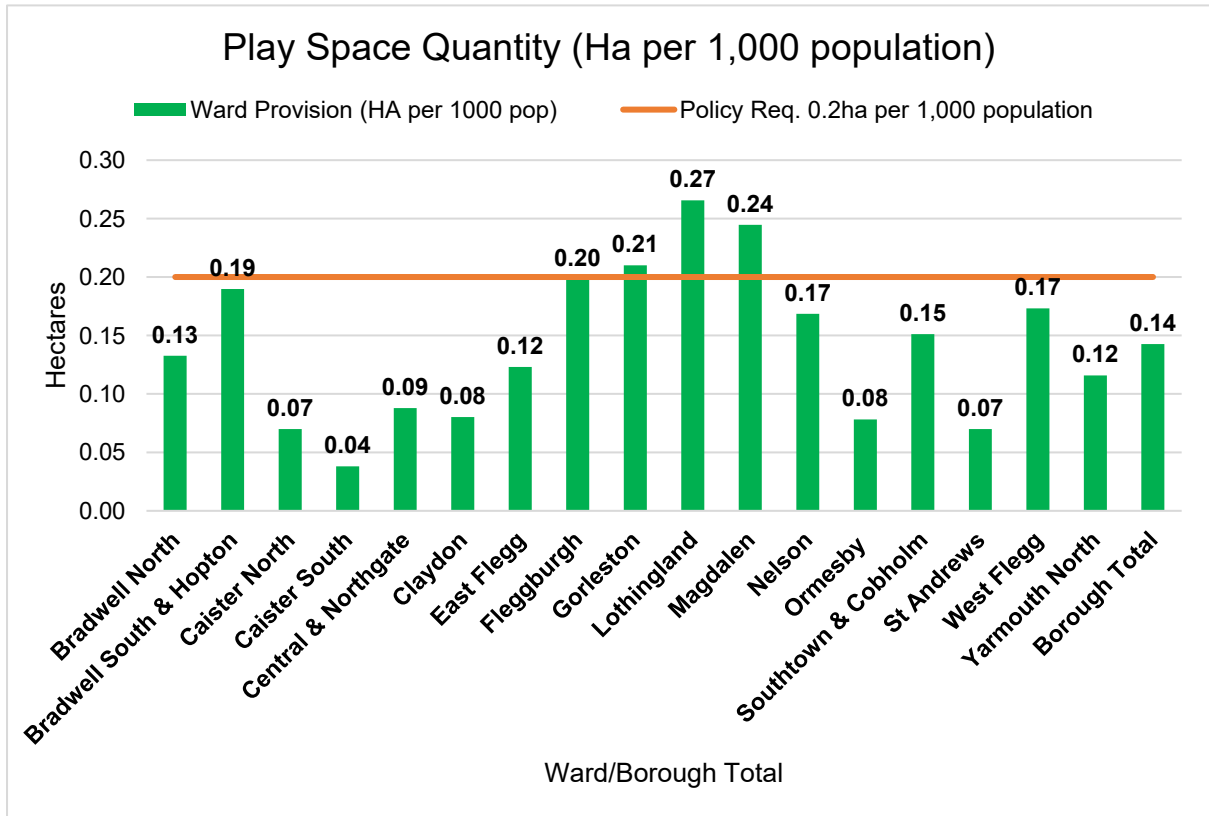
1.56. There are currently 97 publicly accessible children's play areas in the Borough across a total area of 14.15ha. Though provision is not distributed evenly across the Borough, both in terms of area and the population that it serves. Only three wards within the Borough have a surplus in provision (note that Fleggburgh has been rounded and is just below the standard), those being the wards of Gorleston, Lothingland, and Magdalen. However, in these wards the surpluses are likely to turn to deficits due to the allocations in the Local Plan and existing committed development.

Play space provision

Ward	Provision (Ha)	Population ¹	Ward Provision (Ha per 1000 pop)	Surplus / Deficit (Ha)
Bradwell North	0.84	6355	0.13	-0.07
Bradwell South & Hopton	1.39	7307	0.19	-0.01
Caister North	0.31	4382	0.07	-0.13
Caister South	0.17	4592	0.04	-0.16
Central & Northgate	0.78	8853	0.09	-0.11
Claydon	0.61	7605	0.08	-0.12
East Flegg	0.59	4809	0.12	-0.08
Fleggburgh	0.50	2525	0.20	0.00
Gorleston	1.10	5249	0.21	0.01
Lothingland	1.39	5222	0.27	0.07
Magdalen	1.84	7530	0.24	0.04
Nelson	1.62	9608	0.17	-0.03
Ormesby	0.34	4313	0.08	-0.12
Southtown & Cobholm	0.90	5931	0.15	-0.05
St Andrews	0.37	5304	0.07	-0.13
West Flegg	0.87	5039	0.17	-0.03
Yarmouth North	0.53	4574	0.12	-0.08
Borough Total	14.15	99198	0.14	-0.06

¹ 2020 Ward Level Population Estimates (Source ONS)

Bar chart identifying play space provision



1.57. There is no clear pattern to where there is a surplus or deficit in play space provision. Though clearly, it is easier to meet play space needs in a ward such as Fleggburgh where the population is much smaller and therefore the needs can be met with fewer sites and less land. Conversely, a densely packed urban ward may have limited space for play and a large population to provide for, such as in the wards of Claydon and Central & Northgate.

1.58. Investment into new play space provision will be required in Wards where there is an identified quantity deficit. Where possible, consideration needs to be given to improving existing site offers where appropriate and having regard to the accessibility of surrounding residents. For example, this could be achieved on runoff areas of play fields or other types of open space, to expand children’s play.

1.59. There may be the potential to consolidate the offer of play space in the Wards of Gorleston, Lothingland and Magdalen. This will be subject to further consideration of accessibility for residents including those from adjacent Wards where there may be an identified deficit. The other crucial indicator is the provision of play spaces between age groups as some Wards lack facilities for older children in particular.

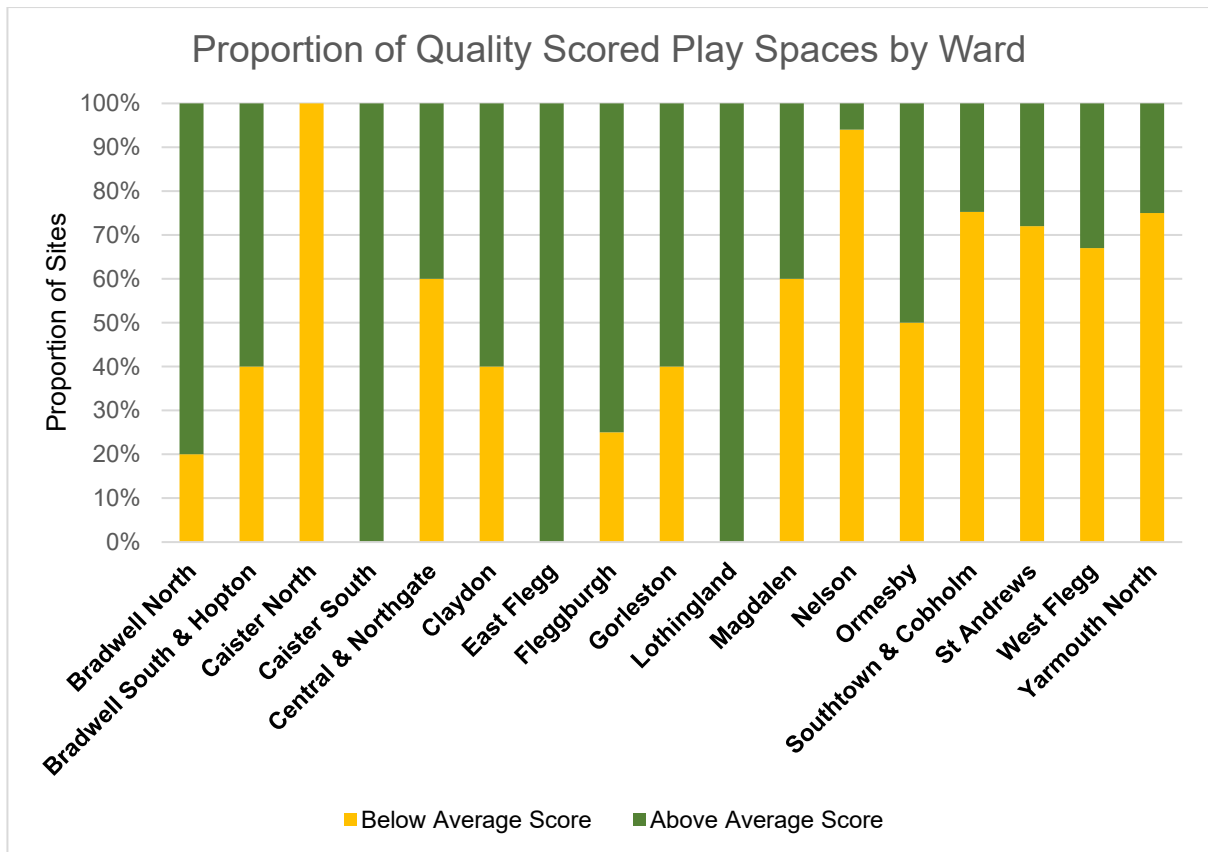
Quality of play spaces

1.60. Each of the play space sites has been assessed by 11 quality criteria having had regard to the [Green Flag](#) and [Play England](#) standards. These were:

- Play equipment variety
- Play equipment condition
- Safety of equipment and facilities
- Access and facilities for those with disabilities
- Landscaping & planting
- Site security
- Benches
- Bins
- Visual appeal
- Litter & graffiti
- Lighting

1.61. The criteria were then scored 1-5 with the exception of the top four criteria in the above list which had double score weighting to reflect their importance (over the other criteria) in understanding the overall quality of each site. The maximum number of points scored for an individual site was 75. The score was then calculated as a percentage to simplify quality categorisation. Anything above a 50% score (broadly the median score for the borough) is considered to meet the quality standard

1.62. There is no clear spatial pattern between the Wards as to which scored better in quality. Generally, however, the urban Wards have scored worse, with Great Yarmouth Wards unable to score within the good to very good categories. These findings are not necessarily surprising as these will be more populous areas under greater pressure for use. This does highlight the need to improve the quality of play spaces, not just in Great Yarmouth but across the Borough. The below chart illustrates the findings as a proportion of the sites surveyed within each Ward.



1.63. While there are clear deficits in most Wards, with the exceptions of Caister South, East Flegg and Lothingland, there are some Wards in greater need of quality enhancement. Priority areas to improve quality could include those Wards with high proportions of below average spaces. However, more focused attention will need to be given to a site by site level. The Wards with particularly low quality of play spaces include:

- Caister North
- Central & Northgate
- Magdalen
- Nelson
- Southtown & Cobholm
- St Andrews
- West Flegg
- Yarmouth North

Accessibility of play space

1.64. As set out in section 1, the accessibility of play spaces is further sub-categorised by the age of the children that the site caters for:

- Junior (ages 0-8) up to 100m
- Intermediate (ages 6-12) up to 300m
- Senior (ages 8-14) up to 600m
- Teen facilities up to 1km.

1.65. Each play space will differ as to whether it is suitable for use within the age categories. Some play spaces can cater for multiple ages, others have much more age focused equipment.

1.66. The full accessibility results can be viewed on a map [here](#). The following paragraphs provide a summary of how accessible each type of play space is within each Ward.

Accessibility of play space – Bradwell North Ward

1.67. There are five identified play space sites within this ward.

Bradwell North Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	12	88
Intermediate	55	45
Senior	68	32
Teen	99	1

1.68. Only a small proportion (12%) of properties have access to the junior play spaces within the ward within 100m. Provision is concentrated to the west of Mill Lane and either side of Gapton Hall Road. Consequently, there are gaps in accessibility around Willow Avenue, Homefield Avenue, the east side of Mill Lane and Victoria Avenue.

1.69. There are five identified intermediate sites in this ward. The 200m catchments have a reasonably good coverage, although there is a gap in accessibility around Homefield Avenue up to Wren Drive.

- 1.70. There are two adjacent senior children’s play areas at the playing field west of Mill Lane. The resulting inaccessible spots are north of Burgh Road and north and south of Lynn Grove High School.
- 1.71. The teen facilities (adjacent areas) at the playing field west of Mill Lane are accessible to all residential properties within the ward at the 1km catchment.
- 1.72. It should be noted that some of the areas lacking provision are within the proximity of Lynn Grove High School and Hillside Primary School. The schools themselves may contain open space facilities (often including play equipped space) but these are not generally available for public use and have therefore been excluded from the assessment.
- 1.73. Despite the lack of accessibility for junior and intermediate play spaces, the ward does have a reasonable spread of play facilities. The extent of existing development will limit opportunities for further provision within the ward. However, there could be scope for additional provision through new allocations as part of a review of the Local Plan

Accessibility of play space – Bradwell South & Hopton Ward

- 1.74. There are ten sites within the ward, with a split between the provision in the parishes of Bradwell and Hopton.

Bradwell South & Hopton Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	17	83
Intermediate	62	38
Senior	86	14
Teen	99	1

- 1.75. Only a small proportion (17%) of properties have access to the nine junior play spaces within the ward within 100m. Provision is concentrated around Green Lane, Primrose Way and Burnet Road in Bradwell and Anglian Way, Seafields Drive, Julian Way and Watsons Close in Hopton. There are consequently accessibility gaps north of Sun Lane and Clover Way in Bradwell. Provision around Beacon Park will come forward through the development of the housing allocation. There are gaps in Hopton around Potters Drive and Old Church Road.
- 1.76. Nine sites cater for intermediate age play. This provides reasonable coverage with a few gaps along Chestnut Avenue and south of Kings Drive in Bradwell, as well as south of Misburgh Way in Hopton.

1.77. Five sites provide good coverage at senior age play with Bradwell mostly being covered, bar a few small pockets of housing falling outside the 600m buffer, such as along Howards Way. There are a few remaining gaps, such as around Seaview Rise in Hopton.

1.78. The five teen facilities cover nearly all properties within the ward.

1.79. Despite the lack of accessibility for junior play spaces, the ward does have a reasonable spread of play facilities. The extent of existing development will limit opportunities for further provision within the ward. However, there could be scope for additional provision through new allocations as part of a review of the Local Plan

Accessibility of play space – Caister North Ward

1.80. There are three main play sites within the ward.

Caister North Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	5	95
Intermediate	31	69
Senior	59	41
Teen	100	0

1.81. Junior facilities are only accessible to 5% of residents within the ward within the 100m catchment. Consequently, accessibility is constrained to only a limited number of properties adjacent the recreation ground to the west side of the ward and along Webster Way.

1.82. Intermediate play jumps to just under a third of the surrounding properties with provision focussed just north of John Grant School and Webster Way. There are consequent gaps north of Halt Road and south of St George’s Drive.

1.83. Some properties in the south of the ward benefit from senior play provision within Caister South. Gaps remain around Second Avenue as well as south and south-west of Breydon Way.

1.84. Teen facilities have full ward coverage at a 1km catchment and the south part of Caister North benefits from coverage that extends into it from Caister South ward.

1.85. While opportunities for junior and intermediate play are limited within the ward, there are alternative forms of open space which unequipped, may help to meet some recreational needs. There are also further play spaces located within school grounds

and holiday parks, though as these are not publicly accessible they have been excluded from the identified sites.

Accessibility of play space – Caister South Ward

1.86. There are two main play sites within the ward.

Caister South Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	5	95
Intermediate	41	59
Senior	62	38
Teen	96	4

1.87. Junior facilities are only accessible to 5% of residents within the ward at the 100m catchment. Consequently, accessibility is constrained to only a limited number of properties adjacent the King George’s Field and along the Coxswain Read Way area of the ward.

1.88. Intermediate play rises significantly to 41% of the surrounding properties. There are consequent gaps south of Norwich Road and either side of the High Street.

1.89. Senior play caters for approximately two thirds of the ward, with gaps remaining around the Upper Grange Crescent area and south of Buildings Road.

1.90. Teen facilities cover nearly all properties within the ward.

1.91. Opportunities for junior play, in particular, are limited within the ward. There are alternative forms of recreation space which unequipped, may help to meet some of these play needs including the beach, Caister Junior School, Caister Academy, the fields below Westerley Way, and the nearby Caister Roman Fort.

Accessibility of play space – Central & Northgate Ward

1.92. There are five play sites within the ward, with the Middlegate estate considered as a sing

Central & Northgate Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	13	87

Intermediate	68	32
Senior	53	47
Teen	92	8

- 1.93. Junior facilities are accessible to 13% of residents within the Ward at the 100m catchment, with only properties around George Street, Town Wall Road, the north part of Alderson Road and a small part of North Denes Road to the north having coverage.
- 1.94. Intermediate play jumps to 68% of the surrounding properties. Some of the catchment provision is received from Nelson Ward sites. There are still consequent gaps through Great Yarmouth Town Centre, north of Middle Market Road and west of North River Road.
- 1.95. Only one site caters for senior children’s play, this being located along North Drive. There is a consequent gap in provision in the north-west of the ward, east and west of Northgate Street.
- 1.96. Teen facilities cover nearly all properties within the ward.
- 1.97. Opportunities for junior play, in particular, are limited within the ward. There are alternative forms of recreation space which unequipped, may help to meet some of these play needs including the whole of Beaconsfield Recreation Ground and the beach.
- 1.98. The facility at George Street has limited accessibility, and any play space facilities delivered as part of redevelopment of North Quay may help to provide a better offer to nearby residents.

Accessibility of play space – Claydon Ward

- 1.99. There are five play sites within the ward.

Claydon Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	11	89
Intermediate	62	38
Senior	76	24
Teen	100	0

- 1.100. Junior facilities are accessible to 11% of residents within the ward at the 100m catchment, leaving big gaps in coverage throughout the ward.

- 1.101. Intermediate play jumps to 62% of the surrounding properties. There are still gaps around Burnt Lane, Burgh Road, Westbrook Avenue and Mayflower Way.
- 1.102. Whilst the only senior play space within the ward is at Southtown Common to the north of the ward, the ward benefits from play space catchments within adjacent wards. A gap in provision still remains around the Claydon Grove area.
- 1.103. Teen facilities have full ward coverage at a 1km catchment.
- 1.104. The ward generally has good accessibility to play spaces, though the junior space is limited. The two spaces south of Crab Lane are close together with overlaying catchments serving the same community, which may suggest that there may be the potential to consolidate the offer. The gaps in accessibility may be to some extent mitigated by alternative spaces such as Wroughton Junior Academy and Veronica Green, and nearby areas such as Meadow Park and Gorleston Recreation Ground. It is therefore otherwise recommended that the play facilities within the ward are maintained.

Accessibility of play space – East Flegg Ward

- 1.105. There are four play sites within the ward.

East Flegg Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	9	91
Intermediate	45	55
Senior	58	42
Teen	0	100

- 1.106. Junior facilities are only accessible to 9% of residents within the ward at the 100m catchment therefore most properties are located outside of the accessible catchment. This is more likely to be an issue in the parishes of Winterton-on-Sea and Hemsby which are much larger settlements than Somerton.
- 1.107. Intermediate play jumps to 45% of the surrounding properties at the 300m catchment. Again, there is significant difference between the settlements as Somerton and Winterton-on-Sea have good coverage, whilst Hemsby has clear accessibility gaps in the north, east and western points of the settlement.
- 1.108. There are only two senior play sites, one each within Hemsby and Winterton-on-Sea. There are consequent gaps in the east of Hemsby and the settlement of Somerton.

1.109. There are no teen facilities within the East Flegg Ward. As the most populous settlement within the ward, if such provision were provided then Hemsby would be the most appropriate place to do this.

1.110. While junior play accessibility is limited within the ward, it is a rural area and local residents would be more likely to travel a bit further to access facilities. Additionally, alternative open spaces within the settlements may help to meet such needs.

Accessibility of play space – Fleggburgh Ward

1.111. There are four play sites within the ward.

Fleggburgh Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	6	94
Intermediate	32	68
Senior	31	69
Teen	34	66

1.112. Junior facilities are only accessible to 6% of residents within the ward at the 100m catchment. Consequently, accessibility is limited and does not meet the standards of many residents within the settlements of Fleggburgh and Filby. In addition, Thrigby and Billockby have no coverage at all.

1.113. Intermediate play rises to 32% of properties. There are gaps around The Village to the east of Burgh St Margaret and to its north in the Margaret’s Way area and east and west of Rollesby Road. Coverage gaps exist south of Filby along Thrigby Road, starting from half-way between York Villa Close and The Loke and continuing further south. There is also a significant gap to the east of Filby along Main Road to the north and south respectively. There are gaps around Low Road and Barn Lane in Runham as well as north-east of Stokesby along Mill Road and to its east along Filby Road. Again, there is no coverage at all in Thrigby or Billockby.

1.114. The only senior play area is situated in Burgh St Margaret in the north-west of the ward.

1.115. Teen facilities cover nearly all properties within Burgh St Margaret but there is no other teen play space coverage in the rest of the ward.

1.116. While play space accessibility is limited within the ward, it is a very rural area comprising smaller settlements and local residents would be more likely to travel a bit further to access local facilities, particularly in the larger villages of Fleggburgh and

Filby. Additionally, alternative open spaces within the settlements may help to meet such needs.

- 1.117. Opportunities could be explored to expand on Filby’s play space offer to cater for older children, though it is unlikely that demand will be particularly high given the small size of the settlement. Demand in Stokesby and Runham is likely to be very limited.

Accessibility of play space – Gorleston Ward

- 1.118. There are five main play sites within the ward, with each being located along Gorleston Cliffs.

Gorleston Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	7	93
Intermediate	33	67
Senior	59	41
Teen	98	2

- 1.119. Junior facilities are only accessible to 7% of residents within the ward at the 100m catchment. Consequently, accessibility is out of range for most properties north of Park Road and to the south of the ward, south of Bridge Road.

- 1.120. Intermediate play rises to 33% of the surrounding properties. There are consequent gaps south of Arnott Avenue, in the Kennedy Avenue area and south of Cliff Park Ormiston Academy.

- 1.121. Senior play caters for over half of the ward with gaps lying in the north of the ward around the Upper Cliff Road area and in the south of the ward around Links Road. The south-west of the ward benefits from some adjacent ward coverage.

- 1.122. Teen facilities cover nearly all properties within the ward with the only gap situated around the Kennel Loke area.

- 1.123. Play spaces within this Ward are centred around the cliffs. However, these areas do benefit from access to other spaces that may help to meet needs including: the former rail trackway running alongside Vitoria Road to Bridge Road, Cliff Park Academy, the open space at Mariner’s Compass, Beacon Park Playground, and any potential further space delivered through the development south of Links Road (which is allocated in the Local Plan Part 2).

Accessibility of play space – Lothingland Ward

1.124. There are four main play sites within the ward.

Lothingland Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	11	89
Intermediate	37	63
Senior	67	33
Teen	76	24

1.125. Junior facilities are accessible to 11% of residents within the ward at the 100m catchment. Consequently, accessibility is not available to many properties in Burgh Castle as a whole as well as in the west of Belton and around the St Georges Road area to its north-east. Areas to the north of Fritton, north of Forest Mount off New Road have no coverage, as well as to the area south-west of the Decoy Tavern Public House and east of it along Beccles Road and Church Lane.

1.126. Intermediate play rises to 37% of surrounding properties. Whilst there is slightly more coverage in Burgh Castle, large parts of it remain inaccessible to intermediate play space. There are gaps also in the south of Belton, north of Station Road South, to the east (north and south of Heather Gardens) and to the north-east (in the area west of Church Lane).

1.127. There is only one senior play area in the ward which covers almost all properties in Belton. This leaves gaps in Burgh Castle and Fritton.

1.128. The one teen facility covers all properties within Belton but again leaves gaps everywhere else in the ward.

1.129. While play space accessibility is limited within the ward, it is a very rural area comprising smaller settlements and local residents would be more likely to travel a bit further to access local facilities, particularly in the larger village of Belton. Alternative open spaces within the settlement of Belton may help to meet needs outside of the accessibility range.

1.130. Burgh Castle is a small, dispersed settlement with likely a small corresponding demand. The play space along Church Road will cater for residents in that part of the village, with residents in the south benefitting from foot access to Belton. Fritton, another small settlement is catered by a single site. Neither settlement is likely to have sufficient demand to justify further play facilities for older children/teenagers.

1.131. St Olaves lacks an equipped play space. The village is small and unlikely to have great demand, however, should major residential development occur within the village, then such a facility could be delivered.

Accessibility of play space – Magdalen Ward

1.132. There are five main play sites within the ward.

Magdalen Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	9	91
Intermediate	52	48
Senior	94	6
Teen	100	0

1.133. Junior facilities are accessible to only 9% of residents within the ward at the 100m catchment. Consequently, accessibility is not in range of properties east and west of St Annes Crescent, there is no coverage in the area north of James Paget Hospital or along the east side of the ward.

1.134. Intermediate play rises significantly to over half of properties covered in the catchment area. There are still gaps north of James Paget Hospital and south of Clare Avenue and Stanley Avenue. The Elmgrove Road area to the east of the ward has no coverage either as well as the north-west side of the ward, north of Ormiston Herman Academy.

1.135. Senior play caters for 94% of the ward with the only pockets not covered situated in the Stanley Avenue and Gresham Close area to the east of the ward.

1.136. Teen facilities cover all properties within the ward with additional coverage from adjacent wards.

1.137. Despite the lack of properties benefitting from junior play space, accessibility is generally very good within the Ward.

1.138. The ward also benefits from good provision of amenity greenspaces such as Crowhall Green and at Elm Avenue, which may help to meet some remaining recreational needs. It is therefore otherwise recommended that all play facilities within the ward are maintained.

Accessibility of play space – Nelson Ward

1.139. There are sixteen play sites within the ward, though twelve of these are located within the Middlegate estate.

Nelson Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	35	65
Intermediate	95	5
Senior	100	0
Teen	100	0

1.140. Junior facilities are accessible to 35% of residents within the ward which is a much higher proportion than in other wards across the Borough for Junior play space. The gaps lie west of Marine Parade to the north of the ward, around the Newcastle Road area and south of Battery Road.

1.141. Intermediate play rises exponentially to 95% of the surrounding properties. The remaining gaps lie mainly to the south of Suffling Road and a few other tiny pockets of non-coverage scattered around the ward.

1.142. Senior play and teen facilities accommodate every property within the ward.

1.143. The ward generally has excellent accessibility to play spaces, with the exception of junior spaces. Clearly, the Middlegate Estate provides the potential to consolidate the provision of play spaces. Beyond those, the sites provide a decent distribution and are supported by other open spaces including St George's Park, Medieval Town Halls Open Space, St Nicholas Recreation Ground and the beach.

Accessibility of play space – Ormesby Ward

1.144. There are four main play sites within the ward.

Ormesby Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	7	93
Intermediate	34	66
Senior	20	80

Teen	9	91
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- 1.145. Junior facilities are only accessible to 7% of residents within the ward at the 100m catchment. Consequently, there is no accessibility in the ward west of West Road in Ormesby St Margaret, rendering Ormesby St Michael and the surrounding area uncovered. The residential area north of California has no coverage too as well as significant parts of Ormesby St Margaret, mainly north and south of Station Road and north of Cromer Road.
- 1.146. Intermediate play rises to just over a third of the surrounding properties covered by the catchment area. There are still gaps around the Spruce Avenue area to the west of Ormesby St Margaret and around the Leathway area to its east. There is still no coverage at all in the west part of the ward including Ormesby St Michael or east and south of Scratby Road.
- 1.147. The one senior play site covers the west side of Ormesby St Margaret only including most of Leathway and properties north and south of Station Road and part of Yarmouth Road is covered too. The rest of the ward is not covered.
- 1.148. There are no teen facilities in the ward but there is small coverage in the south-east of the ward in the Whitby Road, Yarmouth Road and Pascoe Drive area due to overlapping coverage from Caister North ward.
- 1.149. Play space provision within the ward is generally limited to accessibility within the settlement of Ormesby St Margaret only. Consequently, the settlement of Scratby would clearly benefit from equipped play provision. There may be potential for this to be provided on the village hall grounds.
- 1.150. The settlement of Ormesby St Michael is unlikely to create sufficient need to justify the provision of play facilities given its small size.
- 1.151. Within the settlement of Ormesby St Margaret there is a decent spread of younger children’s play facilities, but a lack of any teen facilities. Therefore, enabling development should consider the potential to provide teen facilities. It may be possible to achieve this on the existing main recreation space, The Edgar Tennant playing field.

Accessibility of play space – Southtown and Cobholm Ward

1.152. There are eight play sites within the ward.

Southtown and Cobholm Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	30	70

Intermediate	92	8
Senior	98	2
Teen	100	0

- 1.153. Junior facilities are accessible by just under a third of properties within the ward at the 100m catchment. The main gaps in coverage lie around the Waveney Road area to the south of the ward; from Gordon Road to Anson Road; and the Granville Road area.
- 1.154. Intermediate play enjoys an impressive 92% coverage of the surrounding properties. There are a few tiny pockets not covered around the ward and the main gap lies in the south-west Brinell Way area.
- 1.155. Senior play covers 98% of the ward and teen facilities cover all properties within the ward.
- 1.156. While junior play space accessibility is low amongst residents, the sites are dispersed across the ward. The main exception to this is at around Tollgate Road where there are two sites with overlapping access, which have the potential to be consolidated. Opportunities to expand provision are otherwise limited, but the ward does benefit from other open spaces at Cobholm Island, Herbert Barnes Park, the allotments, East Coast College, and Southtown Common just to the south of the ward.

Accessibility of play space – St Andrews Ward

- 1.157. There are seven main play sites within the ward.

St Andrews Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	20	80
Intermediate	59	41
Senior	67	33
Teen	100	0

- 1.158. Junior facilities are accessible to a fifth of all properties in the ward. Consequently, four fifths of the ward is not covered and the main gaps in coverage lie south of Duke Road all the way south to Downing Road to the ward's south. The England's Lane area and the area north of Baker Street to the east of the ward lack coverage too.
- 1.159. Intermediate play rises to 59% coverage with the Suffield Road area being the main gap in coverage.

- 1.160. Senior play caters for approximately two thirds of the ward with the main gaps lying in the Bells Road and Bells Marsh Road areas.
- 1.161. The one teen facility covers all properties within the ward and there is additional coverage provided by adjacent wards.
- 1.162. While junior play space accessibility is low amongst residents, the sites are reasonably well dispersed across the ward. There is, however, some overlap between the catchment of sites at East Anglia Way which may allow for the consolidation of spaces given their close proximity to each other. The equipment at Gorleston Recreation Ground provides a single destination offer.
- 1.163. Opportunities to expand provision are otherwise limited, but the ward does benefit from other open spaces at Gorleston Recreation Ground, Priory Gardens, St Andrew’s Church, Middleton Gardens, and the Gorleston Pier area.

Accessibility of play space – West Flegg Ward

- 1.164. There are six main play sites within the ward.

West Flegg Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	7	93
Intermediate	38	62
Senior	40	60
Teen	59	41

- 1.165. Junior facilities are only accessible to 7% of residents within the ward at the 100m catchment. Consequently, large parts of Martham are not covered such as the area around east and west of White Street; around Staithe Road to the north; the Sycamore Avenue area to the south; and many properties to the west, north and south of Station Gardens. The areas north of Low Road in Rollesby and to its east lack coverage as well as a large area to the north of Bastwick around High Road and Grove Road.
- 1.166. Intermediate play rises to over a third of the surrounding properties. The area east of Alder Avenue in Martham is still covered, however, as well as the area to its north around Bradfield Drive. The Romany Close area and the area to its south in Rollesby also do not have accessibility to intermediate play areas, as well as the area north of Bastwick. The vast majority of Thurne has coverage though.

- 1.167. The one senior play area caters for most of Martham except to its most westerly point and from Grove Road northwards. 60% of properties remain inaccessible to senior play space throughout the rest of the ward.
- 1.168. The one teen facility covers the majority of Martham but 41% of properties in the remainder of the ward are outside the catchment area.
- 1.169. While junior play accessibility is limited within the ward, it is a rural area and local residents would be more likely to travel a bit further to access facilities. Martham is also likely to benefit from new play space provision as part of recently permitted development schemes. Rollesby Neighbourhood Plan seeks to expand the open space offer as part of its residential development to join the two sections of the village. Such provision along with alternative open spaces within the settlements may help to meet such recreational needs.

Accessibility of play space – Yarmouth North Ward

- 1.170. There are four main play sites within the ward.

Yarmouth North Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Play Space	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Junior	18	82
Intermediate	7	93
Senior	0	100
Teen	4	96

- 1.171. Junior facilities are accessible to 18% of residents within the ward; the main gaps lie throughout the ward north of Jellicoe Road and to its immediate south.
- 1.172. Intermediate play only covers 7% of the ward to its south around the Salisbury Road area, rendering the vast majority of the ward inaccessible to intermediate play coverage.
- 1.173. There is no senior play accessibility in the ward at all and whilst there are no teen facilities in the ward, some coverage to the south is provided by an adjacent ward around the Salisbury Road area.
- 1.174. While the ward lacks accessibility to equipped play space, it does have good access to alternative open spaces including Bure Park, Barnard Bridge Sports Ground, North Denes (dunes and beach) and the local schools. Opportunities to provide senior children’s and teenager play spaces should be explored. There may be potential to achieve this within existing open space sites such as Bure Park or Fisher Avenue.

5. Informal Amenity Green Space

1.175. Informal amenity green space describes green space that is designed to soften the urban fabric, provide a setting for buildings, provide small wildlife habitats and allows for informal leisure activities. Amenity green spaces are public open spaces whose primary purpose is to improve and enhance the appearance of the local environment and improve the well-being of local residents.

1.176. Such spaces can be as simple as a grassed area with or without trees, benches, bins, and other features. They can be used for all sorts of recreation such as dog walking or for quiet reflection, but also casual play areas for children. Spaces that were extremely small or that provided no real amenity function, such as a verge separating road and pathway, have been excluded from the assessment.

Quantity of informal amenity green space

1.177. Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) Policy H4 requires **0.8ha per 1,000 population**, which equates to 8m per person or 18.48m per household.

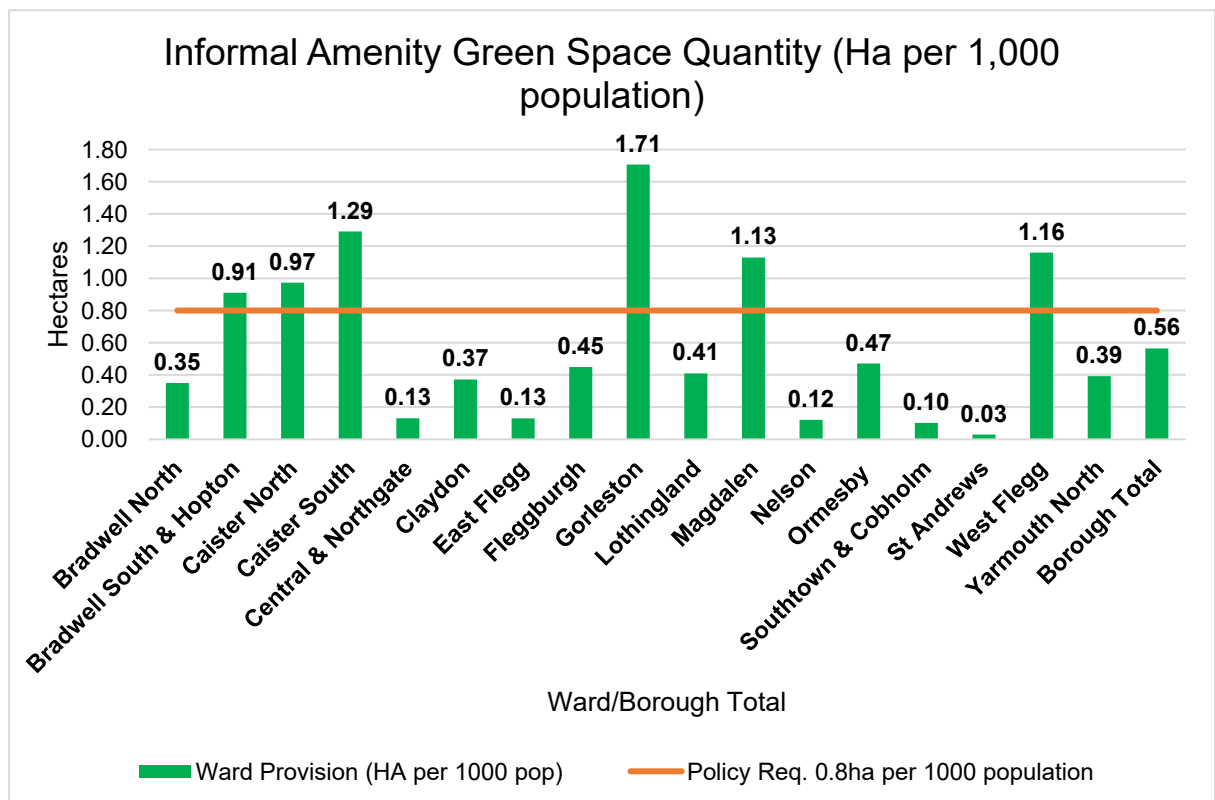
1.178. 200 Publicly accessible informal amenity green spaces have been recorded across the Borough. This represents a total area of 55.98ha across the Borough. Provision is, however, not distributed evenly across the Borough, both in terms of area and the population that it serves. There are identified surpluses in six wards, with a deficit in the remaining wards and within the Borough taken as a whole.

Informal amenity green space provision

Ward	Provision (Ha)	Population	Ward Provision (Ha per 1000 pop)	Surplus / Deficit (Ha)
Bradwell North	2.22	6355	0.35	-0.45
Bradwell South & Hopton	6.65	7307	0.91	0.11
Caister North	4.26	4382	0.97	0.17
Caister South	5.93	4592	1.29	0.49
Central & Northgate	1.15	8853	0.13	-0.67
Claydon	2.83	7605	0.37	-0.43
East Flegg	0.62	4809	0.13	-0.67
Fleggburgh	1.13	2525	0.45	-0.35

Gorleston	8.96	5249	1.71	0.91
Lothingland	2.14	5222	0.41	-0.39
Magdalen	8.50	7530	1.13	0.33
Nelson	1.16	9608	0.12	-0.68
Ormesby	2.03	4313	0.47	-0.33
Southtown & Cobholm	0.60	5931	0.10	-0.70
St Andrews	0.16	5304	0.03	-0.77
West Flegg	5.84	5039	1.16	0.36
Yarmouth North	1.79	4574	0.39	-0.41
Borough Total	55.98	99198	0.56	-0.24

Bar chart identifying informal amenity green space provision



1.179. There is no obvious pattern to explain where there is a surplus or deficit in informal amenity green space provision. It does, however, appear that deficits are more likely

within the urban wards where there is a lack of space (and a larger resident population to serve). Gorleston Ward is urban but has the largest provision, this is reflective of the extensive informal amenity green space that runs along Gorleston cliffs.

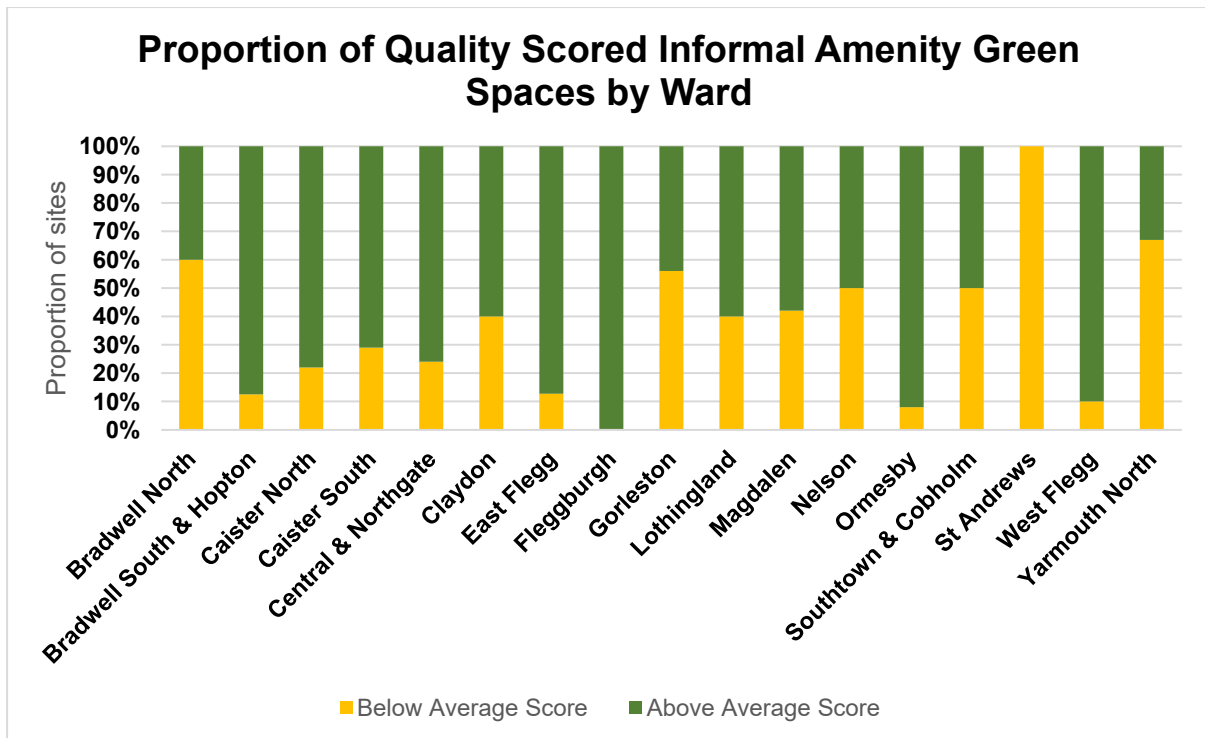
Quality of informal amenity green space

1.180. Each of the amenity space sites has been assessed by 9 quality criteria having had regard to the Green Flag standards. These were:

- Landscaping & planting
- Site security
- Benches
- Bins
- Visual appeal
- Safety of equipment and facilities
- Access and facilities for those with disabilities
- Litter & graffiti
- Lighting

1.181. The criteria were then scored 1-5 with the exception of the top five criteria in the above list which had doubled weighted scores to reflect their importance (over the other criteria) in understanding the overall quality of each site. The maximum number of points scored for an individual site was 70. The score was then calculated as a percentage to simplify quality categorisation. Anything above a 50% score (broadly the median score for the borough) is considered to meet the quality standard

1.182. There is no clear spatial pattern between the Wards as to which scored better in quality. Generally, however, the urban Wards have scored worse. These findings are not necessarily surprising as these will be more populous areas under greater pressure for use. This does highlight the need to improve the quality of informal amenity green spaces, not just in Great Yarmouth but across the Borough. The below chart illustrates the findings as a proportion of the sites surveyed within each Ward.



1.183. With the exception of Fleggburgh, every Ward has an identified deficit in quality, as emphasised by those spaces scoring below average. Priority areas to improve quality could include those Wards with higher proportions of below average spaces. However, more focused attention will need to be given at a site by site level. The Wards with particularly low quality of spaces include:

- Bradwell North
- Claydon
- Gorleston
- Lothingland
- Magdalen
- Nelson
- Southtown & Cobholm
- St Andrews
- Yarmouth North

Accessibility of informal amenity green space

1.184. As set out in section 1, informal amenity green space should be considered accessible by residents or workers within the following straight line distances:

- Sites up to 1ha within 150m
- Sites 1-3ha within 200m
- Sites 3-10ha within 500m

1.185. The full accessibility results can be viewed on a map [here](#). The following paragraphs provide a summary of how accessible each type of play space is within each Ward.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Bradwell North Ward

1.186. There are twenty identified informal amenity space sites within this ward.

Bradwell North Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	52	48
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	0	0

1.187. Just over half of the properties in the area lie within the 150m catchment area for access to up to 1 hectare of informal amenity green space.

1.188. The main gaps in coverage lie in the Hewett Road area west of Gapton Hall Road to the north of the ward, as well as north and east of Hillside Primary School to the south of the ward.

1.189. Almost half of the residents within the ward are therefore outside of the accessibility range for amenity space. There is, however, a large playing field west of Mill Lane which provides significant activity space including sports and children’s play, and the Lynn Grove High School contains a significant amount of open field space (albeit with a lack of public access).

1.190. Based on the availability of these alternative spaces, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Bradwell South & Hopton Ward

1.191. There are sixteen identified sites within the ward, with a split between the provision in the parishes of Bradwell and Hopton.

Bradwell South & Hopton Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	54	46
1-3ha within 200m	13	87

3-10ha within 500m	0	0
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- 1.192. Over half of properties in the ward enjoy good access to informal amenity space and Bradwell is particularly well covered. The areas to the north of Long Lane and Lord's Lane fall outside of the informal open space catchment areas. The Mace Road area to the south-east of Bradwell is also not covered, though this is within the Bradwell urban extension development under construction and may benefit from new open space provision as part of the development.
- 1.193. The area north-west of Hopton around Anglian Way is not covered as well as the Beach Road area. However, Hopton Recreation Ground is just west of Anglian Way, providing significant activity space including sports and children's play.
- 1.194. There is a 1-3 hectares area of informal greenspace north and west of Ormiston Venture Academy in which 13% of properties within the ward fall within its catchment area.
- 1.195. Based on the generally good coverage in Bradwell South and Hopton, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Caister North Ward

- 1.196. There are 9 identified sites within the ward.

Caister North Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	40	60
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	53	47

- 1.197. Two fifths of properties in the ward fall within the 1 hectare catchment area to access this amenity space whilst gaps lie to the north of the ward in the Second Avenue and Drift Road areas. The St Nicholas Drive area is also not covered.
- 1.198. There is a 3-10 hectare greenspace area in the Ward in which over half the properties in the ward fall inside its catchment area.
- 1.199. There is, however, significant provision of amenity provided by other forms of open space including access to the beach, Caister Cemetery and the full grounds of Caister Roman Fort.

1.200. Based on the availability of these other types of open space, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Caister South Ward

1.201. There are seven identified main sites within the ward.

Caister South Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	44	56
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	49	51

1.202. 44% of properties lie within 150 metres of informal amenity greenspace up to 1 hectare in size with gaps in coverage north and south of West Road, around the west side of the Braddock Road area and around Tan Lane.

1.203. There is one site 3-10 hectares in size and almost half of the properties within the ward lie within 500 metres of it.

1.204. While there is a lack of medium informal amenity greenspaces, accessibility gaps within the ward will be supplemented by other forms of open space such as the Caister Beach, King George V Playing Field and Caister Cemetery. On this basis, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Central & Northgate Ward

1.205. There are thirteen identified sites within the ward.

Central & Northgate Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	37	63
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	0	0

1.206. Over a third of properties lie within 150 metres of informal amenity greenspace up to 1 hectare in size; the main gaps lie around the Middle Market Road and St Francis Way areas to the south and west of Belvidere Road to the west of the New Cemetery.

1.207. There are no larger areas of amenity greenspace within the ward. There are, however, significant other types of open space including the sports fields at Beaconsfield Road, Wellesley Recreation Ground, North Denes, the Venetian Water Ways, and the Cemetery and Minster Grounds. As such, the lack of open space amenity provision is really focused in the southern area of the ward around North Quay and the town centre. Whilst these areas may lack natural forms of open space, they do contain civic spaces (often hard surfaces) that provide opportunities for recreation and enjoyment.

1.208. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Claydon Ward

1.209. There are fifteen identified sites within the ward.

Claydon Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	68	32
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	0	0

1.210. Over two thirds of properties within the ward are within the 150m catchment area to access the amenity greenspace across the ward. The main pockets lie in the Common Road area to the north-east of the ward, in the Cherry Road area and around the Selwyn Road area and to its east in the south-west portion of the ward.

1.211. There are no larger areas of amenity greenspace between 1 and 10 hectares in the ward. There are, however, significant other types of open space including the sports fields at Southtown Common, Gorleston Cemetery and in the adjacent Ward, Gorleston Recreation Ground.

1.212. Based on the availability of other types of open space, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – East Flegg Ward

1.213. There are fourteen identified sites within the ward.

East Flegg Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	40	60
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	0	0

1.214. Two fifths of properties within the ward lie within the 150m catchment area for informal amenity greenspace up to 1 hectare in size. Winterton has particularly good coverage with small pockets outside the catchment area, such as Low Road to the north and around the Bush Road area.

1.215. Hemsby has relatively good coverage but there are large areas not covered specifically by informal amenity spaces. There are, however, sites such as the playing field around the village hall, St Mary's Church, the beach and countryside access which also have the ability to meet peoples amenity space needs.

1.216. Somerton lacks any informal amenity provision but benefits from good access to the countryside and a play space adjacent the village hall.

1.217. Whilst there are no larger areas of amenity greenspace between 1 and 10 hectares in the ward, there is access to the beach, such as Winterton-Horsey Dunes, and the wider countryside with public rights of way.

1.218. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Fleggburgh Ward

1.219. There are four identified sites within the ward.

Fleggburgh Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	18	82
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	0	0

1.220. Only 18% of properties are within the 150m catchment area for informal amenity greenspace up to 150 metres, leaving over three quarters of properties outside of it. The Pound Lane, Main Road area of Filby has good coverage as does the area to the east of it from Grange Farm Close to Poplar Drive but all other housing in Filby to the east and west of those areas are outside the 150m catchment. Runham has fairly good coverage with two pockets on Mautby Lane and south of Short Lane not covered and Stokesby has reasonable coverage with areas on Mill Road and Filby Road falling outside of the catchment.

1.221. There are no larger areas of amenity greenspace between 1 and 10 hectares in the ward, though given the limited size of each settlement this is not unexpected.

1.222. There are, however, alternative forms of space within good catchment areas such as the playing field at Fleggburgh Village Hall, the recreation ground at Filby Village Hall, play spaces, churchyards and cemeteries and wider countryside access.

1.223. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards..

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Gorleston Ward

1.224. There are nine identified main sites within the ward.

Gorleston Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	58	42
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	69	31

1.225. Over half of properties in Gorleston ward are within 150m of informal amenity greenspace up to 1 hectare in size and the ward benefits from some coverage from an adjacent ward. North Road, and the area south of Links Road are outside of the catchment areas.

1.226. Whilst there are no sites 1-3 hectares in size in the ward, there are two sites 3-10 hectares in size that cover over two thirds of properties in the ward within the 500m catchment range. Only the area in the south-west of the ward around Mariner’s Compass is not covered. There are, however, other areas such as Bluebell Woods and Beacon Park Playground (albeit located in the adjacent ward), which help to address informal amenity space needs.

1.227. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Lothingland Ward

1.228. There are fifteen identified sites within the ward.

Lothingland Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	59	41
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	0	0

1.229. Whilst there are no sites between 1 to 10 hectares in size in the ward, the fifteen sites up to a hectare in size cover almost 60% of properties in the ward.

1.230. Belton has particularly good coverage with small gaps situated in the area to the immediate south of Moorlands Church of England Primary Academy, the St James Crescent area and to the west of the settlement around River Way, The Loke and Sharmans Loke.

1.231. Burgh Castle and Fritton lack any informal amenity spaces, but St Olaves has reasonable coverage with gaps existing on the west side of Priory Road and in the Priory Gardens area. This is, however, less of an issue when the accessible natural greenspaces are factored in, including the Roman Fort at Burgh Castle, Belton Common, areas at Fritton, and Lound Lakes.

1.232. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Magdalen Ward

1.233. There are nineteen identified sites within the ward.

Magdalen Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	69	31
1-3ha within 200m	18	82

3-10ha within 500m	32	68
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- 1.234. Over two thirds of the ward are covered by informal amenity sites up to a hectare in size with pockets outside the catchment area around the Hertford Way area in the north-west of the ward and there are other small pockets scattered around.
- 1.235. The ward benefits from a site between 1-3 hectares in size in the south of the ward just north of James Paget University Hospital covering almost a fifth of properties in the ward in total.
- 1.236. There is also a site to the east of the ward between 3-10 hectares in size which covers around a third of properties in the ward which are within 500 metres of it.
- 1.237. Whilst there is an accessibility issue from some properties in the north-west corner of the ward, there is the potential to access Magdalen Lawn Cemetery. The ward also benefits from a significant area of space at Magdalen Recreation Ground.
- 1.238. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Nelson Ward

- 1.239. There are twelve identified sites within the ward.

Nelson Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	55	45
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	0	0

- 1.240. Whilst there are no sites of 1 to 10 hectares in size within the ward, the twelve sites up to a hectare in size cover over half of properties within the ward.
- 1.241. The areas outside the catchment range mainly lie north and south of Yarmouth Way, Alexandra Road and Crown Road in the north as well as the area around Newcastle Road down to Main Cross Road further south in the ward. The ward does, however, benefit from access to alternative open spaces including St George's Park and St Nicholas Recreation Ground. The ward has access to a long stretch of Great Yarmouth Beach and significant areas of civic spaces (i.e. those hard surfaced).
- 1.242. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is limited need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity space – Ormesby Ward

1.243. There are twelve identified sites within the ward.

Ormesby Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	32	68
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	4	96

1.244. Around a third of properties are covered within the catchment for sites up to a hectare in size in Ormesby ward. Ormesby St Margaret has reasonable coverage with gaps lying north and south of Station Road to the east of the settlement and in the Conifer Close area. There is also reasonable coverage in the west of the ward around the Eels Foot Road area of Main Road.

1.245. The main part of the Ormesby St Michael settlement has no coverage though as well as the vast majority of the residential area to the north of California (Scratby) to the east of the ward. There is some coverage, however, in California. Scratby does, however, benefit from excellent access to the beach which no doubt provides a significant contribution to local recreational needs.

1.246. Whilst there are no sites 1-3 hectares in size, there is a site in an adjacent ward which provides coverage to 4% of properties to the south of California within Ormesby ward.

1.247. Ormesby St Margaret does benefit from The Edgar Tennant Recreation Ground on Station Road, which while on the periphery of the village, will meet some of the needs arising from the east of the village (and beyond) where there is no short distance access to informal amenity greenspace.

1.248. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is limited need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – Southtown and Cobholm Ward

1.249. There are eight identified sites within the ward.

Southtown and Cobholm Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	50	50
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	0	0

1.250. Only half the ward has access to informal amenity greenspace within the ward and all sites are up to a hectare in size. The main gaps in coverage lie between Pasteur Road south to Gordon Road, and Waveney Road. There are no other sites over a hectare in size in the ward.

1.251. Space within the ward is limited, with Pasteur Road and Harfrey's Industrial Estate comprising employment, Gapton Hall Retail Park and Edward Worledge Community Primary School. The Ward does, in addition, offer access to Cobholm Park, Lichfield Park and just to the south, Southtown Common.

1.252. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is limited need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – St Andrews Ward

1.253. There are three identified sites within the ward.

St Andrews Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	33	67
1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	15	85

1.254. Only a third of properties in the ward are within 150m of a site up to a hectare in size with sizable gaps in coverage situated between School Lane to the ward's north all the way down to Downing Road to the south. The area north of Lower Cliff Road also lacks coverage.

1.255. Whilst there are no sites 1-3 hectares in size, the ward benefits from coverage from sites within adjacent wards to the south over 3 hectares in size, which covers 15% of properties in the southern part of St Andrews ward.

1.256. The ward also benefits from other forms of open space among the gaps where there is a lack of informal amenity greenspace, including Priory Gardens; Gorleston Recreation Ground; St Andrews Church; and civic spaces along the quay.

1.257. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is limited need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity green space – West Flegg Ward

1.258. There are twenty-one identified sites within the ward.

West Flegg Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	52	48
1-3ha within 200m	8	92
3-10ha within 500m	0	0

1.259. Over half the properties in the ward are within 150m of amenity greenspace up to 1 hectare in size with good coverage in Martham and Repps with Bastwick. There is no coverage, however, in Thurne.

1.260. There are two sites between 1-3 hectares in size, one to the south of Repps with Bastwick and one east of Rollesby that have 8% of properties within the ward within 200 metres of them. There are no sites between 3 to 10 hectares in size.

1.261. Further open space is, however, provided through the playing fields at Rollesby Road in Martham, sports fields in Rollesby, various churchyards and countryside walking routes.

1.262. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is limited need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Accessibility of informal amenity space – Yarmouth North Ward

1.263. There are six identified sites within the ward.

Yarmouth North Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Informal Amenity Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
Up to 1ha within 150m	23	0

1-3ha within 200m	0	0
3-10ha within 500m	0	0

1.264. Less than a quarter of properties in the ward are within the catchment space of 150m and they are located along the eastern area of the ward.

1.265. Whilst there is no coverage of 1-10 hectare informal amenity greenspaces, the ward does, however, benefit from access to other open spaces including Bure Park, Fisher Avenue Play Park, Barnard Bridge Sports Ground, Beaconsfield Recreation Ground, Wellesley Recreation Ground, Great Yarmouth Cemetery, allotments, North Denes beach and civic spaces.

1.266. Based on the availability of these alternatives, there is no need to increase provision of informal amenity space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

6. Allotments

1.267. Allotments can improve the well-being and quality of life of communities by providing a cheap source for growing food, healthy outdoor exercise and social interaction, and enhance the biodiversity and green infrastructure in an area. They are particularly useful where residents may not have access to their own private garden or have limited opportunity to grow their own food.

1.268. Unlike the other open space typologies, allotments are defined plots that can be let out for private use. The actual level of demand, or take up within a locality, can vary considerably. Nationally, there are indications that demand is on the rise with people seeking to grow their own food and reduce potential environmental impacts. The COVID-19 pandemic may also have contributed to demand with a greater appreciation in such open spaces and wellbeing.

Quantity of allotments

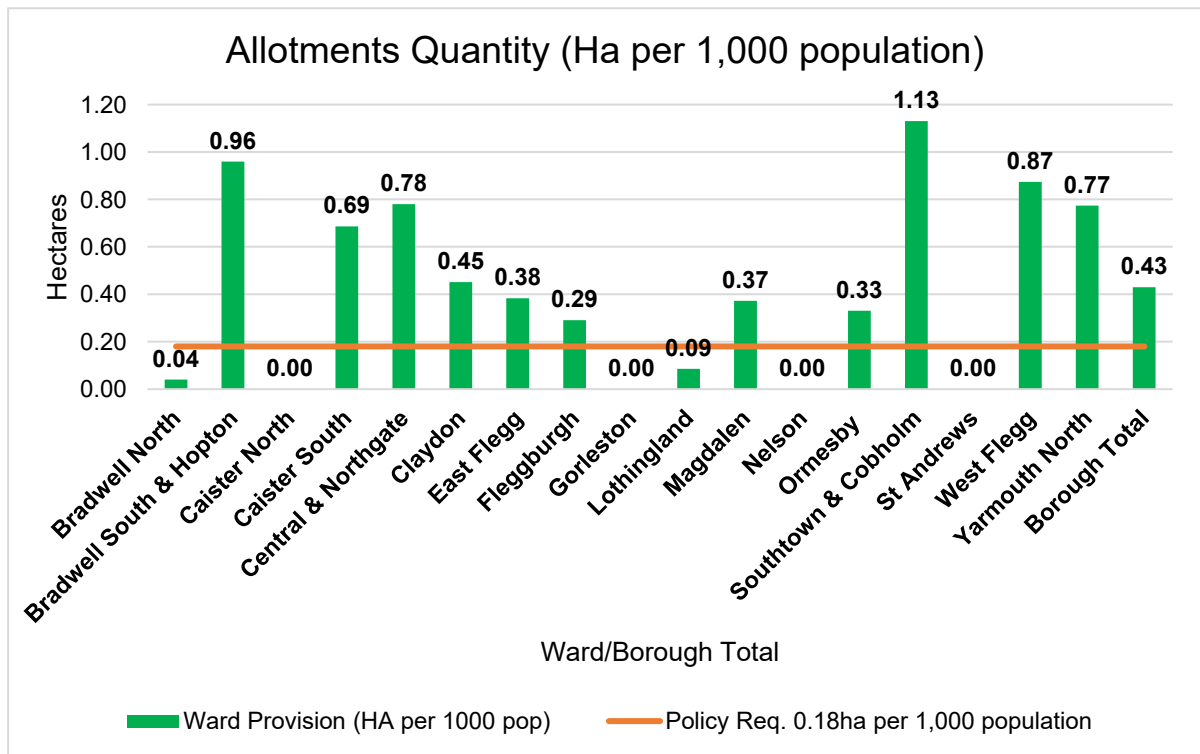
1.269. Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) Policy H4 requires **0.18ha per 1,000 population**, which equates to 1.8m per person or 4.16m per household.

1.270. There are currently 24 allotment sites across the Borough totalling 42.63ha of land. There is largely good provision across the Borough with deficits in only six of the wards.

Allotment provision

Ward	Provision (Ha)	Population	Ward Provision (Ha per 1000 pop)	Surplus/Deficit (Ha)
Bradwell North	0.25	6355	0.04	-0.14
Bradwell South & Hopton	7.01	7307	0.96	0.78
Caister North	0.00	4382	0.00	-0.18
Caister South	3.15	4592	0.69	0.51
Central & Northgate	6.91	8853	0.78	0.60
Claydon	3.43	7605	0.45	0.27
East Flegg	1.84	4809	0.38	0.20
Fleggburgh	0.73	2525	0.29	0.11
Gorleston	0.00	5249	0.00	-0.18
Lothingland	0.45	5222	0.09	-0.09
Magdalen	2.80	7530	0.37	0.19
Nelson	0.00	9608	0.00	-0.18
Ormesby	1.42	4313	0.33	0.15
Southtown & Cobholm	6.70	5931	1.13	0.95
St Andrews	0.00	5304	0.00	-0.18
West Flegg	4.40	5039	0.87	0.69
Yarmouth North	3.54	4574	0.77	0.59
Borough Total	42.63	99198	0.43	0.25

Bar chart identifying allotment provision



1.271. Many of the wards with a deficit have no provision at all. This is not a surprise in urban areas where land may not be available. Some wards such as, North Caister, may benefit from provision in an adjacent ward.

1.272. A small survey was sent out to allotment providers (those that managed allotment sites, predominantly parish councils or associations). Not all providers responded. This included a snapshot of provision and use and quality considerations. The following paragraphs provide information on use.

Use of Belton Allotments

1.273. The site contains 31 allotments, all of which are currently in use. There are 10 people currently on a waiting list which has been about the same over the past two years. The land is currently leased, and it is likely that at some point another piece of land will be required with funding to provide allotments.

Use of Bradwell Allotments

1.274. The site contains 136 allotments, all of which are currently in use. There are 10 people currently on a waiting list. Demand appears to have picked up since Covid-19 with all allotments rented out and a waiting list.

Use of Caister Allotments

1.275. The site contains 6 allotments, all of which are currently in use. There are 8 people currently on a waiting list, which is consistent with previous years.

Use of Filby Allotments

1.276. The site contains 20 garden plots and 8 field plots, all of which are currently in use. There is 1 person currently on a waiting list, which is similar to previous years.

Use of Repps with Bastwick Allotments

1.277. The site contains 29 plots, though only 16 are in use as the others are rented by a local farmer to extend his field. All 16 are in use. There is 1 person currently on a waiting list, having had 3 the previous year (each of which now have plots).

Use of Rollesby Allotments

1.278. The site contains 11 plots, all of which are currently in use. There is no one currently on waiting list.

Allotment usage conclusions

1.279. Of the sites surveyed, there are no vacant plots and small waiting lists. Some sites reported that capacity had only been reached over the last 1-2 years indicating a small increase in demand during/following the Covid-19 pandemic. However, overall, the demand appears to be relatively low, and the supply of plots is sufficient to meet that demand.

1.280. An increase in the resident population and a sustained increase in demand for allotments following the Covid-19 pandemic may put pressure on the existing supply of plots. There is also the possibility of further demand following the increase in food prices and/or people seeking to reduce the carbon footprint of food by growing their own.

1.281. It is recommended that demand is monitored annually or bi-annually at all sites to identify any substantial changes. The results can be reviewed to consider whether further plots are required, and the best locations chosen to meet such demand.

Quality of allotments

1.282. A small survey was sent out to allotment providers (those that managed allotment sites, predominantly parish councils or associations). Not all providers responded. This included a snapshot of provision and use and quality considerations. The following paragraphs summarise the information obtained on site quality and flag actions or recommendations to consider further.

Quality of Belton Allotments

1.283. The site has good soil quality, access to the sun, utilities provision (with the exception of toilets), and good accessibility. The site is kept to a good standard, allotment holder working party members report any repairs needed to the Parish Council. Some of the bordering vegetation is in poor condition, the site has no gate or fencing to secure it, there is no refuse provision or signage to deter fly tipping.

1.284. The site could benefit from quality upgrades, though consideration should also be given to the longevity of the location given the leasehold situation referred to above (in the section on use).

Quality of Bradwell Allotments

1.285. The site has good soil quality, access to the sun, water provision, notice boards, and good accessibility though the gate is padlocked which may prove difficult for some site users. One of the sites is bordered by patchy hedging which may pose a security risk.

1.286. With the exception of the latter concern, the sites appear to be in a decent qualitative state.

Quality of Caister Allotments

1.287. The site has good soil quality, access to light, the site is surrounded by dykes, grassland and trees. There is no security, access to utilities or refuse provision.

1.288. The site could benefit from quality upgrades.

Quality of Filby Allotments

1.289. The site has good soil quality, access to the sun, the site is fenced and gated, and has a designated refuse area. The allotments are kept in good order by tenants, and this is monitored by the parish council. There is no access to utilities.

1.290. The latter feedback needs to be investigated further.

Quality of Repps with Bastwick Allotments

1.291. The site has good soil quality and access to the sun. There is no security, access to utilities or refuse facilities. Disabled access is poor. Most plot holders maintain the paths themselves and mow any grass paths, with rare requests for maintenance.

1.292. The site could benefit from quality upgrades.

Quality of Rollesby Allotments

1.293. The site has good soil quality and access to the sun. There is no security, access to utilities or refuse facilities. Plot holders request little by way of maintenance and the site runs well.

1.294. The site could benefit from quality upgrades.

Quality conclusions

1.295. Of the sites that have been surveyed there seems to be a good level of self-sufficiency indicating that the quality of the sites is reasonable. This is expected, as most tenants will take good care of plots that they are renting.

1.296. There are some common themes which indicate that there is room for improvement in the Borough's allotment sites. Further consideration should be given in respect of allotment site access (where it does not already exist) to:

- Utilities - water connection
- Refuse facilities
- Signage (accessibility, services, refuse points)
- Site security (as appropriate to each location)
- Disabled access

Accessibility of allotments

1.297. As set out in section 1, the accessibility of allotments is based on an acceptable travel distance of approximately 900 metres (which equates to roughly a 15 minute walk or a short car journey). For urban Wards with one or two sites, the density of population means that most of these wards have adequate access. These include:

- Bradwell North
- Claydon
- Gorleston
- Magdalen
- Southtown & Cobholm
- St Andrews
- Yarmouth North

1.298. The following paragraphs provide more detail on those wards lacking accessibility in some areas.

Allotment accessibility – Bradwell South & Hopton Ward

1.299. This ward benefits from 3 allotment sites and therefore has a surplus in the quantity of provision, but each site is located just off the A143 in the northern part of the ward. There is no provision in the parish of Hopton-on-Sea which means that residents would currently be required to seek such provision in Gorleston or Great Yarmouth, which would require a 1.5 - 2km travel distance. Consideration could be given to the provision of allotments in the settlement of Hopton-on-Sea. This could be considered through development associated with Policy GN1 of the Local Plan Part 2.

Allotment accessibility – Caister North Ward

1.300. Caister North has no provision of allotments, with the closest facilities located in Caister South and Ormesby. The Ward comprises a built up area with little remaining land as the only undeveloped areas are other forms of open spaces. Consequently, opportunities to provide better access within this ward are constrained. If sufficient demand is identified, then opportunities could be sought to provide a site which is more accessible to residents within the ward (than the 1km+ travel distance to Caister South).

Allotment accessibility – Caister South Ward

1.301. Caister South has a quantity surplus in provision with two sites located towards the south of the ward. There is an accessibility gap in the northern area of the ward surrounding Caister Academy and Braddock Road. This does not, however, extend the travel distance for such residents significantly (approximately 300m) to access existing facilities. Based on the availability of this alternative, there is no need to increase provision of allotment space within this ward to meet accessibility standards.

Allotment accessibility – Central & Northgate Ward

1.302. Central & Northgate Ward has a quantity surplus in provision with three sites located in the north-west of the built up area. There is a consequent accessibility gap in the south-east corner of the ward south of Euston Road. This, however, would only represent a small increased travel distance of 100-200m to access existing facilities. Should a clear surplus in provision be identified within the ward, this may present an opportunity to consolidate the allotment site offer as the three current sites have overlapping catchments which provide little accessibility benefit.

Allotment accessibility – East Flegg Ward

1.303. East Flegg is a large rural ward that comprises three rural settlements. There are two allotment sites, one in each of the more populous settlements of Hemsby and Winterton-on-Sea. There are consequent accessibility gaps for residents in the north of Hemsby and the smaller settlement of Somerton. The ward does, however, benefit from a quantity surplus in allotment provision in a rural area serving a relatively small number of residents. On this basis, an increased travel distance of approximately 300m is considered reasonable to access existing facilities.

Allotment accessibility – Fleggburgh Ward

1.304. Fleggburgh is a large rural ward comprising several rural settlements, therefore accessibility to allotments is anticipated to be patchy for smaller rural communities. There are two allotment sites, one in each of the more populous settlements of Fleggburgh and Filby. For small rural settlements such as Stokesby, Runham and Clippesby there will be an increased travel distance to access allotments. The ward does, however, benefit from a quantity surplus in allotment provision in a rural area serving a relatively small number of residents. Given the relatively small number of residents that this would impact upon an increased travel distance is justified.

Allotment accessibility – Lothingland Ward

1.305. Lothingland is a large rural ward comprising several rural settlements, with provision located in the most populous settlement of Belton. Consequently, there is an increased travel distance for St Olaves, Fritton, Browston and Burgh Castle to access allotments. There is currently a quantitative deficit in allotment provision serving the ward. Consideration should be given to increasing provision, though this may still be better located in Belton than the smaller settlements unless sufficient demand can be demonstrated.

Allotment accessibility – Nelson Ward

1.306. Nelson Ward is a densely built up urban area, comprising Great Yarmouth's port and harbour in addition to residential properties. There is no allotment provision within this ward and the closest site is on the opposite side of the river, of which access will be improved by the completion of the third river crossing. It is unlikely that any space will become available or be suitable for allotment provision within Nelson Ward. Consequently, such provision will be reliant on increased travel distances to adjacent wards where there is also a quantitative surplus in allotment provision, such as at Southtown & Cobholm.

Allotment accessibility – Ormesby Ward

1.307. Ormesby is a rural ward that comprises the three rural settlements of Ormesby St Margaret, Ormesby St Michael and Scratby, but also the tip of Caister-on-Sea. The former is the most populous centre within the Ward, and this is where a single large allotment site is located. There is a consequent gap in accessibility for the smaller settlements of Ormesby St Michael and Scratby. The Ward does, however, benefit from a quantity surplus in allotment provision in a rural area serving a relatively small number of residents. Should a new development scheme within Scratby provide an opportunity to secure allotments in the settlement, this should be considered.

Allotment accessibility – West Flegg

1.308. West Flegg is a large rural ward comprising several rural settlements. There is good provision within the ward as in addition to the large site in Martham (the most populous settlement), there are sites at Rollesby and Repps with Bastwick. There are

some accessibility gaps in the smaller nearby settlements such as Thurne and Ashby with Oby. Given the relatively small number of residents that this would impact upon an increased travel distance is justified.

7. Parks & Gardens

1.309. Parks and gardens are much more formally arranged open spaces provide accessible, high quality open space to be enjoyed by the general public. Characteristically they are enclosed, designed, constructed and maintained to be used by all sections of the community and catering for a range of formal and informal activities.

1.310. Some parks and gardens will appear on the register held by Historic England. The emphasis of the Register is on 'designed' landscapes, rather than on planting or botanical importance. In Great Yarmouth, the Venetian Waterways are designated as a Grade II listed park and garden.

1.311. Most parks, however, are not formally designated but have clear elements of a formal layout such as including planting, benches and other features such as bandstands. Existing recommended standards

Quantity of parks & gardens

1.312. Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) Policy H4 requires **0.40ha per 1,000 urban population**, which equates to 4m per person or 9.24m per household. Parks and gardens tend to be located in urban areas (areas with a population of over 10,000 according to ONS), and therefore provision is judged in relation to such urban wards.

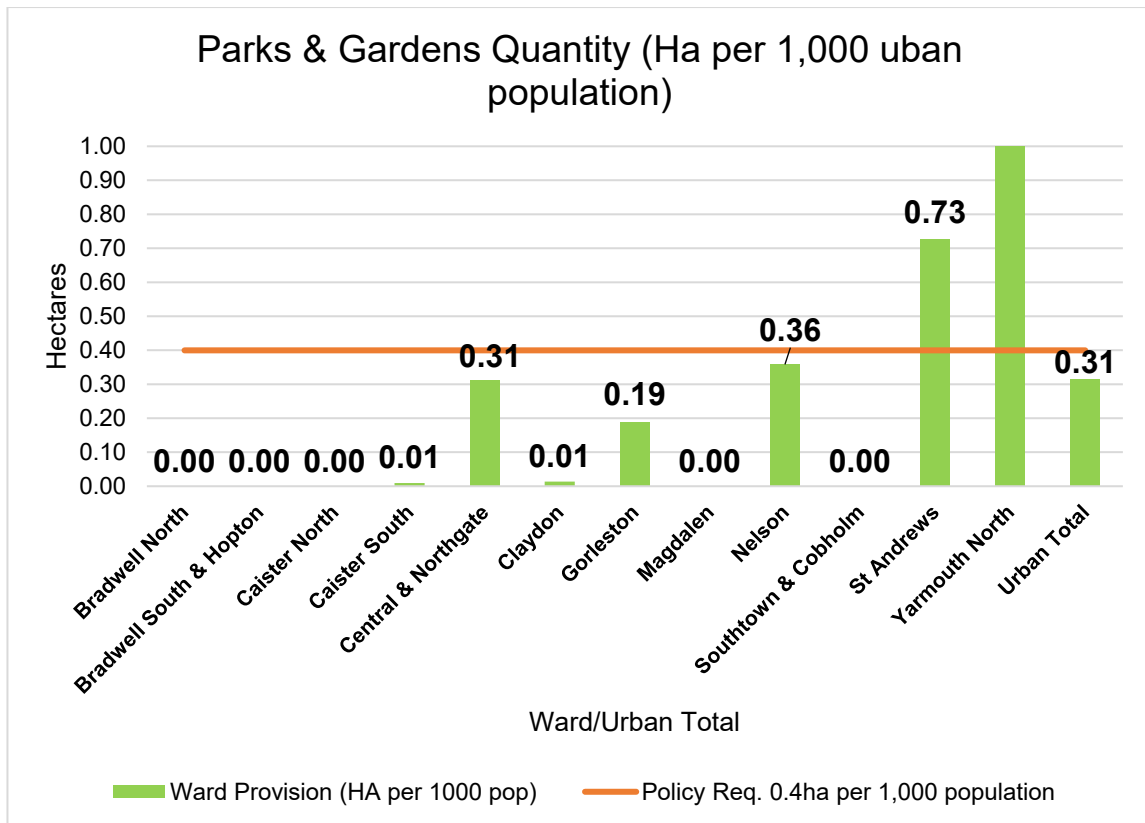
1.313. The audit identified 21 parks and gardens across the Borough totalling 24.30ha of land. Unsurprisingly, provision is generally limited to only a small number of urban wards with Yarmouth North characterised by historic gardens and St Andrews comprising two large sites, Meadow Park and Priory Gardens.

Parks & gardens provision

Ward	Provision (Ha)	Population	Ward Provision (HA per 1000 pop)	Surplus/ Deficit m2
Bradwell North	0.00	6355	0.00	-0.40
Bradwell South & Hopton	0.00	7307	0.00	-0.40
Caister North	0.00	4382	0.00	-0.40
Caister South	0.04	4592	0.01	-0.39

Ward	Provision (Ha)	Population	Ward Provision (HA per 1000 pop)	Surplus/ Deficit m2
Central & Northgate	2.75	8853	0.31	-0.09
Claydon	0.10	7605	0.01	-0.39
Gorleston	1.00	5249	0.19	-0.21
Magdalen	0.00	7530	0.00	-0.40
Nelson	3.44	9608	0.36	-0.04
Southtown & Cobholm	0.00	5931	0.00	-0.40
St Andrews	3.85	5304	0.73	0.33
Yarmouth North	13.12	4574	2.87	2.47
Urban Total	24.30	77290	0.31	-0.09

Bar chart identifying parks and gardens provision



1.314. It is unlikely that the quantity of parks and gardens will increase as most of the existing spaces are historic and located within Wards that are fully developed with no opportunity to extend. There may be an opportunity to provide a new park and garden should a new large-scale development come forward, but this would be balanced against the needs for all other types of open space.

Quality of parks & gardens

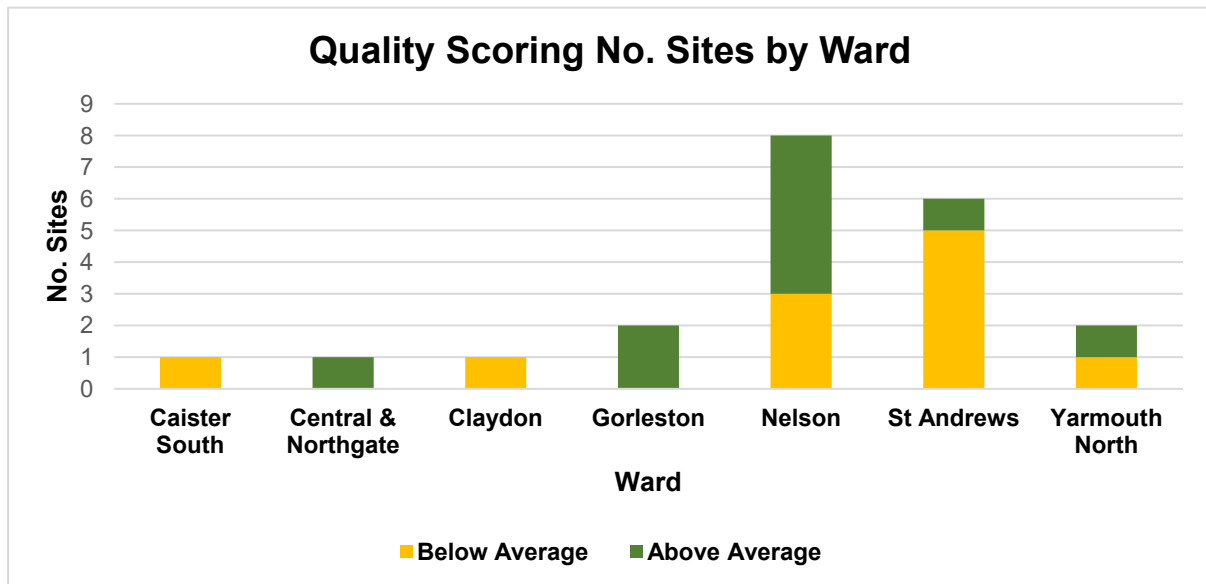
1.315. Each of the play space sites has been assessed by 9 quality criteria having had regard to the Green Flag standards. These were:

- Landscaping & planting
- Benches
- Bins
- Visual appeal
- Site security
- Safety of equipment and facilities
- Access and facilities for those with disabilities
- Litter & graffiti

- Lighting

1.316. The criteria were then scored 1-5 with the exception of the top four criteria in the above list. Landscaping and planting had a treble weighted score and benches, bins and visual appeal double weighted to reflect their importance (over the other criteria) in understanding the overall quality of each site. The maximum number of points scored for an individual site was 70. The score was then calculated as a percentage to simplify quality categorisation. Anything above a 64% score (broadly the median score for the Borough) is considered to meet the quality standard.

1.317. The Borough’s Parks & Gardens are generally well maintained and in decent condition which is reflective of their role as part of the tourist attraction offer. A clear example of excellent quality is the recently restored Venetian Waterways which has Green Flag status.



1.318. There is no clear pattern between the quality of sites and their location. Only Gorleston and Central Northgate wards have no deficits in the quality of provision.

Accessibility of parks & gardens

1.319. As set out in section 1, 20% of the population should have access to parks and gardens within 500m, 25% within 1km and 55% within 2km. The existing parks and gardens provide good coverage across the towns of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston and have the ability to meet the accessibility needs to serve the resident population. The settlements of Bradwell and Caister lack such provision but would not necessarily be expected to given the cultural and historic significance of the adjacent main towns.

1.320. At a 500m catchment parks & gardens are accessible to most of the population within the Wards of Yarmouth North, Central & Northgate, Nelson, Claydon. This together with other catchments, comfortably meets the standard to be accessible to 20% of the population.

1.321. At a 1km catchment there is parks & gardens coverage within the following Wards which comfortably will meet the needs of at least 25% of the population:

- Caister North
- Caister South
- Yarmouth North
- Central & Northgate
- Southtown & Cobholm
- Nelson
- Claydon
- Bradwell North
- St Andrews
- Magdalen
- Gorleston

1.322. At 2km catchment, this in addition to the above, includes part of Bradwell South & Hopton. Again, this easily meets the standard to be accessible to at least 55% of the population.

1.323. There is a case that the catchment areas of some 'strategic' parks and gardens is clearly greater than 2km as such spaces have the ability to meet Borough-wide needs. Such areas include the Venetian Waterways and event spaces along Great Yarmouth seafront and Gorleston seafront areas. These areas are 'destination' parks and gardens as they are spaces that people will travel to from all over the Borough (and even from outside of it).

1.324. The potential to provide new parks and gardens is limited; though opportunities may arise where new strategic-scale development may come forward. Planned new development is generally focused on the main settlements of Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Bradwell and Caister; each being Wards where existing provision is focussed.

1.325. The emphasis should, therefore, be to protect and enhance existing parks and gardens. The recommendation is that off-site contributions can be collected Borough-wide to support this aim.

8. Accessible Natural Green Space

1.326. Accessible natural green space comprises areas with a predominant feeling of ‘naturalness’ important for wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and environmental education and awareness, which are accessible on foot to the public. Such spaces promote biodiversity and nature conservation, but they are also important for environmental education and awareness.

1.327. Natural England have provided their own guidance on this with an emphasis on ‘Nature Nearby’ (accessibility), the standards are known as ANGSt. Its three principles are to improve access, naturalness and connectivity. There can, however, be a tension on sites where they are designated biodiversity assets, as recreational pressures can harm sites and often need to be managed. Winterton-Horseley Dunes Special Area of Conservation is a good local example of this tension.

Quantity of accessible natural green space

1.328. Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) Policy H4 requires **1.8ha per 1,000 population**, which equates to 18m per person or 41.58m per household.

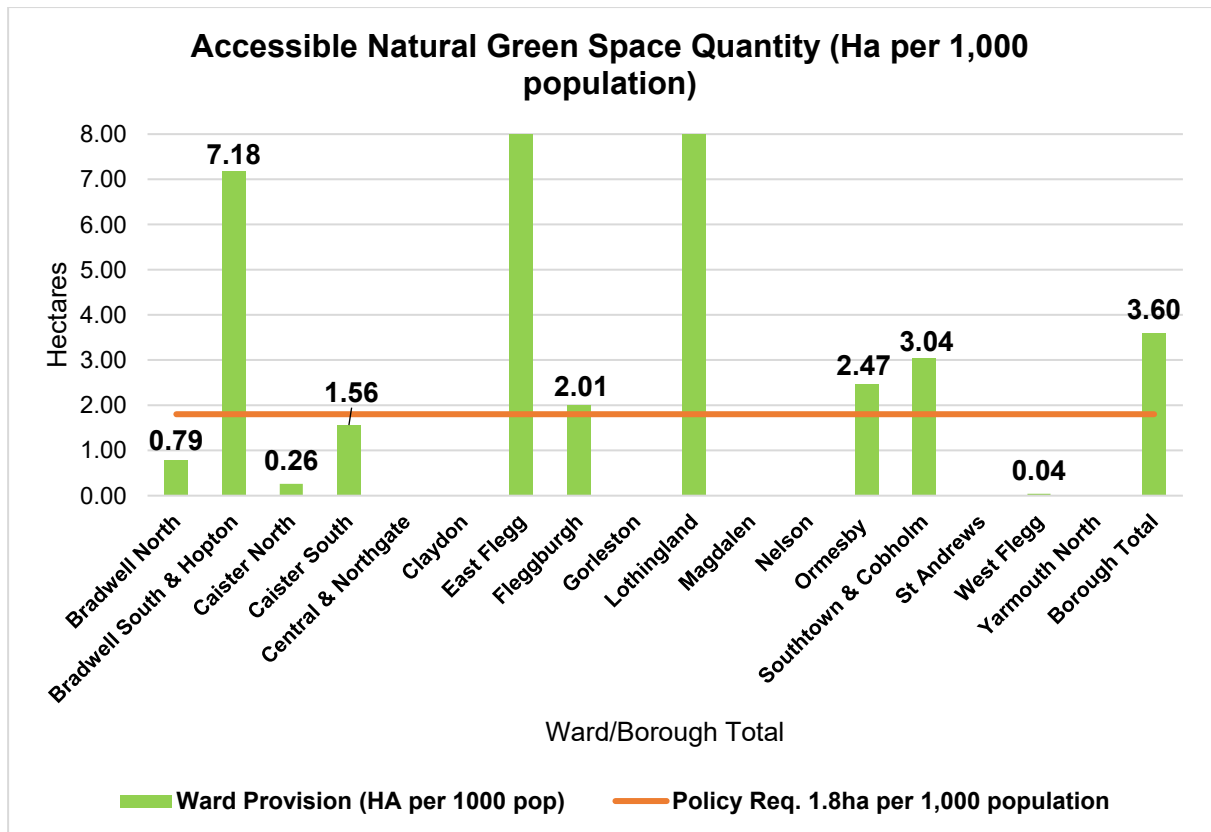
1.329. The audit identified 28 accessible natural greenspace sites across the Borough totalling 357.46ha of land. The Borough as a whole has a surplus in provision, though this provision is generally rurally located, with little or no provision in densely populated urban wards.

Accessible natural green space provision

Ward	Provision Hectares	Population	Ward Provision (HA per 1000 pop)	Surplus/ Deficit m2
Bradwell North	5.04	6355	0.79	-1.01
Bradwell South & Hopton	52.44	7307	7.18	5.38
Caister North	1.14	4382	0.26	-1.54
Caister South	7.17	4592	1.56	-0.24
Central & Northgate	0.00	8853	0.00	-1.80
Claydon	0.00	7605	0.00	-1.80

Ward	Provision Hectares	Population	Ward Provision (HA per 1000 pop)	Surplus/ Deficit m2
East Flegg	152.25	4809	31.66	29.86
Fleggburgh	5.07	2525	2.01	0.21
Gorleston	0.00	5249	0.00	-1.80
Lothingland	105.47	5222	20.20	18.40
Magdalen	0.00	7530	0.00	-1.80
Nelson	0.00	9608	0.00	-1.80
Ormesby	10.64	4313	2.47	0.67
Southtown & Cobholm	18.04	5931	3.04	1.24
St Andrews	0.00	5304	0.00	-1.80
West Flegg	0.20	5039	0.04	-1.76
Yarmouth North	0.00	4574	0.00	-1.80
Borough Total	357.46	99198	3.60	1.80

Bar chart identifying accessible natural green space provision



1.330. Six of the Borough’s wards have a surplus in Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGS) provision. In those wards where there is a large surplus it is usually the result of a single large site such as Winterton Dunes in East Flegg or Burgh Castle’s Roman Fort in Lothingland. It is unsurprising that there is a lack of provision in urban wards where space is extremely limited.

1.331. The lack of space in urban wards is somewhat offset by the access to wide-sandy beaches which form a similar recreational function.

Quality of Accessible Natural Green Space

1.332. There are no quality standards that have been set for accessible natural green spaces. Natural England also does not set any specific quality standards to be followed. Clearly though, the quality of physical environment (onsite biodiversity), accessibility into and through the site, where appropriate the provision of supporting facilities and the usage of the site will determine the relative quality of each site.

Accessibility of Accessible Natural Green Space

1.333. As set out in section 1, the Borough Council applies the Natural England recommended standards for Accessible Natural Green space. Every person should have access to:

- At least 2 ha in size, no more than 300 metres (5 mins walk) from home

- At least one accessible 20 ha site within 2 km of home
- One accessible 100 ha site within 5 km of home
- One accessible 500 ha site within 10 km of home
- A minimum of 1 ha of statutory Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population

1.334. The full accessibility results can be viewed on a map [here](#). The following paragraphs provide a summary of how accessible each type of play space is within each Ward.

ANGS accessibility – Bradwell North Ward

1.335. There are three sites within this ward.

Bradwell North Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	15	85
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	100	0

1.336. Bradwell North ward has three sites of accessible natural greenspace within its boundary and enjoys more than 100 hectares of greenspace within 5 kilometres of every residential property within the ward.

1.337. 15% of properties lie within 300 metres of land at Blake Drive. While there is an accessibility gap in the south of the ward for a site of up to 2ha, there is a smaller site located south of El Alamein Way which may help to meet local needs. In conclusion, while there is an accessibility deficit evidenced by the above standard, the overall accessibility of ANGS within this urban Ward is reasonable.

ANGS accessibility – Bradwell South & Hopton Ward

1.338. There are three sites within the ward.

Bradwell South & Hopton Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	2	98

More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	100	0

- 1.339. Bluebell Wood on the eastern boundary of the ward caters for 71 out of the 4,549 properties within the ward, just 2% of the overall total of properties in the ward. It also has access to Beacon Park Woodlands to the north of Bluebell Wood, but this area is under 2 hectares in size so is not included in the figures.
- 1.340. The ward benefits from more than 100 hectares of greenspace within 5 kilometres of every property in the ward.
- 1.341. While there is a lack of smaller ANGS sites within the ward, the ward does benefit from access to two large ANGS sites and Hopton beach may help to meet some local needs. In conclusion, accessibility of ANGS within this Ward is reasonable.

ANGS accessibility – Caister North Ward

- 1.342. There is one site within the ward.

Caister North Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	9	91
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	0	0

- 1.343. Just 9% of properties within the ward are within 300m of the California Coastal Strip that lies adjacent but within in Ormesby Ward to the north. The properties within 300m of it are all in the north-east of the ward around the Second Avenue and Winifred Way area.
- 1.344. With no other coverage from sites more than 20 or 100 hectares in size in the ward, natural greenspace is not accessible for over 90% of properties within it.
- 1.345. The Caister Roman Fort lies in the south-west of the ward, but it is under 2 hectares in size, so it is not included within the above ANGS catchment figures. In addition, residents will have access to Caister Beach and public rights of way routes towards Caister castle and The Broads beyond it. Clearly, these sites have the potential to meet some ANGS needs. In conclusion, accessibility of ANGS within this Ward is reasonable.

ANGS accessibility – Caister South Ward

1.346. There is one site within the ward.

Caister South Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	20	80
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	0	0

1.347. A fifth of properties in Caister South Ward are within 300m of the dunes east of Great Yarmouth and Caister Golf Course.

1.348. With no other coverage from sites more than 20 or 100 hectares within 2 kilometres or 5 kilometres respectively, this leaves 80% of properties within the Ward outside of the ANGS catchment. However, residents will have access to Caister Roman Fort, Caister Beach and public rights of way routes towards Caister castle and The Broads beyond it. Clearly, these sites have the potential to meet some ANGS needs. In conclusion, accessibility of ANGS within this Ward is reasonable.

ANGS accessibility – Central & Northgate Ward

1.349. There are no sites within the ward.

Central & Northgate Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	2	98
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	0	0

1.350. Whilst there are no sites within the ward, the ward benefits from a small amount of coverage with 2% of all properties falling within the catchment area of Cobholm Island. With no other coverage from sites more than 20 or 100 hectares within 2 kilometres or 5 kilometres respectively, this leaves 98% of properties within the Ward outside of the ANGS catchment.

1.351. The built extent of the Ward in the heart of Great Yarmouth will prevent any potential provision of new ANGS. Residents will, however, benefit from existing access to Great Yarmouth Beach, North Denes dunes, Breydon Water, river walks and Great Yarmouth Cemetery which may help to address local needs.

ANGS accessibility – Claydon Ward

1.352. There are no sites within the ward.

Claydon Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	4	96
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	100	0

1.353. Whilst Claydon ward has no sites of accessible natural greenspace within it, every property is within 5 kilometres of more than 100 hectares of natural greenspace.

1.354. 4% of properties within the ward are within 300 metres of land at Blake Drive in Bradwell North Ward. The Ward is centrally located and built up leaving no opportunity to provide smaller ANGSs. There are, however, other forms of space which may help to address such needs including Gorleston Cemetery, Magdalen Recreation Ground, Crowhall Green, and the woods at Beacon Park. Consequently, accessibility of ANGS within this Ward is reasonable.

ANGS accessibility – East Flegg Ward

1.355. There are three sites within the ward.

East Flegg Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	3	97
More than 20ha within 2km	97	3
More than 100ha within 5km	100	0

1.356. Whilst only 3% of properties lie within 300 metres of more than 2 hectares of natural greenspace; this is in the south-east of the ward where coverage is received from land at Esplanade in Ormesby St Margaret Ward.

1.357. 97% of properties lie within 2 kilometres of more than 20 hectares of natural greenspace: Winterton Valley.

1.358. Every property lies within 5 kilometres of more than 100 hectares of greenspace: Winterton Dunes.

1.359. East Flegg is rich in large ANGS sites. In addition, Hemsby benefits from access to the beach and Broads network leading to Ormesby Broad, and Somerton with rights of way access up to Horsey. In conclusion, accessibility of ANGS within this Ward is very good.

ANGS accessibility – Fleggburgh Ward

1.360. There are two sites within the ward.

Fleggburgh Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	0	0
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	0	0

1.361. There are two small sites within the Stokesby with Herringby area but there are no properties within the catchment areas.

1.362. With no other catchment coverage from sites more than 20 or 100 hectares within 2 kilometres or 5 kilometres respectively, ANGS is not accessible for any of the properties across the Ward. However, as a rural Ward it is rich in access to the wider countryside including public rights of way along around the Broads and along Bure River.

1.363. In conclusion, while the Ward lacks accessible ANGS sites, Fleggburgh is rich enough in natural assets that it can comfortably meet such needs of residents.

ANGS accessibility – Gorleston Ward

1.364. There are no sites within the ward.

Gorleston Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	0	0
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	100	0

1.365. Whilst there are no accessible natural greenspace sites within Gorleston Ward, every property within it is within 5 kilometres of more than 100 hectares of natural greenspace in adjacent wards.

1.366. The Ward does also benefit from access to Gorleston beach and the woods at Beacon Park. In conclusion, accessibility of ANGS within this Ward is reasonable.

ANGS accessibility – Lothingland Ward

1.367. There are eight sites within the ward and two – Lound Lakes and Herringfleet Hills – on the edge of the ward in East Suffolk District.

Lothingland Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	0	100
More than 20ha within 2km	82	18
More than 100ha within 5km	100	0

1.368. Whilst no properties lie within 300 metres of the greenspace more than 2 hectares in size in the ward, over three quarters of properties lie within 2 kilometres of the Burgh Castle Roman Fort to the north of the ward and all properties lie within 5 kilometres of more than 100 hectares of greenspace in adjacent wards.

1.369. Residents of Fritton and St Olaves do have access to smaller ANGS sites. The Ward is generally rich in ANG and benefits from a corridor of green infrastructure following the River Waveney.

ANGS accessibility – Magdalen Ward

1.370. There are no sites within the ward.

Magdalen Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	0	0
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	100	0

1.371. Whilst there are no accessible natural greenspace sites within Gorleston Ward, every property within it is within 5 kilometres of more than 100 hectares of natural greenspace in adjacent wards. The Ward does also benefit from access to the woods at Beacon Park at approximately 3km and Gorleston beach at approximately 1km.

1.372. In conclusion, accessibility of ANGS within this Ward is reasonable.

ANGS accessibility – Nelson Ward

1.373. There are no sites within the ward.

Nelson Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	0	0
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	0	0

1.374. Whilst the southern part of the ward is within 5 kilometres of more than 100 hectares of natural greenspace, there are no residential properties in that part of the ward. None of the properties within Nelson Ward therefore have access to ANG at the specified catchments.

1.375. The properties do, however, benefit from access to Great Yarmouth beach (including North Denes) which may help to meet some local needs. There will not be any opportunity to provide ANGS within this Ward given the extent of built environment which contains the historic call of the town of Great Yarmouth. An increased travel distance from this Ward to access ANGS is therefore unavoidable.

ANGS accessibility – Ormesby Ward

1.376. There are five sites within the ward.

Ormesby Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	10	90
More than 20ha within 2km	12	88
More than 100ha within 5km	77	23

1.377. Just 10% of properties are within 300m of more than 2 hectares of natural greenspace in the Ward and only 12% are within 2 kilometres of more than 20 hectares from East Flegg ward to the north.

1.378. Over three quarters of properties in the Ward, however, are within 5 kilometres of more than 100 hectares of natural greenspace. The southern part of the Ward south of Main Road to the west of the ward, and around Yarmouth Road to the east falls outside any catchment area.

1.379. Despite limited accessibility to small ANGS sites, the Ward is rich in natural assets with accessibility to the beach, Ormesby Broad and other countryside walking routes. In conclusion, accessibility of ANGS within this Ward is reasonable.

ANGS accessibility – Southtown and Cobholm Ward

1.380. There are two sites within the ward.

Southtown and Cobholm Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	28	72
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	2	98

1.381. Over a quarter of properties lie within 300m of the natural greenspace at Herbert Barnes Park and in the Breydon Road/Mill Road, Cobholm Island area to the north of the ward. Only 2% in the Southtown area live within 5 kilometres of more than 100 hectares. This leaves over two thirds of the ward outside of the catchment areas altogether.

1.382. The Ward is predominantly built up, with the northern tip bordering Breydon Water which offers a good walking route. To the south is a smaller ANGS site at Blake Drive. Accessibility to these sites is reasonable given the extent of built environment.

ANGS accessibility – St Andrews Ward

1.383. There are no sites within the ward.

St Andrews Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	0	0
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	100	0

1.384. Whilst there are no accessible natural greenspace sites within St Andrews ward, every property within it is within 5 kilometres of more than 100 hectares of natural greenspace in adjacent wards. An increased travel distance from this Ward to access ANGS is therefore unavoidable.

1.385. The Ward is built up but does contain Meadow Park, a vacant space south of East Anglian Way and Gorleston Recreation Ground which may help to meet some needs.

ANGS accessibility – West Flegg Ward

1.386. There is one site within the ward.

West Flegg Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	0	0
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	64	36

1.387. Whilst there are no properties within 2 kilometres or 5 kilometres of more than 2 hectares or more than 20 hectares of natural greenspace respectively, almost two thirds of the ward's properties are within 5 kilometres of more than 100 hectares of natural green space in adjacent wards.

1.388. West Flegg is, however, a rural ward rich in natural assets. There is an extensive network of public rights of way that enable recreation around the River Thurne, Rollesby Broad and Ormesby Broad. In conclusion, accessibility of ANGS within this Ward is reasonable.

ANGS accessibility – Yarmouth North Ward

1.389. There are no sites within the ward.

Yarmouth North Ward – Accessibility by % of properties within catchment

Type of Accessible Natural Greenspace	% Properties within catchment	% Properties outside catchment
More than 2ha within 300m	0	0
More than 20ha within 2km	0	0
More than 100ha within 5km	0	0

1.390. With no properties within 2 kilometres or 5 kilometres of sites more than 20 hectares in size or more than 100 hectares respectively, natural greenspace is not accessible within the catchments for any of the 2,102 properties across the whole Ward. An increased travel distance from this Ward to access ANGS is therefore unavoidable.

1.391. Yarmouth North does, however, benefit from access to North Denes dunes and beach, River Bure walking routes, and Bure Park which may help to meet some local needs.

Other Accessibility Standards

One accessible 500ha site within 10km of each home

1.392. There are no accessible natural green space sites of 500ha or more in the Borough. The Borough is a relatively small administrative area (in comparison to other Norfolk authorities) and incorporates some of the Broads network which further reduces space. Consequently, it is not feasible to have such a site within the Borough. Winterton-Horseley Dunes is the largest site which is just short of 500ha in area (when those parts of the site within North Norfolk are factored in).

A minimum of 1ha Statutory Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population

1.393. There is only one single statutory Local Nature Reserve (LNR) within the Borough, this being Breydon Water. The site is predominantly a waterbody and access is largely restricted to just a perimeter walking route.

9. Recommendations

1.394. This section of the report pulls together the key recommendations from each type of open space to identify actions, priorities and direct potential funding. The recommendations are ordered by Ward as this will help to prioritise funding from new development. At the end of the section, a summary table is provided setting out the identified surpluses and deficits for each Ward.

1.395. It is important to note that these recommendations do not, however, predetermine or commit any specific works to open spaces by the Council or other body. At present there are no identified sources of funding as new provision and/or enhancement will be funded by new residential development where there are identified open space needs. Beyond funding, another factor in the prioritisation of which areas/open spaces to address may be the respective level of deprivation in a given Ward, and the potential to improve facilities in areas of most need.

1.396. One common recommended enhancement across each type of open space (and location) that could be explored is to improve access to people with disabilities. Some sites will be much better equipped than others to achieve this and on some sites it may not be practicable. To support this aim, consideration will be given to the formation of a Disability Awareness Group to consult on new open space proposals, and particularly for equipped play spaces.

1.397. It is clear from the respective open space sections, having undertaken an audit of existing sites, that the standards within the Local Plan Part 2 provide appropriate benchmarks at which to base provision. Flexibility may be required with accessibility standards where populations within rural Wards are split between distinct settlements and the need to travel further to access certain facilities is justified.

Recommendations for Bradwell North Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required
 - Potential to consolidate, expanding the space at Whimbrel Drive (and/or Mill Lane) and remove the space at Hunter Drive (at end of life) provided a quantitative enhancement is delivered. This could also help address quality issues across the ward.
 - On-site requirement as part on any new development (where practicable)
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, quality enhancements required at:
 - El Alamein Way
- In terms of accessibility for residents, accessibility is good and there is potential for the consolidation of spaces.

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required
 - On-site requirement as part on any new development (where practicable)
 - Consolidation of play spaces may provide more amenity space.
- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Robin Close
 - El Alamein Way
 - Hogarth Close
 - Market Road
 - Gainsborough Avenue (two sites)
 - Victory Avenue
 - Sunninghill Close
 - Royal Sovereign Crescent
 - Land between Blue Sky Close and Victory Avenue
 - Lowry Close
 - Cotman Drive
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Identified quantity deficit in allotment provision, though sites in adjacent Wards can meet needs (including accessibility standards).
- Provision of allotments is anticipated to be made at East Anglian Way

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, off-site contributions to support improvement of existing sites elsewhere in the Borough which serve the ward.

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward, new development sites of more than 50 houses will be required to provide on-site provision (note that the required space may be increased to respond to Habitat Regulations)

Recommendations for Bradwell South & Hopton Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required
 - Play space is anticipated to be delivered on urban extension north of Beaufort Way
 - Potential for play space to be delivered north of Longfulans Lane, Hopton and potential to remove equipment from Watsons Close and St Clare Court (at the end of life, given their close proximity to the main recreation ground, with the latter already identified as having a quality deficit) provided a quantitative and qualitative enhancement is delivered at the recreation field.

- Potential to remove equipment from Buttercup Drive (at end of life) and consolidate Burnet Road and/or Primrose Way as an enlarged and improved site.
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, quality enhancements required:
 - Falklands Way
 - Lowestoft Road (two sites), Hopton
 - St Clare Court, Hopton (subject to above)
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces (subject to the above) should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, quality enhancements required at:
 - Ellis Drive/Tubby Close
 - Watsons Close
- There is an identified surplus of spaces in terms of quantity and accessibility within the Ward which may provide the opportunity for alternative uses (though note this is more specific to Bradwell not Hopton)
 - Falklands Way (potential to expand crematorium)

Allotments

- There is a small waiting list (10 people) demonstrating a small level of additional demand that is not being met by Bradwell Allotments
- While there is a surplus in quantity, there is a deficit in accessibility for the residents of Hopton-on-Sea. Opportunities to provide allotments in the parish of Hopton-on-Sea should be considered where there is demand
 - Potential for allotments to be delivered south of Links Road (site allocation GN1) which may help to address needs in Hopton

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, off-site contributions to support improvement of existing sites elsewhere in the Borough which serve the ward.
- Improvements to amenity spaces in terms of formal planting and facilities could provide an opportunity to create a small park or garden.

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Existing accessible natural green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Recommendations for Caister North Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required
 - Potential for new provision at Pointers East
 - Potential for new facilities through new development (allocation CA1)
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Caister Recreation Ground, Diana Way (two sites)

- Webster Way
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, quality enhancements required at:
 - Fairisle Drive
 - Roman Fort & Saxon Settlement
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Identified quantity and accessibility deficit in allotment provision
- Opportunities to provide a site adjacent to the ward may need to be considered subject to demand. Expansion of the Caister South site may help to meet needs (albeit beyond the accessible range)
 - Potential to deliver on new development (e.g. allocation CA1)

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, off-site contributions to support improvement of existing sites elsewhere in the Borough which serve the ward.
- Improvements to amenity spaces in terms of formal planting and facilities could provide an opportunity to create a small park or garden

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward, new development sites of more than 50 houses will be required to provide on-site provision (note that the required space may be increased to respond to Habitat Regulations)

Recommendations for Caister South Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required
 - Potential to expand offer at Coxswain Read Way
 - Or potential to use land south of Westerley Way as an alternative site
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, quality enhancements required at:
 - West Road/Westerley Way
 - Manor Road
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- There is a small waiting list (8 people) demonstrating a small level of additional demand that is not being met, though the parish council ran site only contains 6 plots
- Expansion of the existing site could help to address demand from the parish (including Bradwell North)
- Caister Allotments could benefit from enhanced boundaries/security, refuse provision, water connection and signage to improve the quality of the site

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, retain all existing sites
- Improvements to amenity spaces in terms of formal planting and facilities could provide an opportunity to create a small park or garden

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward, new development sites of more than 50 houses will be required to provide on-site provision (note that the required space may be increased to respond to Habitat Regulations)

Recommendations for Central & Northgate Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, increased play space required where possible although opportunities are limited. Therefore, focus should be on quality improvements.
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Ferrier Road
 - George Street
 - Basketball Court, Great Yarmouth Seafront
- Otherwise, in terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required, although opportunities are limited. Therefore, focus should be on quality improvements.
- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, quality enhancements required at:
 - Beaconsfield Road
 - Britannia pier, Marine Parade
 - Ferrier Close
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Identified quantity and accessibility surplus, opportunities to consolidate the site(s), however, given there is no provision in the neighbouring Nelson ward, existing provision should be retained.

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, off-site contributions to support improvement of all existing sites

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward with limited scope to provide additional space. However, ward benefits from the beach and North Denes dunes.

Recommendations for Claydon Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, increased play space required where possible
 - Potential for expansion of facilities at Southtown Common
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, quality enhancements required
 - Southtown Common Skatepark
 - Southtown Common Recreation Ground
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained where possible and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required
 - Delivery of amenity spaces on former Claydon High School development site
- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Harfrey's Road/Suffolk Road
 - Burgh Road
 - Beccles Road
 - Shrublands
 - Suffolk Road/Beccles Road
 - Beccles Road/Burnt Lane
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected where in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Retain sites subject to demand (lack of vacancy)

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, off-site contributions to support improvement of existing sites elsewhere in the Borough which serve the ward.

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward, new development sites of more than 50 houses will be required to provide on-site provision (note that the required space may be increased to respond to Habitat Regulations)

Recommendations for East Flegg Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required
 - Provision of new teen facilities at Hemsby Recreation Ground should help to address the lack of any such facilities within the East Flegg Ward
 - Potential for use of space to be delivered at the Yarmouth Road or former Pontins developments in Hemsby, which could replace the space at Ryelands (due to quality deficit) with a larger site
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, quality enhancements required at:
 - Ryelands (subject to the above)
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required
 - Potential for amenity spaces to be delivered on the former Pontins development in Hemsby
- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, quality enhancements required at:
 - Haycroft, Hemsby
 - Somerton Road, Winterton
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Retain sites subject to demand (lack of vacancy)

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, no provision within Ward, off-site contributions to support improvement of all existing sites that serve the Borough

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Existing accessible natural green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Recommendations for Fleggburgh Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required
 - Potential to increase provision at Fleggburgh and Filby Recreation Grounds (subject to availability of space and alternative uses on these sites)
 - Opportunities could be explored to expand on Filby's play space offer to cater for older children (subject to evidence of local demand)
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, quality enhancements required at:
 - The Green, Stokesby
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- The survey indicated that there may be a lack of utilities on Filby Allotment site which if addressed could improve its quality (quality deficit)
- Retain sites subject to demand (lack of vacancy)

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, no provision within Ward, off-site contributions to support improvement of all existing sites that serve the Borough

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Existing accessible natural green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Recommendations for Gorleston Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, quality enhancements required
 - Gorleston Cliffs (two sites), including the basketball court
- Potential for play space to be delivered south of Links Road (site allocation GN1) which may help to address needs in the south of the Ward

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required
 - Springfield Road/Victoria Road
 - Victoria Road

- Bridge Road/Newton Cross
- Marine Parade Crescent, Arnott Avenue/ Marine Parade
- Orde Avenue
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Identified quantity deficit in allotment provision, though sites in adjacent Wards can meet needs (including accessibility standards).

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, off-site contributions to support improvement of all existing sites
- Maintain quality of park & garden at good/very good standard

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward, new development sites of more than 50 houses will be required to provide on-site provision (note that the required space may be increased to respond to Habitat Regulations)

Recommendations for Lothingland Ward

Play spaces

- In terms of accessibility for residents
 - Potential to remove equipment at Nursery Close (at end of life) and consolidate, enlarge and improve provision at Bell Lane.
 - Although there is a current surplus of provision, new development associated with the Local Plan Part 2 may lead to a deficit. Allocation BN1 provides an opportunity for provision of an equipped play space.
 - Otherwise, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required
 - On-site requirement as part on any new development (where practicable)
- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Rosedale Gardens, Belton (two sites)
 - Fern Gardens, Belton
 - Caledonian Way/Crofters Walk, Belton
 - Heather Road, Belton (two sites)
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Identified quantity deficit in allotment provision

- There is a small waiting list (10 people) demonstrating a small level of additional demand that is not being met
- A new site may be required at Belton Allotments in the coming years as the local church requires the land for cemetery expansion
 - On-site requirement as part on any new development (where practicable)

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, off-site contributions to support improvement of existing sites elsewhere in the Borough which serve the ward.

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Existing accessible natural green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Recommendations for Magdalen Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Hertford Way
 - Magdalen Square
 - Magdalen Recreation Ground, Edinburgh Avenue
 - Woodfarm Lane

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Wadham Road
 - Greenacres/Woodfarm Lane
 - Bridge Road/Victoria Road
 - Leman Road
 - Wedgewood Court/Lowestoft Road
 - Lowestoft Road (two sites)
 - Viking Close
- There is an identified surplus of spaces in terms of quantity and accessibility within the Ward which may provide the opportunity for alternative uses

Allotments

- Retain sites subject to demand (lack of vacancy)

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, no provision within Ward, off-site contributions to support improvement of all existing sites that serve the Borough

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward, new development sites of more than 50 houses will be required to provide on-site provision (note that the required space may be increased to respond to Habitat Regulations)

Recommendations for Nelson Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required where possible although opportunities are limited. Therefore, focus should be on quality improvements.
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Middlegate Estate (Nelson Ward) has the potential to be consolidate play spaces to perhaps one or two sites to meet local needs.
 - St George's Park
 - Howard Steet South
 - Blackfriars West
 - Louise Close (subject to the consideration of Middlegate enhancements)
 - St Nicholas Recreation Ground
 - Peggotty Road
- Otherwise, in terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained where possible and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required, although opportunities are limited. Therefore, focus should be on quality improvements.
- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - St Peters Road
 - Trinity Place/Charles Street
 - Blackfriars Road
 - Mariners Road/Blackfriars Road
 - St Nicholas Recreation Ground
 - Victoria Place/Lancaster Road
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Identified quantity deficit in allotment provision
- Unlikely to identify a site to meet needs within Ward, therefore will rely on supply from adjacent Wards to meet arising need

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, off-site contributions to support improvement of all existing sites which serve the ward.

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward with limited scope to provide additional space. However, ward benefits from the beach and North Denes dunes.

Recommendations for Ormesby Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required
 - Scratby would benefit from equipped play provision, there is potential at the village hall grounds.
 - Potential to provide teen facilities at The Edgar Tennant Recreation Ground to address the lack of any such facilities in the Ormesby Ward
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, quality enhancements required
 - The Edgar Tennant Recreation Ground Station Road
 - Sharpe Way
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required
 - On-site requirement as part on any new development (where practicable) such as site allocation OT1
- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, quality enhancements required at:
 - Spruce Avenue
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Retain site subject to demand (lack of vacancy)
- Note that Scratby is reliant on Ormesby St Margaret site to meet its needs, this is a deficit in accessibility

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, off-site contributions to support improvement of existing sites elsewhere in the Borough which serve the ward.

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Existing accessible natural green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Recommendations for Southtown & Cobholm Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required.
 - Potential to expand provision at Cobholm Island and Southtown Common
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - The Tollgate Road area has two sites which have the potential to be consolidated at Admirals Quay and Anchor Court
 - Critten's Road
 - Beavans Court
 - Coronation Road
 - Lichfield Park
 - Gapton Hall Road
- Otherwise, in terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required, although opportunities are limited. Therefore, focus should be on quality improvements.
- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Depot/Mill Road
 - Beavans Court
 - Tollgate Road
 - Gapton Hall Retail Park
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Retain sites subject to demand (lack of vacancy, including needs arising from adjacent Wards that cannot meet their own needs such as Nelson Ward)

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, no provision within Ward, off-site contributions to support improvement of all existing sites that serve the Borough

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Existing accessible natural green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Recommendations for St Andrews Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required

- Potential to consolidate and expand provision at East Anglian Way and Gorleston Recreation Ground and Priory Gardens
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required
 - The three sites at East Anglia Way (St Andrews) may allow for the consolidation to just one space.
 - Gorleston Recreation Ground, Church Lane (two sites)
 - Pier Plain
- Otherwise, in terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required
- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - East Anglian Way
 - Riverside Road/Icehouse Hill
 - Pier Plain
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Identified quantity deficit in allotment provision, though sites in adjacent Wards can meet needs (including accessibility standards).

Parks & gardens

- Identified quality deficit, raise quality of parks & gardens to good/very good standard
- While there is a surplus in quantity and accessibility for residents within the Ward, this provision helps to meet deficits in adjacent Wards. Existing sites should therefore be retained

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward, new development sites of more than 50 houses will be required to provide on-site provision (note that the required space may be increased to respond to Habitat Regulations).

Recommendations for West Flegg Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required
 - Potential to expand provision on existing open space sites or through the delivery of new development sites within Martham
 - Potential to expand play space on Rollesby Recreation Ground or through the development allocations proposed in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Potential to expand play space on Repps with Bastwick Recreation Ground
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:

- Oak Tree Close, Martham
- Playing Field Lane, Martham (two sites)
- The Street, Thurne
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, quality enhancements required at:
 - The Green, Martham
 - Kirby Close, Martham
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- The Repps with Bastwick and Rollesby allotment sites could benefit from enhanced boundaries/security, refuse provision, water connection and signage to improve the quality of the site (quality deficit)
- Retain sites subject to demand (lack of vacancy)

Parks & gardens

- Identified quantity deficit, no provision within Ward, off-site contributions to support improvement of all existing sites that serve the Ward.

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward, new development sites of more than 50 houses will be required to provide on-site provision (note that the required space may be increased to respond to Habitat Regulations)

Recommendations for Yarmouth North Ward

Play spaces

- Identified quantity deficit in play space provision, more play space required
 - Opportunities to provide senior children's and teenager play spaces could be explored, e.g. at sites such as Bure Park and Fisher Avenue
- Identified quality deficit in play space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Bure Park
 - Fisher Avenue
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing play spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Informal Amenity Green Space

- Identified quantity deficit in informal amenity green space provision, more green space required where possible, although opportunities are limited. Therefore, focus should be on quality improvements.

- Identified quality deficit in informal amenity green space provision, prioritised quality enhancements required at:
 - Milton Road
 - Shakespeare Road
 - Barnard Bridge
 - North Drive
- In terms of accessibility for residents, existing informal amenity green spaces should be retained and protected in accordance with Policy E3

Allotments

- Retain sites subject to demand (lack of vacancy, including needs arising from adjacent Wards that cannot meet their own needs such as Caister South Ward)

Parks & gardens

- Raise quality of parks & gardens to good/very good standard
- While there is a surplus in quantity and accessibility for residents within the Ward, this provision helps to meet deficits in adjacent Wards (as destination parks). Existing sites should therefore be retained

Accessible Natural Green Space

- Quantity deficit within Ward with limited scope to provide additional space. However, ward benefits from the beach and North Denes dunes.

Summary of Surplus/Deficit for each type of open space by Ward

1.398. In accordance with Policy H4, this report based on assessment of need identified in quantity, quality and accessibility is able to identify surpluses and deficits in the Borough’s Wards as follows:

Ward	Formal Play Space	Informal Amenity Greenspace	Allotments	Parks & Gardens	Accessible Natural Greenspace
Bradwell North	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
Bradwell South & Hopton	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus
Caister North	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
Caister South	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit

Central & Northgate	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus	Deficit	Deficit
Claydon	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus	Deficit	Deficit
East Flegg	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus	Deficit	Surplus
Fleggburgh	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus
Gorleston	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
Lothingland	Surplus	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus
Magdalen	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus	Deficit	Deficit
Nelson	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
Ormesby	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus
Southtown & Cobholm	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus	Deficit	Surplus
St Andrews	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
West Flegg	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit
Yarmouth North	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus	Surplus	Deficit

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS)

Assessment Report



For Great Yarmouth Borough Council

June 2022

**Document prepared by Tetra Tech Environmental and Planning
Limited**

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In March 2021, Great Yarmouth Borough Council appointed Tetrattech to produce a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS). This strategy updates the playing field and outdoor sports facility elements of the existing Great Yarmouth Sport, Play and Leisure Strategy (2015 – 2019).
- 1.2 This assessment and strategy will sit alongside the recently completed Physical Activity Framework Strategy and Strategic Outcomes work and together, these documents will provide an evidence base for decision making relating to sport, leisure and physical activity across the Borough of Great Yarmouth.
- 1.3 The primary purpose of this PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework that ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches and sports facilities meet the needs of existing and future residents and visitors to the Borough up to 2039.
- 1.4 **This document summarises the key findings of the assessment. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy, which sets out how the issues identified in this assessment will be addressed, is found under separate cover.**

Key Drivers

- 1.5 The key drivers for the production of this PPOSS are to;
- Complete the suite of evidence based work relating to sport, play and leisure
 - Help protect, enhance and improve existing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision
 - Inform the implementation of the current local plan as well as policies in the emerging Local Plan
 - Inform the creation of seafront masterplans for both Gorleston and Great Yarmouth
 - Ensure efficient management and maintenance of pitches and outdoor sports facilities
 - Provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
 - Help deliver the priorities of the Physical Activity Framework and improve health and wellbeing through participation in sport.

Vision and Objectives

1.6 This strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives;

- To ensure that there are enough playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities to meet current and projected future need up to 2039;
- To support the provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities of appropriate quality;
- To maximise access to playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and;
- To support increasing participation in outdoor sports and promote sustainable club development.

1.7 More specifically, it will;

- Provide a clear understanding of supply and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities at individual sites.
- Evaluate the adequacy of pitch provision and outdoor sports facilities to meet current and projected future demand
- Identify the key issues that impact on the delivery of playing pitches
- Provide recommendations and action plans to enhance the future delivery of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and to address the issues identified.

Structure and Scope

1.8 The updated strategy considers the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future need and sets strategic and site specific priorities for a range of facilities for the following sports;

- Football (grass pitches and 3G)
- Cricket
- Rugby Union
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Bowls
- Golf

- Athletics.

1.9 The report is structured as follows;

- Section 2: Methodology - this section sets out the methodology undertaken
- Section 3: Strategic Context - this section summarises the key issues in the Borough relating to demographics, health and wellbeing and the facility implications
- Section 4: Cricket - this section outlines the current picture for cricket and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 5: Tennis - this section outlines the current picture for tennis and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 6: Bowls- this section outlines the current picture for bowls and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 7: Athletics - this section outlines the current picture for tennis and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 8: Golf - this section outlines the current picture for bowls and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 9: Football - this section outlines the current picture for football and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 10 – Rugby Union - this section outlines the current picture for rugby union and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 11 – Hockey – this section outlines the current picture for hockey and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 The assessment and strategy has been produced in line with guidance by Sport England, specifically 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013) and 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (Sport England 2014). The Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) is used to assess outdoor sports, refer to paragraph 2.7, whilst the PPOSS Guidance is used to evaluate the adequacy of playing fields.

https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=assessing_needs_and_playing_pitch_strategy_guidance

2.2 The remainder of this section summarises the key principles of each methodology and the tasks that have been undertaken at each stage of the process. Work has been tailored to ensure that the specific needs of Great Yarmouth Borough are captured following detailed discussions with the project steering group taking into account local knowledge and a clear understanding of the patterns of sports participation.

Sub Areas

2.3 In addition to understanding needs across Great Yarmouth Borough as a whole, it was considered important to understand how needs differ across the Borough. To facilitate this, and to link with other documents, the area has been subdivided into 4 sub areas. These are illustrated in Figure 2.1 overleaf.

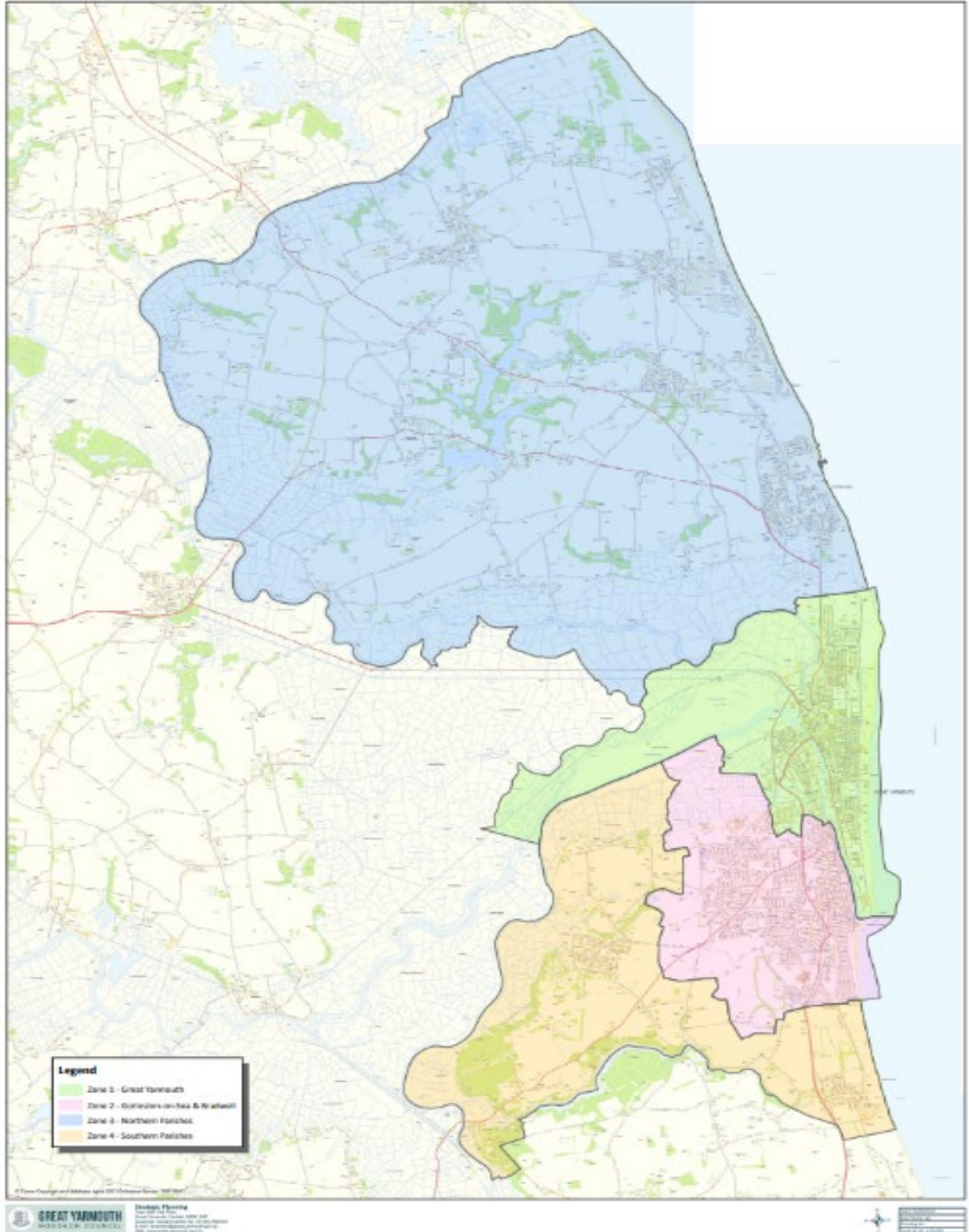
2.4 These sub areas have been designed to be reflect the characters of the different parts of the Borough and comprise:

- Great Yarmouth – covering the wards (urban area) of Great Yarmouth Town;
- Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell – includes the wards (urban area) of Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell Parish – these conurbations join up to Great Yarmouth geographically, but are separated by the River Yare and the industrial area;
- Northern Parishes –Parishes situated to the North of Great Yarmouth. Includes the larger settlements of Caister-on-Sea, Hemsby, Martham and Winterton-on-Sea
- Southern Parishes –Parishes located to the South of Gorleston-on-Sea including the larger settlements of Belton and Hopton-on-Sea.

2.5 The subdivision of the Borough into these areas enables us to understand the adequacy of provision in the different geographical areas.

Figure 2.1 - Sub Areas of Great Yarmouth Borough

Open Space - Geographical Scope



Impact of Covid 19

2.6 This PPOSS has been prepared during 2021 / 2022 at the end of Covid 19 pandemic. Whilst sport has, during the time the assessment was prepared, returned mostly to normal, the following should be noted:

- All steering group meetings have been virtual and all club and local stakeholder consultation has also been carried out virtually or by telephone rather than face to face
- Whilst play has taken place during the 2021 / 2022 season, it is acknowledged that limited activity occurred during 2020 and maintenance procedures also deviated from usual practices. Pitch quality assessments have therefore been scrutinised more than normal in order to ensure that the findings are representative of normal conditions for each pitch. The long term impact that the changes that took place will have on pitch quality is as yet unknown
- The impact that Covid has had on participation has been considered and this is documented within the report. There may be long term impacts arising out of the pandemic that are not yet known at the time of writing.

Playing Pitch Guidance

2.7 The Playing Pitch Guidance sets out the process for delivering a playing pitch strategy for football, cricket, rugby and hockey. It advocates a 10-step approach illustrated in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1 – Ten Step Approach



The tasks undertaken to deliver this PPOSS are summarised as follows.

Step 1 - Tailoring the Approach

2.8 The assessment and strategy has been developed in partnership with Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport and a steering group has been established to guide the preparation of the PPOSS. In addition to supporting the preparation of the assessment and strategy document, Sport England and the NGBs are also committed to assisting the Council with the ongoing monitoring, updating and delivery of the PPOSS.

2.9 The initial phase of work included detailed discussions with all key partners in order to tailor the approach that would be taken to consultation and site audits, drawing upon the local knowledge and experience of how each sport is played in the Borough.

2.10 Steps 2 and 3 - Gather Supply and Demand Information and Views

Supply

2.11 The data collection process included a full audit of pitches across the Borough. For each site, the following information was collected:

- Site name, location, ownership and management type
- Number and type of pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Accessibility of pitches to the community
- Overall quality of pitches and ancillary facilities (including maintenance regimes)
- Level of protection and security of tenure
- Views of users and providers.

2.12 PPOSS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field.

Playing pitch – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.

Playing field – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

2.13 These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.¹ It should be noted that the reference to five years within the Order is purely in relation to whether Sport England should be consulted in a statutory capacity. The fact that a playing field may not have been marked out for pitch sport in the last 5 years does not mean that it is no longer a playing field - this remains its lawful planning use whether marked out or not.

2.14 Although the statutory definition of a playing field is the whole of a site with at least one pitch of 0.2ha or more, this PPOSS considers smaller sized pitches that contribute to pitch stock, for example, 5v5 mini football pitches. This PPOSS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

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

Disused / Lapsed Sites

- 2.15 In addition to the currently active sites identified within this PPOSS, it should be noted that playing field policy also considers sites falling into the following categories:
- Disused – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
 - Lapsed - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These fall outside of Sport England’s statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.
- 2.16 There are some sites (primarily owned by the local authority) where playing fields have been provided in the past, but are not currently used as playing fields, or not all pitches previously provided are now evident. This will be discussed in the site-specific sections.
- 2.17 As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all the pitches within Great Yarmouth Borough, there may however be instances where a site is omitted as it has not been identified at the time of the audit. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusion of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view. The strategy document will seek to ensure that the list of sites within the Borough is kept up to date as any omissions arise.

Demand

- 2.18 To evaluate the demand for playing pitches, the following information was collated:
- Number of sports clubs and teams and their match and training requirements
 - Casual and other demand
 - Educational demand
 - Displaced demand (i.e. teams wishing to play within the Borough but unable to)
 - Latent demand
 - Future demand (including club and team aspirations for development as well as National Governing Body priorities and targets)
 - User views and experiences, including trends and changes in demand.

2.19 The following tasks were undertaken to compile the above supply and demand data:

- Review of existing data on playing fields and the Sport England Active Places tool
- Review of NGB data on pitches, outdoor sports facilities and local participation
- Analysis of local league websites, fixture lists and pitch booking records
- Use of available technical quality assessment reports and Pitch Power data
- Non-technical site visits
- Distribution of a detailed survey and follow up consultation with secondary schools and other schools with community use
- A full programme of consultation with sports clubs and league secretaries
- Consultation with Parish Councils
- Virtual meetings with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities.

2.20 A high proportion of teams in Great Yarmouth Borough successfully engaged with the process as set out in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Club Survey Response Rate

Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Hockey	Tennis	Bowls
75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	82%

Steps 4, 5 and 6 – Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

The supply and demand information collated has been used, in line with the Sport England methodology, to update calculations undertaken in the previous assessment to:

- understand the situation at individual sites;
- develop the current and projected future pictures for each sport; and
- identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.

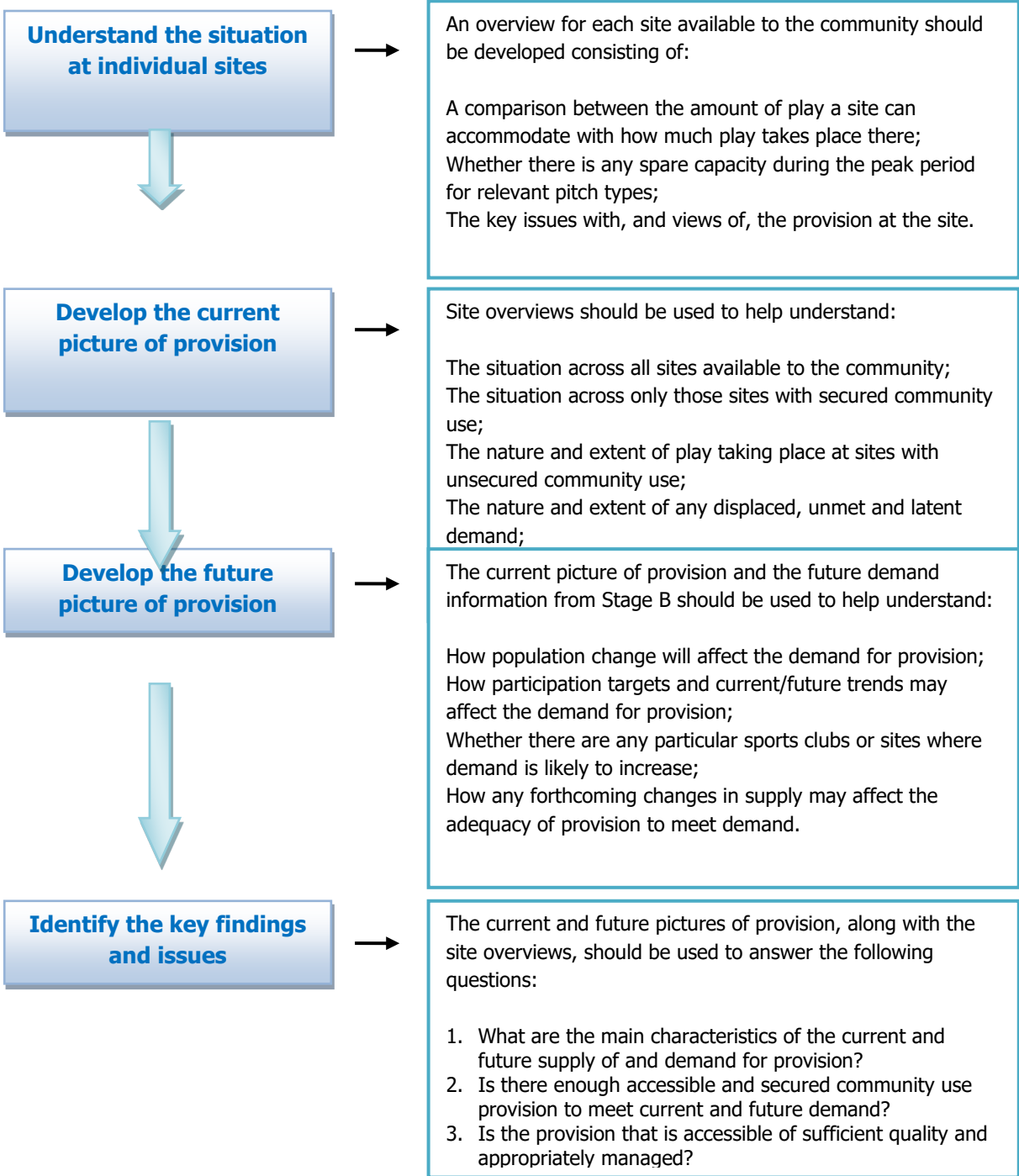
2.21 Figure 2.2 overleaf, extracted directly from the guidance (Sport England 2013), provides further detail of the issues explored during the analysis of the adequacy of provision.

2.22 Steps 6 - 10 Develop the Strategy and Deliver the Strategy and Keep it Up to Date and Robust

2.23 The strategy and action plan document will set out a strategic framework to address the issues identified relating to playing pitch provision across Great Yarmouth. Recommendations and priorities will be developed following extensive scenario testing and in conjunction with key stakeholders (both internal to the Council and external). The resulting action plan will be used to inform the delivery of the key priorities and to monitor the success of the strategy.

2.24 Monitoring of the strategy and regular updates will take on even greater importance than normal, as the full impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on participation and facilities is as of yet unknown.

Figure 2.2: Overview of the Assessment Process



- 2.25 Non-Pitch Sports - Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; 2013)
- 2.26 For bowls, tennis, golf and athletics, the assessment stages (Phase A) of the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) approach are as follows:
- Stage 1 – Prepare and tailor your assessment
 - Stage 2 – Gather information on supply and demand
 - Stage 3 – Assessment, bring the information together.

The key tasks undertaken in relation to the assessment are briefly summarised below:

Stage 1: Undertaking an Assessment:

- 2.27 The approach was tailored following detailed discussions with the steering group.

Stage 2: Gather Information on Supply and Demand

- 2.28 To gather information on supply, visits were made to all facilities, and assessments made of their quality, maintenance and 'fit for purpose' rating. Discussions were held with operators, managers and users.
- 2.29 To gather information on demand, questionnaires were sent (many with follow up phone calls) to all known sports clubs. Consultation also took place with national and regional governing body of sport representatives.

Stage 3: Assessment – Bring the Information Together

- 2.30 The analysis seeks to bring together the evidence gathered to gain an understanding of the relationship between supply and demand. Key findings and issues to be addressed are set out for each of the sports / facilities covered.

Application of Assessment – Strategy Development

- 2.31 Recommendations and strategy priorities are developed to address the issues identified through the data collection and analysis undertaken in Step A. An action plan is developed, identifying both strategy and site specific priorities.

Summary

- 2.32 This assessment report summarises the key issues arising from the assessment and evaluation of facilities and informs the preparation of the strategy document (under separate cover). For each of the sports covered, it aims to:
- Summarise the current supply of facilities
 - Outline current demand and evaluate likely future demand based upon population growth
 - Evaluate the overall adequacy of provision to meet current and projected future demand and
 - Identify the key issues for each sport included in the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy to address.
- 2.33 This document has been developed following the guidance set out by Sport England in Playing Pitch Guidance, An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013) and 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (Sport England 2014).
- 2.34 The strategy document will build on the issues identified and set out strategic priorities and actions for delivery. It will use scenario testing to determine the most appropriate course of action for each sport.
- 2.35 To inform the analysis of the current and projected future picture for each sport and to provide context for the sport specific issues discussed, Section 3 summarises the strategic context, as well as the demographic profile.

3.0 Strategic Context, Population and Sports Participation Profile

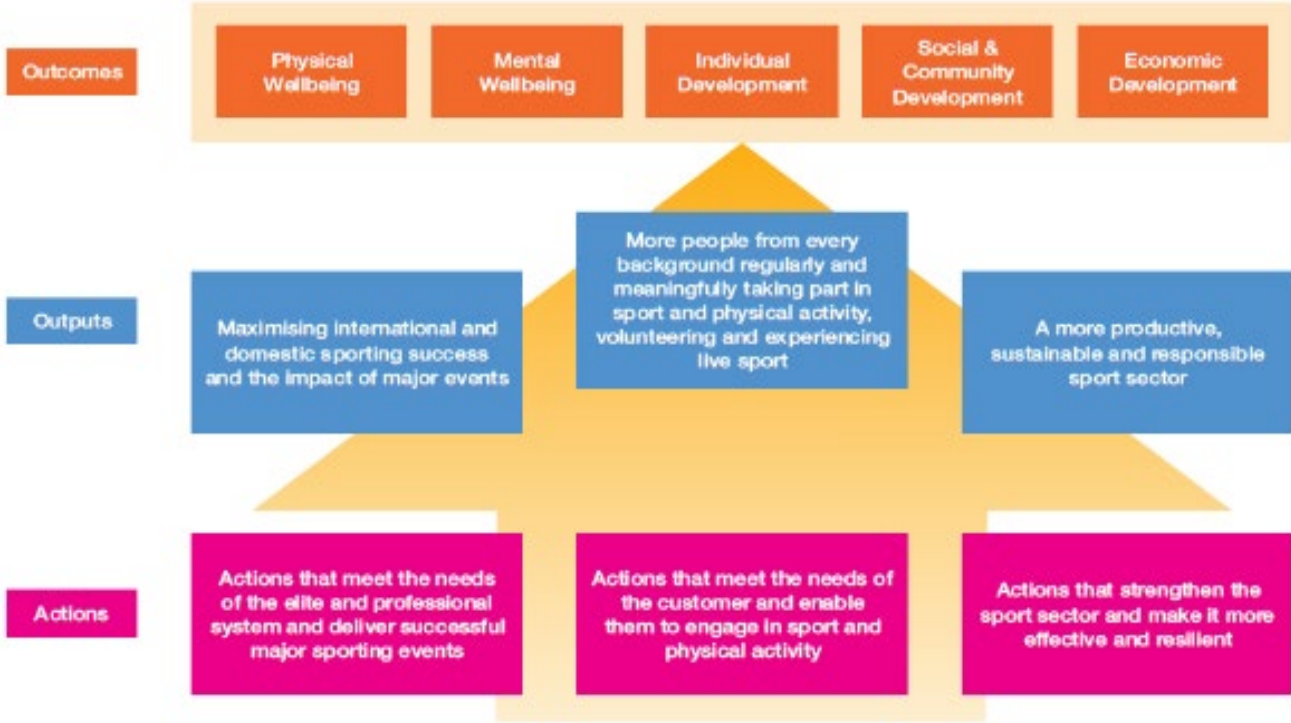
- 3.1 An understanding of the local strategic context, population and sports participation trends is essential in order to ensure that the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy is tailored to the characteristics, profile and aspirations of Great Yarmouth Borough.
- 3.2 This section therefore briefly summarises the key policies that impact upon the preparation of this assessment and strategy and provides an overview of the demographics and sports participation trends, and assesses the impact of this on demand for sports facilities.

Strategic Context

National

- 3.3 A national vision is set in ‘Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation’. This document sets out a framework and outcomes that can be translated locally against issues and opportunities for the Borough. Figure 3.1 illustrates the Government framework.

Figure 3.1 – Sporting Future Framework



3.3.2 This framework lists 5 Core Outcomes: developing physical and mental well-being, individual development, social and community development and economic development. The model includes key outputs such as ‘more people from every background regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport’.

3.3.3 To facilitate this, it is recognised that several actions will need to take place to drive behavioural change. The effective provision of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities will be key in helping to achieve the goals of this framework locally across Great Yarmouth.

3.3.4 **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** published in July 2021 clearly establishes the requirement for local plans to ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF’s expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation is set out in paragraphs 98 and 99 which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application. Paragraph 98 indicates that:

‘Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including qualitative or quantitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.’

3.3.5 Paragraph 99 states that: *‘Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:*

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

3.3.6 The preparation of this playing pitch assessment and strategy will help to ensure that Great Yarmouth Borough Council is able to deliver upon the requirements of this national policy and support the achievement of wider goals relating to sport and leisure participation.

3.4 Sport England

- 3.4.1 In January 2021, Sport England published 'Uniting the Movement', its new strategy which sets a vision for the next 10 years. The strategy sets a vision of '*a nation of equal, inclusive and connected communities and a country where people live happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives*' and highlights that being active is one of the most effective and sustainable ways of achieving this.
- 3.4.2 It replaces the previous strategy, 'Towards an Active Nation' which was aimed at tackling inactivity. This document outlined how Sport England would deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's 2015 Sporting Future strategy.
- 3.4.3 The new strategy seeks to ensure that sport and physical activity is to be recognised as essential to help overcome national challenges. It highlights that before the Covid 19 pandemic, record levels of activity were being achieved in England it is important to both get that momentum back, but also to reach people who have traditionally been excluded. It can be found on the following link: <https://www.sportengland.org/about-us/uniting-movement>

3.5 The strategy sets three objectives:

- Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity
- Joining forces on five big issues
- Creating the catalysts for change.

3.6 With regards advocating for Sport and Physical Activity, the strategy indicates that key tasks of Sport England will include;

- Establishing, building and growing partnerships
- Developing and delivering behavioural change campaigns
- Promoting the value of sport and physical activity as part of the solution and communicating the power of being activity.

3.7 This playing pitch assessment and strategy will help the local authorities and its partners to ensure that an effective network of facilities is in place to support and engage with these priorities.

3.8 The five big issues highlighted which Sport England will seek to address are of particular relevance to this playing pitch strategy and are as follows;

- **Recover and reinvent** – responding to the short, medium and long term challenges of Covid 19 and supporting organisations and people to return to activity that's stronger, more relevant and more inclusive than before
- **Connecting communities** – working in collaboration with communities - local people and organisations. This will include investing in clubs and charities and collaborating on local solutions, helping to deliver the outcomes that are needed through sport
- **Positive experiences for children and young people** – working to ensure that every child / young person experiences the enjoyment and benefits that being active can bring. This will include using sport and physical activity to improve mental and physical wellbeing, creating and protecting quality and safe places and spaces for children to play and enjoy being active outdoors and embracing technology and the digital world
- **Connecting with health and wellbeing** – ensuring that sport and physical activity is at the heart of health and wellbeing both in terms of stopping health problems arising in the first place, but also supporting people to manage problems when they do arise.
- **Active Environments** – the strategy recognises a range of environments, from dedicated leisure facilities and playing fields, other community spaces (parks / open

spaces / community centres and schools) through to the built environment (streets / housing estates etc). The strategy focuses upon making activity easier for everyone and focuses upon the protection and improvement of sport and leisure facilities (as well as the innovation of new designs and operational models), the creation of opportunities around community spaces and the creation of better places to live through an influence on design.

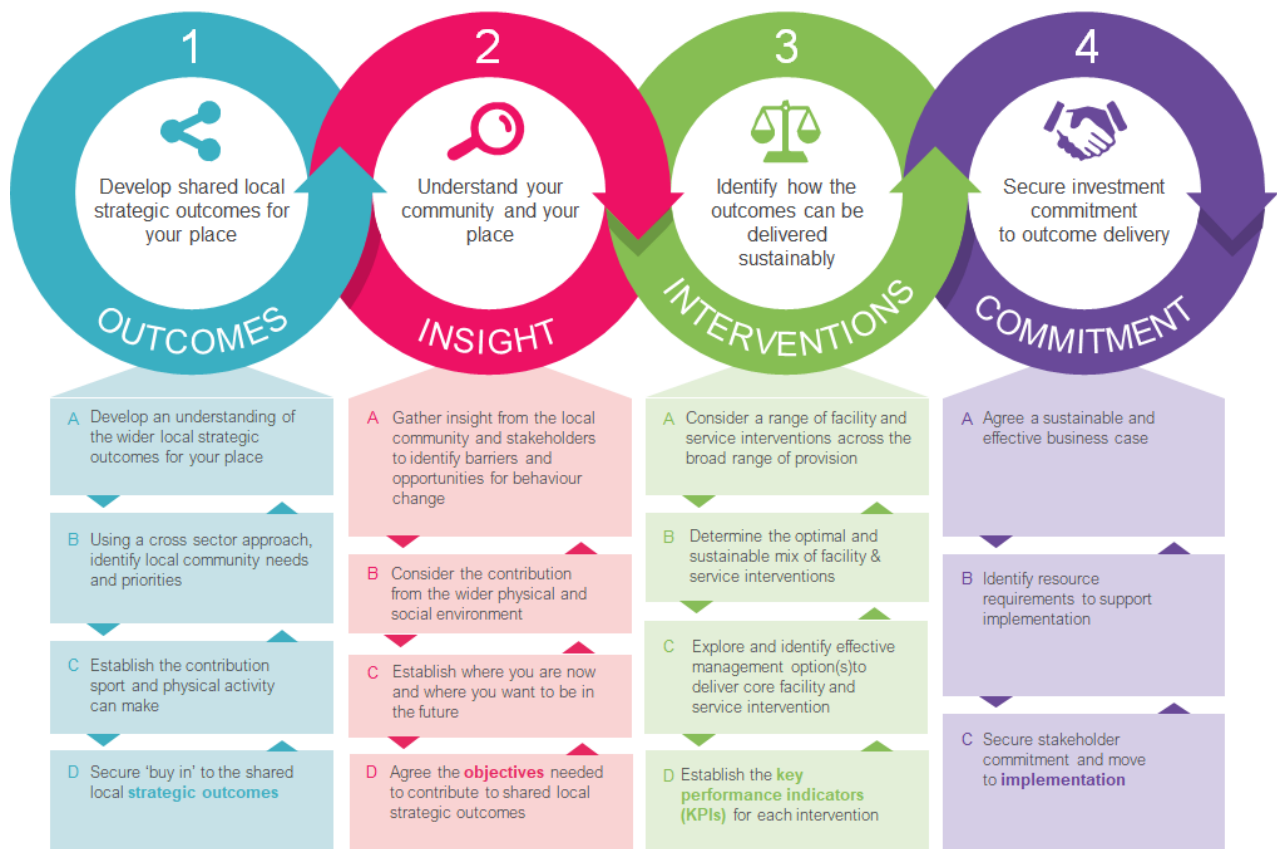
3.9 The strategy therefore makes clear recommendations with an emphasis placed on working collaboratively locally to promote and increase the number of active people. It focusses on investment driven by local need that drives down inequalities and puts physical activity and sport at the heart of life.

3.10 These national drivers provide an essential context for understanding the picture in Great Yarmouth and it will be important to understand how continued investment in facilities can contribute to achieving the targets around physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing and so on, indeed, clarity in these aspects should facilitate even greater engagement in the future with public health partners, education and business sectors.

Sport England’s Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance

3.11 Sport England has recently published this guidance to assist local authorities to take a strategic approach to maximising the contribution that sport and physical activity makes to its local outcomes. This guidance has four stages, as set out in figure 3.2

Figure 3.2- Sport England’s Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance



- 3.12 Sport and physical activity are increasingly seen as a co-producer of local outcomes and local authorities across the country are using their services, assets, partnerships and infrastructure to make a significant contribution to their residents' lives as a direct provider, commissioner or enabler.
- 3.13 Sport England's guidance shows that having a clear, strategic and sustainable approach to sport and physical activity is essential to making effective investment into provision – both facilities and services.
- 3.14 The guidance is structured around 4 stages:
- **Stage 1 – Outcomes** – Developing shared local outcomes for your place;
 - **Stage 2 – Insight** – Understand your community and your place;
 - **Stage 3 – Interventions** – Identify how the outcomes can be delivered sustainably;
 - **Stage 4 – Commitment** – Secure investment and commitment to outcome delivery.
- 3.15 Great Yarmouth Borough have recently worked alongside Sport England, Active Norfolk and its delivery partners to create a clear and sustainable approach to sport and physical activity. This Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy is a key component of the evidence base for Stage 2 of this model and will help to ensure that appropriate interventions to maximise the role that playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities can play in meeting the desired outcomes can be delivered.

Sport England Playing Field Policy

- 3.16 If physical activity is to be maintained and improved, existing facilities must be protected. Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long-established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance above. The policy indicates that:
- 3.17 Sport England will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of:
- *all or any part of a playing field, or*
 - *land which has been used as a playing field and remains undeveloped, or*
 - *and allocated for use as a playing field unless, in the judgement of Sport England, the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions.*

3.18 Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up to date assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this. Sport England recommend that a strategy is monitored and updated annually and refreshed every three years. This assessment will support the Council in implementing a robust strategic approach to the delivery of pitches.

3.19 The importance of the ongoing protection of playing fields is also highlighted within the new Sport England strategy and this assessment and strategy will therefore help to deliver these objectives.

Local Strategies

3.20 We have undertaken a review of the local policy documents to help identify the golden thread between local and national plans. A summary of the key findings is provided below.

<p>Great Yarmouth Borough Council Core Strategy Local Plan – Part 1</p>	<p>The Great Yarmouth Borough Council Core Strategy presents the Council’s overall vision and strategy for the borough.</p> <p>The plan sets out several strategic objectives, some of which are of direct relevance to the PPOSS. These include;</p> <p>SO2: Addressing social exclusion and deprivation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to, and the provision of, community, sports and cultural facilities, together with sufficient local infrastructure to ensure healthier and stronger communities develop <p>SO7: Securing the delivery of key infrastructure by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring all developments are supported by the necessary infrastructure and community facilities in an effective and timely manner to make the development sustainable and minimise its effect upon existing communities • Ensuring that all developments are in accessible locations to minimise the need to travel <p>The core strategy sets a series of core policies. Those of direct relevance to this PPOSS include;</p> <p>Policy CS1: Focusing on a Sustainable Future - Briefly touches on the desirable nature of access to green space; ‘Planning for Healthy Lifestyles - Living close to areas of green space can improve health and increase activity levels’</p> <p>Policy CS8: Promoting Tourism, Leisure and Culture – seeks to protect rural locations from visitor pressure by ensuring that proposals for new tourist, leisure and cultural facilities are of a suitable scale when considering relevant infrastructure requirements and the settlement’s position in the settlement hierarchy, in accordance with Policy CS2</p> <p>Policy CS15: Providing and protecting community assets and green infrastructure – This is the key policy in relation to the PPOSS, implementation of the policy seeks to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resist the loss of important community facilities and/or green assets unless appropriate alternative provision of equivalent or better-quality facilities is made in a location accessible to current and potential users or a detailed assessment clearly demonstrates there is no longer a need for the provision of the facility in the area - Ensure that all new development is supported by, and has good access to, a range of community facilities. In some circumstances developers will be required to provide and/or make a contribution towards the provision of community facilities. The process for securing planning obligations is set out in Policy CS14 - Take a positive approach to the development of new and enhanced community facilities, including the promotion of mixed community uses in the same building, especially where this improves choice and reduces the need to travel - Promote healthy lifestyles by addressing any existing and future deficiencies in the provision and quality of sports facilities, including access to these facilities, playing pitches, play spaces and open spaces throughout the borough - Ensure that all new developments contribute to the provision of recreational green space and incorporate improvements to the quality of, and access to, existing green infrastructure in accordance with local circumstances <p>This PPOSS therefore helps to support the Council in the delivery of the strategic objectives of its core strategies, but also provides evidence to underpin decision making in relation to policy CS15.</p>
<p>Great Yarmouth Borough Council Local Plan – Part 2</p>	<p>The Great Yarmouth Borough Council Local Plan Part 2 was adopted in December 2021. Part 2 builds upon and supplements the policies within the Core Strategy and adds detail to them. Policies that are of relevance to this PPOSS include;</p> <p>Policy GY6: Great Yarmouth Seafront Area - This policy makes special reference to the Great Yarmouth seafront area. It indicates that sports and leisure facilities that are proposed within the seafront area are subject to the consideration of compatibility with the existing surrounding uses.</p> <p>Policy C1: Community Facilities - <i>‘The retention of existing community facilities and the provision of new facilities, particularly in areas with poor levels of provision and in areas of major growth, will be encouraged.’</i></p>

	<p>Policy E3: Protection of open spaces - <i>Open spaces which provide local amenity, or recreational benefit to the local community, will be protected. Development proposals that contribute to the loss of either of these will only be permitted in limited circumstances and where:</i></p> <p><i>a. the proposal is ancillary to the space and will add to the value and function of the local open space to the benefit of amenity or the local community; or</i></p> <p><i>b. the applicant can demonstrate that the local open space is no longer required in its existing open space use or an alternative open space use; or</i></p> <p><i>c. the loss of space will be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, including accessibility to the local community where relevant</i></p> <p>Policy H4 sets out the open space requirements for new housing development. It indicates that</p> <p><i>New residential developments will be expected to make provision for publicly accessible recreational open space based upon the following Borough-wide standards unless it can be demonstrated through the Council's published evidence, or the submission of a more up-to-date open space assessment, that there is a sufficient local surplus of provision in the listed types of open space to meet the needs of existing residents and those arising from future occupiers of the proposal.</i></p> <p>24% of the required contribution is for outdoor sports. Localised decisions using this evidence base will determine whether this is on / off site.</p> <p>This assessment and strategy can provide evidence to support decision making in reference the above policies.</p>
<p>Together for Norfolk – Great Yarmouth Borough Corporate Plan</p>	<p>The plan sets the vision of 'a vibrant economy, capitalising on the investment in clean energy alongside further investment in our place and our visitor economy; creating a quality environment for all and improving the life chances of all those living and working in our borough'.</p> <p>This will be achieved through facilitating change in the following strategic priority areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong and growing economy • Improved housing and strong communities • High-quality and sustainable environment • An efficient and effective council. <p>Key priorities for delivery by 2025 include the promotion of Gorleston-on-Sea and Great Yarmouth as community hubs where people choose to live, as well as work, shop and undertake leisure activities.</p> <p>Promotion of the area as a tourist hub as well as a community hub for local residents is central to the Council's priorities and the delivery of an effective network of sport and leisure facilities can support the delivery of many of the above objectives.</p>
<p>Active Great Yarmouth Framework</p>	<p>The Active Great Yarmouth Framework is a suite of documents which seeks to guide the provision and delivery of sport and physical activity across Great Yarmouth Borough.</p> <p>This document is a key component of this evidence base.</p>

Table 3.1 Findings

3.21 The assessment therefore directly informs and links with the issues and priorities raised in many of the above local strategic documents. It also looks to reflect the priorities of the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport set out in their facility strategies. These include;

- National Football Facilities Strategy (2020) and Grassroots Facilities Investment Strategy – The FA
- National Facilities Strategy – The RFU
- ‘Inspiring Generations’ – England and Wales Cricket Board
- England Hockey National Strategy (2017)
- RFL National Facilities Strategy.

3.22 The key priorities of these documents will be explored in the sport specific sections.

Demographics and Population Profile

3.23 The Borough of Great Yarmouth focuses growth predominantly around the urban centres of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston-on-Sea. The sub national population projections (2014 based) suggest that the population of the Borough in 2022 is 101,250. These population projections have been used throughout this assessment to ensure alignment with the standard methodology for housing growth in local plans.

3.24 The majority of people in the Borough reside in the urban areas, with the rural hinterland containing numerous small villages. The proportion of the population aged over 65 is relatively high and growing. The current median age in the Borough is higher than national averages, while the proportion of the population that fall into the economically active categories is lower than average. This may have implications for the types of outdoor sports facilities that are required.

3.25 The borough has a number of notable health challenges, with the proportion of young people classified as obese higher than national averages. The number of people described as being in bad or very bad health is also above national averages. The effective provision of outdoor sports facilities will be key in helping to address these issues.

3.26 By 2027, the population (according to 2014 Sub National Population Projections) will reach 103,370 and this is scheduled to increase further to 105,430 by 2032. This represents an increase of 4180 people between now and 2032 (4%).

- 3.27 Analysis of the population projections suggests that the structure of the population will remain relatively consistent in the period 2021 – 2032. There will be only a very slight increase in the number of people falling into junior age groups for sport (5-18), with the total number residents increasing from 20,054 to 20,148, whilst a similar small increase will also be seen in the 18 – 45 age group (29,954 to 30,368 people). These age groups have a higher propensity to participate in pitch and outdoor sports than those over 45 and so these small increases suggest that there will only be a small rise in demand.
- 3.28 The highest levels of growth will be seen in the older age groups – the number of residents aged over 45 will increase from 50,165 to 53,591 between 2022 and 2032. Critically however, almost all of this increase will take place in those residents aged 70 and above (3531 people). These groups have a lower propensity to participate in pitch sports and this may therefore impact the type of facilities that are required in the Borough. The impact of this will be considered in the sports specific sections that follow.
- 3.29 By 2039, population is projected to increase further, to 108,131 and increase of 6879 people from 2022 (an increase of 2698 between 2032 and 2039). As between 2027 and 2032, the increase in residents will again focus on the older age groups, reducing the overall impact on playing pitch and outdoor sports over the strategy period.

Housing Growth and Location

- 3.30 The Local Plan sets out the level of growth that needs to be planned for in the Borough and sets out where that growth should be located. It is important that this is considered, as it impacts on how demand will look in future years.
- 3.31 The Local Plan Part 2 (2021) updated the Core Strategy housing requirement and indicated that 3993 new dwellings will be required over the plan period to 2030. In terms of location, new housing will be spread across the Borough. The Core Strategy (Policy CS2) indicates that;
- Approximately 35% of new development will take place in the borough's Main Towns at Gorleston-on-Sea and Great Yarmouth
 - Approximately 30% of new development will take place in the borough's Key Service Centres at Bradwell and Caister-on-Sea
 - Approximately 30% of new development will take place in the Primary Villages of Belton, Hemsby, Hopton on Sea, Ormesby St Margaret, Martham and Winterton-on-Sea

- Approximately 5% of new development will take place in the Secondary and Tertiary Villages named in the settlement hierarchy

3.32 The above development will be delivered through a variety of sites, but key large sites (300 houses plus) which may impact on the demand in a given area include;

- Core Strategy:
 - CS18, land at south Bradwell, up to 1,000 dwellings currently under construction
 - CS17, Great Yarmouth Waterfront – longer-term phased development, only approx. 300 dwellings to be built up to 2030
- Local Plan Part 2:
 - GN1, land south of Links Road, Gorleston-on-Sea, 500 dwellings
 - CA1, Land west of Jack Chase Way, Caister, up to 725 dwellings

3.33 This therefore suggests that whilst population growth will be felt across the Borough, there will be particular impact in the more urban areas and in Caister.

3.34 While population growth will generate a small increase in demand, the proportion of those residents in the age groups most likely to participate in pitch sports is more limited. This means that the more likely driver of participation changes (and increases) is therefore the rate of participation by the resident.

Sports Participation Profile

3.35 As part of the previous Sport England strategy, Towards an Active Nation (2016), Sport England introduced a new national survey Active Lives to measure adult participation in sport and physical activity. Active Lives recognises the breadth of both formal and informal ways people choose to get active and stay healthy.

3.36 The most recent findings of this survey represent the 2019 – 2020 period and an insight into the impact of the first lockdown that occurred as a consequence of Covid 19 has also been produced.

3.37 At a national level, the findings of the survey demonstrate that;

- Walking for leisure showed growth across the 12 months
- While cycling for leisure, running and fitness activities were static

- Swimming, team sports and racket sports all recorded decreases across the 12 months. The 2019 – 2020 period was however not typical due to the Covid lockdown, where activities available were severely restricted. Findings from previous years however demonstrated similar trends, indicating that;
- **Traditional team sports and racket sports** both indoors and outdoors are declining in participation.
- Individual based activities such as fitness and exercise classes are increasing in participation.
- There is an increase in adventure and thrill based activities,
- **Participation in all different categories of walking** has a considerably higher rate of participation than any sport. Walking for leisure by all adults, has the highest rate of participation of any activity at 25% of all adults participating.

3.38 What appears apparent is that the time, organisation and fixed times for playing team sports, both indoor and outdoor were maybe becoming barriers to participation. National Covid restrictions have also made participation in such sports more difficult, although outdoor activity has been impacted to a lower degree than indoor sports.

3.39 Individual sports and activities which require little organisation and are available at times that suit the lifestyle of participants are becoming more popular. This may have implications longer term on the demand for team sports considered within this Playing Pitch Strategy.

3.40 It should be noted however that since the covid pandemic, the Governing Bodies relating to the majority of sports considered within this strategy document have recorded increases in participation, suggesting that there may have been an overall positive impact on demand for sport. This may be reflected in the findings of the Active Lives survey in future years.

3.41 Analysis of the Active Lives survey indicates that 39.5% of the population in Great Yarmouth are considered to be physically inactive. This is above national and Norfolk averages. Data suggests that Great Yarmouth is one of the few authorities where the proportion of people that are physically inactive has increased at a statistically significant level. Just 51.7% of the population are considered to be active, which again is below national and regional levels. This suggests that there is significant scope to increase levels of activity in the Borough. An effective network of facilities will be essential if this is to be achieved.

3.42 One of the key challenges across Great Yarmouth as a whole therefore is to address the proportion of people who are physically inactive and to make these residents more active. This is considered essential, given the direct impact that activity has on health.

Summary

3.43 Analysis of the strategic and demographic context therefore demonstrates that;

- The contribution that health and physical activity can make to the achievement of many of the strategic goals of both national organisations as well as Great Yarmouth Borough Council and local partner organisations is clear– an effective facility infrastructure will be essential in the achievement of these goals
- Although the population of the Borough is increasing by circa 4%, it is the age groups that are less likely to participate in pitch sports where projected growth is highest. There will however be a small increase in the number of people in the age groups likely to participate in pitch sports, and this may generate a consequential increase for demand for facilities.
- Participation levels in the Borough are lower than national and regional averages. An effective and sustainable facility infrastructure will be essential if participation is to be supported and inequalities in participation are to be removed.

4.0 Cricket

4.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for cricket. It includes:

- A brief overview of the supply and demand for cricket
- An understanding of activity at individual sites
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision and
- The future picture of provision for cricket.

Supply

4.2 Table 4.1 summarises the cricket facilities that are available across Great Yarmouth. It demonstrates that there are 8 grass cricket squares in total. Seven of the eight grounds are club / public facilities. Flegg High School is the only school to have a grass cricket pitch and this pitch is not available for community use.

4.3 The grass squares are supported by 3 non turf pitches in the borough. One of these is situated at Martham Recreation Ground whilst the other 2 are located at schools, Cliff Park Academy and Flegg High Ormiston Academy.

4.4 Provision has declined since the previous PPS, with squares at Hemsby Recreation Ground, Gorleston Recreation Ground and Southtown Common becoming disused. Belton CC, who were based in the Borough at the time of the previous PPS have since relocated to Lowestoft and Yarmouth RFC **Table 4.1 – Cricket Provision in Great Yarmouth** and are now based outside of the Borough.

Site	Sub Area	Grass Squares	Non-Turf Pitches	Community Use Status	Status	Ownership / management
Beaconsfield Rec Ground	Great Yarmouth	2	0	Secured	Available for use and used	Council (rented by club). Maintained by Council.
King George V Playing Field, Caister-on-Sea	Northern Parishes	1	0	Secured	Available for use and used	Owned by Playing Field Committee, Club have 10-year lease. Club

						maintain square, council maintain outfield and Playing field committee maintain pavilion.
Martham Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	1	1	Secured	Available for use and used	Rented to club, maintained by Club.
Rollsby Cricket Ground	Northern Parishes	1	0	Secured	Available for use and used	Private owner, facility rented to club. Maintained by club.
Winterton Sports Field	Northern Parishes	1	0	Secured	Available for use and used	Owned by Parish Council, club currently lease facility.
Cliff Park Academy	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	0	1	Unsecured	Educational use only	Education
Flegg High Ormiston Academy, Martham	Northern Parishes	1	1	Unsecured	Educational use only	Education

4.5 Table 4.1 demonstrates that ownership of cricket facilities is mixed, with ownership of sites offering community use split between Club and Public Providers. While there are a good number of cricket facilities, it is clear that there are some concerns relating to security of tenure. Several sites are rented by clubs without any long term guarantee of availability as follows;

- Caister CC and Winterton CC having reasonable security, with both clubs having leases from the owners of their respective sites. The length of these is however now relatively short. Caister CC have a 10 year lease while the length of Winterton’s lease is unknown). There is a need to review and extend the length of these leases to ensure continuity in provision
- Great Yarmouth CC, Martham CC and Rollsby CC all currently rent meaning that they have no long term security of access.

4.6 Improving security of tenure for cricket clubs and therefore the long term sustainability of the sport in Great Yarmouth will therefore represent a key part of any strategy. Where clubs are not able to demonstrate long term security of tenure, they will struggle to access funding to support qualitative improvements. Norfolk Cricket Board are committed to work with clubs to support improvement in this area.

4.7 Table 4.2 summarises the total provision by sub area. It reveals that cricket provision across the borough is very uneven, with the majority of provision located in the Northern Parishes. There are no facilities for cricket at all in Southern Parishes and Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell has only a single non-turf pitch that is not currently used by the community. Beaconsfield Recreation Ground is an important site for Great Yarmouth as it is the only site for cricket in this part of the Borough.

Table 4.2 – Cricket Provision by Sub Area

Sub Area	Grass Squares	Non-Turf Pitches
Great Yarmouth	2	0
Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	0	1
Northern Parishes	6	2
Southern Parishes	0	0
Total	8	3

Lapsed / Disused Cricket Pitches

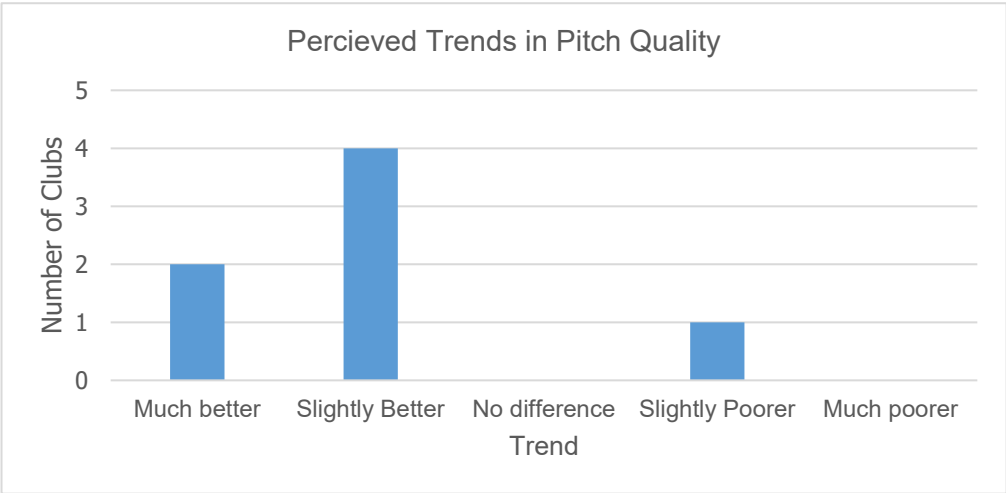
4.8 There are no longer cricket squares at Hemsby Recreation Ground or Southtown Common. Both sites remain as playing fields and therefore there may be potential to reinstate these playing fields should the need arise.

Grass Pitch Quality

4.9 The quality of club cricket pitches was evaluated through a variety of means. Final pitch ratings have been derived through the triangulation of data (NGB feedback, club and league feedback, site visits). This has enabled the production of an accurate picture of quality.

- 4.10 To inform decision making in relation to each site, non-technical site assessments undertaken as part of the assessment process. These were undertaken during the cricket season and provide an overview of all sites.
- 4.11 Clubs were also asked to comment on the quality of their own facilities and quality issues were also discussed in full with representatives of Norfolk Cricket Board and the ECB.
- 4.12 Chart 4.1 demonstrates that six out of seven clubs believe that the quality of their grounds has improved as opposed to declined, with two clubs considering the improvement to be significant. Enhanced Maintenance procedures were identified as the key reason for all clubs where improvements have been made. In contrast, Rollesby CC, the only cricket club believing there to be a decline also attributed this to maintenance. It is anticipated that Norfolk Cricket Board will offer support to all cricket clubs that require support with maintenance this summer.
- 4.13 Whilst the Covid 19 pandemic is however thought to have potentially benefitted pitch quality in terms of time dedicated and rest to pitches (although some clubs did limited maintenance during the lockdown period), the lack of activity and the reducing incomes has caused concern for some of the smaller clubs, who have limited funding to support the maintenance that is required.

Chart 4.1 – Perceived Trends in Pitch Quality



- 4.14 Despite the positive perceptions of the impact that maintenance has had on the improvement of cricket squares, there is a general perception that the overall quality of facilities in Norfolk is declining and 83% of the clubs indicated that they are not happy with the overall infrastructure for cricket and more specifically with the quality of their own facility.

4.15 Despite the challenges identified, reflecting the perceived pitch improvements, there has been strong investment into cricket pitches across the borough in the last three years. Table 4.2 summarises the investment that has been made and demonstrates that as documented, improvements have largely focused around maintenance / out of season ground works.

Table 4.2 – Improvements in the Last Three Years

Site	Improvements Since Last Strategy
Caister CC / Broadland CC	Out of season reinstatement works by specialist, sightscreens, test grade flat sheet covers, new roller, storage compound, new roof storage container
Martham CC	Sprinkler System
Rollesby CC	Any improvements put on hold by Covid, keen to continue to enhance site
Winterton CC	Sight screens, covers and eliminated trees from boundary
Great Yarmouth CC	Grounds maintenance improvements

4.16 Site visits demonstrate that all grounds are functional and playable for the standard of play that they sustain, but that most facilities would benefit from investment. There were no facilities of a particularly strong standard and Martham CC was the only site to achieve a rating of good.

4.17 There were no clear patterns in terms of ownership / management of the site, with issues at the majority of sites in the Borough. The key site-specific issues identified for each club through a combination of site visits and consultation are summarised in Table 4.3. Issues are split between pitch quality / pavilion quality and changing accommodation and pavilion.

4.18 In general, the key issues identified suggest that;

- The importance of adequate maintenance is recognised, with improvements to maintenance viewed as a key contributing factor where sites are deemed to have improved. There are opportunities to address many of the qualitative issues identified through improved and enhanced maintenance procedures. Succession planning and effective training of volunteers will be instrumental in ensuring that maintenance procedures remain effective and sustainable. On the whole, the maintenance at the majority of sites appears to be

adequate for the levels of usage experienced, but maintenance will be key to retaining and improving quality;

- Squares are adequate and well maintained on the whole, with clubs prioritising this area of the facility. In many instances however, the wicket is showing signs of water stress (brown grass / bare patches)
- The quality of outfield is varying, with the surface of many grounds uneven, and the impact of unofficial use (recreational activity etc for example) evident). The problem of uneven outfields is particularly noticeable at sites catering for multiple sports (i.e. football in winter and cricket in summer).

4.19 In addition to the quality of the competitive pitch, the quality of training facilities is a concern – there is a lack of facilities on some sites and poor-quality facilities on others. Where clubs do not have off field training resources, there is a greater reliance on the use of the square.

4.20 Pavilions are also important for cricket and can play a vital role in club sustainability. The majority of clubs have pavilions that are functional, and many have recently invested in them. That said, several clubs identify further works and some pavilions are very basic and this may potentially impact on player recruitment.

4.21 Despite all facilities in the Borough being playable, and the evidence of the many recent improvements that have taken place, many clubs believe that the quality of pitches remains their key priority. Most clubs (70%) do however believe that they have the skills to maintain their facilities to the appropriate standard.

4.22 Table 4.3 therefore provides a summary of the quality of facilities available on a site-specific basis (derived from a combination of site visits and consultation) and highlights where improvements are considered to be required.

4.23 It should be noted that in many instances, outfield and square issues can be improved by tailored maintenance programmes rather than costly interventions such as drainage installation. This will be explored further in the strategy document, but any capital investment should be preceded by detailed grounds maintenance and pitch condition reports in order to determine the best approach to addressing the issues identified.

Table 4.3 – Site Specific Club Quality Comments

Site	Pitch Quality	Training Facilities	Pavilion - Facilities Available and Improvements required	Key Priorities for Improvement	Overall Quality Rating
Beaconsfield Rec Ground	Even outfield and wicket, some evidence of rolling. Adequate grass coverage at acceptable length, signs of water stress (preceding dry weather). Square is like a basin with raised end, sand evident, likely to fill with water – requires remedial treatment. Suffers from unofficial use (public recreation ground)	Mobile net provided. Adequate condition.	4 changing rooms, 1 umpire room. Shared with football, appears adequate. Includes hot and cold water and showers (no heating).	Maintenance. Training facilities. Improved score box and covers, sight screens for second pitch	Standard (second pitch standard to poor)
King George V Playing Field	Outfield is slightly uneven (and shared with football), grass coverage on square could be improved although wicket is even – impacted by water stress. Some damage to square. Community field suffers from impact of dog walking and heavy usage (football / recreation).	Mobile training net provided for use on square (small in size). Club aspires to have permanent nets.	4 changing rooms, 2 umpires rooms that include hot and cold water and heating. Shared with football. Fenced off but in acceptable condition. No clubhouse / bar although village café recently added	Outdoor/permanent practise nets, improved outfield, bar/clubhouse added to pavilion	Standard
Martham Recreation Ground	Good grass coverage, outfield is slightly uneven with a few weeds but square even (although suffering from lack of water), some debris on pitch from unofficial use. Multi-sport site.	Training nets, limited quality and would benefit from refurbishment	2 changing rooms and umpire's rooms. Require internal upgrade /potential extension to facilitate female cricket. Maintained by Parish Council and include showers / hot and cold water (but no heating).	Training / practice facilities. Changing rooms facility improvements.	Good

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Site	Pitch Quality	Training Facilities	Pavilion - Facilities Available and Improvements required	Key Priorities for Improvement	Overall Quality Rating
Rollsby Cricket Club	Some damage to surface, grass coverage is poor (square and outfield). Functional but basic.	None	Basic. 2 changing rooms, no umpire room. No mains electricity. Small kitchen but no showers / heating.	Improvement of square / outfield – enhanced maintenance, remediation of facilities.	Low Standard
Winterton Sports Field	Grass coverage adequate, grass slightly long, but evidence of damage to surface, some bumps. Short boundary at one end, square recently relocated to eliminate ridge and is improving. Requires irrigation.	Mobile practice nets, club also built own training nets, poor quality surface.	Ageing and basic, two rooms but issues with floor drainage and insufficient showers. Small umpire room. Requires refurbishment if club is to maintain position in league. Very poor.	Refurbishment of pavilion, training facilities, NTP, ongoing maintenance improvements	Standard

Demand

Club Based Demand

- 4.24 At the time of this assessment, there were 17 teams in Great Yarmouth Borough in total, of which 11 are senior teams, 2 are midweek teams and 4 are junior teams. This represents a reduction in the number of teams playing in the Borough at the time of the previous PPS for both junior and senior cricket. Since the assessment has been produced however, there has been an increase in junior cricket, with Winterton CC now running additional teams.
- 4.25 Almost all teams in the Borough play in the Norfolk Cricket Leagues, which is one of two major cricket leagues in Norfolk (the other being the Norfolk Cricket Alliance).
- 4.26 Just one of the senior teams is a female team. This team plays at Winterton CC in the Shell Women's League.
- 4.27 Martham and Winterton CC are the only teams with any junior teams playing hardball cricket. There are three junior teams at Martham, and one U15 team at Winterton CC (which includes some girls – this has since increased to 3). Both clubs have recently noted increased interest in junior cricket and Caister CC have recently developed U9 and U11 softball teams, which may offer longer term potential for growth.
- 4.28 The lack of junior teams is a cause for concern and suggests that there are poor foundations for the development of cricket in the borough. Larger clubs are generally more sustainable and able to provide higher quality facilities. With most clubs in Great Yarmouth offering only one or two teams, this means that there is a greater risk of clubs becoming unsustainable. Clubs without junior / female sections also struggle to access funding to help improve their facilities.
- 4.29 Exacerbating the issue of poor structures for cricket development, there is little evidence of engagement with ECB junior development programmes, including both All Stars and Dynamos as well as Women and Girls. Caister CC are the only club currently working with the ECB although it is anticipated that Winterton will re-engage next season. The Cricket Board will continue to work to increase the number of clubs that are engaging with these programmes.
- 4.30 In addition to the limited activity at club sites, clubs also raise concerns about cricket in schools. There is some Kwik cricket played in primary schools, but with Flegg High School being the only secondary school known to actively play cricket, there is no introduction to cricket at a

grassroots level and therefore no transition into clubs. This is a key concern for the Norfolk Cricket Board, who are now actively working to address this issue.

4.31 Overall therefore, this suggests that there is a need to re-energise cricket in the Borough and to support development opportunities to grow the game for both juniors and seniors, as well as the ECB target market of women and girls.

4.32 At the time of the previous PPS, a casual competition was also in its infancy. This participation is thought to have fizzled out. Norfolk Cricket Board are however looking to reinvigorate this form of the game and are exploring the provision of casual play opportunities in 2022, particularly for women and girls.

4.33 Consultation with clubs suggests that there are some aspirations for growth (Martham CC / Caister CC / Broadland CC) and there is therefore an opportunity to stimulate cricket. The poor existing levels of participation are not thought to have been generated by the Covid 19 pandemic. Consultation with clubs suggests that whilst some clubs lost members, others gained them and there were no clear patterns. Clubs with poorer facilities believe that this is the reason why they lose members to other clubs rather than changes in participation arising from covid.

Table 4.3 summarises the teams at each club and also provides an indication of the participation trends.

Table 4.3 – Participation in Cricket across Great Yarmouth

Club	Sub Area	Senior Weekend Teams	Junior Teams	Midweek Teams	Trends
Great Yarmouth CC	Great Yarmouth	2	0	0	Static
Caister CC	Northern Parishes	2	0	1	Static
Martham CC	Northern Parishes	2	3	0	Static senior, increasing interest in junior play
Rollesby CC	Northern Parishes	1	0	0	Static, attempted to run additional teams but lost players to clubs with

Club	Sub Area	Senior Weekend Teams	Junior Teams	Midweek Teams	Trends
					better facilities.
Winterton CC	Northern Parishes	3	1*	0	Static senior, increasing interest in junior play
Broadland CC	Northern Parishes	1	0	1	Membership consistent but availability of players has reduced.
Total		11	4	2	

*since the assessment was produced participation at Winterton CC has increased

4.34 Table 4.4 summarises participation by sub area. It reveals that reflecting the distribution of facilities, almost all cricket takes place in the Northern Parishes. The only opportunities for junior cricket are also in the Northern Parishes. This means that for people in the more urban areas of the Borough, opportunities for cricket are limited.

Sub Area	Weekend Teams	Senior	Junior Teams	Senior Teams	Midweek	Trends
Great Yarmouth	2		0	0		Limited participation
Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	0		0	0		No participation
Northern Parishes	9		4	2		Highest levels of participation in the borough
Southern Parishes	0		0	0		No participation

Other Demand

4.35 There is no evidence of significant additional use formal of cricket venues. Whilst some clubs indicate that they occasionally host club friendlies etc, there is no clear regular usage of the facilities by schools / other teams.

4.36 The impact of informal usage of the facilities was however highlighted and in some instances was perceived to impact on the quality of facilities. Given that some sites are situated in public recreation grounds, the facilities are subjected to wear and tear from unofficial uses. Whilst not substantial enough to impact / reduce the capacity of a facility, wear and tear, as well as issues such as dog fouling and litter can reduce the quality and desirability of a facility.

Training Needs

4.37 Access to appropriate training facilities emerged as one of the key issues in consultation with clubs.

4.38 Clubs primarily use indoor training nets during the winter months. Clubs are however finding it increasingly difficult to book indoor cricket nets, with the key issues raised being;

- Few venues being available (particularly as Flegg High School has been closed due to covid)
- Lack of appropriate facilities at the right time
- The cost to hire facilities.

4.39 The issue of perceived lack of indoor cricket facilities is replicated across Norfolk (and is highlighted in the PPS of several Norfolk authorities) and there is a potential need to provide new indoor cricket nets to meet this demand during the winter months.

4.40 In the summer, clubs train predominantly at their club base. As was highlighted earlier in this section, training facilities at club sites are typically either poor quality or lacking. This therefore impacts on the wear and tear of the square and also reduces the training that can be achieved. Improvement to training facilities emerged as one of the biggest priorities for clubs during consultation.

4.41 The ECB highlight the importance of clubs having access to appropriate training facilities – this is particularly important for clubs trying to grow / sustain junior sections, as juniors tend to gravitate towards high quality training facilities and a developmental environment. A lack of off field training facilities can also restrict the amount of development activities that can take place, as youth training / implementation of All Stars programmes etc starts to conflict with space required for training. A lack of practice facilities has also been noted to reduce the potential for smaller clubs to recruit new players. With a need to stimulate cricket in Great Yarmouth, there may be a need to improve the training facilities that are provided to maximise the attractiveness of cricket to potential participants.

Schools Cricket

4.42 Demand for formal cricket pitches is much less evident from the education sector than other sports. While many primary schools play cricket and have cricket teams, this is primarily kwik cricket played indoors or on the playground. The Chance to Shine Programme, which brings cricket back into primary schools and seeks to create strong links between schools and clubs has however been particularly successful nationwide, and the Norfolk Cricket Board continues to increase the number of schools that are engaged locally in Great Yarmouth Borough. Caister CC and Winterton CC have engaged with the Chance to Shine Programme in an effort to promote youth participation.

4.43 Outside of Flegg High School, there is no participation in cricket in the schools in Great Yarmouth and this is a key concern of the clubs. Reflecting this, there are limited facilities for cricket at school sites. Cliff Park Academy have a non turf pitch on site that is of poor quality (unusable), whilst Flegg High School offers the only other facility. The NTP on this site is also of poor quality.

Adequacy of Provision

- 4.44 The adequacy of facilities for cricket is measured by comparing the number of wickets available against the level of use of these wickets. This is considered firstly at a site-specific level and then compiled to present a sub area and borough-wide picture.
- 4.45 For cricket, unlike other pitch sports, the capacity of a pitch is measured on a seasonal basis (as opposed to weekly) and is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Play is rotated throughout the season across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Consideration is however also given to the availability of facilities at peak time.
- 4.46 With regards capacity, as a guide, the ECB suggests that a good quality wicket should be able to take:
- 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults);
 - 7 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors);
 - 60 matches per season per non-turf wicket (adults); and
 - 80 matches per season per non-turf wicket (juniors).
- 4.47 For sites where the condition of the wicket is poorer, the amount of games that can be sustained without impact on the condition of the facility is lower. Standard quality wickets are able to sustain 4 adult games (5 junior) per season, whilst poor facilities should not be considered to offer any capacity for health and safety reasons. None of the facilities in Great Yarmouth Borough are currently classified as poor.
- 4.48 For the purposes of calculations, demand is therefore measured in terms of the number of home games that each team will play per season. Calculations summarising the adequacy of facilities for cricket that are available for community use are presented in Table 4.5. They indicate that;
- All active grass pitches accommodate cricket during the season. With the exception of the grass square at Flegg High School all active pitches are available for community use;
 - There is a small amount of spare capacity in the Borough, located primarily at Great Yarmouth CC and Martham CC. The second pitch at Great Yarmouth is only used for training this season (covid has prevented the club's usual policy of playing simultaneous home fixtures for their two teams) meaning that there is scope to increase activity in future years and there is also a small amount of scope for growth at Martham CC.

Rollesby CC is the only other site where an additional adult team could be accommodated over the course of the season

- There are two sites where overplay is evident;
 - At Caister CC / Broadland CC overplay is primarily as a result of the small square, which needs to accommodate the fixtures for both clubs
 - Winterton CC has a very small amount of overplay (7 MES) – this is one of the larger clubs and the size of the square is small
- Spare capacity at peak time is even more limited, with only the second pitch at Great Yarmouth CC and Rollesby CC having any spare capacity
- There is scope to increase pitch quality at most sites and this would have a direct impact on site capacity, increasing the additional matches that could be sustained.

4.49 It should be noted that for several clubs, the level of wear and tear on the wicket is influenced by the use of the grass square for training. This arises directly as a result of the lack of suitable off field training facilities.

4.50 In addition to the facilities included in Table 4.5, there are two venues that are not used this year – Southtown Common and Hemsby Recreation Ground. There is scope for these to be used to add additional capacity for cricket if required. The location of Southtown Common means that it would provide a facility within the southern part of the Borough, which might help to improve access to cricket for those that cannot currently access a facility.

4.51 There is also no use of the existing facilities at Flegg School – this may provide an opportunity to address any capacity issues that arise.

4.52 Table 4.5 contains the following information:

- Number of wickets required to accommodate adult play (based upon number of games each adult team plays and assumption of wicket capacity where good wickets can take 5 games and standard wickets can sustain 4 games)
- Number of wickets required to accommodate junior play (based upon number of games each adult team plays and assumption of wicket capacity where good wickets can take 7 games and standard wickets can sustain 5 games)
- Total number of wickets required to meet demand

- Spare capacity (i.e. capacity of adult wickets on each site minus demand from adult teams, likewise for junior teams) and the potential additional MES that could be accommodated

4.53 Figures with a ‘-’ indicate that the wickets are overplayed i.e. demand is greater than supply.

4.54 Figures assume that all match play takes place on grass wickets, which reflects the feedback provided during consultation and is also a consequence of the limited availability of on field non turf wickets. Non turf wickets offer significantly greater capacity than grass pitches and may provide a viable option to increase capacity at other sites in future years.

Great Yarmouth Borough PPOSS



Table 4.5 – Adequacy of Cricket Pitch Provision in Great Yarmouth Borough

Site Name	Zone	Overall Quality Rating	Wickets Provided	Number of adult Games	Number of Additional Games	Number of Wickets Required to accommodate adult play	Number of Junior Games	Number of wickets required to accommodate junior play	Total Wickets Required	Total Spare Capacity	Potential Additional MES	Peak Time
Beaconsfield Rec Ground (2 squares)	Great Yarmouth	Standard	14 and 8	24	8	8	0	0	8	14	56	1
King George V Playing Field	Northern Parishes	High Standard	9	44	8	13	0	0	13	-4	-16	0
Martham Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	High Standard	15	24	8	6.4	18	2.5	8.9	6	24	0
Rollesby Cricket Club	Northern Parishes	Low Standard	7	12	3	3.75	0	0	3.75	3.25	13	0.5
Winterton Sports Field	Northern Parishes	Low Standard	9	36	2	9.5	6	1.2	10.7	-1.7	-6.8	0

- 4.55 The site overviews set out in Table 4.5 can be used to develop an overall picture of provision across the Borough and an understanding of the amount of spare capacity that is available. This is set out in Table 4.6. The figures take into account the quality of each site.
- 4.56 It reveals that building on the site specific analysis set out in Table 4.5, spare capacity is relatively limited. Whilst provision is low in Great Yarmouth, it is actually this area that has the greatest level of spare capacity.
- 4.57 Whilst therefore there is a degree of spare capacity across the Borough as a whole, it is important to note the different standards that teams play at and therefore the differing facility requirements. Where teams play in the higher echelons of league structures for example, facility requirements are stricter and the grounds of teams that play in lower leagues / friendlies may not meet these standards and may therefore be unsuitable, despite having availability.

Table 4.6 -Borough Wide Picture of Provision

Sub Area	Number of Wickets Required	Total Number of Wickets Available	Spare Capacity (wickets)	Spare Capacity (MES)	Comment
Great Yarmouth	8	22	14	56	Spare capacity at Great Yarmouth CC across season.
Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	0	0	0	0	No grass cricket squares available
Northern Parishes	32.65	42	9 (but overplay of 6 at other sites)	37 (but overplay of 23 at other sites)	Overplay at Caister CC and Winterton CC. Some spare capacity at Martham CC and Rollesby CC
Southern Parishes	0	0	0	0	No grass cricket squares available
Total	40.65	65	24.35	93 (but 23 overplay)	

Peak Time Demand

- 4.58 While Table 4.6 demonstrates that there is a small amount of spare capacity across the season, scheduling and programming of cricket matches must also be taken into consideration.
- 4.59 Adult cricket fixtures are generally played over several hours and only one home fixture can be played in a day. With most senior cricket taking place at the weekend, this therefore limits the capacity of the ground.
- 4.60 Table 4.6 therefore summarises the availability at each ground at peak time and reveals that there is scope for additional play (1.5 MES at peak time). This spare capacity is located at Great Yarmouth CC and Rollesby CC.

Table 4.6 – Peak Time Demand

Sub Area	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (MES)	Comment
Great Yarmouth	1	Spare capacity at Great Yarmouth CC
Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	0	No grass cricket squares available
Northern Parishes	0.5	Spare capacity at Rollesby CC
Southern Parishes	0	No grass cricket squares available
Total	1.5	

4.61 Displaced, Latent and Unmet Demand

Displaced Demand

- 4.62 There is no evidence of any displaced teams within Great Yarmouth Borough.

Latent / Unmet Demand

4.63 There is no clear evidence of unmet or latent demand in the Borough.

Future Picture

4.64 As demonstrated, the existing infrastructure for cricket is tightly matched with demand and interventions are required to ensure that facilities continue to meet with need. Added to this, population growth will impact upon future demand, as will changes in participation trends. These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

Population Change

4.65 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.

4.66 Table 5.7 summarises the current TGRs for cricket and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected changes to the population on demand. It presents the total number of additional teams that will be generated by 2027, 2032 and 2039 cumulatively from 2022(i.e. the figures for 2039 include the number of additional teams that will be generated by 2032).

4.67 It reveals that even by 2039, there will be no additional teams generated in any age group as a result of population growth alone. This is because the growth in the population in age groups most likely to play cricket is insufficient.

Table 4.7 - Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Additional Teams Generated by 2027	Additional Teams Generated by 2032	Additional Teams generated by 2039
Cricket Open Age Men's (18-55yrs)	12	22069	1839	-0.1	0.2	0.57
Cricket Open Age Women's (18-55yrs)	1	21288	21288	0	0	0
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	4	6329	1582	0.05	0.02	0
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	0	6118	0	0	0	0

4.68 Table 4.7 therefore suggests that demand for cricket pitches will remain constant when considering population growth (without increases to cricket participation). The potential impact of cricket development initiatives will be explored in the next section.

4.69 This means that the spare capacity that is currently evident will remain, unless growth in cricket participation is driven by influences other than population change.

Driving Growth in Cricket – Impact on Pitches

4.70 Norfolk Cricket Board serves as the governing and representative body for cricket across Norfolk. The Cricket Board works with a variety of partners to promote the development of cricket and is now working alongside the ECB on delivering the national five-year plan, Inspiring Generations. The plan seeks to inspire current and future generations through cricket.

4.71 It highlights a number of recent successes, including strong growth in participation for 5–8 year olds through All Stars Cricket, as well as year on year growth in the number of women playing cricket and world cup victories for both male and female teams. This success is believed to provide a strong platform to deliver the strategy.

4.72 The plan sets six clear priorities for growing cricket and outlines the key mechanisms for the delivery of these objectives.

4.73 The key objectives of the strategy are summarised in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 - Key Objectives of Inspiring Generations (ECB 2020)

Objectives	Key Delivery Mechanisms
<i>Grow and Nurture the Core</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create infrastructure investment funds • Invest in club facilities • Develop the role of National Counties Cricket • Drive Governance across the game
<i>Inspire through elite teams</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment in the county talent pathway • Incentivise the counties to develop England players • Drive the performance system through technology and innovation

Objectives	Key Delivery Mechanisms
<i>Make cricket accessible</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden appeal of Cricket • Create a new digital community for cricket • Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas • continue to deliver the South Asian Action Plan • Launch a new participation product
<i>Engage children and young people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double cricket participation in primary schools • Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age 5 upwards • Develop safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people.
<i>Transform women's and girls' cricket</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow the base through participation and facilities investment • Launch centre of excellence and a new elite domestic structure • Invest in girls county age group cricket • Deliver a girls' secondary school programme.
<i>Support Communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double the number of volunteers in the game • Increase participation in disability cricket • Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches

4.74 The success of the above will be measured by the ECB against the following Key Performance Indicators;

- The number of people playing / volunteering / attending / watching or following cricket
- Percentage of people who have a positive perception of cricket
- Total number of people under the age of 16 engaging with cricket
- Total number of women and girls engaging with cricket.

4.75 The strategy commits strategic investment to the delivery of these priorities, specifically:

- £450m of direct funding (60% increase on direct funding levels) for the full five-year period (nationally)

- £67m in strategic investments for the first two years of the strategy – this includes investment in club and non-traditional playing facilities, increasing participation in primary schools and transforming women and girls cricket (nationally)
- £255 of committed investments into centrally administered strategic activity to futureproof the game.

4.76 The Inspiring Generations Strategy builds on Cricket Unleashed (ECB strategy 2016 – 2020) and embraces a range of targeted programmes that seek to increase participation. These are constantly evolving, in response to demand and new ideas and opportunities.

4.77 Most of the current take place on the outfield and therefore put increased pressure on the whole ground as opposed to just the square. This increases the importance of providing level outfields, and places greater emphasis on the importance of effective maintenance and management regimes.

4.78 Added to this, while these may not necessarily directly generate a requirement for increased capacity immediately, longer term, if new participants successfully transition into the full game, it is likely that there will be greater demand for cricket pitches in years to come. There are particular gaps in Great Yarmouth around youth cricket and successful development of cricket in this age group would see demand increase.

4.79 The key priorities for the Norfolk Cricket Board are;

- Grow and support the Cricket Workforce
- Optimise and develop support for clubs
- Engage Children and Young People
- Transform Women and Girls
- Retain and Increase Adult Participation

4.80 The current key schemes and priority delivery areas are;

- All Stars Cricket – In partnership with the ECB cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. The engagement with this programme in Great Yarmouth is currently low. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs and may therefore represent a

key opportunity to reinvigorate cricket in the Borough. . The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- Increase cricket activity for five to eight-year olds in the school and club environment
 - Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
 - Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
 - Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
 - Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game
- Dynamos Cricket targets children aged 8 – 11 and builds upon the All Stars Cricket Scheme. It seeks to make cricket more accessible and complements existing junior cricket structures. It includes simplified rules and uses a soft ball and looks to promote cricket to those that may prefer a more fun, recreational approach (as opposed to competitive cricket in the traditional junior structures). As with All Stars Cricket, there has been limited local engagement with this programme to date, although it has only started in the last year;
 - Women and Girls Cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish female and girls teams in clubs. Softball cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections are enjoyment and participation; without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats. The ECB will be looking to establish hubs for women's sport and will seek to ensure that facilities are family friendly in order to accommodate new members. There has been significant growth in this area in the last 12 months across Norfolk, with 22 clubs across the county now involved compared to 9 in 2020. There are none however in Great Yarmouth currently.

4.81 Inspiring Generations therefore seeks to increase the number of people engaging with cricket and this will have clear implications for facilities if successfully delivered. While the impact of successful achievement of the growth targets of the ECB are not possible to quantify at this stage (as transfer thorough to traditional cricket is yet unknown) it is clear that demand for cricket is likely to increase if these growth targets are met.

Club Growth Aspirations

4.82 As set out, participation in cricket in Great Yarmouth is currently limited, with very low levels of junior cricket and some concerns about the sustainability of the existing club infrastructure.

4.83 Some clubs do however have aspirations for growth, primarily in areas linked with the priorities of the new ECB Cricket Strategy, (female / junior game). In particular, the Norfolk Cricket Board anticipate growth in the women’s game, with new female teams expected.

4.84 Table 4.9 summarises the growth aspirations of clubs and comments upon whether these can be achieved within their existing site infrastructure. It is clear that for many of the clubs where overplay is already an issue, there are still aspirations for growth. This means that additional capacity (for example qualitative improvements to standard quality facilities, as well as the provision of non turf wickets) will take on increasing importance.

Table 4.9 – Club Growth Aspirations

Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Capacity	Other Issues
Great Yarmouth CC	Scope to increase play across the season (14 strips, 56 matches), 1 MES available at peak time	None identified	Spare capacity likely to remain	Some quality issues on pitch including drainage, currently rated as standard (scope to increase capacity). Lack of off field training facilities also impacting on usage of square. Site suffers from unofficial use. No security of tenure
Caister CC	Square at capacity with small amount of overplay (4 strips shortfall. No availability at peak time.	Creation of additional Saturday side and introduction of junior teams (initially through softball which has now started).	No availability at peak time without displacing Broadland CC. Square over capacity although scope to reduce this with qualitative improvements.	Some quality issues on outfield / square. Rated standard (scope to increase capacity). Increase to good would improve capacity issues. Lack of off field training facilities also impacting on usage of square. 10 years remaining on lease.
Broadland CC	Share with Caister CC so capacity as above	Creation of additional Saturday side and introduction of junior teams	As above, if Caister CC were to increase Broadland CC may be displaced, limited opportunity for club development within constraints of existing facilities.	As above, club also highlight lack of training facilities. Club ideally looking to secure own ground.
Martham CC	Some limited capacity available (6 strips / 24 matches). No peak time availability	Increased junior section starting with U9s with hope that teams transition through age groups	Scope to accommodate 3 – 4 additional junior teams.	Grass square even, outfield slightly uneven but ground good. Training facilities almost unusable and changing requires improvement. No security of tenure.
Rollesby CC	Some limited spare capacity available (3 strips / 13 MES).	No stated aspirations	Limited spare capacity to remain	Pitch quality limited, requires improvement and remediation works. Lack of training facilities

Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Issues	Capacity	Other Issues
	Spare capacity of 0.5 at peak time.				and basic changing. Security of tenure is also issue.
Winterton CC	Square at capacity (overplay of 2 strips). No capacity at peak time.	Looking to develop U12 group that is just being established	Existing deficiency will remain and increase slightly (by circa 6 MES) if capacity is not increased.		Off field practice facilities poor, changing requires immediate upgrade. Square and outfield require further investment.

4.85 Table 4.9 therefore demonstrates that while growth aspirations are limited, there are challenges meeting these at Caister CC, Broadland CC and Winterton CC. The quality of facilities does impact capacity to a point (with standard facilities able to sustain less fixtures than good ones), but the adequacy of provision is also influenced by the lack of off field training facilities. Security of tenure is also a concern that may impact on the long term availability of venues for cricket.

4.86 Whilst the provision of additional female teams does not necessarily impact on peak time demand, it will place extra pressures on the wickets. Growth of female cricket may therefore be challenging at the above clubs without action to address the use and capacity of the existing wickets, whilst at other clubs, there is a small amount of capacity currently to pursue aspirations.

4.87 There are many ways to address the issues outlined for cricket can be addressed, and these will be considered in the strategy document. They include qualitative improvements and the use of NTPs and off field training facilities.

Informal NTPs

4.88 In order to maximise the growth of cricket, ECB / NCB participation initiatives will not focus exclusively on transferring players into the traditional club set up. Instead it is hoped that participants will have a choice between formal and more informal routes. The new strategy specifically seeks to install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas and the creation of more recreational venues is considered to provide opportunities to introduce people that wouldn't otherwise play to cricket.

4.89 Outside of the Northern Parishes, the supply of facilities for cricket is very limited. Facilities are often based upon a historical connection with rural settlements. Whilst some increases in participation may be delivered through the club setting, it is essential that in line with the ECB strategy, alternative opportunities are also explored. Opportunities to deliver a new informal site for cricket should therefore be considered, and with the largest concentrations of residents living

within Great Yarmouth / Gorleston-on-Sea, these areas should be considered as a priority. Southtown Common, which previously provided cricket and is currently disused may provide an opportunity to create an informal cricket facility. The installation of any new facility would require targeted initiatives to stimulate participation.

Summary – Key Issues for Cricket

4.90 The key issues that need to be addressed in relation to cricket in Great Yarmouth Borough are therefore summarised below.

Cricket - Key Issues
<p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 grass cricket squares in total. Seven of the eight grounds are club / public facilities. Flegg High School is the only school to have a grass cricket pitch and this pitch is not available for community use• Cricket pitches are unevenly distributed across the Borough, with almost all provision situated within the Northern Parishes.• Provision has declined since the previous PPS, with squares at both Hemsby Recreation Ground and Southtown Common becoming disused.• While there are a good number of cricket facilities, it is clear that there are some concerns relating to security of tenure. Several sites are rented by clubs without any long term guarantee of availability. Great Yarmouth CC, Martham CC and Rollesby rent whilst Caister CC have a short length of time remaining on their lease.• Whilst the majority of clubs believe that the quality of their facilities has improved, pitch quality continues to represent a challenge across the Borough and represented one of the biggest issues in consultation. Maintenance was highlighted as the key reason for pitch improvements, but also emerged as one of the ongoing challenges;• all grounds are functional and playable for the standard of play that they sustain, but most facilities would benefit from investment. There are no facilities of a particularly high standard and Martham CC was the only site to achieve a rating of good. Most wickets were well maintained (although signs of water stress were found) but the quality of outfield is varying, with the surface of many grounds uneven, and the impact of unofficial use (recreational activity etc for example) evident

- The quality of training facilities is a concern, with a lack of facilities on some sites and poor-quality facilities on others. Where clubs do not have off field training resources, there is a greater reliance on the use of the square
- The majority of clubs have pavilions that are functional, and many have recently invested in them. That said, several clubs identify further works and some pavilions are very basic and this may potentially impact on player recruitment.

Demand

- There are 17 teams in Great Yarmouth Borough in total, of which 11 are senior teams, 2 are midweek teams and 4 are junior teams. This represents a reduction in the number of teams playing in the Borough at the time of the previous PPS for both junior and senior cricket.
- The lack of junior teams is a cause for concern and suggests that there are poor foundations for the development of cricket in the borough. Larger clubs are generally more sustainable and able to provide higher quality facilities. With most clubs in Great Yarmouth offering only one or two teams, this means that there is a greater risk of clubs becoming unsustainable. Clubs without junior / female sections also struggle to access funding to help improve their facilities
- Exacerbating the issue of poor structures for cricket development, there is little evidence of engagement with ECB junior development programmes, including both All Stars and Dynamos as well as Women and Girls
- There is little cricket played in schools and therefore a lack of transition of interested players into clubs.

Adequacy of Provision

- All active grass pitches accommodate cricket during the season. With the exception of the grass square at Flegg High School all active pitches are available for community use;
- There is a small amount of spare capacity in the Borough, located primarily at Great Yarmouth CC and Martham CC. The second pitch at Great Yarmouth is only used for training this season (covid has prevented the club's usual policy of playing simultaneous home fixtures for their two teams) meaning that there is scope to increase activity in future years and there is also a small amount of scope for growth at Martham CC. Rollesby CC is the only other site where an additional adult team could be accommodated over the course of the season
- There are two sites where overplay is evident;
 - At Caister CC / Broadland CC overplay is primarily as a result of the small square, which needs to accommodate the fixtures for both clubs
 - Winterton CC has a very small amount of overplay (7 MES) – this is one of the larger clubs and the size of the square is small

- Spare capacity at peak time is even more limited, with only the second pitch at Great Yarmouth CC and Rollesby CC having any spare capacity
- There is scope to increase pitch quality at most sites and this would have a direct impact on site capacity, increasing the additional matches that could be sustained. There is also an opportunity to consider community use of the grass cricket field at Flegg High School and / or the cricket grounds that are currently disused
 - the level of wear and tear on the wicket is influenced by the use of the grass square for training. This arises directly as a result of the lack of suitable off field training facilities. Some of the pressures however also arise as many sites have small squares, and the quality of the facilities is not maximised.
- Across the Borough, there is spare capacity for 93 additional matches (not taking into account the overplay at Caister CC and Rollesby CC). This is located at Martham CC and Great Yarmouth CC
- At peak time, there is also a small amount of spare capacity (1.5 MES), located at Great Yarmouth CC and Rollesby CC)
- Future population growth will have no impact, with the likely number of teams remaining constant.
- While population growth will have limited impact on demand for cricket, the Norfolk Cricket Board, working alongside the ECB through their Strategy 'Inspiring Generations' are seeking to grow cricket, looking at both traditional and non-traditional forms of the game and particularly focusing upon juniors, women and girls. These may have longer term impact on demand for cricket (as players transition into the formal club environment) but in the short term require use of good quality outfield which means that maintenance and management are of increasing importance.
- Clubs have limited growth aspirations, but those that do focus on the development of female sections and improvements to junior participation. The development aspirations of Caister CC, Broadland CC and Winterton CC are likely to be impacted by pitch provision in its current form. There is however scope for growth at Martham CC
- There is also a potential requirement for a public non turf wicket which provides opportunities for grass roots cricket and stimulates the growth of the sport. The ECB Strategy seeks to place such facilities in urban areas and Great Yarmouth / Gorleston-on-Sea therefore represent the most appropriate location for such a facility.

The key priorities for the strategy to address are therefore;

- The need to address qualitative issues – almost all sites have improvements that are necessary to retain standard quality and improve facilities to a good level. This will also directly generate capacity improvements.
- The need to increase capacity for clubs who are at capacity or are overplaying facilities
- A requirement for improved training facilities. Almost all clubs have poor facilities (which impacts on the use of the square) and there is also a dearth of indoor provision
- There are several clubs with poor changing pavilions
- The sustainability of smaller clubs and long term recruitment of players
- The potential to develop cricket through the use of NTP in areas of higher population.

5.0 Tennis

5.1 This section assesses the adequacy of facilities for tennis by presenting an overview of supply (quantity, quality, accessibility and availability) and demand for outdoor courts. The key findings are then summarised, alongside the issues to be addressed.

Supply

5.2 The audit identifies 43 courts across Great Yarmouth Borough. Of these, 27 offer community use. Community use is available on a range of sites, including parks, schools and club bases.

5.3 There are courts at four holiday parks (Potters / Fritton Lakes / Vauxhall Holiday Park / Haven), none of which are regularly available to the community.

5.4 Twelve of the above courts are floodlit, including all five courts at Gorleston Tennis Club. Floodlighting extends the use of the courts, enabling activity in evenings and during the winter months. There are no indoor tennis courts in the Borough.

5.5 There has been a reduction in the provision of tennis courts since the previous PPOSS. Two courts are no longer playable at Gorleston Cliffs (due to quality issues). Access to school sites has also been more limited as a result of the covid pandemic, but schools indicate (February 2022) that they are now starting to accommodate community use again.

5.6 Table 5.1 summarises the spread of courts across the three types of facilities while Table 5.2 summarises the geographical spread of tennis courts across the borough. Site specific detail for each site is included within Table 5.3.

Table 5.1 – Type of Tennis Courts in Great Yarmouth Borough

Type of Site	Number of Sites	Total Number of Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Courts Available for Community Use	Comments
Club	1	5	5	5	Gorleston LTC
Park	2	5*	0	5	Gorleston Cliff Tops, Wellesley Recreation Ground. Two courts at Gorleston Cliffs excluded as currently unplayable
School	5	20	7	14	Lynn Grove Academy and Ormiston Venture Academy floodlit. Other courts not floodlit, courts at Great Yarmouth Charter Academy, Flegg High School not available for use.
Other	6	11	0	3	Broadland Sports Club and Browston Hall Country Club. Both members venues but indicate that community use available for extra charge. Hopton on Sea Holiday Park, Fritton Lakes, Vauxhall Holiday Park not available for community access.
Total	14	41	12	27	

*Two courts at Gorleston Cliffs excluded as currently unplayable

- 5.7 Table 5.2 summarises the location of tennis courts and indicates that the distribution of courts is geographically imbalanced. Provision is primarily focused in Gorleston-on-Sea, where the only club site is located and where all schools are available for community use. There is limited access to courts outside of this area.

Table 5.2 – Location of Tennis Courts

Sub Area	Public Courts	Club Courts	School Courts	Other Provision
Great Yarmouth	1	0	4 (not accessible)	2 (not accessible)
Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	4	5	14 (all accessible)	
Northern Parishes	0	0	2	0
Southern Parishes	0	0	0	10 (2 open to community)

Access to Tennis Courts

5.8 Table 5.1 indicates that access to tennis courts in the Borough is reasonable, with more courts available than not. There are agreements for community use at several schools, but there is no public access to tennis courts at the following sites;

- Hopton on Sea Holiday Park
- Potters Holiday Park
- Fritton Lakes
- Vauxhall Holiday Park
- Great Yarmouth Charter Academy
- Flegg High School.

5.9 Whilst there is access available to Broadland Sports Club and Browston Hall Country Club, these are health and fitness clubs which are primarily used by members. Both sites are however available for pay and play opportunities if this is requested although there is limited marketing and promotion of these pay and play opportunities.

5.10 Access to school sites particularly in Gorleston-on-Sea is strong, with;

- Courts at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy promoted on the school website (booking form and contact details for lettings coordinator provided)
- Courts at Lynn Grove Academy (6) now reopened for use – used on occasion by Gorleston-on-Sea LTC and available for pay and play / informal use. Again, contact details for lettings coordinator advertised
- Courts at Ormiston Venture Academy available to book online through ClubSpark (and courts available during the school day as well as after school).

5.11 Whilst the above levels of access to the school facilities are good, there is limited promotion of the opportunities available and there are no opportunities for online booking (or an immediate understanding of the availability of the courts) outside of Ormiston Venture Academy.

5.12 Added to this, similar issues are evident at both public venues, with booking procedures for courts at Cliff Tops and Wellesley Recreation Ground unclear. It will be returned to later in this section / in the strategy document, but it should be noted that since this assessment of tennis has been completed, planning permission has been granted for the creation of a 3G pitch which will result in the loss of the tennis court at this site.

Quality

5.13 The quality of tennis courts was assessed through site visits (using a non technical site assessment matrix) as well as through consultation with the club and providers. In general, these assessments conclude that the quality of facilities is mixed. Many facilities are standard to good, but around a third of all the courts provided are in poor condition.

5.14 Generally speaking, it is the public facilities that are of the lowest quality, with courts at Gorleston Cliff poor (and two further courts unplayable) and facilities at Wellesley Recreation Ground also offering a poor playing surface with skid hazards.

5.15 In contrast, although there are some improvements identified, the quality of both club and school courts is much better.

5.16 Table 5.3 summarises the quality issues identified at individual facilities and also the specific access arrangements at each site.

Table 5.3 – Site Specific (Accessible Sites) Quality Issues

Site	Sub Area	Facility Type	Number of Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Quality Comments	Court Quality Rating	Other Notes
Broadland Sports Club	Northern Parishes		1		Currently poor court, faint markings and requires surface improvements. Scheduled for refurbishment in next year	Poor - Standard	Evidence of disused tennis court adjacent to existing court. No longer functional, very faint markings
Browston Hall Country Club	South Parishes		2		standard to good condition, adequate surface	Standard to Good	Access primarily for members
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell		4		Courts within school grounds	Standard to Good	Bookable through school
Gorleston Cliff Tops	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell		4		two unplayable courts (excluded from calculations), tarmac lifting, poor lines, weeds, fencing issues, well located.	Poor	Public access courts
Gorleston LTC	Gorleston-on-		5	5	Well defined and well maintained courts,	Good	Offer pay and play as

Site	Sub Area	Facility Type	Number of Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Quality Comments	Court Quality Rating	Other Notes
	Sea and Bradwell				some fencing requires replacement. Significant recent investment and ongoing efforts into maintenance (courts pressure washed annually). Floodlights require upgrade and wooden clubhouse is limited in functionality (no heating / showers).		well as club access
Lynn Grove Academy	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell		6	3	Basic standard to good courts, would benefit from lines remarking although have been recently refurbished	Standard	Public access although limited promotion
Ormiston Venture Academy	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell		4	4	No access at time of visit, but courts known to be recently resurfaced	Standard to Good	Limited promotion but online booking available
Wellesley Recreation Ground	Great Yarmouth		1		Lines worn, cracking, playing surface worn with skid hazards	Poor	Booking procedures unclear and not promoted
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy	Great Yarmouth		4		3 courts currently poor, to be replaced Easter 2022 with 2 new courts meeting NGB standards. Existing courts do not have appropriate run off between them	Poor	Not available for use
Flegg High School	Northern Parishes		2		Courts currently poor – surface in bad condition (unavailable) but school highlight as key priority for improvement	Poor	School indicate potential opportunity for community use but improvement to quality required

5.17 Overall therefore, there is scope to improve the quality of tennis courts across the Borough. Several courts require refurbishment in the short – medium term if they are to remain usable and the quality of public facilities is particularly concerning.

Demand

LTA Insight

LTA Vision and Mission (2019 – 2023)

5.18 The Vision of the LTA is to “Open Tennis Up” grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. There are 3 key objectives:

1. Increasing the number of fans engaging with tennis.
2. Grow participation by increasing the number of adults and juniors playing tennis.
3. Enabling new players to break into the world top 100.

5.19 Given that this assessment of tennis relates to facilities, it is (2), growth in participation that is most pivotal. Successful delivery of this objective would have an impact on the number and quality of tennis courts required, but alongside this, the provision of an appropriate infrastructure will be central in the achievement of this objective.

5.20 The LTA strategy indicates that the key elements connected to growing participation include:

- Widening the appeal of tennis through inclusion of flexible formats of the game
- Improving the customer journey by making it easier to find a court, book it, and find somebody to play with
- Develop more relevant and enjoyable competitions at grass roots level for all abilities and ages
- Support community facilities & schools to provide more opportunities to play
- Help clubs grow & retain members
- Create more opportunities for children to play at school
- Facilitate partnerships to further increase rate of participation in parks
- Support venues to provide a welcoming and enjoyable experience
- Increase awareness of affordability.

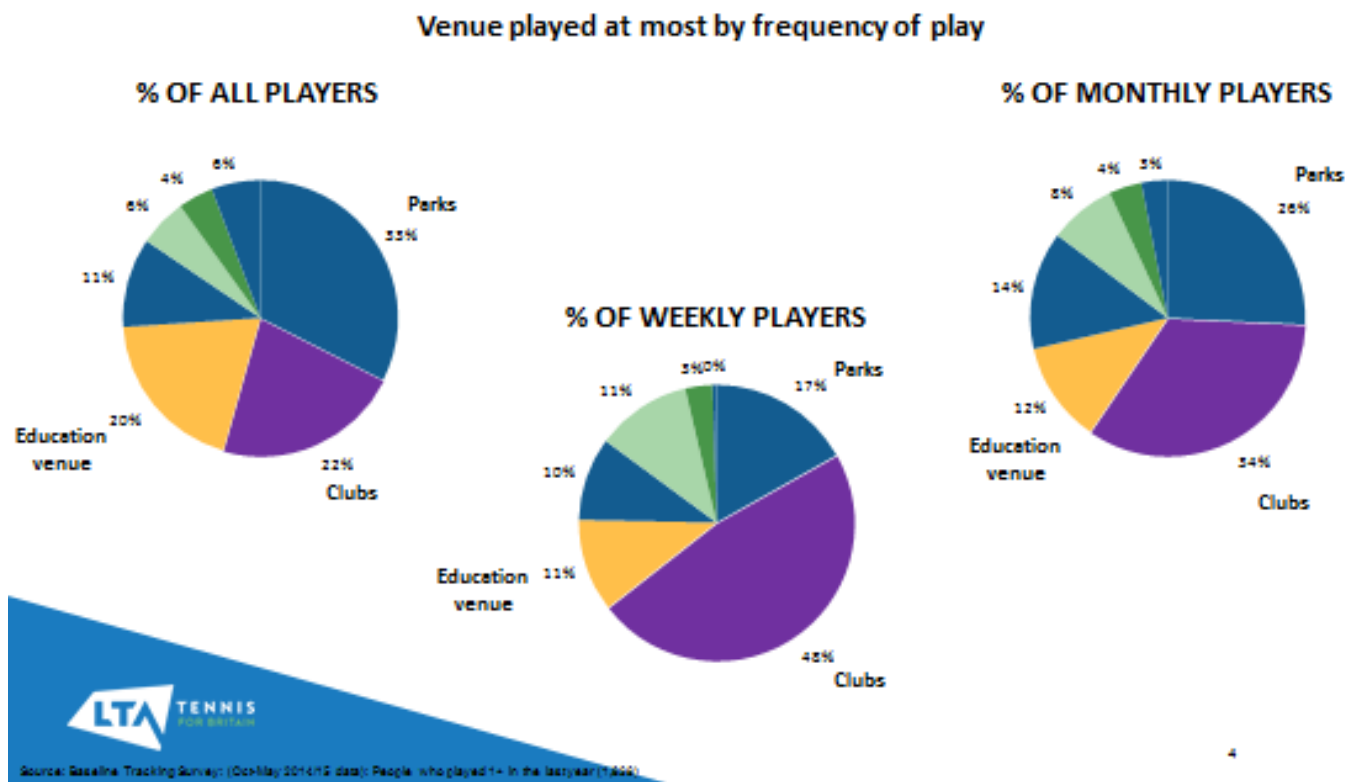
Insight into Improving Participation in Tennis

5.21 The LTA has worked hard to gain a better understanding of where people play tennis and understand some of the barriers that restrict participation levels, and this can be used to inform decision making in relation to facilities. Around 5 million players pick up a racquet at least once a year. This participation is spread across the park, club and education sector.

5.22 Figure 5.1 overleaf (provided by the LTA) reveals that the majority of participation in the UK (32%) takes place in a park environment, and it is this location where most new participants will start their tennis journey. For those that don't play, most people who have expressed an interest in playing would see the park environment as their first option for play.

Figure 5.1 – LTA Insight into Importance of Parks

WHERE DO PEOPLE PLAY – IMPORTANCE OF PARKS



5.23 The importance of the parks sector is clear in the Figure above. LTA research demonstrates several key points relating to tennis in parks, specifically;

- Participation in parks is often less frequent and generally aligns with the seasonal participation peaks in the summer months. This trend is not helped by the lack of floodlit provision that currently exists in the park environment.
- Park players are generally more interested in recreational play and are less reliant on organised activity.
- Park players are most dissatisfied with the condition of the courts, the number of courts available and the journey from booking a court to the actual play.

5.24 This highlights the importance of court quality in attracting players to use public facilities, but also emphasises the need to ensure that these facilities are fully accessible to potential players.

5.25 In response to this, The LTA is working to implement solutions across the country and has now successfully implemented technology that improves the customer journey to court. This involves the use of an access gate with keypad entry which is connected to the Clubspark venue management system. When a booking is made an automated code is generated and sent to the customer, thus allowing access to the court during the allocated booking time. Where implemented, the system has been successful in increasing participation rates, whilst also generating income that helps to improve the financial sustainability of a venue. The LTA is looking to significantly increase the number of gate access systems that are installed nationally as part of the Digital Participation Pathway.

5.26 These opportunities can help to transform facilities outside parks sites into pay and play facilities as well as to improve the user experience and promote tennis at parks sites. Reviews of participation also note the successes that been brought about through the emphasis on parks tennis, with a 56% increase in court hours booked at venues where the LTA had worked with the local authority.

5.27 To increase the play that takes place in an area and to retain new participants, the LTA have devised several programmes. These are constantly evolving, but currently include;

- LTA Youth Start (6 week coaching offer for children)
- Tennis for Free - free, inclusive weekly coaching sessions
- Parks Tennis leagues.

- 5.28 Implementation of some of these programmes (or varieties of) at sites across Great Yarmouth Borough will be essential if grass roots tennis is to thrive (and players are then to transition into clubs). Some of these programmes are currently taking place at school sites alongside coaching.
- 5.29 LTA research demonstrates that the club environment appeals to a different type of tennis player than parks tennis and therefore remains an important sector for participation. Specifically;
- Whilst the level of participation is higher in parks, the regularity of play generally increases in the club market.
 - The club market has a higher focus on organised activity both via coaching and competition
 - Clubs may appeal to those looking for social interaction as well as competitive activity.
- 5.30 Nationally, there has been an increase in the number of clubs that are looking to implement online booking systems and the gate access technology. This not only offers the ability to increase the amount of court usage at a venue but acts as a key marketing tool locally in the quest to attract more users to a venue initially and create a higher level of exposure locally.
- 5.31 In September 2020, the LTA participation tracker confirmed that 3.99 million people play tennis annually. This represents a 6% increase from 2019 and the highest participation rate in the last two years. It means that 1.35 million people nationally are playing monthly, and this is consistent with 2019 figures.
- 5.32 The majority of those engaging with tennis are aged 45 years or younger and LTA insight reveals that participation has grown 8% nationally since 2018. The full impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on participation is not yet clear, however it appears, at least early on, tennis is one of the sports to benefit from increasing interest. This is potentially because it was one of the first sports to return to play following the national lockdowns. If the increased interest can be capitalised upon and any new participants retained, this would have implications for the number of tennis courts required long term.
- 5.33 Previous years had seen a decline, and the LTA focus of addressing the reduction in participation through the implementation of a long-term strategy is therefore starting to see success. In particular, the LTA highlight the importance of undertaking targeted activity to drive participation and continue to seek participation improvements. The overwhelming priority remains however around the need to retain players (and particularly the increase in players since the Covid 19 pandemic).

5.34 This research and insight therefore provides solid foundations for analysis of how tennis in Great Yarmouth can be driven in years to come. It highlights the importance of providing opportunities to participate in a range of different environments and the role that good quality facilities and a clear customer journey play in promoting participation.

5.35 The next sections therefore examine how effectively the existing infrastructure meets the demand for tennis in Great Yarmouth, drawing upon the insight of the LTA into the effective provision for tennis.

Existing Participation in Great Yarmouth

5.36 Nationally therefore, insight indicates that participation is spread across a variety of venue forms including schools, clubs and parks. This spread of play is evident in Great Yarmouth, with activity taking place through;

- Formal club membership – Gorleston Tennis Club is the only tennis club in the Borough, but there is also access to tennis courts through membership of Browston Hall Country Club and Broadland Sports Club.
- Pay and play at school sites – several schools (mostly in Gorleston-on-Sea) open for community use
- Informal play at public venues.

5.37 Participation and Demand for each form of the game in Great Yarmouth is reviewed in the sections that follow.

Informal Play at Public Sites

5.38 Great Yarmouth Borough Council own and manage facilities at;

- Gorleston Cliffs
- Wellesley Recreation Ground.

5.39 These facilities are both located within the two urban sub areas of Gorleston-on-Sea and Great Yarmouth (the main centres of population). As documented in Table 6.3, the quality of both facilities is limited. Two of the six courts at Gorleston Cliffs are unplayable and the remaining courts are poor. The court at Wellesley Recreation Ground is also poor.

- 5.40 Courts are pay and play, however there is almost no marketing or promotion of the opportunities available and booking procedures are not well promoted on local websites. Courts at Gorleston Cliffs are only open during the summer months and money is taken by an attendant at the site. The court at Wellesley Recreation Ground is also pay and play with payment in person. Payment for use at this site is however made at Britannia Bowling Greens, circa half a mile from the actual tennis court.
- 5.41 At Gorleston Cliffs, there were 315 adult tickets and 187 concession tickets sold during the 2021 season. This represents a low level of use, with LTA estimates and benchmarking across the country indicating that two court sites within rural areas should be sustaining between 500 - 1000 individual users each year. With four courts at Gorleston Cliffs, despite the short season, usage should be at least double that recorded.
- 5.42 Usage at Wellesley Recreation Ground is even lower, with no pay and play records during 2021. It is believed that is primarily influenced by the arrangements for accessing the court. Further consultation demonstrates that the courts have also not been used for several seasons before the 2021 season.
- 5.43 It is therefore clear that there is significant scope to increase the usage of both of these facilities.
- 5.44 The low levels of usage at the public facilities is unlikely to be fully representative of demand, given the poor quality of the facilities coupled with the poor customer journey.
- 5.45 LTA insight suggests that public facilities are critical in the development of grass roots tennis, and it is therefore likely that these limitations are restricting the overall growth of the sport in the Borough. It should also be noted that the seasonal opening of the facilities at Gorleston Cliffs also impacts upon the offer, with the lack of continuity in provision meaning that participation stagnates every season during the winter months and that there are very limited opportunities for those grass roots players who do wish to continue playing.
- 5.46 Linking with their new strategy the LTA see increasing participation at public venues as a key priority. LTA insight (2014) demonstrates that 1 in 4 current players would consider joining a club but standard of play, year-round tennis and associated fees are off-putting. Work is therefore underway across the country focusing on introducing organised activity at public venues, such as introductory tennis courses and coaching and insight demonstrates that there is a significant opportunity to enhance the tennis playing population through greater targeted use of the public facilities.

- 5.47 The provision of good quality facilities is however deemed to be critical if they are to be effective in developing grass roots tennis. Issues outlined earlier in this section therefore highlight that there is a need to improve the quality of existing facilities at the key public sites if they are to have a role in the future infrastructure for tennis. Access to public facilities, particularly in the larger urban centres is essential if tennis is to be sustained and participation improved.
- 5.48 Whilst the purpose of providing tennis courts is primarily to serve the needs of the residents of Great Yarmouth Borough, it is important to note that the role of the town as a large tourist destination means that the facilities are also considered an amenity for visitors to the area. The facilities at Gorleston Cliffs are located in a prime location on the sea front and visitors to the area therefore become aware that they are there. Whilst the visible location of the facilities raises awareness, the impact that the setting has on the functionality of the tennis courts has been documented, with winds coming off the sea impacting on the game more than perhaps would be experienced in other locations.

Pay and Play Access at School sites

- 5.49 As outlined earlier in this section, schools play an important role in the provision of tennis courts within Great Yarmouth, with several sites offering pay and play tennis and coaching run out of all schools that currently offer community use.
- 5.50 Whilst access to school sites for tennis is good, the Ormiston Venture Academy, Gorleston, is the only site to offer online booking. This has been set up following refurbishment of the courts in partnership with the LTA.
- 5.51 Analysis of booking records for the 4 courts at this site demonstrate that the courts were booked for a total of 1232 court hours during 2021. There are no clear parameters against which this level of activity can be measured, however it is clear that the courts are well used. Analysis of the booking system suggests that there is use on the courts most evenings, although there is some spare capacity and room for further growth. Courts at this facility are also available for hire during the school day, with the location of the courts meaning that the public can access them without infringing on school activity. This is unusual for a school facility and to an extent means that the facility functions in a similar fashion to a parks court.
- 5.52 Outside Ormiston Venture Academy, there is no clear monitoring of the usage of the tennis courts and indeed availability has been restricted in the most recent years, with community use closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. All schools offering access to their tennis courts however indicate that there is scope to increase the use of these courts by the local community.
- 5.53 The poor quality of public facilities therefore mean that schools currently play a significant role in providing for grass roots tennis. There is however scope to improve this further, both by investing in the marketing and promotion that is required to increase awareness, but also by improving the customer journey. Similar to the LTA intelligence on public parks, LTA insight suggests that the improvement of the customer journey at school sites is essential if use is to be improved. LTA funding related to the installation of technology on the site to improve the opportunities is therefore now extended also to schools. This may provide an opportunity to improve the existing facility stock.
- 5.54 In addition to the role that the existing accessible facilities can play, there is also scope to extend the role that schools can play by working alongside schools that do not currently offer community use. This could be particularly important, as all schools that currently offer community use are located in Gorleston-on-Sea and this means that provision outside of this area remains limited.
- 5.55 The following opportunities arose through consultation;

- Charter Academy – facilities not currently available, but courts being resurfaced in Easter 2022 (three courts currently provided do not meet LTA standards. The refurbishment will see two new courts meeting LTA required dimensions) – there is potential that following qualitative improvements, these could be opened to the community
- Flegg High School – the existing courts are poor quality and the school see improvements to the playing surface as a priority. Following these improvements, there may be scope to offer access to the local community.

5.56 Both schools are located in areas where community tennis provision is currently lower (Northern Parishes – Martham and Great Yarmouth) and therefore represent significant opportunities to improve the distribution of courts across the Borough.

Club Based Activity

- 5.57 As outlined earlier in this section, the LTA research suggests that club members generally participate more regularly and on a less seasonal basis than those that use park facilities. Participation can also be more accurately quantified at club bases.
- 5.58 There is just one club based in Great Yarmouth Borough (although it should be noted that there are several further clubs on the fringes of the Great Yarmouth borders). Again, as with the majority of other courts in the Borough this club is located in Gorleston-on-Sea (Gorleston LTC). Facilities at the site are good, with well-defined and well-maintained courts, but some improvements are needed (fencing / floodlights / clubhouse).
- 5.59 The club have recently seen an increase in the number of members that they have and are now proactively seeking to increase this further by reducing their membership fees in order to attract more players. Whilst cost may be a barrier to some potential participants, it should be noted that the club environment offers a range of different benefits compared to the school / park sites (pay and play / competitive opportunities etc) and higher costs are therefore often expected at club bases, where more regular participation is encouraged and enabled.
- 5.60 The provision at Gorleston Tennis Club is supplemented by private courts at Broadland Sports Club and Browston Hall Country Club. Whilst not dedicated tennis clubs, both do offer the use of tennis courts to members, as well as some limited public pay and play access (although as with school and public sites, these opportunities are poorly promoted).
- 5.61 Whilst they do not offer the range and breadth of opportunity that participation in a tennis club may offer, they do meet demand from members who may otherwise use facilities elsewhere. Geographically, they are also quite important as they are some of the few facilities to be located outside of the main Great Yarmouth / Gorleston-on-Sea area urban areas and meet the needs of residents in the more rural parts of the Borough.
- 5.62 Consultation with Gorleston Tennis Club raised several key concerns about the wider picture for tennis in the Borough. Specifically with regards tennis development, the club identify several issues that they consider to be impacting the further development of tennis in the borough, specifically;
- The reduction in the number of tennis clubs in Great Yarmouth means that there is little choice for residents and reduced awareness of tennis
 - There is a lack of tennis facilities to support grass roots tennis and therefore a lack of transition into the club market.

Adequacy of provision

5.63 Analysis of the existing tennis infrastructure therefore draws out the following key points;

- Public tennis facilities, which are essential in meeting the demands for grass roots tennis are limited and of poor quality. Whilst they are well located in the main urban centres of the Borough, those that are available are mostly seasonal and are poorly promoted and marketed. These facilities are critical not only in meeting the needs of local residents, but also in providing resources and amenities for the millions of tourists that arrive each year. They are however currently heavily underused, in part due to the challenges around booking and using the facilities
- School facilities play an important role in meeting ongoing need, with Ormiston Venture Academy functioning in a similar fashion to a public facility, with online booking and all day availability. There is however a concentration of schools offering access to tennis courts in Gorleston-on-Sea and limited opportunities outside of this area. There is potential to increase the role that schools play both in Gorleston-on-Sea, but also in meeting the needs of residents elsewhere.
- With just one club in the Borough, this club is essential in providing tennis for those that wish to play in a club environment. Some qualitative improvements are required at the site, and an increase in members is required to ensure long term sustainability. The club cite the lack of transition from the grass roots tennis venues as one of the key barriers to their success. Two other private venues which offer tennis courts for their members currently represent a key component of the tennis infrastructure due to their locations outside of the main urban area.

5.64 It is clear therefore that while there are good foundations for tennis, improvements are required if participation is to be sustained and increased. Key issues to address include;

- The poor quality of public facilities
- Poor customer journey at most facilities, particularly at the public sites where potential users must pay in person (some distance from the actual courts)
- Geographical imbalance of facilities.

5.65 LTA research highlights the importance of providing a balance of different facility types, as well as an appropriate number of courts of adequate quality.

5.66 There are no formal demand models providing guidance on how many courts are required in a local area, however the LTA has defined a series of parameters that can be used to determine

the number of tennis players that can be accommodated by the existing infrastructure.

Parameters used (LTA 2017) are as follows:

- 40 members per non floodlit, outdoor court
- 60 members per floodlit outdoor court
- 200 members per indoor tennis court.

5.67 Using the above figures, it can be determined that the current stock of facilities available for community use in Great Yarmouth is able to accommodate 1280 players in total as follows;

- Non floodlit outdoor courts – 600 players (15 courts)
- Floodlit outdoor courts – 720 players (12 courts)
- Indoor courts – none.

5.68 To determine whether this number of courts is adequate, it is necessary to accurately understand the current and potential demand for tennis. The lack of monitoring / access to data at the majority of venues means that this is difficult to define in full however there are several ways in which demand can be quantitatively estimated to provide a range of likely participation. These include;

- analysis of the existing club membership – this provides a definitive guide to the number of participants playing on club courts
- LTA insight demonstrates that 32% of tennis takes place at parks, but up to 40 – 50% of tennis activity in an area may take place at public venues. As there are no definitive records of the number of individual users of the courts (only total bookings), it can be assumed that up to 50% of participation is on these sites. With 163 current club members, this would suggest that there are a total of 326 tennis players across the Borough currently. Analysis of the bookings would suggest that this estimate is on the low side, given the number of known users at Ormiston Academy, as well as the bookings at Gorleston Cliffs
- Sport England Market Segmentation (<https://segments.sportengland.org>) suggests that 1433 people currently participate in tennis in Great Yarmouth. This is a number that is significantly higher than the existing club membership and would suggest that the public and school venues are accommodating large quantities of players. Whilst it is known that the Ormiston

Venture Academy is well used (1232 court hours booked), other levels of participation are unknown

- Sport England Active Lives data suggests that nationally, 1.4% of adults currently participate. Assuming this rate across the whole of the population would suggest that 1291 people currently play tennis in the Borough

5.69 These figures can be used to provide a picture of the adequacy of provision to meet current demand as set out in Table 5.4.

5.70 It should be noted that the analysis of club participation is based on club membership at Gorleston LTC only. The number of members of the private sports clubs using the tennis courts has not been shared with us.

Table 5.4 – Adequacy of Provision to meet demand in quantitative terms

Current Demand	Baseline	Market Segmentation	Active Lives (1.4%)
Club Membership	163	163	
Other	163	1270	
Total	326	1433	1291
Current Supply (Accessible)	Non floodlit outdoor courts –600 players (15 courts)	Non floodlit outdoor courts –600 players (15 courts)	Non floodlit outdoor courts –600 players (15 courts)
	Floodlit outdoor courts – 720 players (12 courts)	Floodlit outdoor courts – 720 players (12 courts)	Floodlit outdoor courts – 720 players (12 courts)
	Indoor courts – none.	Indoor courts – none.	Indoor courts – none.
	1320 players	1320 players	1320 players
Supply / Demand Balance	Provision above number of players. This scenario is	Provision below number of players	Provision broadly meets demand

	likely to be an underestimate of current provision.		
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5.71 Table 5.4 therefore suggests that existing levels of provision are just about adequate, if participation levels broadly equate to those found at a national level. Added to this, if effectively run, it is known that parks courts can serve higher numbers of potential players, given the lower frequency that users of these facilities typically participate.

5.72 As demonstrated throughout this section however, number of courts is only a part of the infrastructure – it is the quality and accessibility that is also central to an evaluation of the adequacy of provision. The courts in Great Yarmouth are not necessarily currently of the right quality to meet demand, and accessibility is also poor.

LTA Insight into Potential Demand

5.73 The LTA have researched the number of people playing tennis across the country and the composition of the tennis playing population. This provides both an understanding of who is currently playing, but also the potential tennis playing population within an area.

5.74 LTA modelling for Great Yarmouth Borough demonstrates that based on the age structure of the population, total potential demand in the Borough (the number of people who may be interested in tennis) is 32,780. It is assumed likely that circa 8% of this potential demand can be converted into actual tennis participation (known as penetration). This suggests that there are potentially 2,618 tennis players.

5.75 To provide further insight into the type of facilities that are required, The LTA have created 6 different profiles to show what different people want from their tennis experience. These 6 profiles are;

- Tennis Titan - Frequent players & tennis club members for whom tennis is their main sport and key interest.
- Tennis Troupers - Often club members, largely family-oriented, middle-aged players for whom tennis is a hobby; interested in playing with teams to partnering with their kids in the sunnier seasons.
- Seasonal Spinners - Largely young women, they play sport in general for athletic reasons (often being gym-goers and joggers), and enjoy their tennis a lot, though tennis is very intertwined with friends and being social.

- Wimbledon Warriors - Largely young men who are keen athletes, they like tennis and want to play more, though are often held back by other factors outside of the summer.
- Social Butterflies - Infrequent, younger and less experienced players for whom tennis is an occasional fun summer activity.
- Senior Stalwarts - An older group of players for whom tennis is a social habit and they play with a regular group as a way of keeping social and enjoyable gentle exercise.

5.76 The above profiles can be used to analyse the catchment in terms of the potential penetration for tennis – the number of people in each of the groups within a defined catchment area is determined. They can also be used to understand the facilities that are necessary to provide for the potential demand.

5.77 Analysis of the existing LTA membership in Great Yarmouth demonstrates that;

- 50% of the existing members are senior stalwarts (although 80% of the population fall into this category)
- 24% of the members are tennis troupers
- 13% of members fall into the tennis titans category.

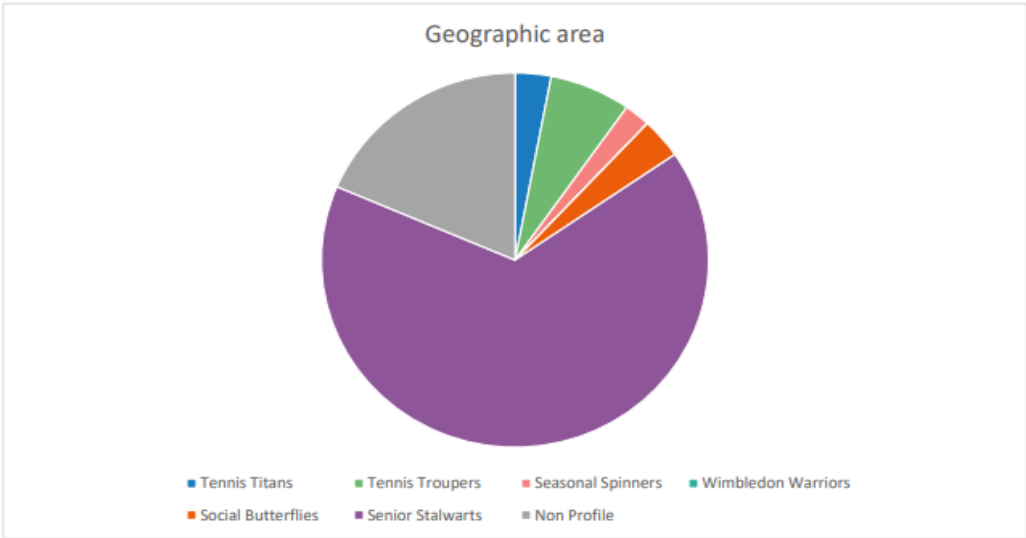
5.78 Both the tennis titans and tennis troupers are over-represented in terms of participation in relation to the proportion that they make up of the whole population. There is however scope to promote tennis further in the senior stalwarts category.

5.79 Figure 5.2 (provided by the LTA) demonstrates that within the geographical area, the highest proportion of people likely to play tennis falls into the senior stalwarts category.

Figure 5.2 – Potential Playing Population

4. Potential

4.1 Potential within the geographic area		
Tennis Segment	Population	%
Tennis Titans	2,923	3%
Tennis Troupers	6,617	7%
Seasonal Spinners	2,121	2%
Wimbledon Warriors	0	0%
Social Butterflies	3,383	3%
Senior Stalwarts	64,192	66%
Non Profile	18,087	19%
Total	97,323	100%



5.80 With senior stalwarts enjoying regular tennis for social reasons as well as exercise, their interest spans across both club courts and park courts. Critically for this group, play often takes place during the daytime as many are retired. This means that access to facilities at these times is essential and this can often rule out the use of school sites. The high number of people falling into this category suggests that promotion to this group is key to achieving growth in tennis participation.

- 5.81 Figure 5.3 reveals that potential demand from seasonal spinners / Wimbledon warriors and Social butterflies totals 5504. This converts to a potential penetration rate (8% of demand) of 440. With these residents preferring more informal opportunities to participate, this demand may most effectively be met by parks / grass roots sites for their tennis activity.
- 5.82 Table 5.5 summarises the adequacy of the existing infrastructure (in quantitative terms) to meet these potential levels of demand.

Table 5.5 – Adequacy of Provision Based on LTA Periscope Modelling

Potential Demand	2616
Total Capacity of Courts available for community use	1320 Based on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non floodlit outdoor courts – 600 players (15 courts) Floodlit outdoor courts – 720 players (12 courts) Indoor courts – none.
Supply / Demand Balance	Supply insufficient – 1296 tennis players uncatered for

- 5.83 Table 5.4 therefore suggests that if the potential levels of demand are achieved, the existing stock of facilities that are available for community use will be insufficient. Even if all tennis courts in the Borough are made available for community use, there would not be enough courts.
- 5.84 Insight suggests that stimulation of new players at a grass roots level is central to increasing participation – this demonstrates the importance of providing facilities to meet the needs of grass roots tennis players (some who may then transition into clubs). Typically, this is provided at public parks, which are located amongst large populations and offer pay and play opportunities. Quality at these sites is also important if new participants are to be attracted. LTA insight also suggests that if public facilities are to be successful, there is a need to explore opportunities to install technological solutions to enhance the customer journey.
- 5.85 Looking specifically at whether demand is met for those groups that may use parks / informal tennis courts, it is demonstrated that;

- Existing provision equates to 5 playable parks courts (200 players). With demand equating to a minimum of 440 (based on LTA modelling of participants falling into segments that are likely to use parks), provision can be considered insufficient. Two courts at Gorleston Cliffs are considered to be unplayable and are therefore excluded
- It should however be noted that the facilities at Ormiston Venture Academy function in a similar fashion to a park (with all day availability on offer) and if these facilities are

included (4 floodlit courts can accommodate 240 players) the level of provision meets the estimated demand.

- 5.86 Whilst it can therefore be suggested that the overall number of courts provided is just adequate, the existing facilities are poor quality and require refurbishment if they are to continue to play a role in meeting demand. The poor quality of the facilities, as well as the lack of promotion and poor customer journey mean that the facilities are not currently functioning as they should.
- 5.87 It is important to note that the above calculations consider the demand from the resident population only. The facilities at Gorleston Cliffs in particular serve to also meet seasonal demand from incoming tourists and therefore the total actual demand is higher than the figures presented above.
- 5.88 The provision of courts at both Gorleston Cliffs and Wellesley Recreation Ground are currently under review. It is acknowledged that the courts at Gorleston Cliffs are not necessarily in a strong location in terms of the impact of wind on the game (although they are well placed to meet demand from tourists) and that a single court at Wellesley Recreation Ground is not necessarily ideal in terms of supporting informal activity with coaching hubs / developmental sessions.
- 5.89 Current plans for the Wellesley Recreation Ground see the provision of a new 3G AGP on site, which will cater for football and the resulting loss of the tennis court currently on the site. The existing poor quality tennis pavilion will become new changing facilities for the AGP. Since the completion of this assessment, planning permission has been granted for these proposals.
- 5.90 It is however intended that the existing poor quality tennis court facilities at Gorleston Cliffs will be refurbished, bringing them up to a good standard. This will include all six tennis courts (only four of which are currently usable) meaning that there will be a net increase in provision.
- 5.91 It should also be noted that the figures presented to date do not currently account for future demand for tennis.

- 5.92 It will also be necessary to review how public courts will be managed, as a key part of improving usage (alongside qualitative improvements) will be to deliver an enhanced customer journey. LTA data suggests that if court surfaces were renewed, a minimum of 28 bookings (average) per week across 4 courts would be required to enable the Council (or alternative operator) to set aside a sinking fund sufficient to fully resurface the courts again in 10 years time. The current pay and play booking procedures in particular require an overhaul if the potential usage of the facilities is to be maximised.
- 5.93 In addition to retaining and improving the quantity of public courts that are currently available, analysis also demonstrates that sites are not necessarily evenly distributed across the borough, with a cluster of facilities in Gorleston-on-Sea, limited provision in Great Yarmouth and very limited access to tennis courts outside of these areas.
- 5.94 Opening up the facilities at Flegg High School and Charter Academy offer particular opportunity to improve provision in areas that are currently lacking in tennis courts.
- 5.95 It is suggested that while insight data suggests that if potential demand for tennis was realised, additional facilities would be required, improvements to the existing infrastructure currently take on greater priority than new provision. Existing facilities require qualitative improvements, and there are opportunities to improve accessibility by opening up new facilities as well as improving the customer journey on existing facilities. Priority should therefore be given to maximising activity on existing facilities before providing new.
- 5.96 This broadly reflects the findings of the 2015 strategy document, which again identified low usage and a need for additional facilities in the event that NGB targets were met. What is clear however is that since the 2015 strategy has been developed, further work has been done on improving accessibility to tennis and enhancing the customer journey and that this is now starting to result in success nationwide.
- 5.97 The key opportunities to address latent demand for tennis are by increasing demand in the key target groups (and ensuring that there are adequate facilities to accommodate this demand). The population profile of Great Yarmouth Borough means that the Senior Stalwarts category, alongside Tennis Titans represent the largest potential user groups of facilities. Marketing and participation initiatives should be targeted at driving these groups to enjoy tennis. There are however several clear groups that enjoy and play activities (rather than club membership) and it is only by providing these opportunities that such groups will become engaged.

Capacity of the Club Base

- 5.98 There is now only one tennis club within Great Yarmouth. Clubs represent a different offer to parks and schools tennis and attract different types of players. The club believe the demise of other clubs in the Borough as a key issue for tennis overall.
- 5.99 If grass roots participation in tennis is to grow, it is essential that there is also capacity within the club infrastructure, as some players who start out at parks and school sites will transition to the club environment as they become more experienced in tennis.
- 5.100 The capacity of the club can be accurately measured using the LTA parameters – and this is set out in Table 5.6. It reveals that there is capacity to increase participation at the club base and this is reflected in the activities of the club, who are currently proactively seeking new members.
- 5.101 There are however some qualitative issues that need to be addressed if the club is to be sustainable long term, and if the club are to be able to differentiate their offer from the parks and schools sites. Improved clubhouse facilities are seen as essential if the club is to attract new members, whilst repairs to the floodlights will also be needed to ensure ongoing functionality.

Table 5.6: Capacity of Club Base

Club	Membership	Capacity of Courts	Capacity for Growth	Other Club Issues
Gorleston LTC	163	5 courts, all floodlit (300)	137	Clubhouse, sinking fund, floodlights require upgrade.

Adequacy of Provision to meet Future Population Growth

- 5.102 With projections suggesting that total population growth between 2022 and 2032 will amount to 3531 people, and circa 6879 between 2022 and 2039, Sport England Active Lives data can be used to project the likely impact of this growth on tennis. With potential that up to 1.8% of the population will participate (based on national averages), this would suggest that an additional 63 tennis players may be generated by 2032 and up to 123 by 2039.
- 5.103 The existing facility stock will be able to accommodate the small extra participants generated by the increased number of residents (assuming that current participation does not reach target levels before this, where new provision would already be required). New residents will however place further pressures on the existing facility stock.

Summary

5.104 The key issues arising for tennis across Great Yarmouth Borough are therefore summarised overleaf.

Tennis - Key Issues

Supply

- There are 43 courts across Great Yarmouth Borough. Of these, 27 offer community use. Community use is available on a range of sites, including parks, schools and club bases.
- Twelve of the above courts are floodlit, including all five courts at Gorleston Tennis Club. Floodlighting extends the use of the courts, enabling activity in evenings and during the winter months. There are no indoor tennis courts in the Borough.
- There has been a reduction in the provision of tennis courts since the previous PPOSS. Two courts are no longer playable at Gorleston Cliffs (due to quality issues). Access to school sites has also been more limited as a result of the covid pandemic, but schools indicate (February 2022) that they are now starting to accommodate community use again.
- The distribution of courts is geographically unbalanced. Provision is primarily focused in Gorleston-on-Sea, where the only club site is located and where all schools are available for community use. There is limited access to courts outside of this area.
- Access to school facilities is good, however the customer journey is poor, with limited promotion and no online booking available outside of Ormiston Venture Academy. Similar issues are evident at both public venues, with booking procedures for courts at Cliff Tops and Wellesley Recreation Ground unclear.
- The quality of facilities is mixed. Many facilities are standard to good, but around a third of all the courts provided are in poor condition.
- Generally speaking, it is the public facilities that are of the lowest quality. Although there are some improvements identified, the quality of both club and school courts is much better. There is however significant scope to improve the quality of facilities across the Borough.

Demand

- In terms of demand, tennis in the Borough takes place at the club, as well public venues and at school sites. There are also two venues which provide tennis courts as part of a wider sporting club offer.
- Public courts are pay and play, however there is almost no marketing or promotion of the opportunities available and booking procedures are very unclear. Courts at Gorleston Cliffs are only open during the summer months and money is taken by an attendant at the site. The court at Wellesley Recreation Ground is also pay and play. Since the assessment has been completed however, planning permission has since been granted for the loss of this court in order to provide a new 3G AGP

- Whilst access to school sites for tennis is good, The Ormiston Venture Academy, Gorleston-on-Sea, is the only site to offer online booking. This has been set up following refurbishment of the courts in partnership with the LTA. Analysis of booking records for the 4 courts at this site demonstrate that the courts were booked for a total of 1232 court hours during 2021. There are no clear parameters against which this level of activity can be measured, however it is clear that the courts are well used. Other sites are accessed on a pay and play basis and it is understood that there is significant scope to increase this usage
- there is limited marketing or advertisement of tennis courts at public and school sites and the customer journey is poor
- Whilst the purpose of providing tennis courts is primarily to serve the needs of the residents of Great Yarmouth Borough, it is important to note that the role of the town as a large tourist destination means that the facilities are also considered an amenity for visitors to the area.

Adequacy of Provision

- Public tennis facilities, which are essential in meeting the demands for grass roots tennis are limited and of poor quality. Whilst they are well located in the main urban centres of the Borough, those that are available are mostly seasonal and are poorly promoted and marketed. Facilities are available on a pay in person basis only and this is significantly impacting the level of usage that is received. These facilities are critical not only in meeting the needs of local residents, but also in providing resources and amenities for the millions of tourists that arrive each year
- School facilities play an important role in meeting ongoing need, with Ormiston Venture Academy functioning in a similar fashion to a public facility, with online booking and all day availability. There is however a concentration of schools offering access to tennis courts in Gorleston-on-Sea and limited opportunities outside of this area. There is potential to increase the role that schools play both in Gorleston-on-Sea, but also in meeting the needs of residents elsewhere.
- With just one club in the Borough, this club is essential in providing tennis for those that wish to play in a club environment. Some qualitative improvements are required at the site, and an increase in members is required to ensure long term sustainability. The club cite the lack of transition from the grass roots tennis venues as one of the key barriers to their success. Two other private venues which offer tennis courts for their members currently represent a key component of the tennis infrastructure due to their locations outside of the main urban area.
- LTA insight demonstrates the importance of providing a balance of different types of facility, so the three types of facility all have a key role in meeting demand. Application of LTA parameters suggests that the existing courts can accommodate 1280 players in total. Application of a range of estimates of current participation in terms of quantity suggest that that existing number of courts is just about adequate, if participation levels broadly equate to those found at a national

level. Whilst there is capacity within the existing facilities it is clear that current usage is inhibited by booking procedures

- LTA modelling for the Borough suggests that potential demand equates to 2618 players. If these target participation levels were to be achieved, the number of courts would be insufficient.
- LTA profiling of potential players suggests that a high proportion of the demand is evident from senior stalwarts. With senior stalwarts enjoying regular tennis for social reasons as well as exercise, their interest spans across both club courts and park courts. Critically for this group, play often takes place during the daytime as many are retired. This means that access to facilities at these times is essential and this can often rule out the use of school sites. When added to the number of people falling into profile groups that are most likely to participate at public venues (440 people), the role of public facilities in meeting tennis demand is clear. Insight suggests that stimulation of new players at the grass roots level is central to increasing participation – these facilities are typically provided at public parks and schools and quality of facilities is essential.
- The above suggests that the balance of provision, including the existing quantity of courts at parks (when taking into account the opportunities provided at Ormiston Venture Academy) is broadly adequate, but that the access to the facilities needs to be reviewed
- It is suggested that while insight data suggests that if potential demand for tennis was realised, additional facilities would be required, improvements to the existing infrastructure currently take on greater priority than new provision. Existing facilities require qualitative improvements, and there are opportunities to improve accessibility by opening up new facilities as well as improving the customer journey on existing facilities. Priority should therefore be given to maximising activity on existing facilities before providing new.
- That said, analysis also demonstrates that sites are not necessarily evenly distributed across the borough, with a cluster of facilities in Gorleston-on-Sea, limited provision in Great Yarmouth and very limited access to tennis courts outside of these areas. Opening up the facilities at Flegg High School and Charter Academy offer particular opportunity to improve provision in areas that are currently lacking in tennis courts.
- The existing facility stock will be able to accommodate the small extra participants generated by the increased number of residents (assuming that current participation does not reach target levels before this, where new provision would already be required). New residents will however place further pressures on the existing facility stock.

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

The key issues for the strategy to address are therefore;

- The need to protect the existing quantities of provision
- The need to improve existing courts in order to provide high quality public facilities
- The poor access to tennis courts in some parts of the Borough and the opportunities to improve access to school sites in order to address this
- The opportunities to improve the customer journey at both public and school sites – this represents a particular opportunity as there is now funding available
- The potential to increase participation in tennis through effective marketing, promotion and engagement with LTA programmes.

6.0 Bowls

Introduction

6.1 This section evaluates the key issues for bowling in Great Yarmouth Borough. It sets out the supply and demand for facilities and determines the adequacy of provision both at the current time and in future years.

Supply

6.2 There are 19 bowling greens that have community access in Great Yarmouth. This represents a similar level of provision to 2015. While a couple of new greens have been identified, greens are no longer maintained at Fritton, St Olaves and Hemsby Recreation Ground. There has also been a reduction of one green at North Drive.

6.3 Most sites are single green sites. The largest site is Wellesley, which is a particularly large venue, offering 4 greens. Facilities of this scale are particularly desirable in the bowling community as large competitions can be held.

6.4 Management of facilities is undertaken by a wide variety of bodies. These include private clubs, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Parish Councils. Whilst bowling greens are predominantly used by clubs, the facilities on the seafronts at Great Yarmouth and Gorleston-on-Sea can be booked for pay and play.

6.5 Table 6.1 summarises the greens that are available in each area of the Borough. It reveals that provision is high in the northern parishes, with many of the smaller towns and villages served by a bowling green. With 4 greens in each of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston-on-Sea, these areas are also well served. There is however more limited provision in the Southern Parishes, with only two greens provided.

Table 6.1 – Bowling Greens across Great Yarmouth

Bowling Green	Number of Greens	Sub Area	
Marine Parade, Gorleston-on-Sea	2	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	4
Gorleston Conservative Bowls Club	1		
Green Lane Playing Field, Bradwell	1		

Bowling Green	Number of Greens	Sub Area	
Wellesley Bowls Club	4	Great Yarmouth	4
King George V Playing Field, Caister	1	Northern Parishes	9
Winterton Playing Field	1		
Rollesby Bowls Club	1		
Martham Recreation Ground	1		
Repps with Bastwick Playing Field	1		
Runham Bowls Club	1		
Filby Bowls Club	1		
Fleggburgh Playing Field	1		
Ormesby St Margaret Playing Fields	1		
Hopton Bowls Club	1	Southern Parishes	2
Browston Hall Country Club	1		

6.6 In addition to the greens above, there are four outdoor artificial greens at Potters Holiday Park (at Hopton-on-Sea). These are not accessible to the community, but along with the indoor bowling facilities, host a variety of competitions for guests of the resort.

Green Quality

6.7 The quality of bowling greens was explored through a variety of means, including;

- Non-technical site visits
- Consultation with clubs and key stakeholders
- Discussions with regional representatives of the bowling community

Site Visits

6.8 Site visits were carried out in order to provide an overview of the quality of facilities. Site visits revealed that bowling greens were predominantly in good condition and there was clear evidence of efforts to maintain the facilities. It was concluded that;

- The quality of greens varies from good to standard. While many sites would benefit from improvement, no greens were reported to be in poor condition, although most greens

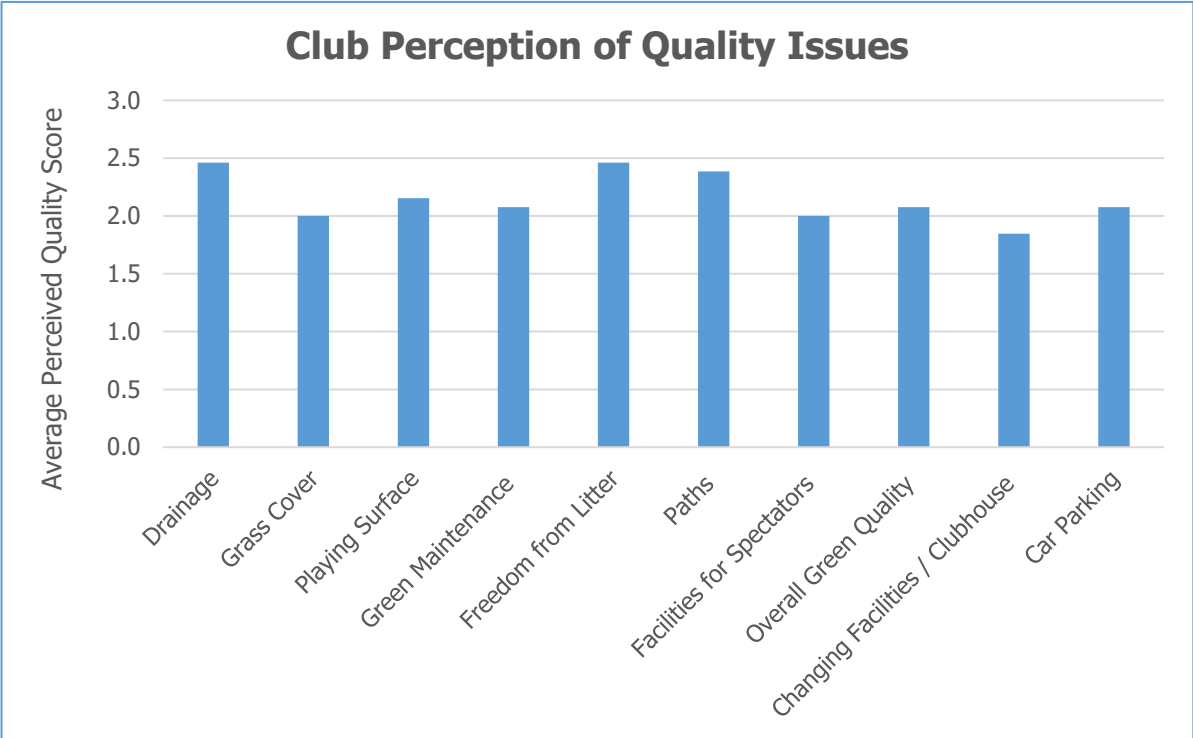
did have bare patches and there were signs of thatching on many greens. The majority of sites demonstrated at least some weeds and / or divots in the playing surface;

- Lots of greens also exhibited signs of water stress (lack of / inappropriate watering schedules). Issues with the grass coverage were more severe in the greens that were of a lower quality overall and in many instances, it was felt that this was directly impacted by the water stress
- Compaction was evident on many of the greens. This often reflects heavy usage. As a result, out of season maintenance will be crucial in maintaining the quality for seasons to come;
- Whilst surrounds were generally well maintained, footpaths at some sites would benefit from improvement
- The quality of greens and the pavilion facilities somewhat correlates with the number of members using the greens. This suggests that more members may lead to higher levels of funding, in turn enabling improvements to the maintenance of the green and its associated facilities
- Some greens are enclosed on secure sites whilst others are more visible. Generally the greens are free from litter and vandalism, this is certainly the case for greens that are on secure sites.

Views of the Bowling Community

- 6.9 Only 36% of responding clubs indicate that they are satisfied with the quality of existing bowling greens in the Borough and over half of all clubs believe that quality issues impact their club. This suggests that quality is one of the biggest issues impacting bowls boroughwide. There are clearly high expectations in relation to green quality, as site visits recorded most greens to be standard or above (and all playable). It is likely that the dissatisfaction is evident because challenges relating to the quality of provision remain the biggest issue that the club face.
- 6.10 Chart 6.1 illustrates the views of the bowling clubs. Users were asked to rate the quality of greens, with 1 being a poor green, greens of average quality awarded a score of 2 and a good quality green achieving a rating of 3.
- 6.11 Looking firstly at the views on green quality, it demonstrates that linking with the site visits, grass coverage and the playing surface were raised as the key concerns.

Chart 6.1 – Club Perception of Quality Issues



- 6.12 Green maintenance was also rated as one of the more prevalent issues. Issues with maintenance can potentially be attributed to some of the other issues identified (playing surface / grass coverage etc). Crucially, reflecting the challenges identified, 50% of clubs indicate that they believe that they don't have adequate skills or training to maintain their greens effectively. These clubs play primarily on private / Parish Council owned greens and are smaller clubs. High costs, inexperience in maintenance and lack of volunteers due all inhibit keeping the greens at a high standard - responsibility for maintenance currently often falls on a small number of volunteers, many of whom are untrained, and there is also no succession planning.
- 6.13 Some concerns were also raised about the adequacy of maintenance procedures on greens managed by Great Yarmouth Borough Council.
- 6.14 In addition to issues with the playing surface, the perceived quality of changing facilities / clubhouse and spectator facilities is also poor. In contrast, fewer concerns were expressed relating to car parking, litter and drainage.

- 6.15 Similar issues were raised at the time of the 2015 Playing Pitch Strategy, and the cost of maintenance and lack of funding to undertake the required improvements arose as a key concern. Issues are not thought to have been exacerbated by the Covid pandemic, with clubs expressing no clear views on the impact of green quality of the events of the last two years.
- 6.16 Table 6.2 summarises the greens available in Great Yarmouth and highlights the key quality issues identified at each site. It represents an amalgamation of the findings of site visits and consultation.
- 6.17 There are no clear patterns in quality by either provider or geographical area.

Table 6.2 – Bowling Greens Site Quality

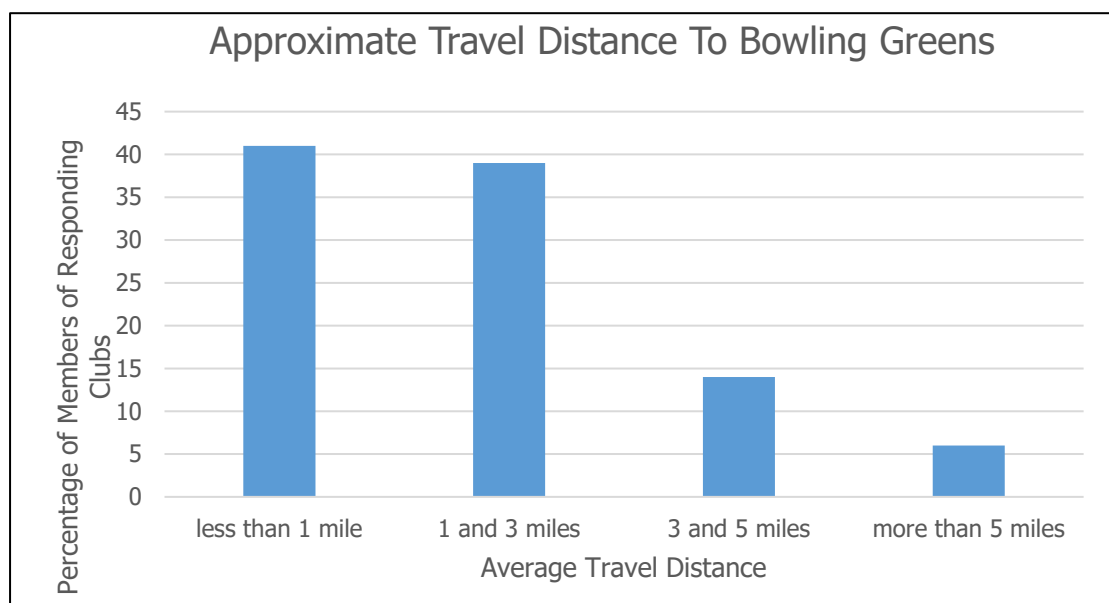
Bowling Green	Sub Area	Number of Greens	Site Quality Score	Quality Issues / Comments
King George V Playing Field, Caister	Northern Parishes	1	77%	A tidy site, evidence of irrigation but some thatching and divots on the green
Winterton Playing Field	Northern Parishes	1	77%	Well-kept site with a good green. There is some thatching and fairy ring evident however, the green was kept irrigated during spells of dry weather. Club have concerns over funds for improvement
Marine Parade, Gorleston-on-Sea	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	1	74%	Nice location, clubhouse and green are in good condition, some bald patches, divots and weeds on the green, however. Club indicate greens not entirely flat and some concerns about edging, and the impact of poor edging and ditching on the playing surface.
Rollesby Bowls Club	Northern Parishes	1	67%	There is a limited space surrounding the green and a small playing surface, there are also no toilets on site.
Gorleston Conservative Bowls Club	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	1	55%	Green is a decent standard; club do have to rely on facilities from Conservative club.
Green Lane Playing Field, Bradwell	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	1	82%	Very tidy bowling green in the corner of recreation field with surroundings that are immaculate, there are some bare patches on the green however and the green is showing signs of water stress. Edge restraint needs addressing
Martham Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	1	89%	Highest quality facility, but club highlight challenges retaining level of maintenance.
Repps with Bastwick Playing Field	Northern Parishes	1		Pavilion roof requires improvement. Previous issues with moles have been addressed.

Wellesley Bowls Club	Great Yarmouth	4	65%	Greens are in a reasonable condition but there is some thatching and the edge of the greens seem to be cut less regularly allowing weeds to grow. Quality reasonably consistent although 2 greens better than other two at time of visit. Clubhouse requires improvement
Runham Bowls Club	Northern Parishes	1	47%	Green is of lower quality. Maintenance remains key challenge and can be attributed to many of the quality issues.
Filby Bowls Club	Northern Parishes	1	72%	Green is something bare patches but overall, a well-kept site.
Hopton Bowls Club	Southern Parishes	1	62%	Green is showing dry patches and will need remedial work to ensue new grass growth. Issues with water pressure.
Browston Hall Country Club	Southern Parishes	1	66%	Green has a lot of bare patches and looks to have minimal use.
Fleggburgh Playing Field	Northern Parishes	1	66%	Not the tidiest site, bare patches, thatching and divots on the green.
Ormesby St Margaret Playing Fields	Northern Parishes	1	71%	The site is well secured and has a good quality green, minimal signs of thatching, edges and gutters are in good condition.

Accessibility

6.18 Bowling greens in the area have a limited reach and this is illustrated in Chart 6.2. It demonstrates that around 80% of current members travel less than 3 miles, with half of those members travelling less than a mile. 14% of members travel between 3 and 5 miles and 6% travel more than 5 miles to their respective greens. This means that members predominantly play at greens local to their home and the provision of greens close to the home is therefore important if participation is to be retained.

Chart 6.2 – Travel Distance to Bowling Greens



6.19 Geographically, bowling greens are well distributed across the Borough and there are greens located in many of the smaller rural settlements as well as the larger urban areas. This means that provision for bowls is perhaps more equitably distributed than facilities for other sports.

Demand

6.20 Nationally, the Sport England Active People survey indicated that participation in outdoor bowls declined over the 2005 - 2016 period. In 2005 0.83% of the adult population played outdoor bowls at least once a week. By 2016 this dropped to 0.51%.

6.21 The Active Lives Survey records activity from 2017 up to the present day. It reveals that between 0.7 and 0.8% of the population participation in bowls or boules. Figures released in October 2019 represent a statistically significant decline in participation from the baseline, suggesting that participation in bowls continues to struggle. Figures produced the following year onwards also present a decline but are influenced by the Covid 19 pandemic and are therefore less representative of long term trends.

6.22 Sport England Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data enables evaluation of the proportion of the population that currently play bowls. It divides the population into 19 categories grouped by their characteristics. Further detail can be found at <https://segments.sportengland.org/>. The key findings of this analysis reveal that;

- The demographic in bowls in Great Yarmouth is larger made up of older generations. The key participants are 'Elsie and Arnold', 'Frank' and 'Roger and Joy'. Participation is slightly higher in the north and south of the borough. This particularly corresponds with the concentrations of greens located in the northern Parishes.
- Market segmentation reveals that overall, across Great Yarmouth, there are 936 people playing bowls currently. These players fall primarily in the older age profiles of 'Elsie and Arnold' and 'Frank'. The proportion of people in each segment participating in bowls is above England and regional averages. The 'Ralph and Phyllis' demographic segment is however significantly below the national and regional average.
- there is relatively limited latent demand in comparison to the amount of people that currently play – 215 residents. Those that would like to play but do not currently do so fall into the same groups as those that already play. This may influence the type of marketing that should be undertaken by clubs in order to successfully generate new participants.

Actual participation

6.23 Table 6.3 illustrates the current playing membership of bowling clubs on greens across the borough. Total numbers are based upon the membership numbers supplied to us by clubs. These numbers include all active players at the time of collating the data.

6.24 The total number of bowlers of responding clubs across Great Yarmouth is 618, of which less than 10 are junior players. Participation is skewed towards males, with 67% of club members being male.

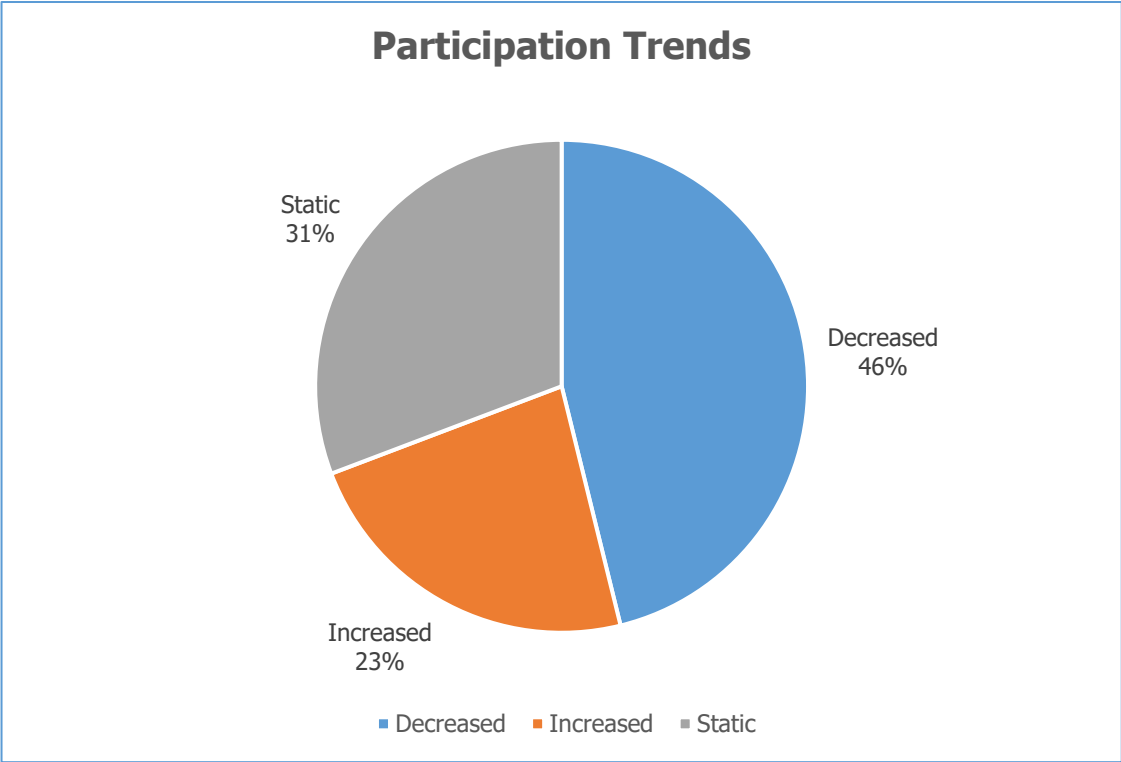
6.25 Total members ranges from 10 to 135. Whilst Wellesley Bowls Club has the most greens, it does not have the highest number of members in the Borough.

Table 6.3 - Membership of existing clubs

Bowling Green	Number of Greens	Clubs Playing on Site	Total Members
Green Lane Playing Field, Bradwell	1	Bradwell Bowls Club	135
King George V Playing Field, Caister	1	Caister Bowls Club	80
Marine Parade, Gorleston-on-Sea (Gorleston Cliffs)	1	Gorleston-on-Sea Links Bowls Club	63
Martham Recreation Ground	1	Martham Bowls Club	55
Gorleston Conservative Bowls Club	1	Gorleston Conservative Bowls Club	45
Wellesley Bowls Club	4	Wellesley Bowls Club	45
Marine Parade, Gorleston-on-Sea (Gorleston Cliffs)	1	Gorleston Bowling Club	42
Hopton Bowls Club	1	Hopton Bowls Club	35
Filby Bowls Club	1	Filby Bowls Club	31
Winterton Playing Field	1	Winterton Bowls Club	30
Rollesby Bowls Club	1	Rollesby Bowls Club	27
Runham Bowls Club	1	Runham Bowls Club	20
Repps with Bastwick Playing Field	1	Repps with Bastwick Bowls Club	10
Browston Hall Country Club	1		Not provided
Fleggburgh Playing Field	1	Fleggburgh Bowls Club	
Ormesby St Margaret Playing Fields	1	Ormesby St Margaret Bowls Club	

6.26 Membership of clubs in Great Yarmouth appears to be fluctuating, but almost half of all clubs registered a recent decline in membership. Several clubs highlight concern for the decline that is being experienced in the game and the subsequent impact that this has on income, and consequently, facility quality. This decline is exhibited in Chart 6.3.

Chart 6.3 – Decline in Bowls Club Membership



6.27 Whilst much of the decline in membership can be attributed to natural causes (and this is typically more apparent at bowls clubs than others due to the age profile of club members), it is clear that clubs are not attracting enough new members. Consultation also demonstrates that smaller clubs are concerned that larger clubs are attracting members from them, given the ability to provide better facilities.

6.28 There has been some initiative taken to try and increase levels of participation, these include open days and adverts in newspapers and magazines. Several clubs however concede that they are struggling for ideas to increase visibility and awareness especially amongst younger demographics that access advertisements and information through different means.

6.29 Whilst issues with membership are not necessarily attributed to Covid 19 pandemic, there is universal agreement amongst clubs that Covid had impacted membership to varying degrees, some members play less frequently due to ongoing concerns about Covid. The key challenge

for bowls clubs now therefore is to reinvigorate bowls. The key barriers to growth were identified as;

- 50% of clubs indicate falling membership and poor-quality changing facilities are their biggest issues
- Some clubs admit that they have no idea of how to generate new members
- There is a general concern over the decline of the game, particularly a lack of youth interest (again also highlighted in the 2015 PPOSS)
- 30% of clubs said funding was currently an issue
- The volunteer workforce is less of a concern... all clubs had a healthy number of volunteers, but funds are needed in order to guarantee maintenance can be carried out – work that goes beyond the capabilities of volunteers e.g. installation of toilets, fixing amenities
- The impact of the closure of the indoor facility was also raised.

6.30 Whilst there are issues relating to declining participation in bowls, it should be noted that club membership data suggests that participation in Great Yarmouth remains above national averages reported in the Sport England Active Lives data.

National Governing Body Perspective – Bowls England

6.31 Bowls England is the NGB for Flat Green Lawn Bowls in England. The organization's new strategy (Fit for the Future – August 2021) identifies five key priorities:

- Improve the brand - Ensure bowls is relevant, visible, reach target audiences
- Make bowls accessible – introductory forms of the game, modernise digital platforms, break down barriers, diversity and inclusion strategy, building new partnerships
- Positive playing experiences – support mixed memberships and pay and play, broadening involvement, performance pathways and providing annual structured programme of competition
- Support volunteers – support club management teams, arrest the decline in facilities, support volunteering programme, ensuring appropriate quality and quantity of officials.

6.32 There is limited direct reference to facilities within the strategy document, although clearly facilities are an important component of retaining and increasing participation and the Governing

Body will seek to support clubs and county boards through the provision of a variety of online resources. Specifically, the strategy prioritises;

‘Working at a local and national level to arrest the decline in facilities to ensure places to play bowls are accessible, inclusive and sustainable.’

6.33 The key priorities of the strategy therefore reflect many of the issues identified in relation to bowls in Great Yarmouth. These include the decline in facility quality, the need to support volunteers and the importance of ensuring that bowling is accessible to all.

6.34 Further consultation with Bowls England reports the following key issues;

- the older age profile of members and the impact that this has on growing and maintaining participation. In particular, there is a lack of people aged 20 - 50 and a dearth of young people. Consultation as part of the national strategy development suggests that bowls is perceived to be a sport mainly for older people;
- the need for greater flexibility in the sport if participation is to increase. Current patterns of play rely on afternoon / early evening starts, meaning that the sport can be restrictive for younger members. The dress code etc is also perceived to be limiting
- the cost of maintaining facilities, declining membership and lack of funding to effect improvements;
- the need for closer involvement with schools and sports development staff;
- lack of voluntary help for clubs – coaches and administrators; and
- the need to promote new ‘short’ forms of the games (e.g. New age bowls, sets play) to attract new players with less spare time
- the need to better engage with technology – the survey for clubs demonstrated significance support for the wider use of technology.

6.35 The Bowls Development Alliance (which is the body incorporating Bowls England, British Crown Green Bowling Association, English Short May Bowling Association and English Indoor Bowling Association) Whole Sport Plan seeks to;

- Target those over 55 to increase participation, with a view to ensuring that bowls becomes the number 1 sport for participants aged 55 and over
- Support clubs to provide a quality experience that will maintain club membership
- Provide a quality coaching structure including recognised qualifications

- Provide more opportunities for those aged 16 and over with a disability
- Overall, the Development Alliance are seeking to bring 10,810 new people into the game.

6.36 There are no direct priorities relating to facilities, although clearly facilities are an important component of increasing participation, and the Governing Body will seek to support clubs and county boards.

6.37 A research report (October 2016) undertaken by Sport England into the issues facing the sustainability of bowls reflected many of the concerns raised above, indicating that there is;

- Falling membership and high age profile of existing members
- Reduction in the number of new members
- Members are very sensitive to increases in fees, but that increase in membership fees has been necessary to offset declining numbers
- Increasing maintenance / green upkeep fees.

6.38 It concludes that;

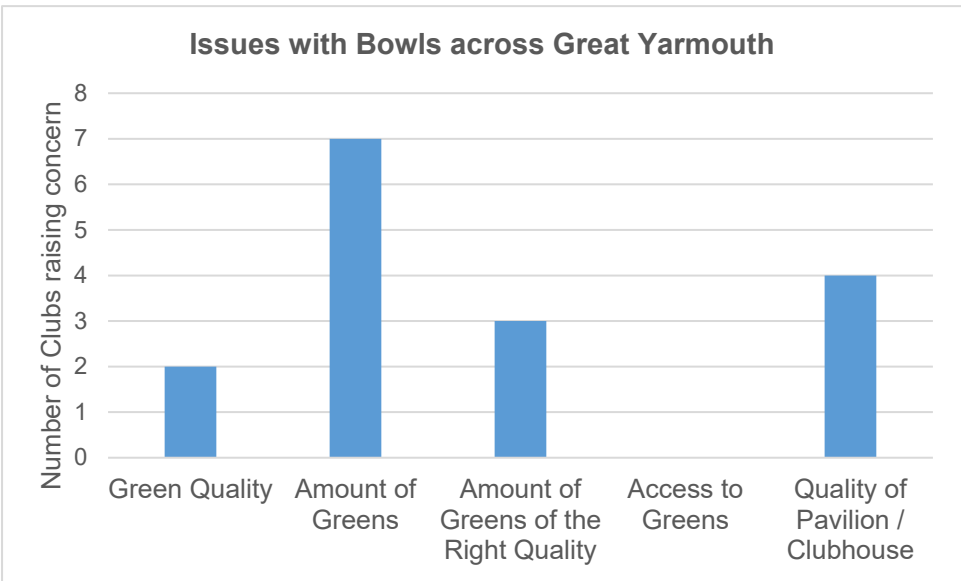
- Recruitment of new members is key to ongoing sustainability
- There is a need to implement sound financial management practices. This includes a need to explore alternative methods of income generation (a bar / social facilities etc are key to financial sustainability). There is also a need to maximise secondary income streams (hire out facilities / sponsorship etc) to ensure that income can be ring fence for a sinking fund
- Maintenance costs and machinery are the highest financial burdens - there may be opportunities to think creatively about how this can be improved (maintenance hubs etc)
- The 40 - 55 age group is crucial to reduce the overall age profile and to drive club activities (but there is a struggle to engage with these groups)
- There is often a reliance on one individual and development business plans need to be put in place.

Adequacy of Provision

6.39 The key components determining the adequacy of provision are discussed in the section that follows. There are no formal demand models for bowls and so instead a combination of quality, quantity and accessibility must be considered.

- 6.40 The adequacy of bowling greens is evaluated by drawing together the data collated and determining the key issues impacting current and projected future participation.
- 6.41 Of the clubs that responded to the survey, including both public and private greens, there is low satisfaction rate. Views are split on the key issues, but a balance between the quantity of greens, quality of greens and quality of clubhouse is evident. The number of greens is the greatest concern, and this is illustrated in Chart 6.4.

Chart 6.4 – Perceived Issues with Bowls across Great Yarmouth



Green Quality

- 6.42 Whilst assessments demonstrate that most greens are functional, there are qualitative improvements required at almost all sites and as set out in Chart 6.4, issues relating to quality are perceived to impact on demand.
- 6.43 In particular, a need to improve maintenance procedures is identified, both in terms of the work actually carried out, but also the processes, workforce and succession planning relating to maintenance.
- 6.44 The reliance on volunteers who are not necessarily trained means that improvements to maintenance and implementing appropriate maintenance practices for the long term therefore represent one of the key issues that need to be addressed in relation to the bowling infrastructure.

6.45 Added to this, there are site specific issues identified at many of the greens with issues relating to the green surface (impacted by maintenance) and the clubhouse particularly apparent. Clubs believe that if these are not addressed, they will continue to struggle to attract members.

Amount of Greens

6.46 Whilst the number of greens was raised as a key issue by bowls clubs, for many, it was concerns about the loss of former greens rather than the need for more greens that was the reason behind the comment.

6.47 The historic Sports Council standard recommended 10 greens per 60,000 people (Planning for Sport 1970), which gives a requirement of circa 16.5 greens across the Borough. With 19 greens, provision is therefore above this measure. This is however a dated measure which does not take into account the level of participation in the Borough, or the propensity of the local population to participate in bowls. It also doesn't take into account the need to provide local access to bowling greens for residents, which in an area where there are many rural settlements, increases the required number of greens.

6.48 Bowls England does however provide some additional measures that can be used to understand the adequacy of current provision and the challenges that are faced in relation to the quantity of facilities.

6.49 As a guide, 80-100 members is considered a very healthy membership for a bowls club, while an average club will have 50 - 60 members.

6.50 Table 6.4 demonstrates that the average membership of bowling greens across Great Yarmouth is 48 members (for those clubs that have responded). This represents a decline since the previous PPOSS (60 members across Norfolk) but remains a strong level of participation overall. It does however suggest that there are opportunities to increase participation.

6.51 This accords with the views of clubs – all responding clubs indicate that they have capacity to accommodate additional members and almost all are proactively looking to do so.

6.52 At any one time, a good quality green can accommodate circa 48 players and the number of club members that can therefore be sustained is significantly higher. While there are some sources that suggest that clubs accommodating a higher number of players than this become overplayed, Bowls England indicates that clubs should be encouraged to promote a spread of play across different time slots in order to maximise the number of people that are involved in

the club. Bowls England use membership levels as the key reference point for the sustainability of a green. They suggest that the retention of an existing bowling green is difficult to support where membership is below 16 - 20 people. This means that there are some clubs within the Borough where sustainability is becoming questionable, specifically;

- Runham (20 members)
- Filby (31 members)
- Repps with Bastwick (12 members).

6.53 On the other side of the coin, there are several clubs where membership is already approaching maximum levels. These include Caister (80) and Bradwell (135). Significant growth in demand will see these clubs unable to sustain additional play.

6.54 It should be noted that while facilities are mostly reserved for club use, greens on the seafront at both Gorleston-on-Sea and Great Yarmouth are also used by the public. The number of greens provided is therefore high for the club membership that use the sites.

6.55 From a quantitative perspective therefore, on the whole, the existing facilities are sustainable and do have capacity for additional members. There may however be a need to review provision in a small number of cases should population growth generate significant additional demand and there is also a need to provide immediate support where clubs are struggling with sustainability issues.

6.56 On the whole however there is limited evidence to justify a requirement for additional provision based upon current demand. The Gorleston-on-Sea and Caister areas represent the key locations in the Borough where capacity will need to be kept under review.

Table 6.4 – Adequacy of Provision at Each Green

Bowling Green	Sub Area	Number of Greens	Sub Area	Per Green
King George V Playing Field, Caister	Northern Parishes	1	Northern Parishes	80
Winterton Playing Field	Northern Parishes	1	Northern Parishes	30
Marine Parade, Gorleston-on-Sea	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	2	Gorleston	53.5
Rollsby Bowls Club	Northern Parishes	1	Northern Parishes	27

Gorleston Conservative Bowls Club	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	1	Gorleston	45
Green Lane Playing Field, Bradwell	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	1	Gorleston	135
Martham Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	1	Northern Parishes	55
Repps with Bastwick Playing Field	Northern Parishes	1	Northern Parishes	12
Wellesley Bowls Club	Great Yarmouth	4	Great Yarmouth	11.25
Runham Bowls Club	Northern Parishes	1	Northern Parishes	20
Filby Bowls Club	Northern Parishes	1	Northern Parishes	31
Hopton Bowls Club	Southern Parishes	1	Southern Parishes	41
Browston Hall Country Club	Southern Parishes	1	Southern Parishes	Not known
Fleggburgh Playing Field	Northern Parishes	1	Northern Parishes	Not known
Ormesby St Margaret Playing Fields	Northern Parishes	1	Northern Parishes	Not known

Accessibility

- 6.57 Alongside quality issues (which clubs see as the biggest issue), the importance of access to greens should be noted. Whilst the provision of a greater number of greens to meet the needs of providing local facilities for more rural communities no doubt leads to the provision of lower quality facilities, analysis of existing membership suggests that local access to bowling greens is important.
- 6.58 The existing distribution of greens is well spread and there is good access for most residents.
- 6.59 The sustainability of greens however remains the key challenge and it will be important to support all facilities to enhance their membership in order to ensure that they remain sustainable.

Future Requirements for Bowls

- 6.60 Proportionally, the largest growth in the population is expected in the 60 years and over population and the total increase in this sector of the population is larger than the overall

increase that will take place. The profile of current participants in bowls means that the ageing population is likely to influence participation more so than for most other sports.

6.61 Analysis indicates that the number of residents aged 60+ is likely to increase from 32,092 now (2022) to 38,587 in 2039. The propensity to participate in bowls is therefore likely to grow. This is likely to stimulate additional demand for bowling and place additional pressures on the existing infrastructure.

6.62 Table 6.5 summarises the potential impact of the population growth. It uses the existing club membership as a base (and assumes the average club membership for non-responding clubs). This figure is much lower than estimations of participation presented through Sport England Market Segmentation (which indicates that 936 people currently play) and both scenarios are therefore considered. Both levels of participation are above levels currently recorded in the Active Lives Survey.

Table 6.5 - Calculation of potential growth in bowls

Current Situation (2022)		
Area considered	Current Participation (Known Club Membership)	Sport England Market Segmentation
Current Population Aged 60+	32,092	32,092
Participation in Bowls	762	936
% Of Current Population Participating in Bowls	2.3%	2.9%
Future Situation (2039)		
Future Population aged 60+	38,587	38587
Assumed Future Participation in Bowls (participation remains constant)	2.3%	2.9%
Potential Future Participants in Bowls	887	1119
Change (2022 - 2039)	+125	+183

6.63 Table 6.5 therefore indicates that based upon existing club membership, assuming participation rates remain constant, demand for bowls is likely to increase by between 125 and 183 players as a direct result of population growth.

6.64 Based on the average membership of clubs, this level of membership is still sustainable within the existing stock and indeed, continues to offer spare capacity. This suggests therefore that

there is sufficient stock of facilities to meet current and future demand and there is scope for growth within the facility stock.

6.65 It is acknowledged however that growth is unlikely to be even. Caister (80) and Bradwell are amongst the areas most likely to see high growth and are currently the closest greens to capacity. Particularly at Bradwell, there is limited scope for additional players and demand at this location will need to be monitored.

6.66 For the majority of other greens, the additional members will provide welcome increased income and will improve sustainability of bowls across the Borough.

Summary and Key Issues

6.67 The key issues for bowls that need to be considered as part of the strategy development are summarised overleaf.

Bowls – Summary and key Issues

Supply

- There are 19 bowling greens in Great Yarmouth. This represents a similar level of provision to 2015. While a couple of new greens have been identified, there are no longer greens at Fritton, St Olaves and Hemsby Recreation Ground. There has also been a reduction of one green at North Drive.
- Most sites are single green sites. Wellesley is the largest site, offering 4 greens whilst there are also two greens at Gorleston Cliffs.
- Management of facilities is undertaken by a wide variety of bodies. These include private clubs, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Parish Councils.
- The quality of greens varies from good to standard. Most greens have bare patches, and some have signs of thatching. The majority of sites also least some weeds and / or divots in the playing surface and there is evidence of compaction on many greens
- Quality is one of the biggest issues for bowling clubs, with the playing surface raised as one of the key concerns. Pitch maintenance was also rated as one of the more prevalent issues. Issues with maintenance can potentially be attributed to some of the other issues identified (playing surface / grass coverage etc). Crucially, reflecting the challenges identified, 50% of clubs indicate that they believe that they don't have adequate skills or training to maintain their greens effectively.

Demand

- Around 80% of current members travel less than 3 miles, with half of those members travelling less than a mile. 14% of members travel between 3 and 5 miles and 6% travel more than 5 miles to their respective greens.
- National databases reveal a statistically significant decline in the number of people playing bowls. The profile of players is also much more focused towards the older age groups than other sports considered in both Great Yarmouth and nationally
- There are 618 playing members of responding clubs, of which less than 10 are junior players. Participation is skewed towards males, with 67% of club members being male.
- Membership of clubs in Great Yarmouth appears to be fluctuating, but almost half of all clubs registered a recent decline in membership. Several clubs highlight concern for the decline that is being experienced in the game and the subsequent impact that this has on income, and consequently, facility quality.

- Bowls England highlight retention and recruitment of members as the key priority and this is reinforced by the clubs playing within Great Yarmouth Borough

Adequacy of Existing Provision

- Whilst assessments demonstrate that most greens are functional, there are qualitative improvements required at almost all sites and issues relating to quality are perceived to impact on demand. In particular, a need to improve maintenance procedures is identified, both in terms of the work actually carried out, but also the processes, workforce and succession planning relating to maintenance.
- The reliance on volunteers who are not necessarily trained means that improvements to maintenance and implementing appropriate maintenance practices for the long term therefore represent a key issue
- the average membership of bowling greens across Great Yarmouth is 48 members (for those clubs that have responded). This represents a decline since the previous PPOSS (60 members across Norfolk) but remains a strong level of participation overall. All responding clubs indicate that they have capacity to accommodate additional members and almost all are proactively looking to do so.
- At any one time, a good quality green can accommodate circa 48 players and the number of club members that can therefore be sustained is significantly higher. Bowls England use membership levels as the key reference point for the sustainability of a green. They suggest that the retention of an existing bowling green is difficult to support where membership is below 16 - 20 people. Two clubs in the Borough are at this level and provision at a third is not much higher. On the other side of the coin, there are several clubs where membership is already approaching maximum levels. These include Caister (80) and Bradwell (135).
- From a quantitative perspective therefore, on the whole, the existing facilities are sustainable and do have capacity for additional members. There may however be a need to review provision in a small number of cases should population growth generate significant additional demand and there is also a need to provide immediate support where clubs are struggling with sustainability issues.
- Future population growth will generate between 125 and 183 new bowling club members by 2039. This can be accommodated within the existing stock. The Gorleston-on-Sea / Bradwell and Caister areas however may come under pressure following growth, with provision close to capacity already at key sites in this part of the Borough

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

The above therefore suggests that the strategy will need to;

- Support clubs in addressing concerns around maintenance procedures, succession planning and expertise in grounds maintenance within clubs
- Address quality issues at the bowling greens – this includes improvements to the playing surface in particular
- Ensure that existing greens are protected
- Support ongoing efforts to sustain and increase participation (particularly those where membership is reaching unsustainable levels) and work with clubs to improve the promotion of bowls

7.0 Athletics

Introduction

7.1 This section evaluates the key issues for athletics in Great Yarmouth Borough. It sets out the supply and demand for facilities and determines the adequacy of provision both at the current time and in future years.

Supply

Quantity

7.2 There is one floodlit synthetic track in Great Yarmouth Borough located at Wellesley Recreation Ground. Wellesley Recreation Ground also contains a small sized 3G AGP, a tennis court and a grass football pitch. The grass football pitch is located in the middle of the track and is the home for Great Yarmouth Town FC.

7.3 This track is the only dedicated athletics facility in the Borough and is owned by the Borough Council. It is a six lane facility with an eight lane straight. Facilities are also provided for throws and jumps.

7.4 The ground is available to local schools and residents are also able to access the facility free of charge between 9am and 5pm. The track is not open when football is being played at the site. Renovation works are shortly to begin at the site, with a new 9v9 3G pitch to be installed and upgrades to be carried out to the pavilion.

7.5 There are also several schools that have tracks marked out on their grass playing fields during the summer months. These cater primarily for curricular need.

Quality

7.6 The track is categorised as a Level 1 County Standard facility, meaning that it is able to host County level competitions. The throws cage meets UKA and World Athletics Standards.

7.7 A recent Track Mark Inspection (2019 carried out by England Athletics) reveals the following;

- The surface and line markings are in good condition, although regular power washing (circa every three years) with professional cleaning equipment is required to address issues of black algal growth and lichen

- There are a small number of surface cracks that require attention and in 3 – 5 years, the surface will require a respray and line marking, whilst the long / triple jump runway will require replacing
- It is likely that the full surface will require replacement in 10 years
- Floodlighting does not meet required standards for the track circuit – immediate upgrade is required
- Changing facilities require refurbishment
- The poor condition of the spectator stand means that the facility is not able to host Level 1 activity (regional / national competition).

7.8 It is therefore evident that outside of the floodlights (which do not meet standards) the existing facility is functional and provides an important resource for athletics in Great Yarmouth.

7.9 Some improvements were carried out to the track to address the issues identified above in 2021 and the track surface is now good. The issues with the floodlights are currently being addressed.

7.10 Proposals are underway to upgrade the pavilion and it is anticipated that this will begin shortly.

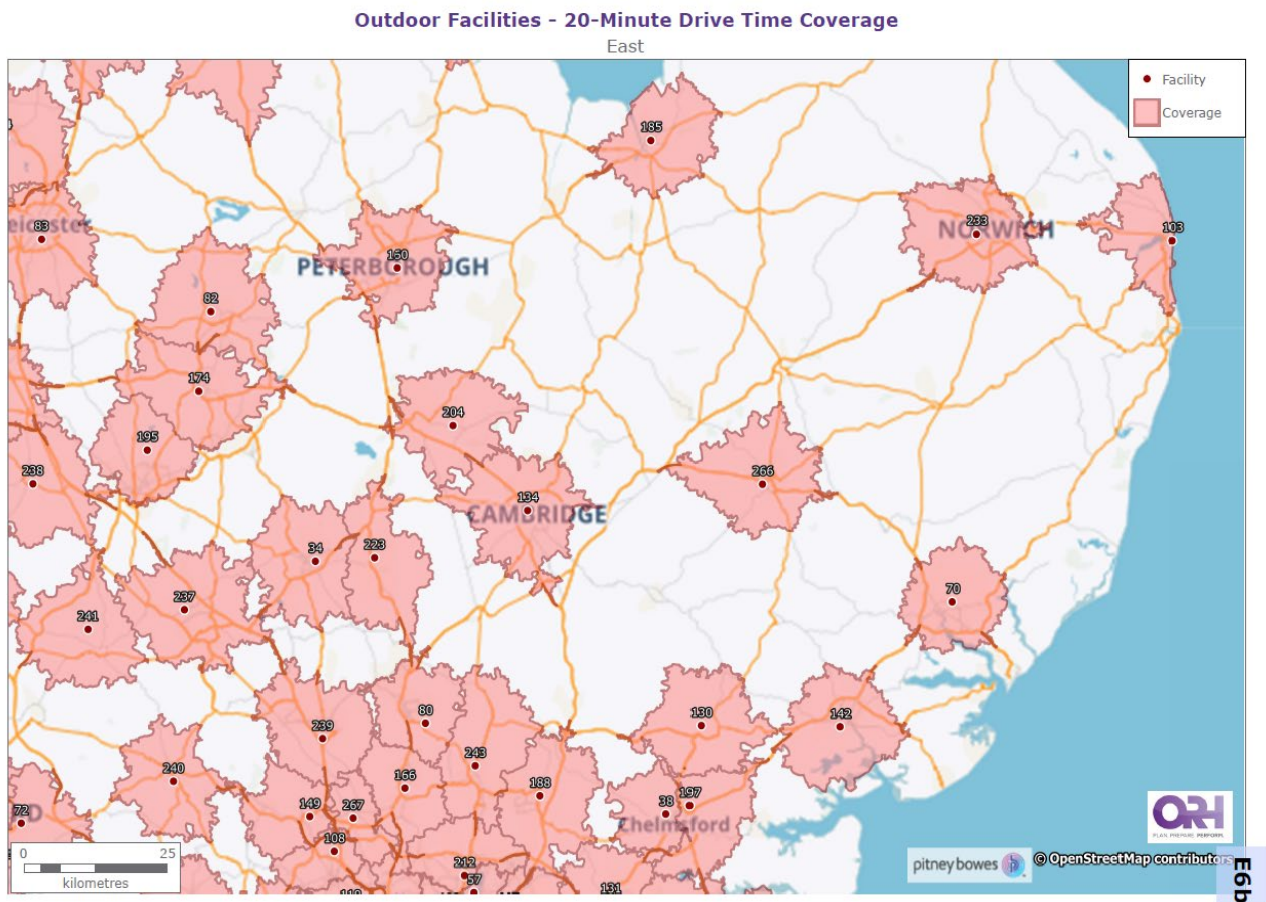
Accessibility

7.11 Map 7.1 (provided by England Athletics) illustrates that the location of the Wellesley Athletics track means that the majority of residents of Great Yarmouth Borough are within the target 20 minute drivetime of an outdoor athletics track. The next nearest outdoor athletics track is located in Norwich - none of the residents of Great Yarmouth Borough are within a 20 minute drivetime of this facility.

7.12 This suggests that the provision of the athletics track at Wellesley Recreation Ground is essential in meeting the demand from residents of the Borough.

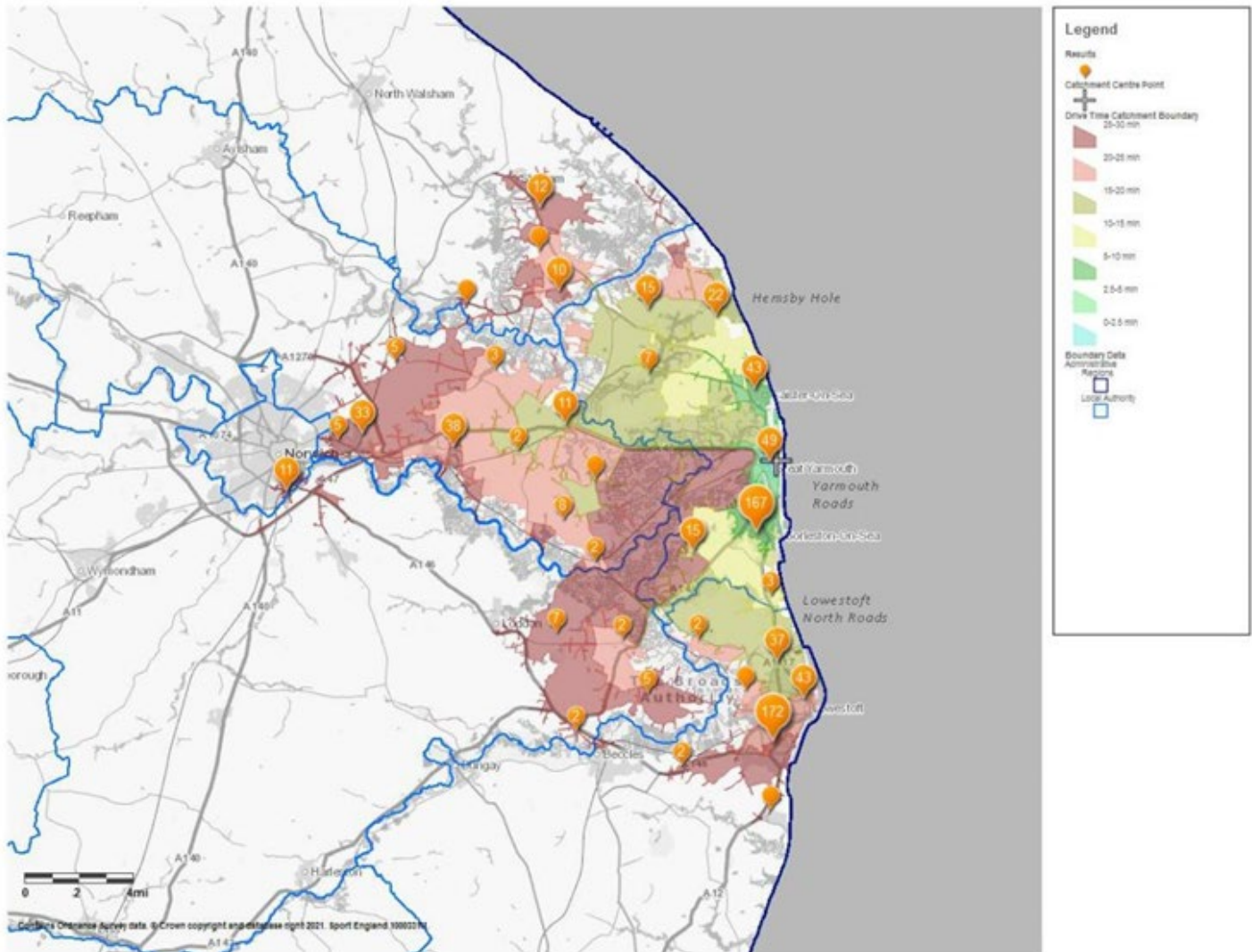
7.13 Calculations undertaken by England Athletics reinforce the importance of the athletics track, indicating that Wellesley Recreation Ground is the nearest competition venue for 386,000 people. Whilst this is the lowest catchment population of all facilities in the East region (impacted by the lack of catchment to the east of the site as a result of the sea front location), none of these residents would be able to access a facility if this track was no longer available.

Map 7.1 – Catchment of Athletics Tracks in East Region



7.14 Map 7.2 provides further detail on the catchment area that is served by Wellesley Recreation Ground. It shows that the track is well located to meet the needs of most residents in the Borough.

Map 7.2 – Catchment of Wellesley Recreation Ground

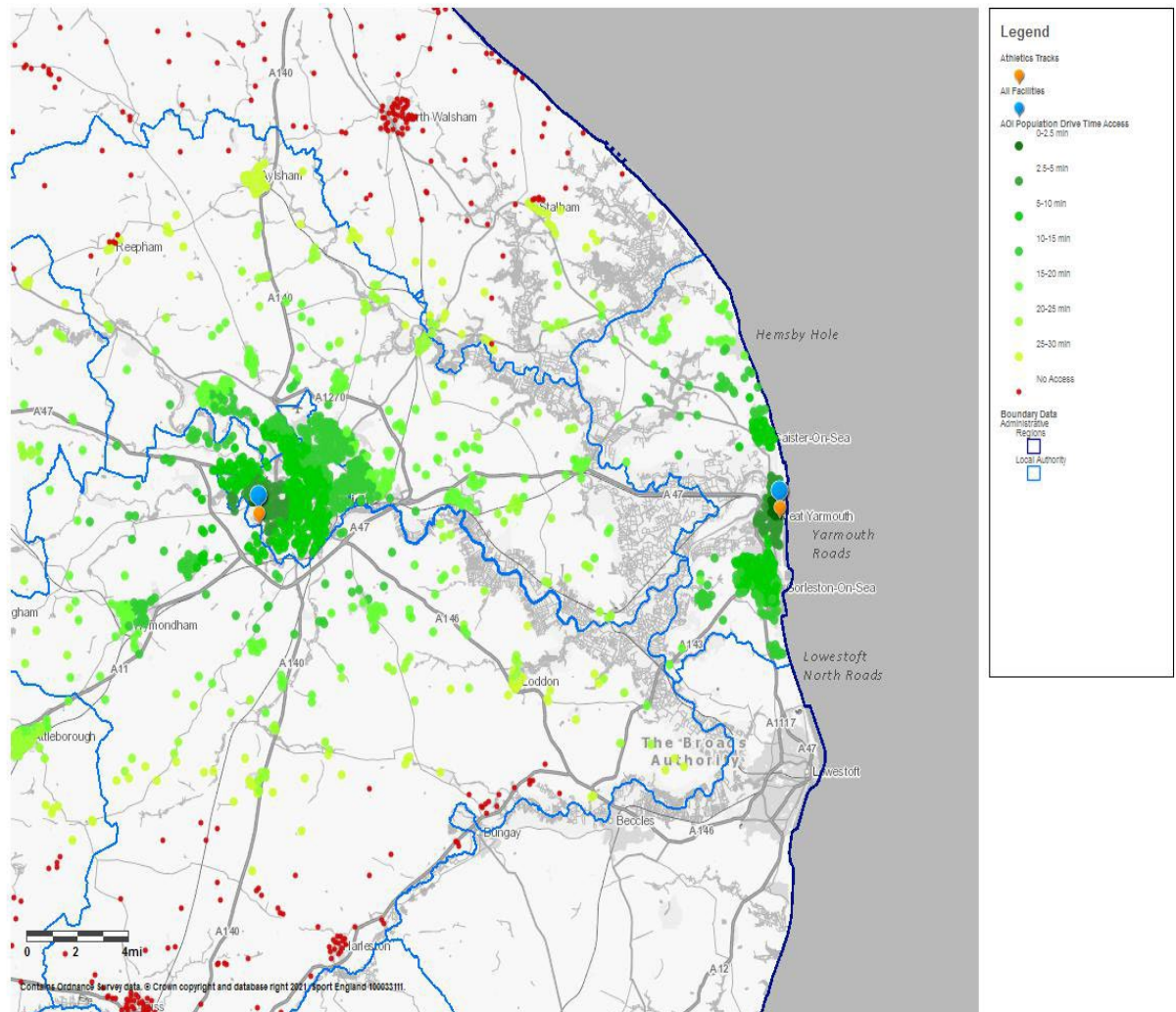


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7.15 Map 7.3 further reinforces the role that the track plays in meeting the needs of local residents, demonstrating that there are no areas of Great Yarmouth Borough where residents are outside of the catchment for a facility (indicated by red dots).

Map 7.3 – Residents unable to access athletics track



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7.16 There are no indoor athletics facilities within a 60-minute drivetime of Great Yarmouth Borough. The nearest facilities are located in Kings Lynn and Cambridge.

Availability

7.17 As a public facility, there is good availability at the athletics track for both the local club, but also for residents wishing to use the facility on an informal basis. There is free of charge access between 9am and 5pm and schools are also able to use the site.

7.18 The club have specific club training nights when they have dedicated access to the facility.

Demand

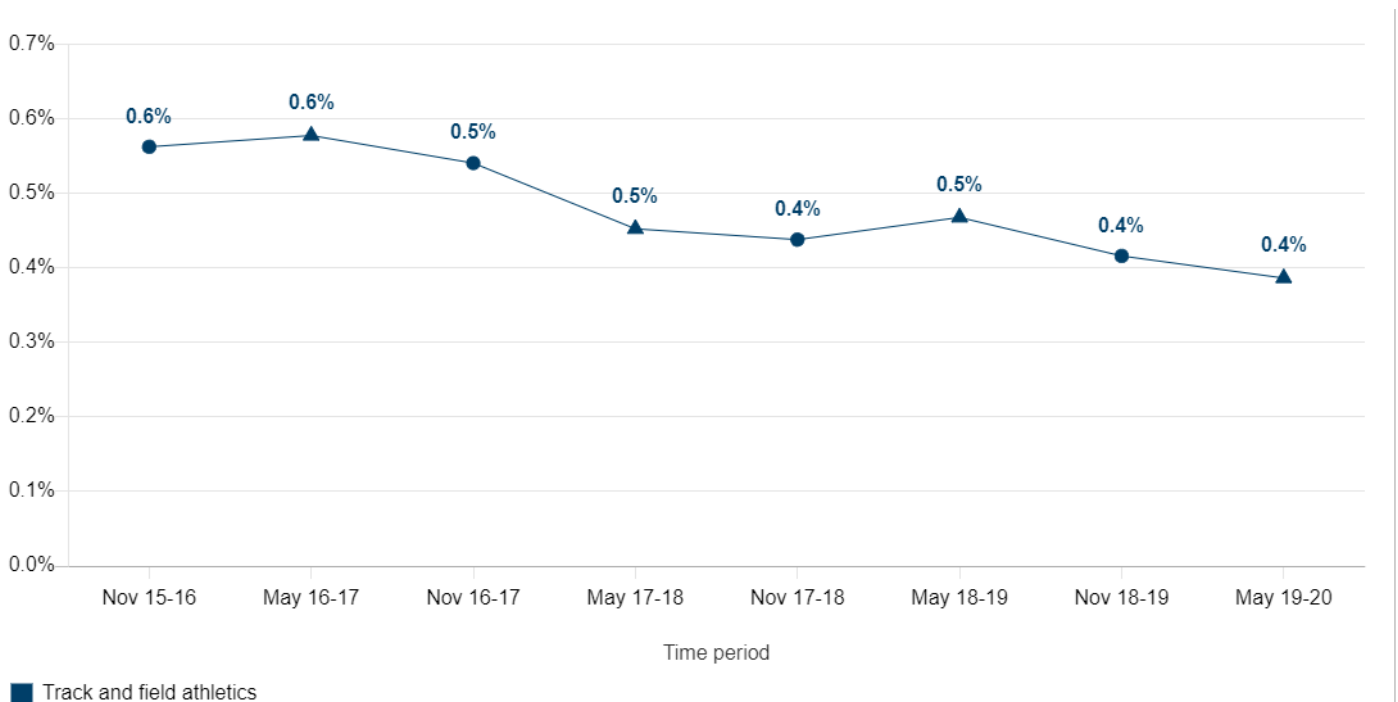
Participation Trends

7.19 The Active Lives England wide data for adult participation in track and field at least once every 28 days demonstrates a decline in the number of people who are participating. Over the five years of the Active Lives survey, adult track and field athletics participation had declined by 0.3%.

7.20 Given the closure of outdoor athletic facilities for nine months from March 2020 to the end of the Active Lives survey in November 2020 because of Covid 19, the changes in the past twelve months are not valid for comment.

7.21 The Active Lives data for adult participation in track and field athletics based on the same measure but annually (as opposed to every 28 days) shows a similar trend, with 0.6% of adults participating at the time of the first Active Lives survey in 2015 – 16. This rate of participation has shown a steady decrease to 0.4% of adult participating in the 2019 – 20 Active Lives survey. This is set out overleaf in Chart 7.1

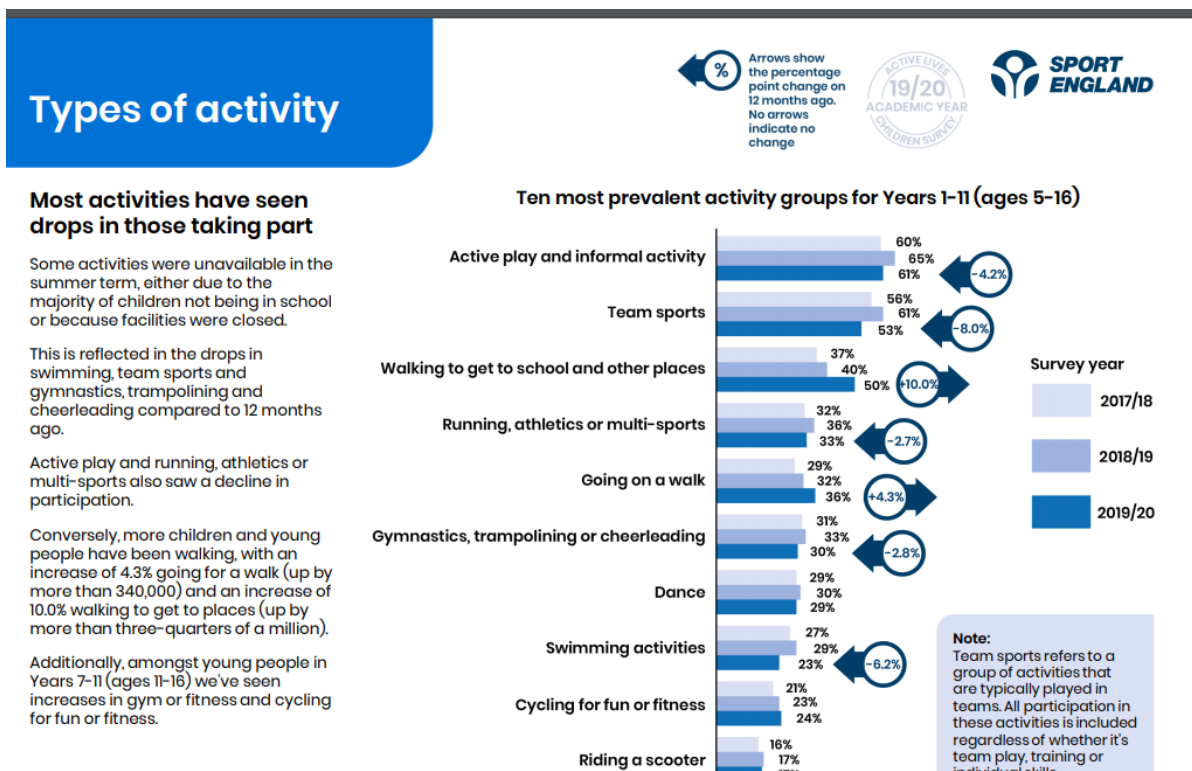
Chart 7.1 - Active Lives track and field athletics participation England wide 2015 – 16 to 2019 – 20



7.22 The same data table is not presented in the same way for the Active Lives Young People survey findings, the data is presented in reports for each academic year. The findings for the Active Lives Young People survey 2019 - 20 are presented in Figure 7.2 overleaf. This includes a group with running, athletics and multi sports and measures activity as at least once in the past week.

7.23 The findings show that participation in this category, was 33% of young people in the 2019 -20 academic year, down from 36% in 2018 19 but 1% higher than in 2017-18. It is a consistently high percentage and ranked fourth out of the ten activity categories measured. However, it does include multi sports and so it a much wider category than just track and field athletics.

Table 7.2 - Active Lives activity levels for young people aged 5 - 16



7.24 It is clear therefore that whilst participation in formal track and field athletics has declined somewhat, there are still reasonable levels of participation, particularly amongst children and young people.

National Governing Body (NGB) Priorities

7.25 England Athletics (EA) have 3 key facility priorities as follows;

- Ensure that the allocation of resources to new and existing track and field facilities is prioritised to those that have the greatest potential to impact positively on general participation, club membership growth and retention, and improved personal performance
- Actively encourage athletics and running facilities to be used to their fullest possible extent by the sport and by all sections of the community in order to maximise viability
- Encourage innovative approaches to the location and design of facilities for individual components of the sport in order to increase reach and create sustainability and viability.

7.26 Reinforcing the analysis in this section to date supplied by England Athletics (EA). EA consider that the track in Great Yarmouth is well placed to service the outdoor needs of athletics in the Great Yarmouth area (on the assumption that the strong existing management of the facility remains).

7.27 They highlight the need to protect the existing facility and also wish to see the track upgraded from a Level 1 to a Level 2 specification, enabling the facility to host regional / national fixtures.

7.28 Running has been one of the few sports that people have been able to engage in during lockdowns which appears to be resulting in an increase in participation from the public. There may be opportunities for clubs to engage with and attract new members once they return to activity, which could result in a further increase in demand.

7.29 Whilst the facilities for outdoor athletics are considered to be good, EA highlight that residents of Great Yarmouth do not have access to an indoor athletics facility within a 60 minute drive time. They recommend that this gap in provision should be taken into account when decisions are made for new indoor sporting provision in the area.

Local Demand

7.30 Great Yarmouth Athletics Club are the main users of the track at Wellesley Road. The club are one of the smaller clubs in the East Region and currently have a membership of 115.

- 7.31 The club offers adult athletics and also runs a junior section for children who are aged 8 plus. They cover both track and field events as well as cross country and are open to athletes of all abilities. They operate right across the range from beginners to those competing in the Olympics and compete in the East Anglia League and host competitions as well as travel to other venues.
- 7.32 With regards facilities, the key priority of the club is the upgrade of the Track to ensure that required standards continue to be met to achieve EA accreditation. The presence of the local facility is essential to ensure that the club can continue to function and all facilities at the site are used and required.
- 7.33 In addition to the Athletics Club, the site is also used informally by local residents as well as accommodating ad hoc school activity.
- 7.34 Whilst not based at the athletics track, Great Yarmouth Road Runners are also based in the borough. They meet in Gorleston-on-Sea (summer) and North Drive Great Yarmouth (winter) and focus on road running. Like Great Yarmouth AC, they compete in local events.
- 7.35 The increase in interest in running / athletics since the Covid 19 pandemic provides a significant opportunity for both of these clubs to grow and to further develop the sport of athletics. The synergies between the Road Runners and Track and Field events means that as road running becomes more popular, there is a potential transition into track and field.

Adequacy of Provision

- 7.36 The adequacy of athletics tracks is evaluated by drawing together the data collated and determining the key issues impacting current and projected future participation. There are no formal demand models for athletics.
- 7.37 Drawing together the supply and demand analysis, it is clear that;
- The existing facility at Wellesley Recreation Ground is well located to meet the needs of Great Yarmouth Athletics Club. It is the only synthetic track in the area and almost all residents of the Borough are within the target drivetime catchment
 - Whilst there is scope for growth at Great Yarmouth Athletics Club, the club make good use of the facility and compete in all disciplines of athletics
 - Although the quality of the surface is currently adequate, longer term some improvements will be required if it is to continue to meet demand, and a full track

resurface should be expected around 2029. Upgrades to the floodlights are however required to ensure that the track continues to meet with required specifications

- There are aspirations for the track to achieve and maintain Track Mark Accreditation and Level 2 status to support the growth and development of the club and to improve the range of facilities available in the East Region. The improvement of the floodlighting and the requirement for appropriate covered spectator seating are central to this
- England Athletics identify a requirement for indoor athletics tracks as there are no facilities within a 60 minute drivetime of Great Yarmouth Athletics Club.

7.38 There is no evidence of requirements for any further facilities and instead, there is scope to grow existing participation in athletics to maximise the usage of the site. Recent upturns in interest in athletics since the Covid 19 pandemic may support the club in doing this.

7.39 Current plans for the refurbishment of the facility at the Wellesley Recreation Ground seek to improve the role that the site plays in meeting the sporting needs of Great Yarmouth, and this will improve the facilities that are available for athletics. It is intended that the existing changing areas and Grandstand will be refurbished, and the athletics club will also benefit from a new storage area.

Summary and Key Issues

7.40 The key issues for athletics that need to be considered as part of the strategy development are summarised overleaf.

Athletics– Summary and key Issues

Supply

- There is one floodlit synthetic track in Great Yarmouth Borough located at Wellesley Recreation Ground. Wellesley Recreation Ground also contains a small sized 3G AGP, a tennis court and a grass football pitch. The grass football pitch is located in the middle of the track and is the home for Great Yarmouth Town FC.
- This track is the only dedicated athletics facility in the Borough and is owned by the Borough Council. The track is a six lane facility with an eight lane straight. Facilities are also provided for throws and jumps.
- The track is categorised as a Level 1 County Standard facility, meaning that it is able to host County level competitions. The throws cage meets UKA and World Athletics Standards.
- The facility is functional although some qualitative improvements are required. The floodlights do not currently meet standards although surface upgrades have been carried out in 2021 to address issues identified on the track itself. A full refurbishment will be needed in 2029
- The location of the track effectively meets the needs of residents of Great Yarmouth Borough, with no significant areas of population outside of the catchment for a facility
- There are no indoor venues within a 60 minute drivetime.

Demand

- Active Lives Surveys report a decline in participation between 2015 – 2020 for both adults and young people. The proportion of young people in particular participating however remains significance and there is evidence to suggest that interest in athletics has increased since the 2019 Covid Pandemic
- Great Yarmouth Athletics Club are the main users of the track at Wellesley Road. The club are one of the smaller clubs in the East Region and currently have a membership of 115.
- The club offers adult athletics and also runs a junior section for children who are aged 8 plus and cover both track and field events as well as cross country. The club are open to athletes of all abilities and operate right across the range from beginners to those competing in the Olympics. The club compete in the East Anglia League and host competitions as well as travel to other venues.
- In addition to the Athletics Club, the site is also used informally by local residents as well as accommodating ad hoc school activity.

- Whilst not based at the athletics track, Great Yarmouth Road Runners are also based in the borough.
- The increase in interest in running / athletics since the Covid 19 pandemic provides a significant opportunity for both of these clubs to grow and to further develop the sport of athletics.

Adequacy of Existing Provision

Analysis demonstrates that;

- The existing facility at Wellesley Recreation Ground is well located to meet the needs of Great Yarmouth Athletics Club. It is the only synthetic track in the area and almost all residents of the Borough are within the target drivetime catchment
- Whilst there is scope for growth at Great Yarmouth Athletics Club, the club make good use of the facility and compete in all disciplines of athletics
- Although the quality of the surface is currently adequate, longer term some improvements will be required if it is to continue to meet demand, and a full track resurface should be expected around 2029. Upgrades to the floodlights are however required to ensure that the track continues to meet with required specifications
- There are aspirations for the track to achieve and maintain Track Mark Accreditation and Level 2 status to support the growth and development of the club and to improve the range of facilities available in the East Region. The improvement of the floodlighting and the requirement for appropriate covered spectator seating are central to this
- England Athletics identify a requirement for indoor athletics tracks as there are no facilities within a 60 minute drivetime of Great Yarmouth Athletics Club
- Current plans for the refurbishment of the facility at the Wellesley Recreation Ground seek to improve the role that the site plays in meeting the sporting needs of Great Yarmouth, and this will improve the facilities that are available for athletics. It is intended that the existing changing areas and Grandstand will be refurbished, and the athletics club will also benefit from a new storage area.

The above therefore suggests that the strategy will need to;

- Protect the existing athletics track
- Ensure that the required quality improvements both now, and in future years are carried out. This will be essential both to ensure the ongoing functionality of the facility and achieve TrackMark accreditation, but also if aspirations to upgrade the track to a level 2 (regional and national facility) are to be achieved. Floodlighting and spectator seating are particular priorities

- Support ongoing efforts to sustain and increase participation and work with the club to support the promotion of athletics.

8.0 Golf

Introduction

8.1 This section evaluates the key issues for golf in Great Yarmouth Borough. It sets out the supply and demand for facilities and determines the adequacy of provision both at the current time and in future years.

Supply

Quantity

8.2 Table 8.1 sets out the golf facilities that identified within Sport England’s Active Places Power (APP) tool for great Yarmouth.

8.3 The following golf facilities are identified in APP within Great Yarmouth (all the data derives from 2020 and later). The description of access type is considered inconsistent (in line with all golf data in APP), as some courses are described as pay and play when they are clearly members’ courses where visitors are permitted/encouraged on payment of a green fee. A more accurate description of accessibility to courses is set out later, based on additional information on local courses, but the APP categorisation has to be used if a comparison with provision in other wider areas is to be undertaken (see below).

Table 8.1 – Golf Courses in Great Yarmouth

Site name	Range mins	Holes	Length m	Access	Ownership /management	Year built/ refurb	Sub Area
CALDECOTT HALL GOLF AND LEISURE	Standard	18	6112.76	Pay and Play	Commercial	1992	Southern Parishes
GORLESTON GOLF CLUB	Standard	18	5798.21	Registered Membership use	Sports Club	1906	Gorleston and Bradwell
GREAT YARMOUTH AND CAISTER GOLF CLUB	Standard	18	5815.58	Pay and Play	Local Authority/ sports club	1882	Northern Parishes
Total	3 courses	54 holes					
BROWSTON HALL COUNTRY CLUB	Par 3	9	914.4	Pay and Play	Commercial	1988	Southern Parishes
CALDECOTT HALL GOLF AND LEISURE	Par 3	18	2430.48	Pay and Play	Commercial	1992	Southern Parishes
PALMS HEALTH & FITNESS CLUB (POTTERS)	Par 3	9	500	Registered Membership use	Commercial	1924	Bradwell South and Hopton

Site name	Range mins	Holes	Length m	Access	Ownership /management	Year built/refurb	Sub Area
Total	3 courses	36 holes					
BROWSTON HALL COUNTRY CLUB	Driving Range	24 floodlit	274.32	Pay and Play	Commercial	1988/2018	Southern Parishes.
Total	1 range	24 bays					

- 8.4 APP identified that there are 3 standard golf courses in the borough, comprising 54 holes, three par 3 courses of 36 holes in total and 1 GDR with 24 floodlit bays. The main golf facilities are mainly located close to the main centres of population of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston.
- 8.5 There is also a small course owned and run by the Borough Council in Bure Park, which is not included in the APP database, as it does not fulfil the criteria for inclusion, being primarily a pitch and putt course for recreational use. However it is similar in scale to the Browston and Palms/Potters courses and is considered below as part of the wider facilities, and in the policy conclusions.
- 8.6 APP describes most of these facilities as pay and play facilities. As suggested above, it is assumed that most/all of the standard golf courses also allow some casual play on payment of a visitors' green fee. However some courses are still run as members' clubs and in reality fewer clubs/courses than suggested in the table are fully pay and play - i.e. do offer facilities that are always available to full community access at all times on demand. The key information relating to each golf club in the Borough is therefore set out below;
- Gorleston GC** is a registered private members' club, first established in 1906, on land further north, since redeveloped for housing, and now situated on broadly its current site since 1913, but reopened after WW1, with additional land purchased in 1974/5 and post 2000, and ownership secured over the years. Some spare land may need to be developed for golf if continuing coastal erosion continues in the area. It is the most easterly course in the UK and is part of the 'Far East Tour' together with GY and Caister GC and Rookery Park GC (Lowestoft). The clifftop course currently measures 6350 yards and is a par 71. Academy blue tees are located on the main course, enabling shorter holes to be used for developing players. Membership costs £795 pa for 7 days, by invitation from existing members, and there is no current joining fee. There are other forms of membership including academy for six months (£255) and organised by the club pro. Total membership stands at about 700, with about 500 playing members, and the club suggests that there is spare capacity for about an additional 50 members.

Green fees are available for £40 per round weekdays (£50 weekend), and holiday season tickets are available for visitors. The recent coronavirus pandemic has encouraged more young and inexperienced players to take up the sport at Gorleston, although this may be temporary.

- **Great Yarmouth & Caister GC** is the oldest golf club in Norfolk and was first established in 1882. It is a private members' course of 6300 yards, par 70, and a traditional links course, located on and adjacent to the racecourse. There are currently 535 members, about 350 playing, and annual fees cost £834 pa, with no joining fee. There have been recent half price offers for new members, and other flexible options. New members are always welcome, and the club states that there is probably spare capacity for a further 100 members. The recent coronavirus outbreak increased interest in golf on the course, though this may have settled down as the pandemic eases. The club is keen to develop junior participation through its junior academy (there are blue tee boxes on the main course). Green fees are available for £40 per round weekdays, £50 at weekends, and some holiday usage is apparent, though Great Yarmouth is not considered a particular golf destination. The club has plans for a small floodlit GDR, for the benefit of members and casual users from outside, and planning permission was granted in 2018 for a 15 bay (plus training bay) facility but implementation has been delayed by the pandemic.
- **Caldecott Hall Golf & Leisure** is a commercial hotel, hospitality, health and fitness facility, with an 18 hole main course of 6700 yards, par 73, and a par three course of 18 holes, 2700 yards, par 27/54, in a 400 acre country estate heathland setting (this is now understood to have reduced to 9 holes as the result of a change of ownership of the overall facility, with the land being put to an alternative leisure use). The golf facilities are available to members and on a pay and play basis. Golf membership costs £625 pa, with off peak and other offers, while green fees are available for £28 per round for the main course, £12 for the short course. Current membership stands at about 300, and there are understood to be some vacancies. The courses are open to all, and the existence of the two golf courses enables some development work with juniors and new players to take place through an academy. There is also a coaching facility with an indoor simulator. The course suffered from some saltwater ingress last year, which affected the quality of some greens, and attracted some negative reviews, but this is understood to have been overcome now.
- **Browston Hall Country Club** is a hospitality facility, which comprises restaurant, wedding venue, tennis courts and limited golf facilities. The latter include a 9 hole par 3 course, length 1000 yards (in reality more a pitch and putt course) established in 1988,

together with a 24 bay floodlit GDR refurbished in 2018. The golf facilities are available on a pay and play basis – GDR balls cost £6 for 90 balls.

- Palms Health & Fitness Club** is part of Potters Resort, advertised as the only 'All Inclusive Holiday Resort' in the UK, and includes a wide range of hospitality facilities, including health and fitness, pools, bowls and golf. The par 3 golf course is really a small pitch and putt course of 550 yards in total, and like all the facilities on site is used by and exclusively for guests staying at the resort, in particular after the onset of the Covid pandemic
- Bure Park** is a 20 acre park bordering the River Bure near the centre of Great Yarmouth, which incorporates pitch & putt course, children's playground, picnic area and free parking. The course is primarily a recreational rather than sports facility, and according to the latest data, attracted 6500 users in 2016. Tickets cost £7.10 for adults, £4.90 for concessions, including clubs and ball. Council officers suggest that the facility will continue to be available, albeit its management is regularly reviewed. There is understood to be no engagement with EG or other governing bodies, but there may be some opportunity to consider its role in association with other golf facilities in the borough (see below).

8.7 Table Building on the above, we have categorised the courses in Great Yarmouth by their main function and usage/availability (there may be some overlap between some categories). This is set out in Table 8.2

Table 8.2 – Categorisation of Golf Courses

Well established (old style) clubs where the main use is by members but with green fees available for visitors
Great Yarmouth and Caister GC Gorleston GC
Proprietary/commercial courses (i.e. newer courses), including hotel resorts, where membership is available, but casual/pay and play access through payment of green fees are equally acceptable
Caldecott Hall Golf & Leisure
Public/municipal pay and play courses
None
Starter clubs, with shorter courses, academy courses, practice facilities, flexible and low - cost membership and beginner friendly culture
None
Pitch and putt/par 3 and 9-hole facilities, ideal for beginner and social golf

Browston Hall Country Club Palms Health & Fitness Club Bure Park Pitch and Putt
Free standing Golf Driving Ranges, valuable for practice, coaching and teaching and for golfers without the time to play a full round, and supplementing GDRs at other golf centres/courses
Browston Hall Country Club

Facilities in the Wider Catchment

- 8.8 In addition to courses within Great Yarmouth, there are a number of other operational golf facilities in a wider ring, which are very likely to offer other opportunities for local residents of Great Yarmouth to play golf in its various forms. The table highlights all facilities within a 30 minute driving catchment of the middle of the borough – some of these lie in the outer 20-30 minute catchment, which would normally be outside the reasonable driving time of residents but may well be accessible to Great Yarmouth residents on the edge of the borough and are therefore included in this assessment. These figures include the courses within Great Yarmouth itself.
- 8.9 The APP database has been amended to overcome the apparent exclusion of some facilities, which on checking travel times are considered to be within the catchment times considered – these are Palms Health & Fitness Club and Gorleston GC which are both considered within a 15 minute drive in reality (but not included in the APP catchments). This assessment is set out in Table 8.3.

Table 8.3 – Standard Golf Course

Site Name	Range	Holes	Length	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb	Local Authority Name
Total 0-10 mins	0 courses						
GORLESTON GOLF CLUB	10 to 15	18	5798.21	Registered Membership use	Sports Club	1906	Gorleston
GREAT YARMOUTH AND CAISTER GOLF CLUB	15-20	18	5815.58	Pay and Play	Local Authority/sports club	1882	Great Yarmouth
Total 10-20 mins	2 courses	36					
Total 0-20 mins	2 courses	36					
NORFOLK PREMIER GOLF	20-25	9	2383	Pay and Play	Commercial	2016	Broadland
CALDECOTT HALL GOLF AND LEISURE	25-30	18	6112.76	Pay and Play	Commercial	1992	Great Yarmouth
ROOKERY PARK GOLF CLUB	25-30	18	6685	Pay and Play	Sports Club	1975	East Suffolk
Total 20-30 mins	3 courses	45					

Total 0-30 mins	5 courses	81					
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8.10 In addition to the standard courses in the borough, the 30-minute driving catchment from the middle of the borough also includes two additional courses in the adjacent areas of Broadland and East Suffolk, and the whole area therefore contains 5 courses with 81 holes. The courses at Premier Golf and Rookery Park (and indeed the local course at Caldecott) lie on the outer edge of the local catchment but are likely to accommodate usage by Great Yarmouth residents.

8.11 Table 8.4 summarises the Par 3 golf courses within a 20 – 30 minute drivetime

Table 8.4 – Par 3 Golf Courses

Site Name	Range (in mins)	Holes	Length m	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built	Local Authority
BROWSTON HALL COUNTRY CLUB	5-10	9	914.4	Pay and Play	Commercial	1988	Great Yarmouth
Total 0-10 mins	1 course	9					
DIP FARM**	15-20	9	1095.45	Pay and Play	Local Authority/Trust	2000	East Suffolk
PALMS HEALTH & FITNESS CLUB	15-20	9	500	Registered Membership use	Commercial	1924	Great Yarmouth
Total 10-20 mins	1 course	9					
Total 0-20 mins	2 courses	18					
CALDECOTT HALL GOLF AND LEISURE**	25-30	18	2430.48	Pay and Play	Commercial	1992	Great Yarmouth
ROOKERY PARK GOLF CLUB	25-30	9	871.42	Pay and Play	Sports Club	1975	East Suffolk
Total 20-30 mins	2 courses	27					
Total 0-30 mins	4 courses	45					

** The par 3 course at Dip Farm, Corton, East Suffolk, is understood to have closed since the APP database was last reviewed, and is excluded from any calculations here. The Caldecott par 3 course is now understood to be 9 holes, but is analysed here in its former layout.

8.12 There are four par 3 courses in the 30-minute catchment of Great Yarmouth, three within the borough itself (in addition to the pitch and putt course at Bure Park), and the Rookery Park course in Lowestoft outside the borough may well also accommodate demand from Great Yarmouth residents. In reality the courses at Palms (Potters), Bure Park and Browston Hall are short pitch and putt courses, mainly suitable for recreational play in association with tourism, and not short, practice golf courses. Golf driving ranges are summarised in Table 8.5.

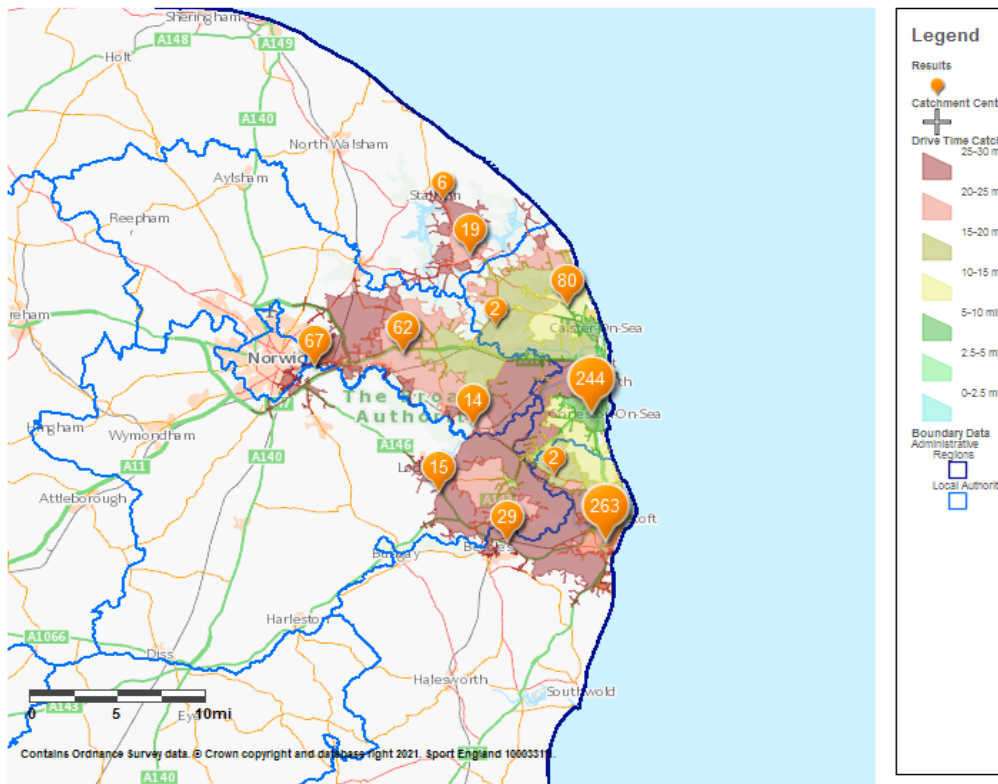
Table 8.5 - Golf Driving Ranges

Site Name	Range (in mins)	Bays	Floodlit	Length	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb	Local Authority
BROWSTON HALL COUNTRY CLUB	5-10	24	Yes	274.32	Pay and Play	Commercial	1988/2018	Great Yarmouth
Total 0-10 mins	1 range	24						
Total 0-20 mins	1 range	24						
NORFOLK PREMIER GOLF	20-25	16	Yes	274.32	Pay and Play	Commercial	2009	Broadland
ROOKERY PARK GOLF CLUB	25-30	14	Yes	274.32	Pay and Play	Sports Club	2006	East Suffolk
Total 20-30 mins	2 ranges	30						
Total 0-30 mins	3 ranges	54						

8.13 There is only one floodlit GDR in the borough within 20 minutes of its centre, but a further 2 ranges/30 floodlit bays are outside the borough, but within and on the edge of the likely catchment of Great Yarmouth residents.

8.14 With the exception of Dip Farm par 3 course, there is no knowledge or evidence of any courses or other facilities in the Great Yarmouth area that have permanently closed in the recent past, although it is known that a number of golf facilities have closed in recent years throughout Norfolk and Suffolk, as the previous 'golf boom' has dissipated. Courses that have recently closed are illustrated in Map 8.1

Map 8.1 Location of Closed golf facilities around Great Yarmouth - Closed courses



Summary of existing facility provision

8.15 Table 8.6 summarises the supply of golf facilities in the Great Yarmouth area and within a 10/20/30-minute drive of the middle of the borough is as follows:

Table 8.6 – Summary of Golf Provision

Catchment	Standard Courses	Holes	Par 3 courses	Holes	GDRs	Bays
Facilities within Great Yarmouth	3	54	3	36	1	24
Facilities 0-10 minutes	0	0	1	9	1	24
Facilities 10-20 minutes	2	36	1	9	0	0
Total 0-20 minutes	2	36	2	18	1	24
Total 20-30 mins	3	45	2	27	2	30
Total 0-30 mins	5	81	4	45	3	54

RELATIVE SUPPLY

8.16 Relative provision of golf facilities in the local and wider area, regionally and nationally is set out below - these figures are produced manually and they include all operational courses, available for some community use (i.e. not private) included in the APP database. It should be emphasised that this assessment only comprises existing supply; relative provision of courses is a useful indicator of how well an area is doing for facilities in comparison with other areas, but is

only a benchmark against which to judge supply. This section makes no comments at this stage on the local (or wider) demand for golf, which is dealt with below.

8.17 Table 8.7 summarises the supply of all standard golf courses. It allows comparison of the main golf courses in the area. The catchments refer to travel time by car from the middle of Great Yarmouth.

Table 8.7 – Relatively Supply of Standard Golf Courses

	Courses	Holes	2019 population	Holes per 1000 population
Great Yarmouth	3	54	99,336	0.54
Broadland	5	81	130,783	0.62
North Norfolk	5	63	104,837	0.60
South Norfolk	7	108	140,880	0.77
East Suffolk	22	315	249,461	1.26
KL&WN	10	135	151,383	0.89
Breckland	5	72	139,968	0.51
Norwich	1	18	140,573	0.13
Within 10 minute drive	0	0	69,649	0
Within 20 minute drive	2	36	137,418	0.26
Within 30 minute drive	5	81	233,341	0.35
Norfolk	36	531	907,760	0.58
East Region	261	4015	6,236,072	0.64
England	1947	30627	56,286,961	0.54

8.18 Relative provision for all standard courses in Great Yarmouth is about the national average but lower than the Norfolk and regional average, and below relative provision in all LA areas locally and in the county, except Norwich. Provision within a 10, 20 or 30 minutes driving catchment of the middle of the borough is also (very) low, though to a great extent this is caused by the lack of a full 360 degree catchment, because of the area’s coastal location.

8.19 Local relative supply in the Great Yarmouth area is therefore relatively poor.

8.20 Table 8.8 summarises the relative supply for par 3 Golf courses

Table 8.8 – Relative Supply Par 3 courses

	Courses	Holes	2019 population	Holes per 1000 population
Great Yarmouth	3	36	99,336	0.36
Broadland	0	0	130,783	0
North Norfolk	1	9	104,837	0.09
South Norfolk	0	0	140,880	0
East Suffolk	4	36	249,461	0.14
KL&WN	1	9	151,383	0.06
Breckland	0	0	139,968	0
Norwich	0	0	140,573	0
Within 10 minute drive	1	9	69,649	0.13
Within 20 minute drive	2	18	137,418	0.13
Within 30 minute drive	4	45	233,341	0.19
Norfolk	5	54	907,760	0.06
East Region	45	426	6,236,072	0.07
England	228	2409	56,286.961	0.04

8.21 Relative provision of par 3 courses in Great Yarmouth, and to a lesser extent the local catchments, is well above average, and higher than any comparator areas in the study. Provision is therefore comparatively good, but this is mainly a function of the tourist and hospitality related facilities at Palms/Potters and Browston Hall, which (as outlined elsewhere) probably perform less of a formal golf development role than in any other areas. If these two courses were excluded from the calculation, the ratio would however still be 0.18 holes/1000.

8.22 Table 8.9 summarises the relative supply of golf driving ranges.

Table 8.9 – Relative Supply of Golf Driving Ranges

Area	Ranges	Bays	2019 population	Holes per 1000 population
Great Yarmouth	1	24	99,336	0.24
Broadland	3	51	130,783	0.39
North Norfolk	2	22	104,837	0.21
South Norfolk	3	72	140,880	0.51
East Suffolk	7	129	249,461	0.52
KL&WN	4	39	151,383	0.26
Breckland	0	0	139,968	0
Norwich	0	0	140,573	0
Within 10 minute drive	1	24	69,649	0.34
Within 20 minute drive	1	24	137,418	0.17
Within 30 minute drive	3	54	233,341	0.23
Norfolk	13	208	907,760	0.23
East Region	1021	1876	6,236,072	0.30

England	632	11365	56,286.961	0.20
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8.23 Provision of GDRs in Great Yarmouth and the local catchment is slightly above the national and county average, but exceeded in three LAs in the area, and in the region. GDR provision is therefore about average, but the existence of just one such range limits choice to one part of the borough outside the main built up area.

Quality

8.24 When assessing quality, it is necessary to review both condition and fitness for purpose.

8.25 APP data on age/refurb can be used to inform quality, but in the case of golf this is not a valid proxy and in any case details of refurbishment of golf courses is either not collected or not considered relevant. It would be useful to highlight course conditions across the study area, and also at other similar facilities in the local catchment to ascertain whether there is a quality issue overall. It has not been possible to undertake site surveys of any course, and in any case it would be unlikely that course owners would permit access on site, and there is no acknowledged methodology for doing this.

8.26 Accreditation by CGU/EG would be useful in informing the quality criterion, but this is not currently available.

8.27 The general feeling is that because of the nature of golf, the predominance of clubs in managing their own facilities, the demands of users and the levels of annual subscriptions and daily green fees, the standard courses are of acceptable or high quality or in good condition. The one exception is the Caldecott Hall course, which has received unfavourable reviews on recent websites, but the problem causing this appears to have now been rectified.

8.28 In terms of fitness for purpose, it may be necessary to look at quality from a wider perspective and consider the need for (say) good quality entry-level golf in line with strategic priorities of the NGB and the needs in the catchment. The aspirations of beginners to the game will be different from those who have played golf at a members' club for years. In this way quality would be linked to purpose, and the criteria would differ between golf course needs of different types. This information is also not currently available in any detail, and while website research suggests that the main standard courses do have some development programmes for juniors

and new players, two par 3 courses are more suitable for recreational play associated with the sites' wider hospitality functions.

Accessibility

8.29 Sport England's new accessibility tool on Active Places provides the opportunity to estimate the population profile within a given catchment area of a (new or existing) facility, or the competing facilities within a given catchment area of a (new or existing) facility. In addition, the population within an area of interest served/able to access facilities, based upon given catchment parameters can be identified.

8.30 Table 8.10 summarises the population counts within a range of a facility.

Table 8.10 – Population Counts

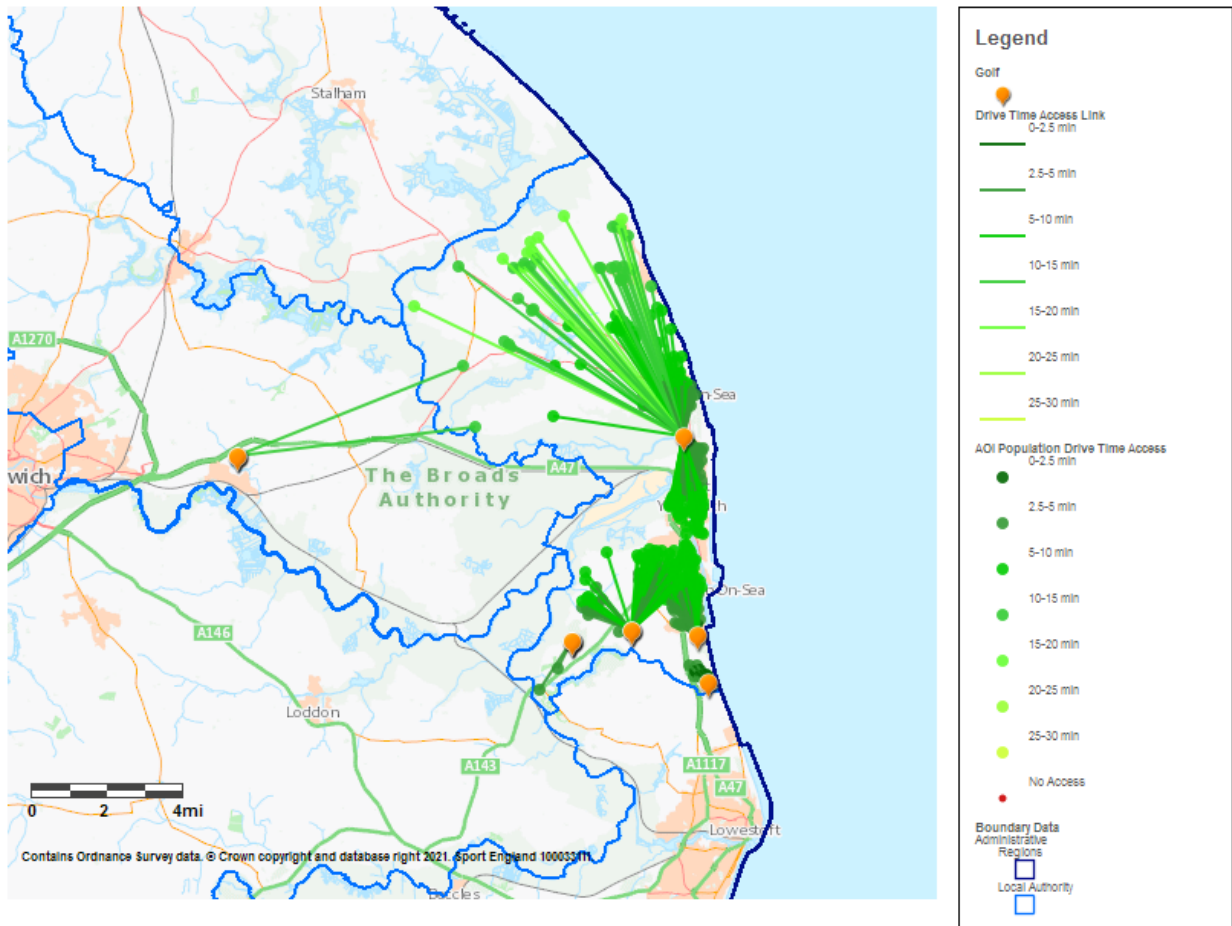
The Summary Results Area shows the population counts within range of a facility (shown by whether the facility is within or outside the selected area of interest).							
Combined	0-14	15-24	25-39	40-59	60-79	80+	Total
Total with nearest site:							
- within the AOI	15974	12139	15801	25414	21796	5629	96753
- outside the AOI	68	44	70	168	150	24	524
Total AOI population	16042	12183	15871	25582	21946	5653	97277

8.31 The tables and map here demonstrate that the whole population of Great Yarmouth can access a golf facility within a 20-minute drive, most within 10 minutes, and that most of these are within the borough itself, though one facility just over the boundary in Broadland also has a role to play, for those residents separated from a course or range in Great Yarmouth. Choice of facility may in some cases be restricted however.

The Summary Results Area shows the population with access to the requested facility type by range bandings.							
Combined	0-14	15-24	25-39	40-59	60-79	80+	Total
0-2.5	386	315	353	869	1054	398	3375
2.5-5	5476	4231	5404	8777	7834	2156	33878
5-10	8636	6537	8699	12781	9800	2333	48786
10-15	1021	727	898	2166	2289	594	7695
15-20	455	329	447	821	819	148	3019
20-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total In Range	15974	12139	15801	25414	21796	5629	96753

Total Outside Range	68	44	70	168	150	24	524
AOI Total	16042	12183	15871	25582	21946	5653	97277

Map 8.2 – Accessibility to Golf Courses in Great Yarmouth



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply. 24/5/2021 17:48

AVAILABILITY

8.32 Availability of golf courses gives consideration to the following;

- How much existing courses are actually used, how full they are
- How much they could be used,
- What scope is there for increasing their availability.

8.33 These are in turn influenced by a number of factors, including:

- The management and ownership e.g. whether facilities are public, private or education based
- A programming and sports development policy e.g. is availability given over to specific sports, initiatives and range of activities at certain times. Some facilities may be programmed only for specific sports, users or activities
- The cost of use e.g. a high cost may result in a facility having very little use
- Patterns of use e.g. a popular facility that is always full, a facility that is heavily used but only for a limited period across the week, is the nature of use changing over time?
- Hours of use e.g. opening times available for public use, this will be linked to the programming policies above.
- Facility design e.g. the physical design and layout of a facility may limit or prevent use by specific users

8.34 Within the time and resources available, it has only been possible to ascertain the broad availability of all courses in the area, and any overall spare capacity.

8.35 There is only average supply of standard courses in Great Yarmouth and the wider area including adjacent LAs. Web searches and brief telephone consultation suggest that all 3 existing courses in the borough currently welcome new members or casual users to varying degrees, there are no joining fees and membership offers are widely available across the different categories. One course in the borough operates on a pay and play as well as membership basis, so it can be said that the casual golfer can be accommodated relatively easily in Great Yarmouth

8.36 There is one par 3 course in Great Yarmouth apart from the two shorter pitch and putt courses, so overall provision in the area is relatively good. Conversely GDR provision is about average in Great Yarmouth, although usage and availability at Browston Hall is unknown because of the inability to contact the venue.

8.37 Clearly every club/course is different however, and this analysis only provides a benchmark with which to 'assess' the capacity/availability issue. However it is evident from this assessment and membership data gleaned from websites that there is some spare capacity overall and at all existing courses.

Demand

Current and recent – Active People data (once per week)

8.38 Sport England Active People data (which has now been discontinued and replaced by Active Lives – see below) suggests that over the years from 2005/6 to 2015/16, regular participation in golf (once per week) in England declined from 890,000 adult participants (16+) to about 723,000 (extrapolated from overall APS10 data). Most recently (Sept 2016), about 1.64% of the population (mainly male) now play golf regularly (figures from latest annual data from APS10). However in December 2015, England Golf believed that the participation levels appeared to have stabilised. The key figures are summarised in Table 9.11

Table 8.11 – Golf Participation (Active People Surveys)

	Overall		Male		Female	
APS1 (Oct 05/06)	889,100	2.18%	xx	xx	xx	xx
APS2 (Oct 07/08)	948300	2.29%	805800	3.99%	142500	0.67%
APS3 (Oct 08/09)	897600	2.15%	758200	3.72%	138700	0.65%
APS4 (Oct 09/10)	860900	2.04%	738800	3.59%	122100	0.57%
APS5 (Oct 10/11)	833200	1.96%	723200	3.49%	110000	0.51%
APS6 (Oct 11/12)	850,500	1.97%	733,000	3.48%	117500	0.53%
APS7 (Oct 12/13)	751,900	1.73%	xx	xx	xx	xx
APS8 (Oct 13/14)	730,300	1.67%	xx	xx	xx	xx
APS9 (Oct 14/Sept 15)	740,100	1.68%	xx	xx	xx	xx
APS10 (Oct 15/Sept 16)	723,000*	1.64%	xx	xx	xx	xx

Active Lives data

8.39 Sport England’s Active Lives Survey is a new way of measuring sport and activity across England and replaced the Active People Survey, with data collection beginning in 2015. The data below in Table 9.12 refers to participation at least twice in the last 28 days (as compared with once a week above). This is said to provide an entry level view of participation overall, a useful measure of engagement in different sports and physical activities and an understanding of the contribution of activities to achievement of 150+ minutes of activity per week (which Sport England defines as being active), but does prevent direct comparison with AP data above. Data is now available for 2015/16 to 2019/20, but because of sampling limits only refers to the larger geographical areas.

Table 8.12 – Golf Participation (Active Lives Surveys)

Participation in the last 28 days - At least twice in the last 28 days (England)							
May 16/17		May 17/18		May 18/19		May 19/20	
977,300	2.2%	945,700	2.1%	978,900	2.2%	882,200	2.0%

8.40 This new data confirms that national participation (albeit that the frequency is measured differently) continues to decline, but only slightly, over the past 4 years.

Implications for local demand

8.41 Based on the trends in participation over the past ten years in Norfolk and Suffolk and the East region, and in the absence of more local data (e.g. from individual clubs or England Golf), it is likely that current participation in golf among adults in Great Yarmouth may well be about 1.9 - 2%, which is appreciably higher (20%) than the national average. It is estimated that there may be about 1,550 current regular (once a week) adult golfers in the borough (this broadly corresponds with membership totals at the three main courses). This is lower than the MS profile below, but the latter is based on the propensity of certain groups to take part rather than actual participation, and should therefore be treated with caution.

Market Profile

8.42 As part of its research work, Sport England has developed 19 market segments within the overall adult population to help understand the nation's attitudes towards sport and its motivation for taking part (or not). It is based on the Active People Survey, DCMS's 'Taking Part' Survey and Mosaic data from Experian.

8.43 The interest in golf of the five main market segments (who comprise about 41% of the total adult population) in the borough is as follows:

- **Elsie and Arnold** – retirement home singles', unlikely to take part in sport, and then only low intensity activities, little interest in golf. Elsie and Arnold are the largest segment locally, and represent 11.5% of the borough's adult population.
- **Roger and Joy** – 'early retirement couples', with below average participation in activity. 6% play golf, and they would like to do more. Represent 10% of the local catchment population.
- **Phillip** – 'mid life professional, sporty male', with above average activity levels. While not his top sport, golf however is popular (twice the average play golf) and he would like to play more. Represent 8% of the local population.
- **Kev** – 'Pub League Team Mates', blokes who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport. Only average interest in golf (same as the national average – 4%). 6% of the local population
- **Tim** – known as a 'sporty male professional', Tim is very active (2/3 take part in sport once a week compared with 40% overall). Not his major sport, but Tim plays golf (about 75% above the average) and would like to play more. 5.6% of the local population.

8.44 Philip, Tim and Roger and Joy are the three highest segments nationally participating in golf and who would like to play more, and these are well represented in Great Yarmouth, but this is mitigated by low golf participants in Elsie and Arnold, and average players in Kev. 2-5% of adults currently play, and this ratio is consistent across the whole borough. There are an estimated 2,600 adult participants in the borough, and mainly from the groups highlighted above (these are higher than the data above, but reflect the likely participation rate based on market characteristics, not the actual). The local profile in the borough therefore is conducive to participation in golf, and local demand for facilities is therefore likely to be relatively high, and in line with the participation estimate above.

Latent and Future Demand

8.45 Potential demand for golf from the MS data confirms that it is the broadly the same groups that currently play that would like to participate more, with the addition of Terry and Kev, totalling about 1100 participants or about 1-2%, an increase of about a further 43% adults, Although these figures should be qualified as they represent a theoretical representation of latent demand for golf, nonetheless an allowance should be made to accommodate some potential latent demand in the area. A number of scenarios are considered in the following section.

8.46 There is no other evidence of latent/displaced or unmet demand from local intelligence.

8.47 Future demand is affected by demographic change and development initiatives within the sport.

Population change

8.48 As set out in Section 3, population projections have been sourced from the ONS website of subnational projections for England, 2014 based. The basis for these projections is the Great Yarmouth borough. The projected changes in population of Great Yarmouth up to 2039 are set out in Table 8.13.

Year	Estimated population	Increase
2022	101,251	
2027	103,371	+2%
2032	105,432	+4.1%
2039	108,131	+6.8%

8.49 However, the broad data suggests that the overall population in Great Yarmouth may well increase by only about 0.4% pa over the whole period up to 2032, although there will be a total increase of almost 7% by 2039. This overall increase will mask changes in the age structure of the area, but in common with many areas, this is likely to result in a major increase in the population over 65, smaller increases among 0-15, and relative stagnation in the main 16-64 age band. The population normally active in sport are those between 5 and 54, which is likely to remain fairly steady, but golf is popular among older people and the retired, where population increases are higher. The estimated increases in population suggest that demand for golf in general could increase by say 0.4% pa over the next few years, without other initiatives. There is likely therefore to be a negligible increase in participation in golf in Great Yarmouth as the result of population change alone, but these and other scenarios are considered below.

Development Initiatives

8.50 England Golf's strategy 2017-21 highlighted some recent headline figures for golf participation:

- Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in the Country, with around 630,000 members belonging to one of 1850 affiliated clubs and a further 2 million people playing golf independently outside of club membership.
- More than 4 million people have played golf on a full-length course in the last 12 months – this is an increase on previous years and highlights a growing golf participation market.
- Other notable figures regarding golf club participation in the previous 12 months suggest a large and growing market of new and existing golfers:
 - 2.6 million have used driving ranges
 - 2.1 million played a short course
 - 3.7 million played pitch & putt
 - 6.8 million have been to an Adventure Golf facility (Source: Sport MR)
- England Golf have seen a decline in affiliated golf club members in recent years, but this reflects the wider range of golfing options available, even to people who enjoy playing full-length courses.

8.51 The strategy aimed to increase membership of clubs from 650,000 to 675,000, golfers playing twice monthly from 971,000 to over 1m and increase the proportion of females playing to 20%. If this was extrapolated to the Great Yarmouth area and projected, this could result in an increase of another 50 adult golfers over the wider catchment, irrespective of population change. As the target is increased participants, it is likely that a large proportion of these would

be beginners and young people (particularly girls) learning the game, for which relatively simple courses would be suitable as a first step.

- 8.52 Future growth in participation arising from NGB initiatives is essentially crystal ball gazing, but these recent trends need to be taken into account in planning for future provision and confirm the priority groups that might be expected to be catered for. As with the other elements of future demand, some scenarios are considered in the following section.

Adequacy of Provision

- 8.53 There are no formal demand models for golf and adequacy of provision is therefore determined by drawing together the information collated as part of the supply and demand analysis.

Meeting Current Demand

- 8.54 Relative supply of golf facilities in Great Yarmouth is variable. Standard golf course provision both in the borough and the local driving catchments is relatively poor, though to a great extent this is caused by the lack of a full 360 degree catchment, because of the area's coastal location. Par 3 provision is good but includes facilities that are considered more as recreational amenities, while GDRs are about average, though this ratio only includes the one range.
- 8.55 Demand is 20% above the national average and less in decline over the past ten years. At first sight therefore, there appear to be an inadequate number of facilities to meet demand at the present. However, clubs and courses have significant vacancies (perhaps 200 in total), and operators are generally keen to attract new players. Few clubs currently charge a joining fee, and there are various membership incentives available. Overall like most other areas of England, there is some (unspecified) spare capacity in the surrounding courses and no lack of availability for traditional 18-hole golf.
- 8.56 Accessibility by local residents to facilities by car is good – the whole population of the borough lives within a 20-minute drive of a golf facility. The quality of golf facilities is generally considered to be good and there is a range of ancillary golf facilities, such as GDRs and par 3 courses, but their overall contribution to golf participation is not clear.
- 8.57 At the present time, therefore, there appears to be a balance between supply of and demand for golf in the borough, and there is no evidence that those who wish to play golf cannot do so locally.

Adequacy of Current Range of Facilities

- 8.58 There are a variety of golf facilities in the Great Yarmouth area. However, two thirds of the standard 18 hole courses operate mainly for the benefit of their members, albeit that they also offer green fees to visitors and societies. The third standard course offers membership and casual access on a pay and play basis. All of these facilities are relatively inexpensive to join or play casually at, and there is a sufficient supply of facilities to accommodate different ranges, pockets and abilities.
- 8.59 Although existing courses suggest they are keen to attract new players, there is little evidence (without England Golf intervention or coordination) that existing predominantly members' clubs will be suitable to accommodate additional numbers and types of new golfers, especially those who have no experience in the game.
- 8.60 There are no 'public/municipal' courses available only on a pay and play basis, which fulfil the need for more casual access, and offer more affordable golf, particularly for beginners and those not wishing to join a club, which might meet the ambitions of England Golf to improve and widen participation.
- 8.61 While there is a good range of par 3 courses and GDRs, it is difficult to see England Golf's priority groups being accommodated at existing facilities. There is therefore no shortage of golf facilities in the area, but a lack of courses suitable specifically for beginners.
- 8.62 England Golf's key priority is in 'providing and developing entry level facilities that offer more playing opportunities, as without them playing opportunities in many areas will continue to be limited to traditional or commercial member golf clubs'. Most additional demand in the future is likely to occur mainly from beginners, juniors and others new to the game, particularly women and girls, and this will have implications for the types of facility that are required in the future, at least in the initial stages. There is also evidence that future development in golf facilities will need to take into account social factors such as the availability of time and money, the introduction of technology to golf provision and the need for smaller, shorter courses which are more flexible in their use.
- 8.63 It is likely that EG initiatives to attract more juniors, especially females into the game, are being encouraged at some existing courses, but this would have a limited impact overall within the scope of their current operation.

8.64 It is unlikely from the evidence available that this type of demand is being met fully at present in Great Yarmouth. To meet this type of additional demand and fulfil England Golf's developmental objectives, an entry-level facility with a range of features – GDR, par 3 practice course and 9-hole academy course – would be desirable in the area, but it is unlikely that this is achievable, given the nature of existing members clubs, the commercial operation of Caldecott and the lack of opportunity/resources to make changes to the layout of existing courses.

8.65 Instead it is proposed that the issue of attracting additional new golfers to the sport in the borough be addressed at existing courses and other facilities.

Quality of Golf Courses?

8.66 Quality is not generally considered an issue for golf in Great Yarmouth, from the limited evidence available, though this is based on factors other than actual course condition and quality, which was not researched as part of this study.

Summary and Conclusions

8.67 The key issues arising from the assessment of golf are therefore summarised overleaf.

Golf – Summary and key Issues

Supply

- There is a range of golf facilities in Great Yarmouth to serve a relatively small population, comprising 3 standard courses, all of which are 18 holes, three par 3 courses and 1 GDR. Standard golf course provision accommodates established private members' clubs, and a commercial pay and play/membership course, although there are no 'municipal/public pay and play courses. There are three par 3 courses (plus the Bure Park pitch and putt course), but two of these and Bure Park are considered to cater more for recreational use than the development of the sport. Most facilities are located in the east of the borough, where the main population centres lie, and are well located to serve local residents.
- Relative supply is a useful indicator in terms of benchmarking local provision alongside other similar areas. Standard golf course provision both in the borough and the local driving catchments is relatively poor, though to a great extent this is caused by the lack of a full 360 degree catchment, because of the area's coastal location. Par 3 provision is good but includes facilities that are considered more as recreational amenities, while GDRs are about average, though this ratio only includes the one range.
- All Great Yarmouth residents can access a golf facility within a 20-minute drive, and most of these are within the Borough itself, though facilities just over the boundary in Broadland and East Suffolk also have a role to play. Choice of facility may in some cases be restricted however.
- The range of types of courses suggests that all types of golfer can currently be accommodated – pay and play is available, with varying daily green fees as well as membership at a variety of membership fees. Given the lack of waiting lists and joining fees at the borough's existing private and commercial standard courses, it may well be that there are sufficient standard courses in the borough, and further afield, to meet current demand.
- Facilities specifically for training/coaching/practice and the development of skills for new and improving players exist in the borough but are considered secondary to the needs of established golfers and club members. Both private clubs have academies and junior coaching programmes, and Caldecott Hall's par 3 course alongside its main course enables skills developed and taught on the former to be tested on the main course. The GDR at Browston Hall is the only such range in the borough, but little information is available on its use and programming. There is no venue with a full-length standard course that might be considered as a specialist academy or learning facility, although all clubs have a coaching and development programme. This may well be the biggest gap in provision.

Demand

- Current levels of participation – participation in golf in the Great Yarmouth area, extrapolated from APS data, suggests that there are about 1550 regular golfers in the borough, although this is less than the local MS profile would suggest. Participation locally is estimated to be about 20% above the national average and reflects the market segmentation in the area.
- Recent trends – APS and other data confirm that participation in golf in Norfolk and Suffolk has declined over the past 10 years, but only slightly, bucking the national trend and conventional wisdom from NGBs and other commentators.
- Future demand is made up of latent demand, population change, and development initiatives undertaken by the NGB and other bodies. MS data suggests that there is some latent demand from people in golf-playing segments that would like to take up the sport, but whether it is as high as indicated (43%) is open to debate. Population increase is anticipated by the ONS to be about 0.3% pa, but this could be affected by additional housing allocations in the area. Any increase in population might well be mitigated by an ageing of the population, resulting in fewer people in the ‘active’ age groups, though this might include more golfers, as it is a sport of appeal to older people. NGB targets from the EG strategy of a 3-4% increase in participation over the last 4 years of its strategy may well be ambitious but would have particular implications for the type of courses required in the area, as additional participants will be mainly new players needing to learn and develop their skills.

Adequacy of Existing Provision

Analysis demonstrates that;

- There are a variety of golf facilities in the Great Yarmouth area. All of these facilities are relatively inexpensive to join or play casually at, and there is a sufficient supply of facilities to accommodate different ranges, pockets and abilities.
- Although existing courses suggest they are keen to attract new players, there is little evidence (without England Golf intervention or coordination) that existing predominantly members’ clubs will be suitable to accommodate additional numbers and types of new golfers, especially those who have no experience in the game.
- There are no ‘public/municipal’ courses available only on a pay and play basis, which fulfil the need for more casual access, and offer more affordable golf, particularly for beginners and those not wishing to join a club, which might meet the ambitions of England Golf to improve and widen participation.

- While there is a good range of par 3 courses and GDRs, it is difficult to see England Golf's priority groups being accommodated at existing facilities. There is therefore no shortage of golf facilities in the area, but a lack of courses suitable specifically for beginners.
- England Golf's key priority is in 'providing and developing entry level facilities that offer more playing opportunities, as without them playing opportunities in many areas will continue to be limited to traditional or commercial member golf clubs'. Most additional demand in the future is likely to occur mainly from beginners, juniors and others new to the game, particularly women and girls, and this will have implications for the types of facility that are required in the future, at least in the initial stages. There is also evidence that future development in golf facilities will need to take into account social factors such as the availability of time and money, the introduction of technology to golf provision and the need for smaller, shorter courses which are more flexible in their use.

Key Issues for Strategy to Address

The above therefore suggests that the strategy will need to;

- Ensure that existing courses in Great Yarmouth at Gorleston, Caister and Caldecott are retained and protected for the contribution they make to meeting existing demand for regular play for members and experienced casual golfers alike.
- The other par 3 courses should be retained for their recreational value, and this should include the Bure Park pitch and putt, where some engagement with golf governing bodies may be appropriate as part of the wider development of the game in the borough (see below).
- There is a case for the identification of facilities that make a specific contribution to the development in the future of additional opportunities for participation in golf, particularly among the target groups of the governing body. This might involve more active promotion of teaching and coaching at the two existing private clubs, and in particular the identification of Caldecott, with its two existing courses, indoor facilities and pay and play access, as a development academy, suitable for beginners who can then progress to the main courses, either here or at the two private clubs. This approach would involve a degree of cooperation between the existing providers, together with the County GB.
- In view of the uncertainty of the usage of the existing GDR at Browston Hall, there is a case for the provision of an additional or alternative floodlit range in the borough, available to existing golfers for practice and new participants for tuition, and this could be provided in accordance with the plans proposed at Great Yarmouth and Caister GC, for which planning permission has already been granted. This could be managed as part of the overall academy concept recommended above.

9.0 Rugby Union

9.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for Rugby Union. It provides:

- An overview of the supply and demand for pitches
- An understanding of activity at individual sites
- A picture of adequacy of current provision to meet current and projected future demand

Pitch Supply

9.2 The pitch audit identifies four formal rugby pitches in Great Yarmouth. This represents a slight decrease in the number of pitches since the previous PPS (7 pitches). Two of these pitches are located at a Cobholm Playing Fields, while the remaining two pitches are situated at school sites. In addition to the formal pitches, there is a floodlit training area at Cobholm Playing Fields -the floodlighting partially extends onto one of the pitches.

9.3 Table 9.1 therefore summarises the pitches available and the levels of community use for each site. It reveals that of the four pitches that are formally marked out, only the pitches at Cobholm Playing Fields are considered to be secured for community use. There is no access to the rugby pitches at Great Yarmouth Charter Academy, but unsecured access is available at Caister Academy.

Table 9.1 - Rugby Union Pitches in Great Yarmouth

Site	Total Rugby Pitches	Number of Floodlit Pitches	Training Area	Level of Community Use
Cobholm Playing Fields	2	0	1 (floodlit)	Unsecured Community Use
Caister Academy	1	0	0	Unsecured community use
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy	1	0	0	Not available for community use
Potential Rugby Pitches				

9.4 Supplementing the pitches that were marked out during the 2021 – 2022 season, there are rugby goalposts / land allocated for a rugby pitch at a further four school sites. None of these were formally marked out at the time of the preparation of this assessment, but they may be available in future years. These pitches are situated at;

- Cliff Park Ormiston Academy
- Flegg High Ormiston Academy
- Lynn Grove Academy
- Ormiston Venture Academy.

9.5 Neither Flegg High or Ormiston Venture Academy currently offer any community use of their playing fields, but there is unsecured access to Cliff Park Ormiston Academy and Lynn Grove Academy.

Pitch Quality

9.6 No issues relating to quality for rugby were identified in the 2015 PPS, although the strategy highlighted the need to improve the clubhouse and lighting at Cobholm Playing Fields.

9.7 To inform the production of this strategy, pitch quality has been evaluated through a combination of consultations and site visits. The key issues raised in relation to quality are summarised in Table 9.2. This table also provides a pitch quality rating, based on parameters set by the RFU which consider the drainage capabilities of the site, as well as the levels of maintenance received.

9.8 Cobholm Playing Fields was leased from Norfolk Council via Great Yarmouth Borough Council to the club. This lease has now expired meaning that the club have no security of tenure.

9.9 Great Yarmouth Borough Council maintain the grass pitches Cobholm Playing Fields on behalf of the rugby club, whilst the school sites are maintained by the individual schools. The lack of lease impacts upon the club's ability to improve their facilities.

Table 9.2 – Pitch Quality

Site	Pitch Provision	Drainage / Maintenance Rating	Comments
Cobholm Playing Fields	2	M1/D1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the time of site visit, there was only one goal on pitch two. Some evidence of rust on the posts • Evidence of pitches being well used, small amount of compaction • Moles starting to encroach onto playing field, but not yet impacting upon rugby pitches • Grass length and coverage good • Site also functions as public recreation ground and therefore litter, dog fouling etc are evident – there has been a rise in antisocial behaviour on the site • 3 changing facilities available but not currently heated, showers and toilets are poor and unsanitary. There is significant scope to improve the clubhouse which is now becoming tired and limiting the club's ability to attract players.
Caister Academy	1	M0/D1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage and playing surface average • Gradient of pitch poor • Basic but adequate maintenance regime.
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy	1	M0/D1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well drained flat pitch • Playing surface adequate, but some lumps • Maintenance limited to weekly marking and grass cutting.

9.10 Table 9.2 therefore indicates that the quality of rugby pitches in the Borough is standard, with significant scope to improve the facilities. The quality of the clubhouse is the key issue raised by the club, which is consistent with the issues identified in 2015. The club believe that this is now significantly impacting club growth.

9.10.1 Reflecting the importance of pitch quality, the RFU now have a partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA). This is a resource that can be used to help drive pitch quality improvements, particularly around improving capacity for midweek rugby play.

Demand

9.11 As in 2015, rugby union club operating in Great Yarmouth Borough. which is Great Yarmouth – Broadland RFC.

9.12 Comparison of the teams run with those in 2015 reveals a slight decline, with a small reduction in senior male teams (from 3 to 2) and no veterans or ladies team. In 2015, the club also ran a mixture of mini and junior training sessions.

9.13 The club now advertises itself as offering opportunities for players aged 16 +. The club indicate that participation has been relatively static in recent years and that there has been no specific impact of the covid 19 pandemic.

9.14 In addition to Great Yarmouth Broadland RFC, Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth RUFC is based in Lowestoft in relatively close proximity to the Great Yarmouth Borough boundaries. This is a large club with teams for all age groups from mini rugby up to senior rugby. The club's home ground is currently allocated for housing as part of the East Suffolk Local Plan, although development is subject to the relocation of the club prior to the commencement of building works. A site is allocated for sporting use (and earmarked for the rugby club) to the South of Lowestoft should the club seek to relocate to this area. At this point in time therefore, the club do not impact upon demand in Great Yarmouth, although it is likely that many potential junior players travel to Lowestoft to play due to the lack of opportunity in Great Yarmouth Borough for younger players.

Training Needs

9.15 As is common with rugby clubs nationwide, training at Great Yarmouth – Broadland RFC takes place at the club base. Both teams train twice per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays and training is therefore equivalent to 2 MES. Training takes place in the training area but does also spread onto the competitive pitches. The ability of the facilities to cope with this level of demand will be considered later in this section.

Other Demand

9.16 The club indicated that on occasion, the facilities also host other activities, including friendly rugby matches, the local primary school and a yearly youth festival. This usage equates to approximately 5 MES per season.

Educational Demand

9.17 There is no current use of the existing rugby club base by any education establishments. Use by Cobholm Primary School is for non rugby activities only.

9.18 Reflecting the lack of opportunities for junior / mini teams at Great Yarmouth – Broadland RUFC, the club does not currently have any active links with schools and there is therefore no transition between any activity in schools and the club.

9.19 There is however some rugby activity within schools in the Borough, with both Flegg High School and Lynn Grove Academy currently running rugby teams for both males and females this is across years 7 – 10. Great Yarmouth Charter Academy has indicated that it wishes to start running rugby teams across years 7 – 10 in the next academic year.

9.20 North Walsham Rugby Club, based outside the borough has a relationship with Flegg High School, offering coaching sessions to local pupils. It is therefore likely that any interest in rugby generated from these sessions transitions outside of the Borough to this club.

Adequacy of Pitch Provision

9.21 The capacity of pitches for rugby union is measured through the use of match equivalent sessions. The ability of the pitch stock to service both training needs and competitive requirements is taken into account. To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both;

- The capacity of pitch provision over the course of a week; and
- Capacity of a site to meet additional demand at peak time.

9.22 For rugby union, this analysis is based upon the following principles:

Capacity over the course of a week

9.23 The RFU sets a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their current quality (pitch carrying capacity). This is based upon the drainage system installed at the site and the maintenance programme used to prepare the pitches. The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 9.3

Table 9.3: Theoretical Pitch Capacity Ratings (RFU)

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

9.24 As set out in Table 9.2, the two pitches at Great Yarmouth Broadland RUFC rely upon natural drainage, although the pitches are well draining and no concerns were identified. Maintenance is standard, but there is scope to improve this further.

9.25 To measure the adequacy of supply, demand from the rugby club is converted into match equivalent sessions. This takes into account of both the requirement of pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures, and also the impact that training sessions will have on the capacity of pitches.

Peak Time Demand

9.26 To identify spare capacity at peak time, the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time is measured against the number of match equivalent sessions available. Peak time is considered to be as follows;

- Senior men’s rugby union - Saturday PM
- Youth rugby union - Sunday AM
- Mini rugby union - Sunday AM and
- Women and girls rugby union - Sunday PM (female)

9.27 Table 9.4 therefore provides a summary of competitive activity at the club base and evaluates how well the current pitches meet the needs of the club.

Table 9.4 – Adequacy of Provision for Competitive Play

Pitch Number	Total Match Demand (MES)	Capacity Rating	Capacity of Pitch (MES)	Supply / Demand Balance Match Play (MES)	Adequacy of Provision at Peak Time
1	0.5	M1/D1	2	1.5	0.5
2	0.5	M1/D1	2	1.5	0.5

9.28 Table 9.4 reveals that overall, when taking into account just competitive activity, the pitches available are able to accommodate the demand.

9.29 With just two teams, and access to two pitches, there is spare capacity across the week to accommodate additional activity, and there would also be opportunity to increase the amount of teams using the facilities at peak time. The lack of security of tenure however remains the key issue at the club base.

Impact of Including Training Activity

9.30 Training activity also takes place at the club base. Most of the training takes place on the edge of the pitch in the floodlit training area and therefore does not impact on capacity. In some instances, training does however take place on the pitch.

9.31 Table 9.5 demonstrates that even if all training took place on the two pitches, there is adequate capacity to accommodate all demand.

Table 9.5 – Accommodating Training

Pitch Number	Total Match Demand (MES)	Capacity Rating	Capacity of Pitch (MES)	Supply / Demand Balance Match Play Only (MES)	Training Demand (MES)	Supply / Demand Balance including training (MES)
1	0.5	M1/D1	2	1.5	1	0.5
2	0.5	M1/D1	2	1.5	1	0.5

Other rugby pitches

9.32 While Table 9.5 indicates that there is a small amount of spare capacity at the current club, the remaining pitches in the Borough are also able to offer opportunities for further play. There are two pitches currently marked out at school sites only one of which is available for use by the community. This site does not accommodate any community use, but does host accommodate curricular and extra curricular activity. Potential spare capacity therefore equates to 0.5 match equivalent session at these sites at peak time. This is summarised in Table 9.6.

Table 9.6 – Capacity at other sites.

Site	Total Rugby Pitches	Drainage / Maintenance Rating	Capacity (MES)	Curricular Activity (MES)	Supply / Demand Balance (MES)
Caister Academy	1	M0/D1	1.5	1	0.5

9.33 As noted, there are also four other sites each containing space for a rugby pitch although these are not currently marked out. Further spare capacity could therefore be created if needed.

9.34 While this does represent potential spare capacity, the ethos of rugby clubs means that while these pitches are important in ensuring that schools are able to continue to play rugby (and are therefore critical in terms of rugby development) their potential role in providing for the club is limited, as clubs would prefer to accommodate all activity at their own base - and ensuring the ongoing adequacy of provision at the club base therefore remains the key priority.

Future Picture

Population Change

9.35 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.

9.36 Table 9.7 summarises the current TGRs for rugby union and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected changes to the population on demand. It presents the total number of additional teams that will be generated by 2027, 2032 and 2039 cumulatively from 2022 (i.e. the figures for 2032 include the number of additional teams that will be generated by 2027).

9.37 It reveals that population growth alone will have no impact.

Table 9.7 - Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Additional Teams Generated by 2027	Additional Teams Generated by 2032	Additional Teams Generated by 2039
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	2	15507	7753	0	0.06	0.07
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	0	14448	0	0	0	0
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	0	3361	0	0	0	0
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	0	3265	0	0	0	0
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	0	6877	0	0	0	0

9.38 Table 9.7 therefore suggests that demand for rugby union pitches will remain constant.

Growth Aspirations

9.39 The RFU Strategy (2021) focuses upon retaining existing players and attracting new players to the game. In the first instance, the retention of the existing teams will be a key priority. Growth of the club would however help to improve sustainability of the club.

9.40 The Women’s Rugby World Cup will be hosted by England in 2025, and the RFU have identified this as a chance to boost interest and participation amongst women in rugby. A legacy programme will be delivered in parallel to the tournament from 2022 to 2025.

9.41 Great Yarmouth Broadland RFC have previously run a female team but unfortunately playing numbers meant that this folded. Increasing interest associated with the world cup may provide an opportunity to reinvigorate this activity.

9.42 The Club have however indicated that currently, they are not looking to expand the number of teams that they run. This is primarily due to the quality of facilities and the challenges that this creates in terms of attracting and retaining players.

9.43 In the short term therefore, it is likely that demand will remain consistent. There is however scope for this to increase over the strategy period if RFU aspirations are realised. The existing capacity at the rugby club would however remain adequate to meet demand.

Summary

Rugby Union - Key Issues

Supply

- There are 4 formal rugby union pitches in Great Yarmouth Borough. Two of these are located at a public site – Cobholm Playing Fields, which is managed by the Council whilst the remaining 2 pitches are at school sites. There is no access to one of the two pitches at school sites. The club leased Cobholm Playing Fields, however this lease has now expired and the club therefore have no long term security of tenure
- Four further schools have rugby posts and spaces for rugby pitches but at the time of consultation there were no formal markings identified. These may be available in future years
- The quality of the dedicated rugby pitches is standard. There is evidence of rust on the goalposts for both pitches and some concerns about moles potentially encroaching onto the pitches in future years. The site is publicly accessible and suffers from issues relating to unofficial use as a result
- The ancillary facilities are basic with poor changing rooms for teams and officials. There is no heating currently and upgrading the ancillary facilities is the club's highest priority
- Reflecting the importance of pitch quality, the RFU now have a partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA). This is a resource that can be used to help drive pitch quality improvements, particularly around improving capacity for midweek rugby play.

Demand

- Great Yarmouth - Broadland RUFC are the only rugby club in the Borough. They play at Cobholm Playing fields which is their preferred home ground.
- The club consists of 2 teams, both senior. There has been no change in regard to the number of teams operating in the past 3 years, although this represents a decline from the 2015 Playing Pitch Strategy. There is therefore minimal demand for match play (1 MES per week)
- As is common with rugby clubs nationwide, training at Great Yarmouth – Broadland RFC takes place at the club base. Both teams train twice per week on Tuesdays

and Thursdays and training is therefore equivalent to 2 MES. Training takes place in the training area, but does also spread onto the competitive pitches.

- There is evidence of participation in some schools in the Borough, but little transition between schools and the club, given that there are no opportunities for juniors currently. Much of the interest generated from activity in schools is therefore likely to travel outside of the Borough
- In addition to Great Yarmouth Broadland RFC, Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth RUFC is based in Lowestoft in relatively close proximity to the Great Yarmouth Borough boundaries. This is a large club with teams for all age groups from mini rugby up to senior rugby. The club’s home ground is currently allocated for housing as part of the East Suffolk Local Plan, although development is subject to the relocation of the club prior to the commencement of building works. A site is allocated for sporting use (and earmarked for the rugby club) to the South of Lowestoft should the club seek to relocate to this area. At this point in time therefore, the club do not impact upon demand in Great Yarmouth, although it is likely that many potential junior players travel to Lowestoft to play due to the lack of opportunity in Great Yarmouth Borough for younger players.

Adequacy of Provision

- When considering the amount of activity at the club base, the pitches are able to sustain the level of play required. With competitive activity equivalent to 1 MES and capacity on each pitch of 2 MES, spare capacity equates to 2 MES
- Most of the training takes place on the training area and therefore doesn’t impact on the pitches themselves. Even if the pitches were used for all training, the two pitches would remain adequate (1 MES spare capacity)
- there are also other pitches available in the borough, with a small amount of spare capacity which could be used should demand increase
- Projections demonstrate that population growth alone will have no impact on demand for rugby.
- Growth aspirations for rugby, and the opportunities arising from the World Cup may see potential increases in interest. The club facilities however currently restrict growth, and retention of existing players is the key priority. Unless there is significant growth following facility improvement, It is therefore likely that the facilities will remain adequate for the club over the strategy period.

Key Facility Issues to Address

The key facility issues for this strategy to address are therefore;

- The requirement to protect existing facilities for rugby union
- The lack of security of tenure for the club
- The opportunities for improvement to pitch quality (maintenance)
- Requirement to enhance the quality of the ancillary facilities.

10.0 Hockey

10.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for hockey and provides;

- An overview of the supply of AGPs that are suitable for hockey
- An outline of demand for hockey pitches across Great Yarmouth
- An understanding of activity at individual sites in the borough
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision across Great Yarmouth
- The future picture of provision for hockey across Great Yarmouth.

Pitch Supply

10.2 England Hockey Policy Guidance on AGPs (Artificial Grass Pitch Surface Policy 2016) indicates the suitability of AGPs to be as follows;

- Category 1 - Water Based (suitable for high level hockey and football training if the pitch is irrigated)
- Category 2- Sand Dressed (acceptable surface for hockey and suitable for football training)
- Category 3 - Sand Filled (preferred surface for hockey and suitable for football training)
- Category 4 – Long Pile 3g (acceptable surface for football and introductory Level Hockey but not competitive match play hockey)

10.3 A new surface (Gen 2 multi sports area) has also now been launched for hockey. This multi-sport surface seeks to maximise sustainability in that that as well as meeting needs for hockey, it is also suitable for use for tennis and netball (and therefore widening the potential uses of the facility). Gen 2 surfaces can also be used for futsal, lacrosse, softball, korfbal and athletics training.

10.4 The stock of full sized AGPs across Great Yarmouth and their suitability for hockey is therefore summarised in Table 10.1 It reveals that there is just one AGP appropriate for hockey. This pitch is located at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy and is maintained by the school itself. It is located within the Gorleston and Bradwell sub area.

10.5 Seashore holiday park has a sand filled AGP but this is unavailable for public use and is not full size.

Table 10.1 –AGPs in Great Yarmouth

Site	Sub Area	Pitch Surface	Management	Size	Accessibility	Suitable for Hockey?
CLIFF PARK ORMISTON ACADEMY	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	Sand	Academies	Full Size	Available for Community Use	Yes – sand based surface
EAST NORFOLK SIXTH FORM COLLEGE	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	3G	Further Education	Full Size	Not available for community use	No – 3G surface
FLEGG HIGH ORMISTON ACADEMY	Northern Parishes	3G	Academies	Full Size	Available for Community Use	No – 3G surface
GREAT YARMOUTH CHARTER ACADEMY	Great Yarmouth	3G	Academies	9v9 size	Not available for Community Use	No – 3G surface
LYNN GROVE ACADEMY	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	3G	Academies	Full Size	Available for Community Use	No – 3G surface
SEASHORE HOLIDAY PARK	Southern Parishes	Sand	Commercial	Small	Not available for Community Use	No – small pitch
WELLESLEY RECREATION GROUND	Great Yarmouth	3G	Local Authority	Small	Available for Community Use	No

Quality

- 10.6 The only pitch suitable for hockey in Great Yarmouth is now poor condition. It was last refurbished in 2008 and is therefore now 14 years old, over the traditional lifespan of an AGP.
- 10.7 There is some evidence of moss and lichen and there are holes and rips in the surface. Line markings have also faded.
- 10.8 Though the pitch itself is of limited quality, the surrounding fencing and the condition of the posts, nets and goals is adequate and the changing facilities are also of standard quality.

Demand

10.9 There is only one club that operates in Great Yarmouth Borough – Yarmouth Ladies Hockey Club (Yarmouth HC). This is consistent with the 2015 PPS.

10.10 As Yarmouth HC only caters for ladies, there are no opportunities for male hockey in the Borough. Table 10.2 summarises the teams and club membership, and notes that overall, there are 41 club members. This represents a decline from the previous 3 years in which the club has had to fold a second senior team due to falling numbers and recruitment. Junior participation remains static.

Table 10.2 – Club Membership.

Yarmouth HC	Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior Male	Junior Female	Masters Female (age 46+)
Number of Teams	0	1	0	1	0
Total Number of Affiliated Players		21		20	

10.11 The Senior team play in the East2NE league, whilst the junior female team play in the Norfolk Development League. Both teams play competitive fixtures on a Saturday afternoon.

10.12 As the only club in the borough, Yarmouth HC attract players from a wide catchment area.

10.13 The club currently rent the pitch at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy, paying per game / training session. There is no long term security of access, as the Club operate on a pay as you go basis. Despite the quality of the facility, Cliff Park Ormiston Academy remains the club’s preferred venue.

10.14 The club however comment on the poor quality of the facility and indicate that this is now impacting upon the games that can be played. In parts, the surface is deemed to be dangerous due to the poor grip. The club also do not have access to catering facilities to make the teas required by their league.

10.15 The 2 teams that make up the club jointly train at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy on Thursday evenings for an hour and field teams on Saturday mornings for around an hour and a half for competitive matches. They therefore make relatively limited use of the facility.

Educational Demand

- 10.16 Educational use of AGPs takes place outside of peak hours and there is therefore no impact on the availability of the facilities for community hockey (as the artificial surface means that AGPs are not impacted upon by levels of use in the same way that grass pitches are).
- 10.17 School participation can however have a knock on impact on demand for hockey by generating new players that subsequently transition into the club. None of the schools in Great Yarmouth currently run hockey teams, and even at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy, where the pitch is based, there is little evidence of demand for hockey. Caister Academy have however expressed a desire to develop hockey team but they note that this would require investment in a full sized pitch and is therefore considered to be a long term aspiration.
- 10.18 Yarmouth HC have however recognised the opportunity that generating interest a younger age can bring and have attempted to promote membership numbers by advertising in schools and hosting open days.

Assessment of Supply and Demand Information and Views

- 10.19 The assessment of the adequacy of facilities to meet demand for hockey takes in to account both the requirements for competitive play and to meet training demand.
- 10.20 Supply and demand of AGPs is measured by considering:
- The amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 18:00 to 21:00; Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00;
 - The amount of play that takes place (measured in hours);
 - Whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
 - Any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.
- 10.21 Table 10.3 summarises the availability of the full sized sand based AGP across the week and the use of the pitch for hockey.

10.22 It is clear that there is spare capacity on the pitch and scope to increase usage should the hockey club desire. It should be noted however that the hockey club must compete with football, for time slots, as the pitch is also used by football clubs during the winter months.

Table 10.3 – Capacity of Sand Based AGP

Site	Community Hockey Usage (Midweek) - Hours	Community Hockey Usage (weekend) - Hours	Availability (Hours)	Total Spare Capacity	Comments
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	1	1 – 2 hours	Midweek 6pm-9pm; Saturday 9am – 4pm; Closed Sundays	Midweek - inconsistent demand per week, anywhere between 10 – 15 hours available on a weekly basis. Some spare capacity also on a Saturday (3 hours).	Site is also used to host football – 13 teams identify the venue as their main winter training site (although as noted in the football section, in all but inclement weather, training primarily takes place on the grass pitches. Hockey usage therefore represents a small amount of the existing usage – spare capacity means that there is however scope to increase this if the club were to require it.

Peak Time Capacity

10.23 To ensure that issues for hockey are fully taken into account, as well as evaluating usage over the week, capacity at peak time should also be considered using MES. England Hockey indicates that an AGP should be considered able to sustain a maximum of four to five games per day, however this is dependent on factors such as floodlighting, warm up areas and local league structures.

10.24 Table 10.4 therefore evaluates the number of pitches that are required at peak time in order to determine the minimum number of pitches that are needed to sustain hockey. It indicates that based upon current participation of 1 MES, one hockey pitch is adequate to accommodate the existing community demand from the hockey club at peak time. There are 3 MES spare capacity.

10.25 For clarity, Table 10.4 measures usage in terms of Match Equivalent sessions that can be accommodated on a peak day.

Table 10.4 – Adequacy of Provision at Peak Time

Site Name	Capacity of full sized sand based pitches across the Borough at peak time (match equivalent sessions)	Total Demand (Match Equivalent sessions)	Difference (Match Equivalent sessions)
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	4	1	3

10.26 Table 10.4 therefore indicates that there is scope for the club to grow at their current venue without a requirement for additional facilities.

10.27 The club indicate that they have had some issues with regards access to the pitch, with the facility being closed (not available for hire). It is thought that this is primarily attributed to Covid and that these will be experienced less frequently.

England Hockey Perspective

10.28 England Hockey have a vision for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’.

10.29 They indicate that;

‘delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation’s pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision’.

10.30 The core objectives of England Hockey are as follows:

- 1. Grow our Participation
- 2. Deliver International Success

- 3. Increase our Visibility
- 4. Enhance our Infrastructure
- 5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

10.31 The England Hockey Facility Strategy is currently being updated. Until a new document is released, the existing document provides guidance on the facilities that are required. The key features of the strategy are:

- **Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players
- **Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

10.32 The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are;

- **PROTECT:** To conserve the existing hockey provision - There are over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) There is a need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- **IMPROVE:** To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively) - The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.
- **DEVELOP:** To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

- 10.33 Of particular note, the strategy seeks to provide clear rationale that identifies where multi pitch sites should be placed and strategic priorities to stabilise the future of England Hockey.
- 10.34 With regards to facilities, it provides guidance that multi pitch sites are required / viable for clubs reaching 500 members or more (although access to pitches at a second site is likely to be required much before this). England Hockey research indicates that in addition to generating additional opportunities for training in an evening, a small sized training pitch located adjacent to the main pitch can add benefits at peak time and increase the capacity of the full size pitch. If this pitch is used for warm ups for competitive fixtures, the number of matches that an AGP can sustain on peak day increases to 5 matches.
- 10.35 As Yarmouth HC currently have 41 members, reflecting the usage statistics, the strategy therefore suggests that there is no requirement for a second pitch. There is significant scope to increase participation for hockey within the existing infrastructure.
- 10.36 With reference to the England Hockey Facility Strategy, the key aspects for the pitch at Cliff Ormiston will be 'protect' and 'improve'. As there is only one pitch in the borough the retention of the pitch is crucial to preserve hockey participation. Improvements to the pitch are also required as the pitch is 15 years old and this is affecting the quality of the games that can take place.
- 10.37 It is important to note that based on current activity levels, hockey alone is insufficient to sustain the pitch commercially. The provision of any new 3G pitches, plus the preference of most clubs to train on grass to avoid pitch hire costs, means that school income is varying may be limited on occasion. In order to secure the site for future use for hockey it is important the club works with the school to understand the future of the pitch and work towards making quality improvements to encourage usage.
- 10.38 England Hockey have recently worked alongside England Netball / The LTA to develop a Gen2 surface suitable for all three sports. The creation of a pitch of this surface could be considered as an alternative in order to improve the commercial viability of the site and the function of the pitch for the school, whilst retaining the pitch surface that is suitable for hockey.

Future Picture of Provision

Population Change

- 10.39 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.
- 10.40 Table 10.5 summarises the TGRs for hockey. It considers only adult hockey teams, as membership numbers are used to forecast growth in junior participation. It presents the total number of additional teams that will be generated by 2027, 2032 and 2039 cumulatively from 2022(i.e. the figures for 2032 include the number of additional teams that will be generated by 2027).
- 10.41 It reveals that because of low levels of hockey participation; the application of TGRs suggests that population growth will have no little impact. Even by 2039, the population growth will only be sufficient to generate an 0.2 male teams.

Table 10.5 – TGRs for Hockey

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Additional Teams Generated by 2027	Additional Teams Generated by 2032	Additional Teams generated by 2039
Senior Men (16-55yrs)	0	23155	0	0	0	0
Senior Women (16-55yrs)	1	22327	22327	0	0	0

- 10.42 While team generation rates can be to an extent used to predict the growth of adult participation in hockey, junior participation is primarily projected by membership levels.
- 10.43 The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator provides a more detailed understanding of the potential impact of population growth on demand for hockey, as it takes into account requirements for both matches and training and using membership numbers to predict growth at a junior level.

10.44 Application of this figure (using the total population growth of 4180 (but not taking into account changes to the population profile) that is projected to occur between 2022 and 2032 as a baseline) suggests that;

- Demand for hockey may increase by 0.02 match equivalent sessions (senior) and 0.02 match equivalent sessions (junior)
- Estimated demand for training per week generated by population growth will be 0.06 (match equivalents) and 0.02 (match equivalents) junior.

10.45 The above growth in demand is equivalent to 0.01 sand based AGPs. This therefore reinforces the findings that population growth alone will have limited impact on participation and that any increases in demand for hockey will need to be driven by sports development initiatives.

Participation Growth Aspirations

- 10.46 Great Yarmouth Hockey Club indicate that despite recent reductions in participation, they are looking to grow and to increase the number of teams that they run.

- 10.47 They wish to continue to grow the creation of both female senior and junior teams. They currently however note that several factors are inhibiting this:
 - Cost of hiring facilities
 - Falling membership and shortage of members
 - Shortage of good all weather pitches for matches and training
 - Lack of internal and external funding

- 10.48 It is clear that if these aspirations are to be delivered, there is a requirement to retain the existing AGP and to improve the quality of the facility.

- 10.49 England Hockey seek to build participation in hockey, with a particular focus placed upon retention of existing players as well as an increase in the number of players aged 14+. In addition to the traditional form of the game, new forms of hockey have also been introduced, including small sided hockey and Back to Hockey, as well as Flyerz, a form of hockey suitable for disabled participants. These forms do not require formal facilities and can be played on any facility (including the small based sand AGPs).

- 10.50 Recent targets of England Hockey sought to double the playing market (in terms of number of players) through a 7% growth year on year where clubs have capacity to deliver this) Table 7.6 indicates that if this increase was delivered at the club, the number of members of the club would almost triple by 2032 and it could therefore be assumed that the number of teams would follow the same pattern. The existing pitch provision would still remain adequate in quantitative terms.

Summary

- 10.51 The supply and demand and the key issues for hockey in the borough are summarised below.

Hockey – Key Issues
<p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is one sand based full sized AGP in Great Yarmouth Borough suitable for hockey. This is located at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy in Gorleston-on-Sea. The pitch is owned by the

school and currently rented to various clubs that use it for different sports including hockey. The club access the facility on a pay as you go basis.

- This pitch is 15 years old and is in poor condition. The quality of the pitch negatively impacts the quality of the games that take place on the site.

Demand

- Yarmouth HC are the sole hockey club in Great Yarmouth Borough. They operate 1 senior women's team and 1 junior female team. There are no opportunities for males to play hockey in the Borough. This participation represents a decline in recent years, with a reduction in the number of senior teams due to falling numbers.
- The club are based at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy and both competitive activity and training takes place at this site. Each team plays a competitive game on an alternate Saturday mornings and trains on a Thursday evening. Together weekly usage of the pitch for hockey equates to 2 hours per week.

Adequacy of Provision

- Analysis of existing sand based AGPs suggests that there is spare capacity equivalent to 10 - 15 hours (midweek). There is limited use by the hockey club but some use for football, meaning that hockey must compete for desirable time slots. The club do not identify any issues with securing access to the facility when they require it.
- Based on existing levels of usage, analysis demonstrates that one pitch is currently adequate to meet demand. At peak time, the club demand equates to 1 MES, and with the standard capacity of the pitch being 4 MES, this means that there is room for growth in participation
- based on current activity levels, hockey alone is insufficient to sustain the pitch commercially. It is therefore essential that the need for pitch resurfacing is planned for now, both in terms of how the pitch can be retained long term, but also how the resurfacing of the facility will be funded. England Hockey have recently worked alongside England Netball / The LTA to develop a Gen2 surface suitable for all sports. The use of this surface improves the number of sports that can be played and therefore the commercial viability of the site.
- Projections demonstrate that population growth alone will have no impact on demand for hockey. The club do however have aspirations for growth. One pitch would still be adequate to meet demand even if these levels of play were achieved. Increases in line with England Hockey targets would ensure that the club remains sustainable and that the facility is heavily used

Key Issues for Strategy to Address

The key facility issues for this strategy to address are therefore;

- The importance of retaining a pitch of suitable surface to meet the needs of hockey.
- The need to resurface the existing pitch to ensure it remains of adequate quality

- Sustainability of the existing pitch.

11.0 Football

11.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for football in Great Yarmouth. It includes;

- A brief overview of the supply and demand for football
- An understanding of activity at individual sites
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision; and
- The future picture of provision for football.

11.2 It considers the provision of both grass football pitches and 3G pitches.

Pitch Supply

11.3 Table 11.1 summarises the breakdown of pitch sizes that are available to the community. It records 79 pitches available for community use in total. Site specific detail is provided later in this section. Pitch totals should also be considered approximate only, as on many sites, layouts change weekly in response to league fixtures. In addition, the layout of pitches at school sites often changes from week (school use) to weekend, as clubs lay out pitches to meet their own needs.

11.4 It indicates that just 30% of pitches available to the community are full sized pitches, whilst the remainder of facilities are small sized. This suggests that facilities are effectively tailored to meet the needs of players in different age groups.

It should be noted that pitches and teams within this section are categorised according to pitch size requirements (i.e., teams in U17 and U18 age groups use adult pitches). This differs slightly from the categorisation methods used in FA affiliation data, which considers U17 and U18 teams to be juniors

Table 11.1: Community Use Football Pitches in Great Yarmouth

Pitches Type	Total Pitches	Number of Secured Pitches	Number of Unsecured Pitches	% of Community Use Pitches Secured
Adult Football (aged 16+)	23	16	7	69.6%
Junior Football (age U13 - U16)	9	9	0	100.0%
9 v 9 (age U11 and U12)	17	10	7	58.8%
7 v 7 (age U9 and U10)	17	14	3	82.4%
5 v 5 (age U7 and U8)	13	12	1	92.3%

- 11.5 Table 11.1 therefore reveals that of the pitches that the proportion of pitches that are used by the community that are secured for long term community use is high, particularly for smaller sided pitches.
- 11.6 Most of the secondary schools offer unsecured community use. Consultation demonstrates that community use has been ad hoc recently, primarily as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, which led to schools closing their doors and more recently, inconsistent opening. Pitches at Lynn Grove Academy, Charter Academy, Caister Academy and Ormiston Cliff Park Academy are also available on an unsecured basis . There is no community access to grass pitches at Flegg High School due to the quality of these facilities.
- 11.7 There is limited access to primary school sites. Caister Junior School and Ormiston Cliff Park Academy are both currently open to the community (with unsecured access).
- 11.8 Whilst the majority of primary schools are not open for community access, most have some playing fields. Many of these are basic playing fields and are not marked out as formal pitches regularly and therefore offer limited potential resources for the local community. Unless the school have formal pitches currently marked out, they are excluded from the above totals.
- 11.9 While pitch provision is generally secure, there are clubs currently in the process of negotiating leases / renewing leases. There are no known issues with any of these leases and the sites continue to be considered secure, however work is currently underway to secure the future of;
- New Road Sports Field Belton (Bohemians FC) – 2 years remaining
 - Southtown Common (Shrublands FC)

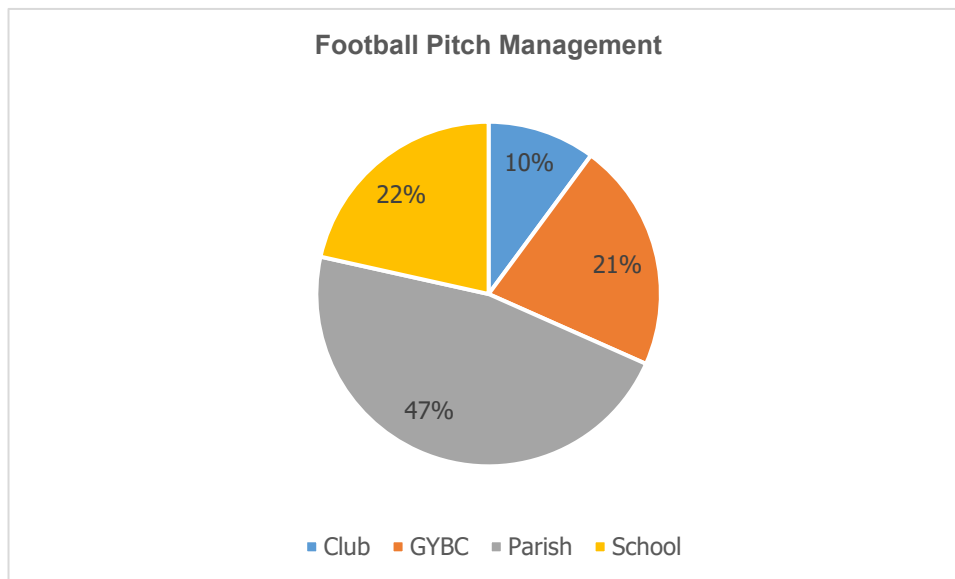
Lapsed / Disused Sites

- 11.10 There are several sites that used to contain playing fields but are now informal open spaces / recreation grounds. These could be returned to use should they be required.

Ownership and Management

- 11.11 Chart 11.1 illustrates that management of active community pitches within the borough is mixed, with the public sector being just the largest provider – both GYBC and Parish / Town Councils (or associated playing field committees) are important providers. The remainder are located on education sites. There are few pitches that are fully controlled by the clubs, although some clubs do work alongside the Parishes / Playing Field Committees to support the maintenance process.

Chart 11.1 – Football Pitch Management



11.12 The FA National Strategy seeks to increase the number of asset owning and managing clubs. The proportion of sites in the borough that are managed by clubs suggests that there is scope to increase club engagement in the Borough.

Geographical Distribution of Football Pitches

11.13 Table 11.2 sets out the distribution of football pitches by sub area. It reveals that the majority of pitches are located in the Gorleston-on-Sea and Northern Parishes.. Provision is much lower in Great Yarmouth and Southern Parishes.

Table 11.2: Geographical Distribution of Football Pitches

Pitches Type	Great Yarmouth	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Northern Parishes	Southern Parishes
Adult Football (aged 16+)	5	8	7	1
Junior Football (age U13 - U16)	1	4	2	2
9 v 9 (age U11 and U12)	1	7	6	1

7 v 7 (age U9 and U10)	2	7	5	3
5 v 5 (age U7 and U8)	1	4	6	2
Total	10	30	26	9

AGPs

11.14 The FA now approves certain types of AGP for use in competitive fixtures (those listed on the FA register), and the FA National Facilities Strategy recognises the role that these facilities play in the provision of facilities for football.

11.15 Across Great Yarmouth there are four active full sized AGPs. These are summarised in Table 11.3 overleaf. It demonstrates that of the AGPs, three have a 3G surface whilst only the pitch at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy is sand dressed. Whilst the FA are looking to ensure that all football takes place on 3G AGPs, it is acknowledged that at times, sand-based facilities are used for training, particularly in areas lacking in 3G pitch provision.

11.16 In addition to the full-sized pitches, there are three small AGPs as follows;

- Seashore Holiday Park (sand based)
- Charter Academy (3G 9v9 pitch)
- Wellesley Recreation Ground.

11.17 Two of the three active 3G full sized AGPs are located in Gorleston- on- Sea and Bradwell, whilst the remaining pitch, at Flegg High School is situated in the Northern Parishes. The pitch at Charter Academy is the only pitch available in Great Yarmouth, but this is not floodlit and is not available for community use. The pitch at East Norfolk College is also not currently available for community use although it is anticipated that it will be available for training from season 2022 – 2023 and for match play in season 2024.

11.18 A further 3G pitch will soon be provided at Wellesley Recreation Ground (Great Yarmouth). Although not full size (it will be 9v9) this will supplement the existing provision and will be recorded on the FA pitch register meaning that it is suitable for competitive activity.

Table 11.3: AGPs

Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Surface	Sports Lighting	Pitch Size	Community Access Available	AGP - Hours available to the community	Listing on FA Pitch Register
CLIFF PARK ORMISTON ACADEMY	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	Sand	Yes	Full – 96x 67m	Yes	Monday-Friday 18:00 - 22:00 Weekend 10:00 - 18:00	No
EAST NORFOLK SIXTH FORM COLLEGE	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	3G	Yes	Full – 105 x 70m	No	N/a	Yes
FLEGG HIGH ORMISTON ACADEMY	Northern Parishes	3G	Yes	Full – 90 x 60m	Yes	Monday-Friday 18:00 - 22:00 Weekend 10:00 - 16:00	Yes
GREAT YARMOUTH CHARTER ACADEMY	Great Yarmouth	3G	No	9v9 – 99 x 62m	No	N/a	No
LYNN GROVE ACADEMY	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	3G	Yes	Full – 102m x 60m	Yes	Monday-Friday 17:30 - 21:30 Weekend 09:00 - 16:30	Yes
SEASHORE HOLIDAY PARK	Southern Parishes	Sand	Yes	Small – 34 x 18m	No	N/a	No

Great Yarmouth Borough PPOSS



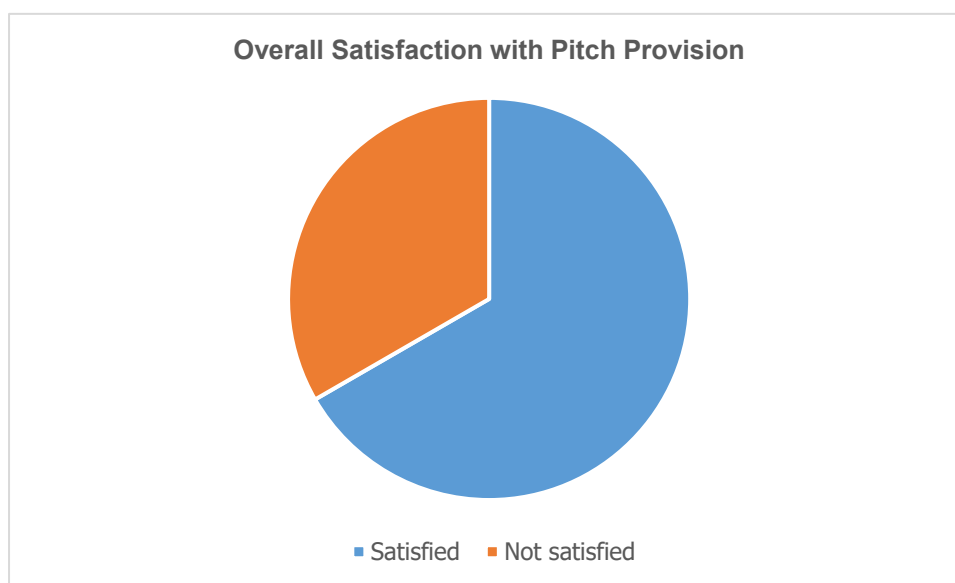
Site Name	Sub Area	Pitch Surface	Sports Lighting	Pitch Size	Community Access Available	AGP - Hours available to the community	Listing on FA Pitch Register
WELLESLEY RECREATION GROUND	Great Yarmouth	3G	Yes	Small 40 x 25m	Yes	All day until dusk	No



Views on the Pitch Stock

11.19 Chart 12.1 indicates that there are mixed views in relation to the overall pitch stock in the Borough, with a larger proportion of clubs indicating that they are happy with provision than those that are not satisfied. Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of clubs responding to the consultation are currently happy with pitch provision.

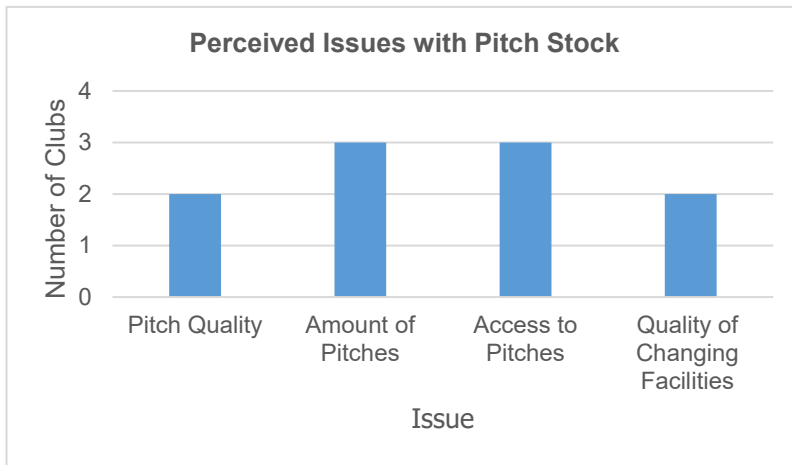
Chart 12.1: Satisfaction with Pitch Provision



11.20 Chart 12.2 provides a general overview of the key issues identified and demonstrates that there are issues with all elements of pitch provision. The number of pitches and access to pitches were the most frequently reported concerns.



Chart 12.2: Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Pitch Provision





11.21 Specific issues raised include;

- Insufficient pitches available, particularly for clubs with multiple teams
- Lack of pitches for younger age groups
- Issues accessing training facilities
- Requirement for improved maintenance
- Poor quality changing accommodation.

11.22 There are no patterns by geographical area, with clubs across the Borough experiencing issues. It is clear however that it is typically the larger clubs that have concerns about the number of pitches, whilst quality issues are evident for clubs of all sizes. Overplay and heavy usage is also considered to impact on the quality of pitches at some sites.

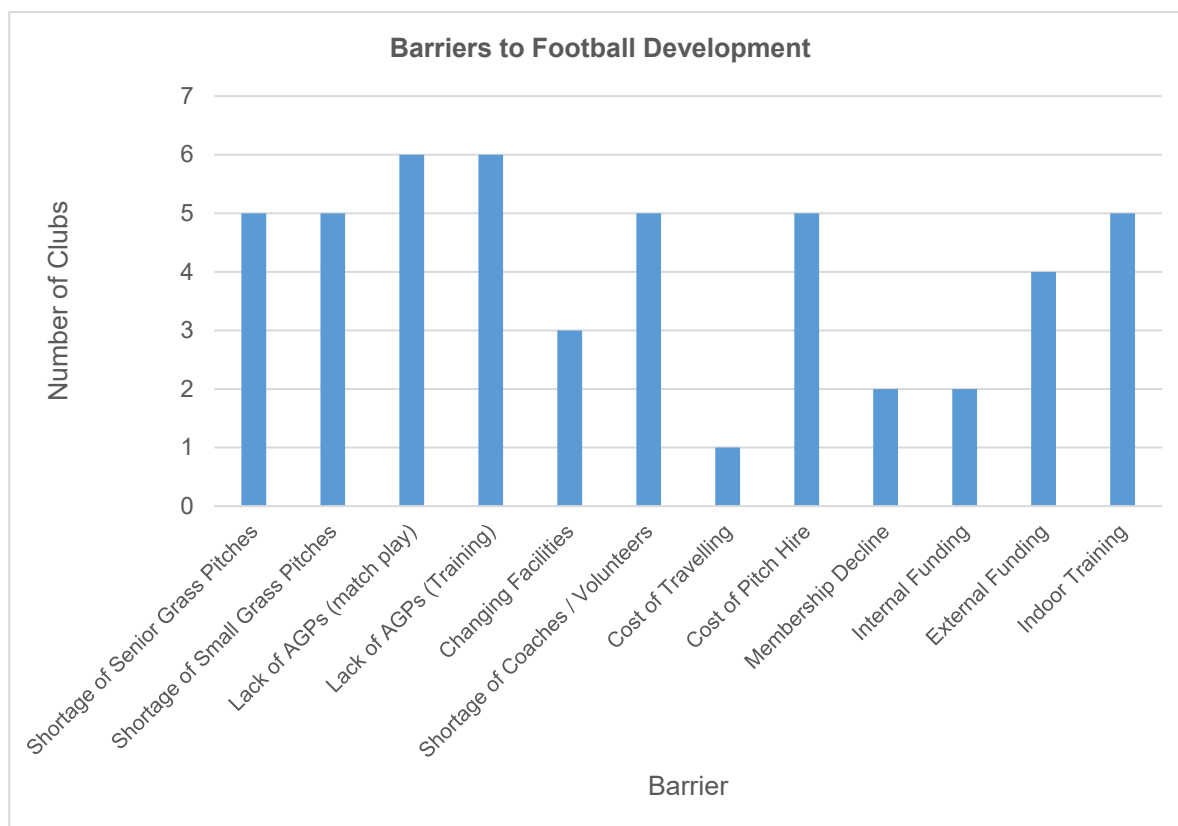
11.23 Interestingly, access to facilities for training appears to be a complex issue for clubs. The majority of clubs appear to prefer training on grass pitches, and comment that this can be difficult to accommodate as it causes overplay and / or there are insufficient floodlit pitches. Whilst AGPs are available, there appears to be limited appetite to use these outside of a very small winter period when training on grass is not possible. This issue will be returned to when considering training capacity.

11.24 Although most clubs are satisfied with the overall stock of facilities, Chart 12.3 illustrates that there are a number of issues that are perceived to impact club development. Again, it is clear that there are issues with access and the amount of pitches (both grass and AGP) however it clearly demonstrates that the other major issues impacting club growth are a shortage of volunteers and the cost of pitch hire.

11.25 These issues were echoed through consultation with league secretaries. It was highlighted that there is demand at a youth level for more teams, but the availability of coaches is significantly restricting club growth.



Chart 12.3: Barriers to Club Development



Pitch Quality and Changing Accommodation

11.26 Issues with pitch quality were raised during consultation, with the importance of maintenance recognised, and heavy usage perceived to impact on play. A lack of appropriate ancillary provision was also highlighted as a concern for a small number of clubs.

11.27 All local leagues running within the Borough require (within their rules) clubs to keep their grounds in playable condition (and deemed suitable by the Management Committee). Pitch quality is therefore an essential component of an effective pitch stock. The presence and quality of changing facilities can also be of significance in determining the suitability of pitches and a lack of facilities can impact on the desirability of grounds for clubs, particularly where there is a lack of toilets as well as changing facilities. The Norfolk and Suffolk Youth Football League will not permit games to go ahead if there are no toilets on site.

11.28 To ensure that pitches meet league requirements, pitch quality and changing accommodation is therefore as important as the number of pitches. Pitch quality also impacts upon the capacity of pitches, as well as player experience. A lower quality pitch is able to sustain fewer games per

week without detrimental impact. This is a key issue across Great Yarmouth Borough and will be returned to later in this section.

11.29 Pitch quality has been assessed through a variety of methods, specifically;

- Non-technical site assessments
- Review of FA Pitch Power Data Reports
- Consultations with Clubs.

11.30 Final views on the quality of each site have been reached through the triangulation of data. The key issues identified are explored in the sections that follow.

Site Visits

11.31 Site visits were undertaken to all sites offering community access using the non-technical site assessment matrix provided alongside the Playing Pitch Guidance. Site visits were carried out during the playing season, during January. This means that pitches had received a high amount of use when the visits were undertaken.

11.32 In general terms, with regards football pitch quality, site visits reveal that;

- There was evidence of compaction, poor drainage and boggy areas on numerous pitches in the borough. The issues with drainage and waterlogging may be caused (or exacerbated) by the compaction that is evident. There was a clear need for spiking and aeration
- Many of the sites were evidently heavily used and exhibited lots of signs of wear and tear. It is likely that this heavy use contributes to the compaction identified above. Many of the goalmouths were messy and muddy;
- Many of the pitches have poor and uneven surfaces with skid marks and some sites would benefit from levelling to improve the playing surface. Some sites had issues with moles, which will impact if they start to encroach on to the pitch areas themselves
- Site visits suggest that levels of maintenance varies, but there is poor grass coverage and a requirement for increased maintenance at many sites. There are particular problems with weeds at numerous sites, with fairy ring evident and undesirable grasses across many pitches
- Many sites are open to the public (and indeed function as parks / recreational facilities) and as a result, dog fouling and litter is problematic.



- The condition of associated ancillary facilities varies and there are many sites where changing blocks / clubhouses would benefit from improvement.

11.33 Site visits did not identify any clear differences in quality by geographical location and across the borough as a whole, there was a perception that pitches were low standard to poor quality. There are few sites that are considered good, and the majority of sites fall within the lower echelons of the standard range (or below).

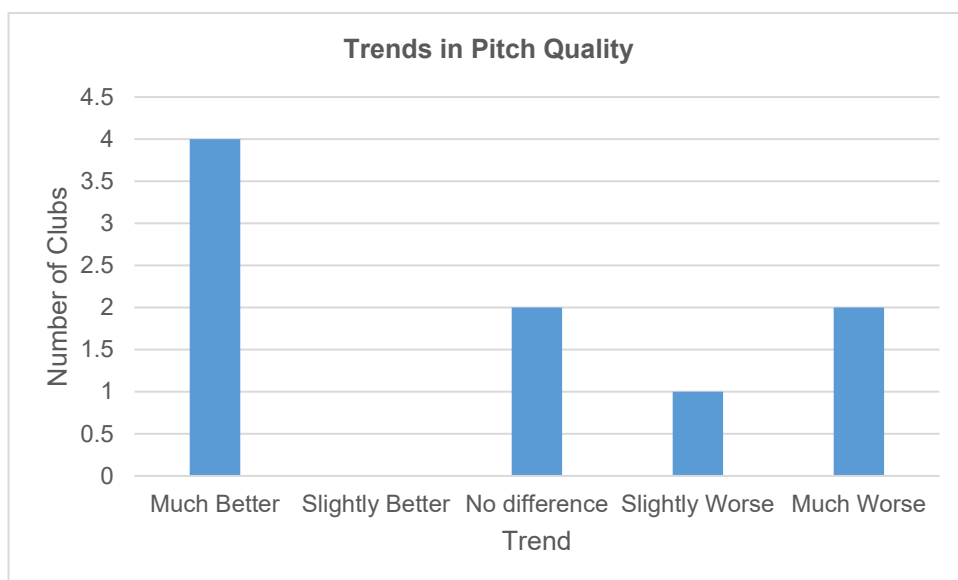
11.34 The findings of site visits have been triangulated with feedback provided by clubs in relation to quality.

Club Consultation

11.35 Whilst site visits suggested that the quality of facilities is relatively limited, the users of facilities were generally more satisfied.

11.36 On a positive note ,more clubs consider quality to be improving rather than declining. This is illustrated in Chart 12.4. This view was also held by league secretaries, who indicate that quality is improving through a combination of grant funding and the rest that pitches had during the covid 19 pandemic.

Chart 12.4: Views on Trends in Pitch Quality

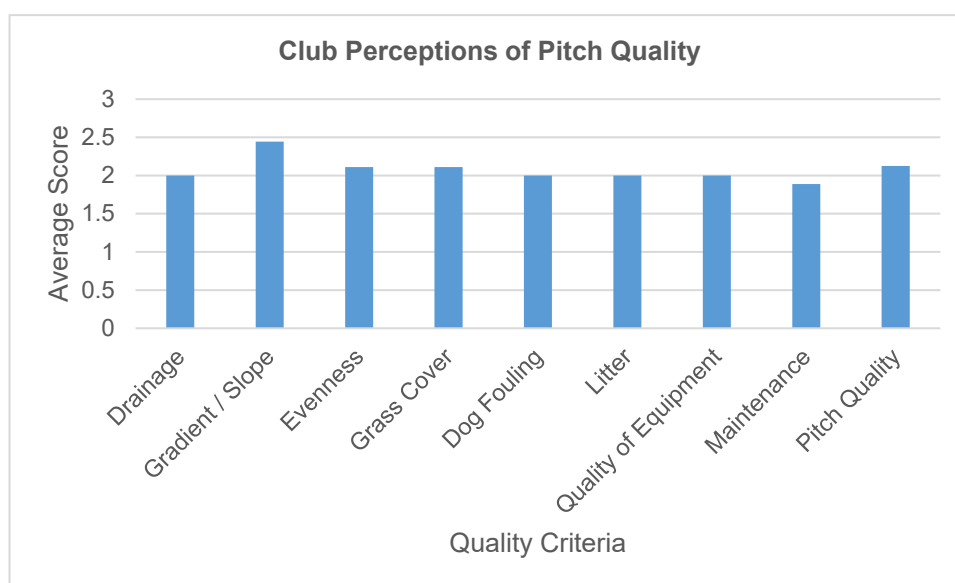


11.37 Interestingly, maintenance is the key reason attributed by clubs to the changes in pitch stock. Where pitches are improving, this is noted to coincide with an increased focus on maintenance and investment. Several clubs indicated that their site had received FA Grant Funding from the Pitch Maintenance programme and that this had had a positive impact on the quality.

11.38 In contrast, however, struggles with maintenance and a perception that a stronger maintenance programme is required emerged as one of the main reasons for the deteriorating pitch quality.

11.39 To provide an overview of the perceived quality of pitches, Chart 12.5 summarises the average quality ratings attributed by clubs to each of the key features of pitches (an average score of 1 equates to poor, 2 to standard and 3 to good). Reflecting the views set out above, it is the maintenance that is the greatest concern, alongside the drainage and impact of unofficial use.

Chart 12.5: Overall Views on Pitch Quality



11.40 The specific issues identified appear to occur on pitches across the board and there are no clear patterns arising in terms of the type of facilities used or geographically.

Pitch Power Reports

11.41 To provide further insight into pitch quality, the issues arising in recently completed Pitch Power reports have also been considered. Pitch Power provide a rating for each pitch on a scale of poor / basic / good / advanced / high).



11.42 Reflecting the findings of site visits, the quality of those pitches that have been assessed is relatively poor. Similar issues were identified, with concerns around weeds, and drainage and significant opportunities identified to improve maintenance procedures. Some of these have now started to be actioned, with support given to providers to apply appropriate maintenance regimes.

11.43 With 53% of the pitches where ratings have been awarded achieving a score of poor and a further 24% considered basic, it is clear however that there is significant scope for improvement. Just 8% of pitches were awarded an advanced rating.

11.44 The implications of these ratings are set out in Chart 12.6 below. It clearly suggests that the quality scores mean that pitches need improvement if they are to meet the required standard for community football. Based on the snapshot of pitches across the Borough, only 20% are of the required quality.

11.45 The findings of these assessments have been triangulated with site assessments (which will take into account any improvements that have been made since the older Pitch Power reports were completed). Site specific issues relating to pitch quality will be highlighted later in this section.

Chart 12.6: Pitch Power Ratings



Quality Summary

11.46 In with guidance set out in Sport England’s Playing Pitch Strategy guidance, the above combination of consultation, site visits and analysis of Pitch Power Assessments have been

used to provide a quality rating for each of the grass pitches in the Borough as either good, standard or poor.

11.47 These ratings, as well as issues specific to each site are outlined later in this section. Overall however the key messages arising from in relation to quality are;

- Across the borough in general, the quality of pitches is poor to low standard. 17 pitches achieve a poor rating. For those pitches that do fall into the standard category, the vast majority of pitches are clearly closer to the poor categorisation than they are good (and consequently are rated low standard). There is a concern that if maintenance procedures are insufficient to keep up with usage across the season, more pitches will become poor later in the season.
- While pitches are low standard / poor, they are generally playable. Many of the pitches are thought to be impacted by the amount of use that takes place, and this will be returned to later in this section
- maintenance schedules vary but in general, are basic. This has a detrimental effect on both the immediate quality of the pitch, but also the long-term capacity of the pitch across the season and beyond. Many of the issues arising (including drainage / compaction / evenness) could be addressed through improved in and out of season maintenance.
- while drainage emerges as a key issue, it is clear that in some instances, this is exacerbated by heavy usage and the resulting compaction at the site. Waterlogging is responsible for many cancellations on pitches across the borough. Improved drainage, linked with better maintenance procedures will significantly enhance the quality of pitches.
- unofficial use of pitches, and the resulting dog fouling and litter is detrimental to pitch quality, but also is impacting the user experience.
- the quality of changing provision is varied but there are some sites where this needs to be improved.

Quality of AGPs

11.48 All 3G pitches that are available are listed on the FA 3G AGP register and as a result are considered to be of good quality. These pitches are retested every three years to ensure that quality is maintained.



Demand

11.49 Football is the biggest sport in terms of the number of teams that are playing in the Borough.

11.50 Table 12.4 summarises the number of community teams affiliated and playing within the Borough in season 2021 – 2022. It reveals that there are 168 teams in total, including two walking football teams. Some clubs also run mini coaching sessions, and this is taken into account where known.

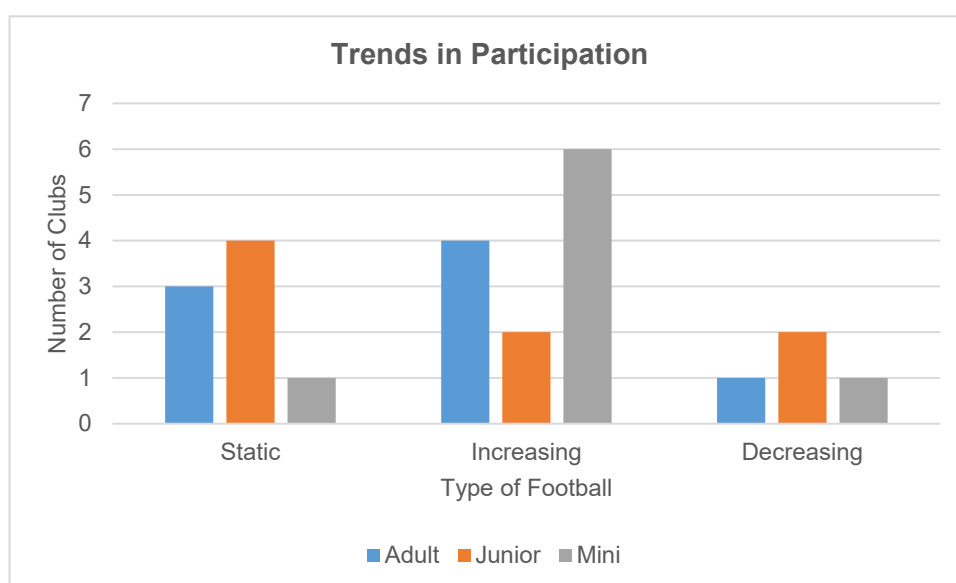
11.51 There is no evidence of teams travelling outside of the Borough to play and it appears that all those that wish to play within Great Yarmouth are doing so.

11.52 FA affiliation data suggests that this represents a positive increase in participation, with 145 teams playing at the time of the Local Football Facilities Plan in 2020. This suggests that if anything, there has been a positive impact of covid 19 on the number of people playing football.

11.53 This upturn in affiliation reflects the direct experiences of clubs, with very few clubs reporting a decline in membership and the majority reporting an increase both in membership and the number of teams being run. Most clubs have experienced an increase in the number of junior teams and mini football sections have also experienced an increase. Notably, the greatest increases have taken place at the largest clubs. There is little (but some) evidence of decline in clubs.

11.54 Figure 12.6 summarises the trends reported by clubs.

Figure 12.6 – Trends in Participation





11.56 Whilst there have been positive trends in mini and junior football, consultation suggests that the number of adult teams is declining significantly. This is not reflected in the above, as the decline is identified amongst the single adult teams, who are not traditionally part of a club. The Great Yarmouth Sunday League folded after the 2019 season, and it has now been announced that the Great Yarmouth and District Saturday league will not be running next season. While the Anglian Combination still represents an option for such teams, the standard is higher and the lack of opportunities is therefore likely to impact on grass roots football. The collapse of these two leagues arises directly as a result of declining demand.

11.57 The decline was evident much before the Covid 19 pandemic and it is not thought that this has had a significant additional impact. It is noted that now instead of playing themselves, many adults focus on introducing their children to the game.

Table 11.4: Teams Playing in Great Yarmouth

Type of Football	Number of Teams Playing in Great Yarmouth Borough	Teams playing in Great Yarmouth	Play in Gorleston – on – Sea and Bradwell	Play in Northern Parishes	Play in Southern Parishes.
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	37	5	15	13	4
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	5	1	3	1	0
Football Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	38	3	18	10	7
Football Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	8	2	3	2	1
Football 9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	24	2	13	5	4
Football 9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	6	0	5		1
Football Mini Soccer 7v7 (mixed)	27	1	9	8	9
Football Mini Soccer 5v5 (mixed)	18	1	6	5	6
Recreational /Walking)	4	2	2	1	0



11.58 Table 11.4 suggests that whilst circa 26% of teams are senior teams, the remainder are playing age group football. It is therefore important that pitches are tailored to these requirements.

11.59 The spread of play is fairly even across different areas of the Borough, although it is clear that more play takes place in Gorleston-on-Sea than any other area. There are however opportunities for all forms of the game in all areas of the borough.

11.60 There are 20 female football teams. The Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) reports this level of participation to be comparable to local areas of a similar size. There is a strong league – Norfolk Women and Girls League facilitating female football, and this league has experienced significant growth. This league functions as a home and away league (i.e. teams must have a home venue, no central venue is provided) and it is therefore important that facilities appropriate to the needs of women and girls are available.

Displaced and Imported Demand

11.61 There is no evidence of displaced or imported demand and no issues raised by clubs in relation to this issue

Other Demand

Curricular Use

11.62 All of the secondary schools in the borough have their own facilities. Most of these facilities are available for community use, however there is little online presence outlining which facilities can be hired and which cannot. The picture with regards use of school sites has become a little more complex over the Covid pandemic, with schools more reluctant to allow community users on to their sites than previously and this may be reason behind the lack of promotion. Several clubs report that hire and pitch availability has been ad hoc this season.

11.63 The amount of use of primary schools is however negligible, with the only sites that are used being located adjacent to public recreation grounds and / or secondary school venues. Availability of primary schools is limited and again, this could be attributed to the covid 19 pandemic. Improved access to primary schools may represent an opportunity to increase pitch availability should it be required in future years.



11.64 Whilst curricular and extra-curricular use typically does not take place at peak time for community bookings, this usage does reduce the amount of community use that can be sustained without creating overplay. School sites therefore have a lower capacity to accommodate community activity than other sites and this will be taken into account in calculations later in this section.

Recreational Use

11.65 Walking football is becoming increasingly popular and there are now two registered teams in the Borough. This takes place largely on AGPs (outside peak time) and extends the appeal of football into the older age groups. This is a strong developmental priority for the County FA moving forwards.

Casual Use

11.66 Casual use is a feature of many of the playing fields. As noted in the site visits, and throughout consultation, some sites also function as public recreational areas, which impacts upon the quality of some pitches, particularly with regards dog fouling and litter. The use is not however sufficiently extensive to reduce capacity of pitches, although it is important that the overall impact on player experience is taken into account. Clubs identify issues with dog fouling and litter amongst the more prevalent concerns relating to pitch quality in the borough. Some ancillary facilities have also been impacted as a result of antisocial behaviour which has caused significant damage.

Pyramid Clubs

11.67 Gorleston FC and Great Yarmouth Town are the two teams from the Borough playing in leagues in the National League System.

11.68 Teams playing within the National League System must adhere to specific requirements in relation to the facilities provided at the home ground. If the club continue to progress up the pyramid, requirements and regulations for facilities will become more onerous and a club may lose the opportunity to be promoted if their facilities do not meet the required standards. The ground grading requirements are set out in full at <https://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>. The grade required for each of the clubs playing in the pyramid system and any known issues relating to the existing facilities meeting this grade are summarised in Table 11.5. Where promotion is sought, teams must meet the higher ground grading requirements.

Table 11.5: Requirements of Pyramid Teams



Club	Team	League	Pyramid Level	Ground Grading Requirement	Comments
Gorleston Town	1 st	Eastern Counties	Step 5	Grade F	Stadium rebuilt at East Norfolk College, but no pavilion currently available therefore requirements not met. Anticipated to be ready 2023 season. Current facility meets with specification, but facilities are tired. Likely not to be available next season.
Great Yarmouth Town	1 st	Eastern Counties	Step 6	Grade G	Dug outs are far away from the pitch side / sprinkler system only covers half the pitch / Flood lights are poor. Recent pitch inspection suggests that pitch is not suitable for football above Step 5. Renovation work to shortly take place to changing accommodation – existing facilities are very poor. Maintenance is carried out by the Council and the pitch is maintained to a higher standard than other pitches. It is currently a good pitch.

11.69 Table 11.5 reveals that there are some concerns in terms of the current availability of facilities for pyramid clubs, but that these issues are in the process of being resolved.

Training Needs

11.70 Consultation demonstrates that whilst there are several AGPs available in Great Yarmouth, there remains extensive use of the grass pitches for training. Many clubs are training on a Saturday and playing competitive fixtures on a Sunday. This places significant pressure on the grass pitches as it essentially doubles the amount of use that pitches are required to sustain.

11.71 Whilst most clubs make some use of AGPs, for many clubs this is concentrated during a small window of the winter months and is booked on an ad hoc weekly basis when the quality of grass pitches deteriorates too far. For some clubs, if training cannot take place on the grass pitches it does not take place at all.

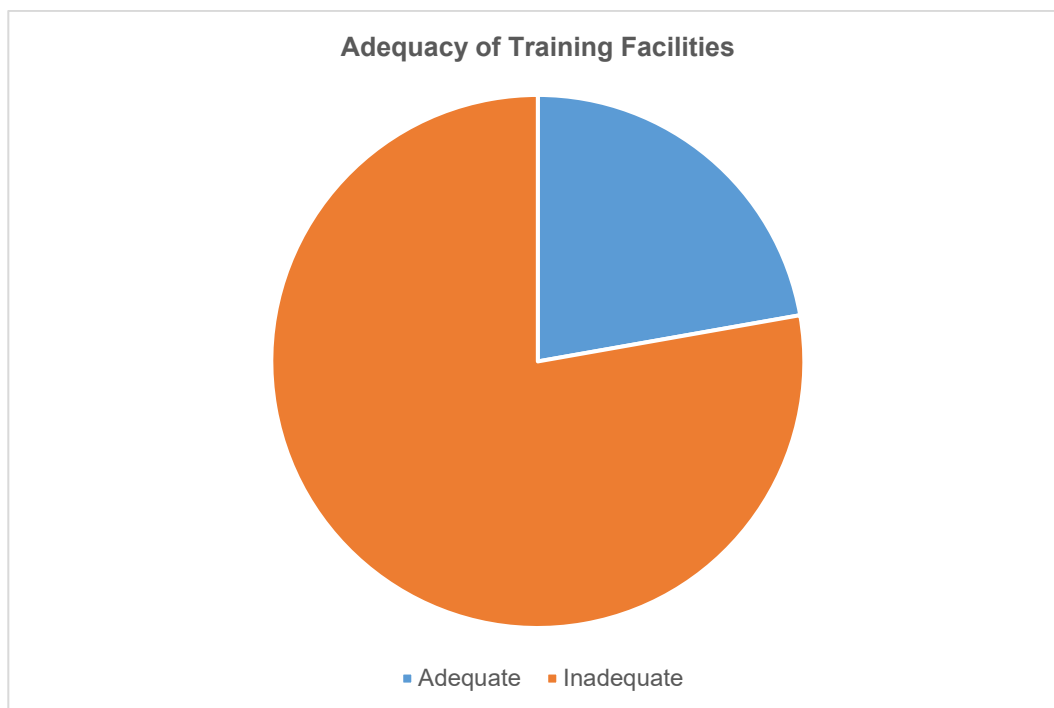


11.72 Training therefore has significant impact on the grass pitches.

11.73 Training does however also take place on the 3G AGPs and there is also some usage of the sand based AGP at Ormiston Cliff Park Academy.

11.74 Consultation revealed that access to training facilities is one of the key concerns of clubs across Great Yarmouth and this is illustrated in Chart 11.7, which suggests that the majority of clubs are not satisfied with the training facilities that are provided.

Chart 11.7: Satisfaction with Training Facilities



11.75 For those clubs that were not satisfied, the key issues raised are;

- The impact of training on the grass pitches
- The cost of training
- Local access to training facilities.

11.76 The cost of accessing 3G pitches is highlighted as a key concern by clubs, and this is evidenced in discussions with the FA who confirm that hire charges are a key barrier to usage and a key driver for clubs using grass pitches.

11.77 Grass pitches that are used for training include;

- New Road, Belton
- King George Playing Field, Caister-on-Sea
- Caister Infant and Nursery Centre
- Filby Playing Field, Filby
- Mill Lane, Bradwell
- Emerald Park, Gorleston
- Green Lane, Bradwell

- Burgh Castle
- Magdalen Fields, Gorleston
- Barnard Bridge, Great Yarmouth
- Hemsby Recreation Ground
- Ormesby Playing Fields
- Martham Playing Fields
- Southtown Common, Great Yarmouth

11.78 The impact of this training activity on the above pitches is taken into account in the calculations relating to grass playing fields.

11.79 Despite the high levels of training on grass, there is also some use of the 3G AGPs, as well as activity at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy. It is hoped that new 3G pitch provision at East Norfolk College (Gorleston Town FC) will relocate a significant amount of use from the grass and the new pitch at Wellesley Recreation Ground is anticipated to do similar.

11.80 The level of capacity at the 3G pitches will be evaluated later in this section.

Adequacy of Pitch Provision – Assessing Supply and Demand

11.81 The Sport England Guidance enables evaluation of the adequacy of provision, taking into account both the quality and number of pitches provided. Adequacy is measured both over the course of a week and at peak time using the concept of match equivalent sessions (MES)². There is a strong interrelationship between the quality of a pitch and the number of matches that it can sustain.

11.82 It should be noted that at some sites, pitch provision changes weekly to ensure that supply is matched with demand that weekend. Pitch totals and associated capacity ratings used in this assessment are therefore indicative only.

Weekly Capacity

11.83 The quality of the pitch has a greater influence on weekly capacity - this directly impacts the number of matches that can be sustained. Table 11.6 summarises the guidelines used with regards pitch capacity (extracted from Sport England Guidance on the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy, prepared by the FA).



Table 11.6: Capacity based upon Pitch Quality

Agreed pitch quality rating	Adult Football	Youth Football	Mini Soccer
	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		
Good	3	4	6
Standard	2	2	4
Poor	1	1	2

11.84 Table 11.6 demonstrates that the classification of several pitches in Great Yarmouth as poor limits the capacity of these facilities and their ability to meet demand.

11.85 Added to this, it is known that many of the pitches considered to be of standard quality are however confirmed to be in the lower echelons of this range by non-technical site visits and / or FA Pitch Power assessments, and it should be noted that if sites are not appropriately maintained for the level of use that they receive, there is potential that some of the lower scoring sites could become poor. This assessment and associated strategy will therefore explore the impact of pitch quality deterioration.

11.86 The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on pitch quality is also unclear. Lockdowns have meant that pitches have not been maintained as they would have been under normal circumstances, with some sites benefitting from extra attention and others not maintained during 2020. Whilst this means that many pitches were rested, the lack of maintenance that was carried out may later impact. This means that the long-term impact on quality is unclear, and that monitoring will take on an even greater importance.

Peak Time Demand

11.87 Peak time demand is determined by evaluating the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time and comparing it to the number of pitches available. Peak time is deemed to be the period in which the most play on that pitch type takes place.

11.88 Pitches can only be considered to have spare capacity at peak time when they are not already utilised to their full capacity over the course of a week. A standard quality adult pitch that is not used on a Sunday morning (borough wide peak time) but is used more than twice per week at other times (Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon for example) would not be considered able to sustain additional play either at peak time, or at other times, even though no one would be using the facility then, as this would be detrimental to the quality of the pitch.

11.89 In general, junior leagues have greater flexibility than adult leagues with regards kick off times, with matches able to be staggered to ensure that all games can be accommodated (with start times up to 3pm in the main junior league in Great Yarmouth). All adult leagues have definitive start times.



11.90 Peak time in Great Yarmouth is relatively concentrated, with the majority of activity taking place on a Sunday morning (although significant amounts of training sessions are run on a Saturday morning).

11.91 The exception to this is adult football - adult participation is primarily focused on a Saturday afternoon, with pyramid teams playing at this time and the largest adult league, the Anglian Combination also playing at this time. Veterans leagues and female teams play outside of this timeslot, but it is clear that the majority of activity on 11v11 pitches is a Saturday.

11.92 Peak time for youth football is on Sunday morning, however quite significant proportions of games do not kick off until the afternoon, mainly due to the need to stagger games. This means that adults and junior teams (many of whom use adult pitches) do not have the same peak time.

11.93 For 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 football participation is heavily skewed towards Sunday morning (again with some fixtures spreading into the afternoon to facilitate scheduling). Girls football is the key exception to this, and this often takes place on a Saturday morning.

11.94 The concentration of play means that a higher number of pitches are needed all at the same time to ensure that all teams wishing to play can be accommodated. This means however, that there is a lower reliance on pitches to be able to host games in more than one timeslot.

11.95 What is clear however in Great Yarmouth is that training activity places greater pressures on the pitches and consequently, many of the pitches are sustaining activity in two timeslots. This places greater pressures on pitch quality.

Competitive Demand on AGPs

11.96 With all 3G AGPs listed on the 3G pitch register, they are approved for match play and can therefore be used by teams to take the pressures off the grass pitches.

11.97 There is limited use of the pitches however for match play, with only a small amount of activity at Flegg High School. East Norfolk Community College use their facility to accommodate their own teams, however there is no community use currently available.

11.98 There is therefore significant opportunity to increase the amount of match play that takes place on AGPs.

- 11.99 It is anticipated that the new AGP at Wellesley Recreation Ground (shortly to be delivered) along with the pitch at East Norfolk College (once facilities are finished) will be used for match play and this will reduce pressures on the grass pitches at venues currently used by the partner clubs (Gorleston FC and Great Yarmouth FC).
- 11.100 Where teams are known to play on AGPs, this assessment calculates this demand against the AGP. The potential role that AGPs could play in meeting demand is also considered.

Grass Pitches – Situation at Individual Sites

- 11.101 The activity that takes place at each site is summarised in Table 11.7. Table 11.7 provides an overview and sets out the current supply and demand and outlines whether the pitch is being overplayed, played to the appropriate level or is able to sustain additional fixtures. Adequacy of provision is measured in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES).
- 11.102 Overplay is demonstrated by minus figures (i.e. demand exceeds supply).
- 11.103 Issues will be explored by pitch type and spatial distribution, however the key issues emerging from site overviews across the Borough as a whole are as follows;
- When considering match play (as well as the impact of school use at school sites), across the week, there is a small amount of spare capacity across the Borough, with most sites having scope to sustain at least some additional play.
 - When just considering match play / curricular usage, there are a few sites that exhibit overplay – this is evident at Barnard Bridge Sports Ground, Corporation Pitches / Magdalen Playing Fields, Gorleston Playing Fields, Lynn Grove Academy, Mill Lane Playing Fields, New Road Sports Field and Southtown Common. It is clear therefore that the majority of overplay is associated with the larger clubs;
 - There are only four sites where there is no formal community play registered for 2022 on the grass pitches. These are Caister Academy, Cliff Park Ormiston Academy, Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy and Cobholm Recreation Ground,
 - The concentration of play at peak time means that a higher number of pitches are required to meet the needs of teams than may otherwise be the case. As a consequence, availability at peak time is much lower – there are just 27 MES available during the respective peak periods (excluding overplay). There is no remaining capacity at peak time on 37 pitches
 - When taking into account the impact of training on grass pitches (which takes place on multiple sites), shortages are exacerbated
 - Whilst high levels of demand contribute to the low levels of spare capacity in the Borough, it should be noted that the quality of pitches is also a key contributing factor.



The poor quality of pitches significantly reduces the number of games that could be sustained. This means that particularly when taking into account the impact of training, there are pressures on the existing infrastructure.

- 11.104 It is clear therefore that overall, in quantitative terms, there are enough pitches to meet demand across the borough as a whole. There are however pressures at some key sites and to meet the needs of large clubs and a need to improve pitch quality in order to maximise the capacity of the facilities that are provided.



Table 11.7: Site Overviews

Site Name	Sub Area	Final Pitch Confirmation	Final Pitch Type	Total Community Use (MES)	Total Capacity of Pitch	Adequacy of Provision (Club and School Use)	Total Capacity also including training	Final Peak Time
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy / Barnard Bridge Sports Ground	Great Yarmouth	1	11v11adult	0	2	1	-0.5	1
		1	11v11youth	1.5	2	-0.5	-3.5	-0.5
		1	9v9	1	2	0	-1	0
		1	7v7	0.5	4	2.5	2	0.5
		1	5v5	0.5	4	2.5	2	0.5
Beaconsfield Rec ground	Great Yarmouth	2	11v11adult	1	2	1	1	1
		1	11v11 youth	1	1	0	-1	0
		1	7v7	0.5	2	1.5	1	1
Burgh Castle Village hall Playing Field	Southern Parishes	2	7v7	2.5	8	5.5	3	-0.5
		1	5v5	1.5	2	0.5	-1	-0.5
Caister Academy	Northern Parishes	1	11v11adult	0	2	1	1	1
		1	9v9	0	2	1	1	1
Caister Junior School	Northern Parishes	1	9v9	0.5	2	0.5	0	0.5
		1	7v7	1	4	2	1	0
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	1	11v11adult	0	2	1	1	1
		1	9v9	0	2	1	1	1
Cobholm Recreation Ground	Great Yarmouth	1	11v11adult	0	2	2	2	1
Corporation Pitches Magdalen Playing fields	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	2	11v11 youth	3.5	4	0.5	-4.5	0
		2	9v9	5.5	4	-1.5	-7	0
		2	7v7	2.5	8	5.5	3	0

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy



		2	5v5	2	8	6	4	0
Gorleston FC / East Norfolk 6th Form College	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	1	3G	1.5	0	-2.5	-2.5	1
		1	11v11 youth	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	0.5
Filby playing Field	Northern Parishes	1	9v9	0.5	2	1.5	1	0.5
Flegg High Ormiston Academy	Northern Parishes	1	3G	2.5	0	-3.5	-3.5	-0.5
Gorleston FC - Emerald Park	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	1	11v11adult	2	2	0	-0.25	0
Gorleston Playing Fields (Gorleston Recreation Ground)	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	1	11v11adult	1.5	1	-0.5	-0.5	0
Green Lane Playing field/Bradwell PF	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	1	11v11adult	1.5	2	0.5	-0.5	0.5
		3	11v11adult	2	6	4	2	2
		1	9v9	1	1	0	-1	0
		1	7v7	0.5	2	1.5	1	1
Hemsby Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	1	5v5	0	4	4	4	1
Hopton Playing Field	Southern Parishes	1	11v11 youth	3.25	1	-2.25	-2.25	0
		2	11v11adult	4	4	0	-3.5	0
King George V Playing Field Caister	Northern Parishes	1	5v5	0.5	4	3.5	2.5	0.5
		1	11v11adult	1.5	2	-0.5	-0.5	0
		1	9v9	0	2	1	1	1
Lynn Grove academy	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	1	3G	0	0	-1	-1	1
		1	11v11adult	3	4	1	1	0
		1	9v9	0	2	2	2	1
Martham Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	2	7v7	1.5	8	6.5	5	0.5
		2	5v5	1	8	7	6	1
		2	11v11adult	1	2	1	1	1
Mill Lane Playing Fields	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	2	11v11 youth	3.5	2	-1.5	-2.5	0

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy



		2	9v9	2	2	0	0	0
		3	7v7	0.5	12	11.5	11	2.5
		1	5v5	0	2	2	2	1
New Road Sports field	Southern Parishes	1	11v11adult	2	2	0	0	-0.5
		1	11v11 youth	3	2	-1	-4	-0.5
		1	9v9	1.5	1	-0.5	-2	-0.5
		1	7v7	0.5	4	3.5	3	0.5
		1	5v5	0.5	4	3.5	3	0.5
Ormesby Playing Fields	Northern Parishes	1	11v11 youth	0.5	2	1.5	1	0.5
		1	9v9	0.5	2	1.5	1	0.5
		1	7v7	1	4	3	2	0
		2	5v5	1.5	8	6.5	5	0.5
Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	1	7v7	0	4	3	3	1
Southtown Common	Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	1	11v11adult	3	2	-1	-4	0.5
		1	9v9	0.5	2	1.5	1	0.5
		1	7v7	1	4	3	2	0
		1	5v5	1	4	3	2	0
Wellesley Recreation Ground	Great Yarmouth	1	11v11adult	2	3	1	1	0



11.105 The site overviews set out in Table 11.7 provide an understanding of the situation at individual sites. Table 11.8 summarises this further, providing an overview of spare capacity across the week (taking into account all activity) and at peak time.

11.106 The key used in this table is set out below.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site overplayed in this age group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site played to level that can be sustained
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to accommodate more play - and used already for play
X	No available capacity at peak time

Table 11.8: Summary of Site and Pitch Availability at Peak Time

Site Name	Sub Area	Rating	Accessibility	11v11	11v11 Youth	9v9	7v7	5v5	Impact of Training
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy / Barnard Bridge Sports Ground	Great Yarmouth	Standard to Poor	Unsecure	X	X	X	X	X	Overplay 9v9 and youth
Beaconsfield Rec ground	Great Yarmouth	Poor (to low standard)	Secured	X	X		X		Overplay of youth pitch
Burgh Castle Village hall Playing Field	Southern Parishes	Poor to Standard	Secured				X	X	5v5 overplayed
Caister Academy	Northern Parishes	Standard	Unsecure	X		X			N/a
Caister Junior School	Northern Parishes	Low standard	Unsecure			X	X		Reduce spare capacity
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Standard	Unsecure	X		X			n/a
Cobholm Recreation Ground	Great Yarmouth	Standard	Secured	X					n/a
Corporation Pitches Magdalen Playing fields	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Low standard to poor	Secured		X	X	X	X	Overplay on 9v9 and youth increased
Filby playing Field	Northern Parishes	Standard	Secured		X	X			Reduce spare capacity



Gorleston FC - Emerald Park	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Low standard	Unsecured	X					Overplay
Gorleston Playing Fields (Gorleston Recreation Ground)	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Poor	Secured	X					N/a
Green Lane Playing field/Bradwell PF	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Low standard	Secured						Overplayed
Hemsby Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	Poor / Low Standard	Secured			X			Overplay on 9v9
Hopton Playing Field	Southern Parishes	Poor	Secured		X				Overplay exacerbated
King George V Playing Field Caister	Northern Parishes	Low standard to poor	Secured	X					Overplay on 11v11
Lynn Grove academy	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Standard	Unsecured - in house lettings	X					N/a
Martham Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	Standard / High Standard	Secured	X					Reduce spare capacity
Mill Lane Playing Fields	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Poor to low standard	Secured		X	X			Increase overplay on youth
New Road Sports field	Southern Parishes	Standard (one poor)	Secured	X	X	X			Increases overplay on youth and 9v9
Ormesby Playing Fields	Northern Parishes	low standard to poor	Secured				X		Reduce spare capacity
Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	standard	Unsecured (lettings policy reviewed annually)						N/a
Southtown Common	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	low standard	Secured	X			X	X	Reduce spare capacity, overplay on senior pitch
Wellesley Recreation Ground	Great Yarmouth	Good	Secured	X					N/a

11.106.1 In order to fully understand the issues in terms of supply and demand across the borough, we have evaluated the adequacy of provision as follows;



- For each type of pitch
- By sub area
- On a site specific basis where issues have been identified.

- 11.107 The interrelationship between grass pitches and 3G pitches is also considered in this section.
- 11.108 It should be noted that calculations providing a spatial overview contain some assumptions due to the complexities of the position and therefore require detailed interpretation.
- 11.109 Figures measuring the adequacy of provision across the week consider all the games that are played, against the total capacity of the pitch. For some sites, this highlights an immediate issue – that more games are played than the pitch can sustain. This often occurs when pitches are used by schools midweek, as well as community teams at a weekend, but also where matches are played in more than one timeslot. This happens a lot in Great Yarmouth due to the flexibility of the leagues to accommodate games between 9am and 3pm (meaning that games can be played in the week).
- 11.110 Adding up all of the spare capacity across the week and subtracting the overplay therefore provides a position statement of the overall capacity of the pitch stock. Capacity across the week can be improved by both the provision of more pitches and qualitative improvements to increase the capacity of each site.
- 11.111 To inform decision making on the adequacy of pitch provision however, it is also important to understand whether there is enough availability at peak time. This helps to identify whether there are enough pitches – even if all pitches have capacity of 3 match equivalents, if they are only required once per week because all teams need to play at the same time, then it is peak time that is more important.
- 11.112 To ensure that figures represent actual need at peak time and across the week, only overplay at peak time has been deduced from the available spare capacity at peak time. In some instances however currently, the level of overplay across the week is actually higher than the unmet demand at peak time. This is because there are pitches that are not currently overplayed which have capacity at peak time.



- 11.113 Theoretically, however, overplay at one site should be alleviated by relocation of this play to another site that is not currently overplayed. This would then, in all likelihood, eliminate the spare capacity that is identified at peak time.
- 11.114 It is therefore necessary to consider both figures when interpreting the data;
- Figures across the week represent the current position (spare capacity or overplay) that is currently evident taking into account all play, regardless of when it occurs. Where overplay across the week exceeds unmet demand at peak time, this is arising because pitches are used in multiple time slots and there is insufficient capacity for this. Whilst it is recognised that this has a knock on effect... i.e. addressing the overplay in the week by moving play to sites that currently have spare capacity means that they will no longer have any capacity at peak time, it is the ability of the pitches to meet the usage during the week that will need to be addressed first – they knock on to the peak time issues.
 - Figures outlining the spare capacity at peak time represent the number of MES spare capacity / MES that are currently unmet at peak time... this takes into account the pitches that have capacity at peak time. Where pitches are overplayed in the week, they are deemed to offer no spare capacity. Where overplay across the week is higher than peak time spare capacity, it should be assumed that in the current position, there is no spare capacity, as games will need to be relocated from overplayed pitches outside of peak time.
- 11.115 Due to the complexity of the picture, following analysis of the overall position by type of pitch and spatial distribution, a table is provided which brings together all of the analysis and summarises the key issue / capacity position in each part of the Borough.
- 11.116 Training has not been included within the baseline scenarios as it does not necessarily take place throughout the year. Training however places significant additional pressures on the pitch stock, as it increases the number of matches that must be sustained. This means that the quality of pitches is important if the existing patterns of Saturday morning training are to continue. Accommodating training is one of the key challenges faced in the Borough – if pitches are not adequately maintained, the level of training that they are subjected to will mean that match play cannot be accommodated.

Adequacy of Provision by Pitch Type



11.117 It should be noted that there are some sites where there is no dedicated provision for younger teams (5v5, 7v7, 9v9) and pitches are therefore overmarked on bigger pitches. This impacts on the level of use and the capacity of the larger pitches and will be returned to in site specific analysis later in this section.

Adult Football Pitches (11 v 11)

11.118 Table 11.9 summarises the usage at full size grass football pitches and the adequacy of provision.



Table 11.9: Full Sized Football Pitches

Site Name	Sub Area	Rating	Number of Pitches	Total Community Use (MES)	Total Capacity of Pitch	Adequacy of Provision (Club and School Use)	Total Capacity also including training	Final Peak Time
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy / Barnard Bridge Sports Ground	Great Yarmouth	Standard to Poor	1	0	2	1	-0.5	1
Beaconsfield Rec ground	Great Yarmouth	Poor (to low standard)	2	1	2	1	1	1
Caister Academy	Northern Parishes	Standard	1	0	2	1	1	1
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	Standard	1	0	2	1	1	1
Cobholm Recreation Ground	Great Yarmouth	Standard	1	0	2	2	2	1
Gorleston FC - Emerald Park	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	Low standard	1	2	2	0	-0.25	0
Gorleston Playing Fields (Gorleston Recreation Ground)	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	Poor	1	1.5	1	-0.5	-0.5	0
Green Lane Playing field/Bradwell PF	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	Low standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	-0.5	0.5
Hemsby Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	Low standard to poor (2 poor, one low standard)	3	2	6	4	2	2
King George V Playing Field Caister	Northern Parishes	Low standard to poor	2	4	4	0	-3.5	0
Lynn Grove academy	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	-0.5	0
Martham Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	Standard	1	3	4	1	1	0
Mill Lane Playing Fields	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	Poor to low standard	2	1	2	1	1	1

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New Road Sports field	Southern Parishes	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	-0.5
Southtown Common	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	low standard	1	3	2	-1	-4	0.5
Wellesley Recreation Ground	Great Yarmouth	Good	1	2	3	1	1	0

11.119 Table 11.9 therefore reveals that;

- There is some spare capacity on adult football pitches. Considering match play as well as curricular use), there is 11.5 MES spare capacity taking into account the 2 MES overplay that is evident at Gorleston Playing Fields, Southtown Common and Lynn Grove Academy
- The poor quality of Gorleston Playing Fields is directly responsible for the overplay at this site (there would be adequate capacity if the site was of standard quality), whilst high demand is responsible at the other two sites:
 - Lynn Grove Academy must accommodate curricular use as well as competitive activity. It should be noted however that there is some spare capacity on the 3G AGP at this site
 - At Southtown Common, the site is used in multiple time slots, as it is accommodating play on both a Saturday afternoon and a Sunday morning. The majority of demand at this site actually falls outside of peak time (Saturday afternoon)
- The above means that all of the overplay takes place in the Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell sub area. The majority of the spare capacity is located in Great Yarmouth and the Southern Parishes. Supply is also balanced with demand in the Southern Parishes.
- Spare capacity equates to 8.5 MES at peak time which is adequate. However on a Saturday afternoon, overplay equates to 0.5 MES meaning that overall there is 8 MES available.
- The remaining overplay takes place outside of peak time and could therefore be relocated without impacting on peak time availability.

11.120 Whilst across the Borough as a whole provision is adequate, in the Southern Parishes and Gorleston-on-Sea the amount of spare capacity across the week is the key issue – there is some spare capacity at peak time, and this is higher than the amount of capacity during the week. This means that the overplay on other pitches outside of peak time is exceeding the amount of spare capacity and this needs to be considered before peak time capacity is addressed.

- 11.121 Four of the adult pitches are located on which are considered to offer unsecured access. Together, these accommodate 3.5 MES community play. They offer 2 MES spare capacity (which would be lost if they were no longer available, and the community access would need to be relocated). The loss of these could pitches could therefore see spare capacity drop to as low as 6.5 MES (4.5 at peak time when also considering the need to relocate teams).
- 11.122 It should be noted that one of the sites considered unsecure is Emerald Park this will not be available next season (and use will be relocated), but from 2023 – 2024 season demand will be met at East Norfolk College AGP (not currently available). Spare capacity will therefore temporarily reduce, but the use of the AGP at East Norfolk College by 2023 will mean that provision is returned to current figures.
- 11.123 There is less impact of training on adult football pitches than other pitch sizes, potentially because fewer of the adult teams commit to regular training. Training does however take place at Emerald Park, Green Lane, Southtown Common and at King George V Caister. When the level of activity is taken into account, provision across the week becomes insufficient (-0.25 MES) and there is insufficient capacity at peak time as the pitches are already used to maximum capacity. If unsecured pitches were also excluded, supply would be significantly below demand.

Role of AGPs in Meeting Demand for Adult Football

- 11.124 Nationally, AGPs are often used to accommodate younger teams, as several fixtures can be held on the pitch at any one time and matches can be accommodated flexibly. With kick off times typically less flexible for adult games, along with the pitch size required means that one adult match uses the whole pitch, AGPs do not increase the amount of capacity that is available as much for adult play.
- 11.125 There is no regular match play use on a Saturday afternoon of most of the 3G pitches, with Flegg High School the only pitch to be used (and this is a very recent arrangement). As adult football is the only form of football with a peak time on a Saturday, there is opportunity for them to meet match play requirements (2 MES).

Youth Football

- 11.126 In reality, some sites are used by both adult teams and youth teams and there is little difference in terms of the size of pitches. Many sites are marked weekly according to the teams that use them.



- 11.127 Across the Borough as a whole, when taking into account all activity, overplay equates to 1.25 MES across the week. Overall therefore, the Boroughwide position is that the supply of youth pitches is insufficient to meet demand. The adequacy of provision is significantly impacted by the quality of facilities, with a third of the pitches being rated as poor.
- 11.128 Given that the Boroughwide position is one of overplay, this needs to be addressed before there is considered to be spare capacity at peak time. When looking at the sites on an individual basis however, both Filby Playing Field and Ormesby Playing Field do have capacity at peak time to accommodate more play (it is just that really, play should be relocated at other times to address the overplay issues and this would eliminate the spare capacity at these sites).
- 11.129 New Road Sports Field is the only site where the number of fixtures at peak time cannot be accommodated (if capacity across the week was addressed).
- 11.130 It should also be noted that a significant amount of the overplay identified arises from the use of the pitch at Hopton Playing Fields for multiple age groups (the pitch is overmarked, with several pitches all encroaching onto the main 11v11 pitch). Demand is therefore not all necessarily from youth teams at this site, but the pitch is significantly overplayed.
- 11.131 The use of youth pitches for training further exacerbates the issues identified. Overplay across the week increases to 10 MES when all current training activity is taken into account.

Role of AGPs

- 11.132 As documented in the adult football section, all 3G AGPs are able to sustain youth football in that they are on the 3G pitch register. There is already good use of the 3G pitch at Flegg High School (although scope to increase this) on a Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. There is however no regular match play at Lynn Grove Academy and there is therefore scope to use this facility to reduce overplay, particularly on a Sunday afternoon when there is lower demand from younger players.



Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

Table 11.10: Use of Youth Football Pitches

Site Name	Sub Area	Rating	Final Pitch Confirmation	Final Pitch Type	Total Community Use (MES)	Total Capacity of Pitch	Adequacy of Provision (Club and School Use)
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy / Barnard Bridge Sports Ground	Great Yarmouth	Standard to Poor	1	11v11youth	1.5	2	-0.5
Beaconsfield Rec ground	Great Yarmouth	Poor (to low standard)	1	11v11 youth	1	1	0
Corporation Pitches Magdalen Playing fields	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	Low standard to poor	2	11v11 youth	3.5	4	0.5
Hopton Playing Field	South	Poor	1	11v11 youth	3.25	1	-2.25
Mill Lane Playing Fields	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	Poor to low standard	2	11v11 youth	3.5	2	-1.5
New Road Sports field	South	standard	1	11v11 youth	3	2	-1



9 v 9 Pitches

11.134 Table 11.11 summarises the use of 9 v 9 football pitches. It reveals that there is overplay at Corporation Playing Fields and New Road Sports Fields and limited spare capacity on almost every other site. Martham Recreation Ground is the only site with capacity for 2 or more MES on a 9v9 pitch.

11.133 At peak time, there is spare capacity equivalent to 5.5 MES

11.134 It is clear therefore that there is a small amount of spare capacity, although this is fairly limited. Spare capacity is however primarily located in the Northern Parishes with a small amount in in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell. There is no spare capacity in Great Yarmouth and an overall deficiency both across the week and at peak time in the Southern Parishes.

11.135 As with other pitch types, the quality of several pitches is poor and this impacts upon capacity. There are poor pitches distributed across the Borough.

11.136 This therefore suggests that there are enough 9v9 pitches overall, but that there are some locational shortfalls.

11.137 Training on 9v9 pitches however has a significant impact. When training on grass pitches is taken into account, the level of provision becomes inadequate. Training is particularly a concern at Barnard Bridge, Hemsby, New Road and Corporation Fields. Relocating training from the grass will therefore need to be a key part of the strategy.

9v9 - Impact of Unsecured Pitches

11.138 Of the eight 9v9 pitches, four offer unsecured community access. These currently account for only 1 community MES per week but do offer much of the spare capacity that is evident.

11.139 Loss of the pitches that are unsecured would see spare capacity reduce to 4.5 MES across the week, with a need to accommodate the relocated MES (1.5), meaning that overall there would be just 3 MES available. This serves to highlight the importance of the school sites in terms of meeting potential demand.

Role of AGPS in Meeting Demand for 9v9 Football



- 11.140 As peak time for 9v9 football is the same as for many other forms of football (Sunday morning), this means that there is competition for access to AGPs for competitive fixtures. There is however currently relatively limited use for 9v9 play and spare capacity at Lynn Grove Academy.
- 11.141 As a 9v9 pitch, the new AGP at Wellesley Recreation Ground will provide an opportunity to increase capacity within the Great Yarmouth sub area (although needs for 9v9 football will need to be balanced with those for 7v7 / 5v5). The pitch at East Norfolk College will also be able to accommodate teams from 2023 – 2024.

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

Table 11.10: 9 v 9 Football Pitches

Site Name	Sub Area	Rating	Final Pitch Confirmation	Final Pitch Type	Total Community Use (MES)	Total Capacity of Pitch	Adequacy of Provision (Club and School Use)	Total Capacity also including training	Final Peak Time
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy / Barnard Bridge Sports Ground	Great Yarmouth	Standard to Poor	1	9v9	1	2	0	-1	0
Caister Academy	Northern Parishes	Standard	1	9v9	0	2	1	1	1
Caister Junior School	Northern Parishes	Low standard	1	9v9	0.5	2	0.5	0	0.5
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Standard	1	9v9	0	2	1	1	1
Corporation Pitches Magdalen Playing fields	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell		2	9v9	5.5	4	-1.5	-7	0
Filby playing Field	Northern Parishes	Standard	1	9v9	0.5	2	1.5	1	0.5
Hemsby Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	Poor	1	9v9	1	1	0	-1	0
Lynn Grove academy	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Standard	1	9v9	0	2	1	1	1
Martham Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	High Standard	1	9v9	0	2	2	2	1
Mill Lane Playing Fields	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	Poor	2	9v9	2	2	0	0	0
New Road Sports field	South	poor	1	9v9	1.5	1	-0.5	-2	-0.5



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Ormesby Playing Fields	Northern Parishes	low standard to poor	1	9v9	0.5	2	1.5	1	0.5
Southtown Common	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	low standard	1	9v9	0.5	2	1.5	1	0.5



7 v 7 Pitches

- 11.143 Table 11.11 summarises the use at 7 v 7 football pitches. It reveals that across the week there is significant spare capacity (49 MES) and no sites with any overplay.
- 11.142 At peak time, spare capacity is much lower, with spare capacity equating to just 6.5 MES. This takes into account unmet demand at Burgh Castle Village Hall at peak time. In reality however, the length of 7v7 fixtures means that these can easily be scheduled consecutively and therefore most sites are able to accommodate additional play, even where there are high numbers of teams.
- 11.143 It is clear therefore that supply is currently is adequate to meet demand and there is a small amount of spare capacity available to accommodate increased usage.
- 11.144 In contrast to other types of pitch, it is in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell where provision is most adequate, with capacity for 23 additional MES across the week. There is a small amount of spare capacity in each of the other areas, although there is no remaining capacity at peak time in the Southern Parishes.
- 11.145 Demand from training reduces the spare capacity that is available, but provision remains adequate overall. Training on grass pitches does not generate any surpluses for 7v7.

Impact of Unsecured Pitches

- 11.146 Caister Junior School offers unsecured access to a 7v7 pitch. This site accommodates 1 MES play at peak time. There would remain adequate capacity across the Borough as a whole if this site was no longer available, but spare capacity in the North of the Borough would be compromised, particularly at peak time (reduce to 1 MES).

Role of AGPs in Meeting Demand for 7v7 Football

- 11.147 There is no current 7v7 football regularly taking place on the AGPs . Scheduling of consecutive fixtures on AGPs would reduce the demand for 7v7 football on grass pitch. It is however necessary to take into account the requirements for other age groups - 7v7 teams play at the same peak time as most other age groups.

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

Table 11.11: Use at 7 v 7 Football Pitches

Site Name	Sub Area	Final Pitch Confirmation	Final Pitch Type	Total Community Use (MES)	Total Capacity of Pitch	Adequacy of Provision (Club and School Use)	Total Capacity also including training	Final Peak Time
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy / Barnard Bridge Sports Ground	Great Yarmouth	1	7v7	0.5	4	2.5	2	0.5
Beaconsfield Rec ground	Great Yarmouth	1	7v7	0.5	2	1.5	1	1
Burgh Castle Village hall Playing Field	South	2	7v7	2.5	8	5.5	3	-0.5
Caister Junior School	Northern Parishes	1	7v7	1	4	2	1	0
Corporation Pitches Magdalen Playing fields	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	2	7v7	2.5	8	5.5	3	0
Hemsby Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	1	7v7	0.5	2	1.5	1	1
Martham Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	2	7v7	1.5	8	6.5	5	0.5
Mill Lane Playing Fields	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	3	7v7	0.5	12	11.5	11	2.5
New Road Sports field	South	1	7v7	0.5	4	3.5	3	0.5
Ormesby Playing Fields	Northern Parishes	1	7v7	1	4	3	2	0
Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	1	7v7	0	4	3	3	1
Southtown Common	Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell	1	7v7	1	4	3	2	0



5 v 5 Pitches

11.149 Table 11.12 outlines the spare capacity that is available at 5 v 5 pitches. It reveals that like at 7v7 pitches, there is no overplay on 5v5 pitches across the week and a good amount of spare capacity (38.5 MES across the week). There are no sites exhibiting any overplay across the week.

11.148 The position at peak time is more constrained, with 5 MES spare capacity available. Several sites have no remaining spare capacity and there is unmet demand at Burgh Castle (0.5 MES) at peak time. As with 7v7 games however, the short duration of fixtures means that in reality, it is possible to play 5v5 fixtures consecutively if pitch capacity permits.

11.149 This suggests that capacity is adequate overall to meet demand at a borough wide level.

11.150 There are no 5v5 pitches at unsecured sites.

Role of AGPs

11.151 Again there is little existing use of AGPs and therefore scope to increase this to accommodate 5v5 football.

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Table 11.12: 5 v 5 Pitches

Site Name	Sub Area	Final Pitch Confirmation	Total Community Use (MES)	Total Capacity of Pitch	Adequacy of Provision (Club and School Use)	Total Capacity also including training	Final Peak Time
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy / Barnard Bridge Sports Ground	Great Yarmouth	1	0.5	4	2.5	2	0.5
Burgh Castle Village hall Playing Field	South	1	1.5	2	0.5	-1	-0.5
Corporation Pitches Magdalen Playing fields	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	2	2	8	6	4	0
Hemsby Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	1	0	4	4	4	1
King George V Playing Field Caister	Northern Parishes	1	0.5	4	3.5	2.5	0.5
Martham Recreation Ground	Northern Parishes	2	1	8	7	6	1
Mill Lane Playing Fields	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	1	0	2	2	2	1
New Road Sports field	South	1	0.5	4	3.5	3	0.5
Ormesby Playing Fields	Northern Parishes	2	1.5	8	6.5	5	0.5
Southtown Common	Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	1	1	4	3	2	0

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AGP Analysis

- 11.152 As outlined, AGPs are becoming increasingly important for football and the FA facility strategy seeks to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3g pitches and to increase the amount of match play that takes place on 3G pitches (rather than grass).
- 11.153 In particular, the FA cite the additional capacity that AGPs offer compared to grass and their ability to sustain play during periods of inclement weather, resulting in a reduced number of cancellations.
- 11.154 In order to establish the adequacy of the existing AGP infrastructure, demand can be classified into three areas;
- Matchplay (requires use of a 3g pitch that is included on the FA register) – this links with the requirement for grass pitches – as usage of 3g AGPs increases and they become increasingly important, the requirement for grass pitches can reduce
 - Informal / recreational use – pay and play or leagues; and
 - Training (The FA would like to see all clubs having access to a 3g pitch – they discourage the use of sand-based facilities).

Competitive Use

- 11.155 As noted, all 3G pitches that are publicly accessible are listed on the FA Pitch Register which requires regular testing and quality control. There is however limited use of these pitches for match play and significant scope to increase the role that they play in meeting demand.

Informal Use

- 11.156 Recreational football (including formal leagues and informal pay and play) is a key part of football participation, and one that playing pitch strategies do not currently quantify in the same way as match play. 3g pitch provision is however an important means of providing opportunities for recreational play. Indeed, the promotion of recreational football is seen as one of the key means of boosting participation in the sport in the coming years. Small sided football is identified in the National Game Strategy as one of The FA's key growth targets for adult football and the FA are increasingly interested in the use of MUGAs and small sided pitches, as well as full sided facilities to support the more informal game.

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11.157 Key local providers of recreational football opportunities include;

- Recreational Leagues at FDC Flegg High School run by Norfolk FA
- Recreational leagues at Lynn Grove run by Norfolk FA
- Leisure Leagues at Flegg FDC
- Soccer Sixes at Wellesley Recreation Ground.
- Man V Fat at Lynn Grove

11.158 In addition, use of the AGPs for other development initiatives, including Walking Football is also evident. There are now two walking football teams and interest continues to grow. This does not tend to impact on demand at peak time, but instead benefits the facilities in terms of sustainability and increased usage.

11.159 There are also two disabled football groups, again which do not impact upon peak time demand but widen the opportunities to participate in football for the local community.

Club Training

11.160 Analysis of club training patterns demonstrates that there is a lot of use of grass pitches for training, alongside the use of AGPs. This is facilitated by the fact that most clubs train on a Saturday morning, therefore removing the need for floodlighting even during the winter months.

11.161 That said, the quality of pitches and the impact of use means that clubs tend to use 3G pitches during a small window in the winter and then immediately transfer back to grass as soon as facilities allow.

11.162 For those clubs that are not currently using AGPs (or use them irregularly) cost was identified as the key barrier to use, as well as a lack of local facilities for some clubs in the more rural parts of the Borough.

Use of the existing AGPs

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11.163 The Sport England guidance indicates that the adequacy of AGPs is measured through;

- The amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 18:00 to 21:00; Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00
- The amount of play that takes place (measured in hours)
- Whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
- Any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.

11.164 Analysis of the use of the existing 3G AGPs demonstrates that;

- The existing 3G pitches are reasonably well used, although there is a small amount of spare capacity
- Flegg High and Lynn Grove Academy are functioning around 85% capacity, with the majority of availability at peak time falling in the 8-9pm slots. Slots between 6pm and 8pm are typically fully booked
- There is also use of Cliff Park Ormiston Academy for football, with again the key slots of 6pm – 8pm typically booked for football or hockey.
- There is more limited use of pitches at the weekend. Although some match play takes place, there is scope to increase this.

11.165 It is anticipated that East Norfolk College / Gorleston FC will be available for use by Gorleston FC for season 2022 - 2023. This will free up capacity at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy (sand based). The number of teams at this club means that the facility will almost entirely be taken by the needs of Gorleston FC and so there will be limited impact on any other club. There will then be limited remaining football use at Cliff Park. Community use of the East Norfolk College site is critical if the needs of Gorleston FC are to be addressed.

11.166 The new pitch at Wellesley Recreation Ground will also be ready for season 2022 – 2023. With Great Yarmouth FC being a partner club, this is likely to relocate their usage from Flegg High and will also offer further opportunity for other clubs in the Great Yarmouth area.

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11.167 It should also be noted that East Coast College in Great Yarmouth have expressed an interest in providing a further AGP, but this is at early stages of feasibility work.

11.168 Table 11.13 summarises the current usage of AGPs

Table 11.13 – Usage of AGPs

Schools with large AGP'S	Feedback on site capacity	Key Users
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	No capacity weekdays 6 – 8, capacity 8 – 9; inconsistent capacity Saturday mornings or fully booked (this appears to change on demand) Saturday 12 – 4 almost always has capacity; Unavailable on Sundays	Yarmouth HC; Hopton Harriers; Gorleston FC youth teams (will no longer access in coming season)
East Norfolk 6 th Form College	Not available for community use	N/a
Flegg High Ormiston Academy	Estimated 85% capacity once football season begins – 64 'peak hours' available a week so roughly 54 hours played 10 hours free	Martham FC; Hemsby FC; Caister FC; Great Yarmouth Town FC; Shrublands; Gorleston FC
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy	Not available for community use	N/a
Lynn Grove Academy	Operating at 85% - full capacity NCCS Foundation – all Friday evenings; Man Vs Fat – 10am – 12pm Saturdays; Shrublands train 2 hr Per week; Bohemians train 3 hr per week	Bohemians FC; Shrublands FC; Norwich City Community Sports Foundation Man VS Fat

FA Data Modelling

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- 11.169 Reflecting the increasing importance to football of 3G pitches, the FA has devised a theoretical model to evaluate the demand for 3G AGPs in given area. The results of this modelling can then be compared against the analysis of real-life usage of the AGPs in the Borough.
- 11.170 The modelling evaluates the baseline requirement for 3g pitches taking into account the training requirements of clubs. It assumes that one 3g pitch is required per 38 teams and that based on FA policy, all football training should take place on 3g pitches (as opposed to sand).
- 11.171 Using a baseline of 165 community teams in Great Yarmouth this would mean that there is a theoretical requirement for 4.4 full size AGPs.
- 11.172 With three full size pitches (Lynn Grove, Flegg High School, East Norfolk College) FA data modelling therefore suggests that there is a need for an additional 3G AGP. The new 3G pitch at Wellesley Recreation Ground will largely meet this need, although it is a small sized 9v9 pitch rather than a full size pitch.
- 11.173 This suggests that in the long term, and as participation increases, there will be a requirement for an additional 3G AGP. A review of the potential demand however suggests that there are relatively few clubs remaining that will not have access to a local 3G pitch that wish to use 3G pitches and therefore careful planning would be needed prior to any further pitches being created.
- 11.174 Location wise, facilities are well distributed, and most clubs are able to access a facility. Modelling by sub area (Table 11.14) would suggest that the key gap is in the South of the Borough, but in this area settlements are well dispersed. Opportunities for new provision across the Borough should therefore be kept under view.

Table 12.14 – Spatial Demand for AGPs

Sub Area	Number of Teams	AGP Demand	Current Provision (Accessible Pitches)
Great Yarmouth	15	0.4	None – Wellesley to be provided
Gorleston- on-Sea and Bradwell	72	1.9	Lynn Grove / East Norfolk
Northern Parishes	35	0.9	Flegg High School
Southern Parishes	32	0.8	N/a

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11.175 The Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) also identified a need for 5 full sized AGPs. Since this, two of the facilities have been provided, and Wellesley Recreation Ground will also shortly be delivered.

Overall Spatial Picture

11.176 Overall, analysis has therefore demonstrated that overall, across the borough as a whole, in general the stock of facilities is just adequate. Although there are enough adult football pitches overall, there is overplay evident on youth pitches and limited spare capacity on 9v9 pitches. There is good availability of smaller sized pitches in general.

11.177 There are also particular concerns about the quality of the pitch stock, particularly for adult and junior football pitches where the associated poor capacity is limiting the ability of the pitches to accommodate the level of demand that is evident. There is funding available from the FA / FF to support pitch improvements, and many of the sites have now received this and the impact is starting to be seen. Ongoing pitch improvements will be a key route to increasing capacity in the Borough, alongside maximising the use of the 3G pitches.

11.178 Alongside qualitative improvements and improving the capacity of existing pitches, there are opportunities to make better use of the school sites. Several of the secondary schools are open for community use but do not currently have regular users of the grass pitches. The grass pitches at Flegg High School are not open for community use due to their poor condition. If these pitches were to be improved, alongside the presence of the 3G AGP at this site, this would create a nice football hub. There is also a need to secure access to school sites in order to ensure that access is guaranteed long term. Calculations demonstrate that the loss of these facilities would increase pressures on the pitch stock which is already only just adequate.

11.179 It is clear that many of the capacity issues arise as a result of the high demand from large clubs and this will be considered further later in this section. While there may be adequate pitches as a whole, in some instances additional capacity is required to ensure that the activities of the club are not inhibited.

11.180 The adequacy of supply and demand is not however even across the Borough.

11.181 Table 11.15 therefore provides a summary of the adequacy of provision across the Borough for each type of pitch and by geographic area. The text that follows then explores the key issues in each sub area.

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Table 11.15 – Summary Position

Sub Area	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9		7v7		5v5	
	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)
Total	11.5	8	-1.25	-0.5	8	4	49	6.5	25.5	3.5
Great Yarmouth	5	3	0	0	0	0	4	1.5	2.5	0.5
Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	0.5	2.5	-1	0	2	2.5	23	3.5	11	1
Northern Parishes	5	3	3	1	6.5	3.5	13	1.5	21	3
Southern Parishes	0	-0.5	-3.25	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	9	0	4	0
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, spare capacity across the Borough and with capacity available at peak time Overplay at Gorleston Playing Fields, Lynn Grove Academy and Southtown Common Overall, spare capacity is more constrained at peak time 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision inadequate both across the week and at peak time Overplay at Hopton Playing Fields, Mill Lane and New Road Overplay evident in Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell and Southern Parishes. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity limited both across the week and at peak time Overplay at New Road Sports Field and Corporation Playing Fields No spare capacity in Southern Parishes and pressures on the pitch stock at peak time in Gorleston 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited spare capacity across the week, Available capacity in all areas of the Borough, but except Southern Parishes at peak time Limited spare capacity at peak time (although potential for consecutive fixtures) No overplay on any site but some pitches have 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good level of capacity across the week Limited spare capacity at peak time (although potential for consecutive fixtures) Burgh Village Hall is the only site with unmet demand at peak time Provision at peak time limited in all areas except Northern 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spare capacity primarily located in Great Yarmouth and North sub areas • Limited provision in Southern Parishes and a lack of capacity at peak time. • In Gorleston, provision across the week is of greater concern than at peak time.. There is some spare capacity at peak time but in reality, this is not usable, as pitches are overplayed across the week due to the number of games played, which is greater than their capacity. If overall capacity across the week could be addressed, peak time demand would be met • Weekly capacity is limited by pitch quality • Scope to use pitches at Caister Academy, Ormiston Academy, Cobholm Recreation Ground as these are not currently used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch capacity across the week needs to be addressed 		<p>no remaining spare capacity at peak time</p>	<p>Parishes, which is where greatest amount of spare capacity occurs.</p>
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11.182 The next section evaluates the key issues by sub area.

Great Yarmouth

11.183 Provision in Great Yarmouth is closely balanced with demand. Whilst there is a good level of capacity for adult football (3 MES spare capacity at peak time), there is no spare capacity for youth or 9v9 football and limited spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5.

11.184 The area is served by three key sites;

- Barnards Bridge Recreation Ground
- Beaconsfield Recreation Ground
- Wellesley Recreation Ground.

11.185 All three sites host key clubs, but there is no overplay at any of the existing venues when considering just competitive / curricular use. Once training is taken into account however, pitch provision is inadequate at Barnards Bridge and there is also no remaining spare capacity at Beaconsfield Recreation Ground. This suggests that relocating regular training to AGPs is particularly important in this part of the Borough.

11.186 There is a current lack of AGPs available to the community in Great Yarmouth, however this is shortly to be addressed by the new 3G AGP at Wellesley Recreation Ground. This will enable training use to be relocated from Barnards Bridge, but will also add capacity for match play, particularly 9v9 where there is no remaining spare capacity. The new AGP will therefore address many of the issues in this part of the Borough.

11.187 There will however remain pressures on facilities for youth football. The spare capacity in the adult pitch stock should however provide some flexibility for conversion of adult football pitches to youth pitches if demand grows.

11.188 Whilst pitch provision is therefore just adequate, the greatest variation in quality is however found in Great Yarmouth, with the pitch at Wellesley Recreation Ground rated as good, whilst facilities at Beaconsfield Recreation Ground are poor, and Barnard Bridge Sports Ground achieving only a low standard rating. This means that site capacity is reduced, as poor quality pitches are able to sustain fewer games than other pitches.

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- 11.189 Capacity at Beaconsfield Recreation Ground is particularly restricted. The site is currently accommodating a female club as well as other activity and improvements to this site would ensure that this club continue to have adequate facilities, but also enable the pitches to be used at other times. This will also improve the capacity for youth football, which is currently very limited.
- 11.190 It is clear therefore that in Great Yarmouth overall, there is a small number of senior pitches with potential for improvement and potential to convert them to pitches of other size. The proposed new 3G AGP will significantly improve the position for 9v9 football and overall therefore provision will just be adequate. Qualitative improvements are however required, and with limited spare capacity, significant growth would place further pressures on the playing field infrastructure.

Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell

- 11.191 The supply/ demand balance in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell is more constrained than in other parts of the Borough. There is inadequate capacity for youth football and little spare capacity for 9v9 and 11v11 senior football.
- 11.192 Although there is a good level of spare capacity across the week for 7v7 and 5v5 football, again this is constrained at peak time, with just 1 MES available on 5v5 pitches.
- 11.193 Despite the pressures on the pitch stock, it is this area that contains the highest number of pitches. Demand is also higher than in other parts of the Borough however and there are particular challenges in providing appropriate facilities due to the presence of several very large key clubs.
- 11.194 The grass pitch stock is supported by one 3G AGP at Lynn Grove Academy and a second is now on site (at East Norfolk College) but this is not yet available to the community. There is limited match play on the 3G pitch at Lynn Grove Academy and scope to increase this. The lack of match play on the AGP means that it is not playing its role in reducing demand on the grass pitches. Community use of the pitch at East Norfolk College will be essential if club needs in this area are to be addressed.
- 11.195 Almost all of the grass pitches are heavily used in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell, with only Cliff Park Ormiston Academy not hosting any community activity this season, potentially due to the challenges of covid 19.

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- 11.196 The picture for adult football in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell is particularly complex, with just 0.5 MES available across the week. This is impacted by overplay at Gorleston Playing Fields, Lynn Grove Academy and Southtown Common (the pitch at Gorleston Playing Fields is overplayed as a direct result of its quality). This means that pitches are used in multiple timeslots over the week and that this results in overplay. Although analysis suggests that there is 2.5 MES available at peak time (on sites that have spare capacity across the week), the issues across the week mean that in reality, if fixtures were moved to other venues during the week (outside of peak time) to avoid overplay, then only 0.5 MES of this spare capacity would actually be available at peak time. It demonstrates however that if capacity improvements were made to the pitch stock, there are actually just enough pitches to meet the demand at peak time (although almost no spare capacity would be evident). This means that for adult football, maximising the capacity of pitches to sustain more than one game per week is key to ensuring that the pitch stock is adequate. At Corporation Playing Fields, capacity is just sufficient to sustain the required level of play, but again there is no remaining spare capacity at peak time. Capacity is however closely balanced with demand, meaning that any growth in the number of adult football teams is likely to see a requirement for new provision.
- 11.197 There are only two dedicated youth pitches in Gorleston-on-Sea and again, these pitches are heavily used. The pitches at Mill Lane are significantly impacted by capacity, with a poor rating reducing the number of games that could be sustained by a half. As a consequence, these pitches are overplayed (1.5 MES) and there is no remaining spare capacity on the pitch at peak time. There is a very small amount of spare capacity at Corporation Playing Fields (0.5 MES) during the week, but this site also has no spare capacity at peak time.
- 11.198 In a similar position to adult football, the lack of capacity for youth football across the week means that this needs to be addressed first. Improving the quality of Mill Lane Playing Fields would enable the site to accommodate the required level of play and sustain fixtures in multiple timeslots. Even following these improvements, there would however remain no spare capacity in the week and therefore no scope for growth in youth football.
- 11.199 For 9v9 football, supply is again tightly balanced with demand. Whilst just Corporation Playing Fields is overplayed (1.5 MES) there is limited remaining spare capacity at other venues (3.5 MES in total), generating an overall position of 2 MES. This leaves little scope for growth.
- 11.200 Most of the pitches with availability across the week do have scope to accommodate this activity at peak time. Again however it is across the week that the position at Corporation

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Playing Fields needs to be addressed. There is scope to accommodate the demand at peak time at this site (with no spare capacity), but the amount of play that also takes place on the pitch outside of peak time means that there is overplay. With the pitch rated as low standard, there is concern of deterioration but also limited scope for improvement to increase the site to a good quality. This means that the position for 9v9 football in Gorleston-on-Sea with Bradwell will remain tight.

- 11.201 For all of the above forms of football, it is therefore clear that in Gorleston-on-Sea, play takes place across the weekend and that the ability to accommodate demand in multiple timeslots is critical. Whilst demand is high at peak time, the flexibility that the league offers in terms of staggered kick off times means that pitches can be used multiple times. This places emphasis on the quality of provision.
- 11.202 For smaller sided pitches, the stock of facilities in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell is better balanced with demand, although peak time demand is more constrained. Of the four sites containing 7v7 facilities, three are currently used by the community (scope for use of Ormiston Cliff Park Primary School). While there is opportunity for increased activity across the week on all pitches, figures disguise the fact that there is no remaining capacity on either Southtown Common or Corporation Playing Fields at peak time.
- 11.203 It is clear therefore that within the Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell area, there is very little spare capacity, particularly for youth, adult and 9v9 football and there are capacity issues that need addressing. These issues are focused primarily on the challenges of accommodating the large clubs, specifically;
- Gorleston Rangers (Corporation Playing Fields)
 - Gorleston FC (Emerald Park / Green Lane / Mill Lane / Gorleston Recreation Ground)
 - Shrublands FC (Southtown Common).
- 11.204 It is essential that there are enough pitches to accommodate peak time demand (and there is currently very limited spare capacity) but at the same time, that quality is sufficient to host more than one game per week, which is required to meet the existing levels of activity.
- 11.205 As it currently stands, capacity across the week is as great, if not a greater, issue than at peak time.
- 11.206 Community use of the new 3G AGP at East Norfolk College will make significant inroads in the provision of additional capacity in this area. Whilst it will address many of the issues for

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Gorleston FC, the size of this club means that there will be no (or very limited at best) scope for usage outside of teams belonging to Gorleston FC and challenges for Shrublands FC and Gorleston Rangers will remain.

- 11.207 Whilst some match play will be relocated to the 3G pitch for Gorleston FC, it is unlikely that this will impact significantly on the availability of 9v9 and youth pitches, as it is likely that 7v7 and 5v5 activity will be the primary use of the site (outside of the formal adult games). The issues with youth / 9v9 football will therefore still remain to an extent.
- 11.208 It is clear therefore that in this area overall, there is limited spare capacity. The proposed new 3G AGP will significantly improve the position for Gorleston FC (and reduce usage across a variety of sites) however challenges will remain at Corporation Fields and Southtown Common. Qualitative improvements will be essential in maximising the existing capacity; however, significant growth would place further pressures on the playing field infrastructure.
- 11.209 Increasing the use of the 3G pitch at Lynn Grove Academy for match play represents an important solution to the capacity pressures.
- 11.210 The picture is exacerbated even further when taking into account training, which creates overplay at several sites. Transfer of training onto 3G pitches will therefore be essential if pitch quality is to be maintained. Currently, training is exacerbating the pressures on pitches and causing compaction, which is in turn leading to further quality deterioration.
- 11.211 Increasing the use of the 3G pitch at Lynn Grove Academy for match play represents an important solution to the capacity pressures.
- 11.212 It is clear therefore that in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell overall, there are some existing capacity pressures. The proposed new 3G AGP will significantly improve this position, but there remain challenges accommodating Shrublands and Gorleston Rangers Football Clubs in particular. Qualitative improvements are required to maximise the number of games that can be sustained and there may be a requirement for additional capacity given the lack of available pitch provision at peak time (although these pressures could be reduced by better use of the AGP). Growth would place further pressures on the playing field infrastructure.

Northern Parishes.

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- 11.213 As in other areas, there is good spread of provision in the Northern Parishes. Again pressures are greater on the larger pitches, with limited spare capacity for adult football and youth football. There are however no overall shortfalls within the Northern Parishes.
- 11.214 Caister Academy is the only site that is underutilised in the area – there are no registered community clubs currently using this facility and therefore scope to increase activity on this site.
- 11.215 Reflecting the overall borough-wide picture, the supply of 11v11 senior pitches is adequate to meet demand (5 MES across the week, 3 at peak time) and indeed the Northern area contains a good proportion of the overall Boroughwide spare capacity. The majority of spare capacity is located at Hemsby Recreation Ground, which is a relatively large site for the demand evident.
- 11.216 Three of the four sites in the Northern Parishes have capacity across the week, but there is no remaining spare capacity at Caister King George Fields (across the week or at peak time). There is also no spare capacity at peak time at Martham Recreation Ground.
- 11.217 There are just two youth 11v11 pitches, at Filby and Ormesby Playing Fields, but again, both have spare across the week (3 MES total) and at peak time (0.5 MES each). The lack of youth pitches at other suggests that the 11v11 senior pitches are important for accommodating youth football for clubs based at these sites.
- 11.218 There is a good supply of 9v9 pitches in the Northern Parishes, with some spare capacity both across the week, but also importantly at peak time (4.5 MES total). There is no overplay on 9v9 pitches and every site has at least 0.5 MES remaining at peak time. This suggests that there is a good level of provision to meet current demand.
- 11.219 As with other areas, capacity for 7v7 and 5v5 is adequate in the Northern Parishes across the week but is more restricted at peak time. For 7v7 football, there is no remaining spare capacity at peak time at Ormesby Playing Fields and Caister Junior School (although consecutive fixtures could be played) and there is also limited spare capacity for 5v5 in both Ormesby and Caister.
- 11.220 Overall therefore, capacity in the Northern Parishes better meets demand than in other parts of the Borough, with little overplay and an ability for increase the use of most pitches when taking into account competitive activity. Spare capacity is however more closely matched with demand at the club bases in Caister (although pitches at Caister Academy are unused).

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- 11.221 Whilst most pitches in this part of the Borough achieve ratings of standard, almost all of these are low standard ratings and could easily become poor without much further deterioration of quality. Hemsby Recreation Ground is already rated as poor, which significantly impacts upon capacity. Retention and improvement of existing pitch quality will therefore be key in this part of the Borough.
- 11.222 The above grass playing fields are supported by the 3G AGP at Flegg High School. There is some use of the pitch for match play on both a Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon, and more recently, a match is allocated on a Saturday afternoon. There is scope to increase this to address capacity issues on grass playing fields. The pitch is primarily used by Martham FC and the role that this site is playing in reducing demand (and consequently overplay) at Martham is clear.
- 11.223 Whilst the above suggests that capacity for match play is largely adequate in the Northern parts of the Borough, the addition of training on grass pitches reveals several concerns - it creates overplay in both Caister and Hemsby Recreation Ground. The extra wear and tear generated by the use of the facilities for training is also responsible for many of the quality issues identified, with compaction a significant recurring issue. This means that the quality of pitches becomes even more important, as well as reducing the amount of training that takes place on grass.

Southern Parishes

- 11.224 There are only three formal playing fields situated in the Southern Parishes – New Road Sports field (Belton), Hopton Playing Fields and Burgh Castle Village Hall Playing Field. Burgh Castle Playing Field accommodates overspill from Gorleston FC, whilst Hopton and New Road Sports Field accommodate key clubs.
- 11.225 There are greater pressures on the pitch stock in this area than some other parts of the Borough, with both Hopton Playing Fields and New Road Sports Field demonstrating overplay. Indeed much of the overplay identified across the Borough as a whole is located in the Southern Parishes. To an extent this is reflective of high levels of demand on small sites, but it is also caused by pitch quality, which restricts the amount of games that can be sustained. Hopton Playing Fields are in poor condition and there are also poor pitches at New Road Sports Field.
- 11.226 New Road Sports Field is the only site to contain senior adult pitches. While the pitch is adequate in terms of capacity across the week, it does not meet demand at peak time, with

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0.5 MES overplay, suggesting a requirement for further senior play in this part of the Borough.

- 11.227 Similarly both youth pitches also demonstrate overplay (3.25 MES) . There is inadequate capacity both across the week and at peak time (even if capacity was adequate across the week) for play. This equates to 0.5 MES at each site. Whilst at New Road Sports Field this demand is generated by youth teams, at Hopton Playing Fields it arises as a result of the overmarking that takes places, with all pitches encroaching onto the main pitch and therefore significantly impacting upon the site's ability to accommodate peak time demand. The demand generated by younger age groups is therefore taken into account on the main pitch and results in heavy overplay.
- 11.228 New Road Sports Field is the only site to contain a 9v9 pitch. Again this is a poor pitch, and it is therefore unable to sustain the number of games that it needs to both across the week and at peak time. There are more teams needing to use the pitch than can be accommodated easily at peak time (0.5 additional capacity required at peak time).
- 11.229 Whilst across the Borough as a whole, there are adequate 7v7 and 5v5 pitches, in the Southern Parishes capacity is restricted. There is more than enough capacity across the week to sustain the number of games required (9 MES spare capacity for 7v7 and 4 MES on 5v5 pitches), but as demand is all at peak time, games must be played consecutively and there are not enough pitches without this. There is unmet demand of 1 MES at Burgh Castle at peak times.
- 11.230 It is clear therefore that there are both capacity and quality pressures in the Southern Parishes that need to be addressed. To an extent, the quality issues cause the capacity pressures, but even following qualitative improvements, the pressures at peak time suggest that additional capacity is required.
- 11.231 As in other areas, training exacerbates these pressures even further, causing more capacity issues. The wear and tear on the pitches causes compaction, which then has a knock on effect for quality of pitches for match play.

Site Specific Issues

- 11.232 Analysis in the preceding section therefore suggests that there is just enough capacity across the Borough, but that supply is tightly matched with demand for adult, youth and 9v9 pitches, with limited spare capacity. This picture varies in different parts of the Borough, with

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provision much more closely matched with demand in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell and the Southern Parishes than in the other two areas.

- 11.233 It is clear that issues arise both as a result of the number of games that pitches must sustain per week (and the limitations on this that arise from the poor quality of many pitches), but also the high demand at peak time. In some areas (and across the whole borough in relation to youth pitches), although some pitches do have capacity at peak time, this is outweighed by an overall shortfall of capacity across the week. Where this is the case, addressing this is priority.
- 11.234 Much of the current playing field stock is poor / approaching poor and the quality is one of the key issues across the pitch stock as a whole. There are numerous poor quality pitches and several more pitches that are of a low standard quality and therefore require improvement to prevent further deterioration. Increasing the quality of pitches would improve player experience but would also significantly increase the capacity of the existing facility stock.
- 11.235 There are few sites that are not used by the community and therefore little scope to increase capacity without either qualitative improvements, improved use / new 3G AGPs or new grass playing field provision.
- 11.236 Tailored maintenance programmes, supplemented by capital investment programmes where issues cannot be addressed by improved maintenance alone will be critical in ensuring that the facility stock is able to meet the needs of clubs. Many of the clubs have already benefitted from some investment to improve the maintenance of facilities, and consultation highlighted the benefits that this has brought.
- 11.237 It is clear however that the requirements of several clubs are not fully met, with shortages in pitch provision, poor quality facilities and lack of spare capacity.
- 11.238 The adequacy of provision for each of the key clubs is therefore explored below briefly in Table 11.16. Evaluation of the impact of declining quality is also considered where relevant.

Table 11.16: Club Specific Adequacy of Provision

Club	Main Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Comments / Key Priorities
AC Mill Lane FC	Lynn Grove Academy / Mill Lane	Some overplay evident. Scope to increase use of 3G	Pitch quality reasonable, long term security of tenure is essential.	Security of tenure Increased use of 3G

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Club	Main Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Comments / Key Priorities
Belton F.C. / Bohemians FC	New Road Sports field	Overplay on 9v9 and youth pitches. No remaining spare capacity on adult pitches. Capacity pressures exacerbated further by training. Very limited spare capacity at peak time, particularly on larger pitches	Pitch quality limited – compaction, undulating, thatch and weeds. 9v9 pitch rated as poor and this directly impacts capacity. Club concern about overuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved capacity Pitch quality (surface) maintenance
Caister F.C.	King George V Playing Field / Caister Junior School. Training on site.	No remaining spare capacity on 11v11 pitch, small amount of capacity for 5v5. Small amount of capacity on 9v9 and 7v7 but training creates significant overplay at King Georges Field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitches showing clear signs of heavy usage. Compaction, muddy etc. Pitches would benefit from improved maintenance Floodlighting and stand required if first team were to achieve promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club concern about access to 3G pitch / impact of training on pitches – capacity issues Ongoing qualitative improvements
Gorleston F.C.	Emerald Park / Mill Lane / Green Lane / Burgh Castle /	Club spread across multiple sites. Overplay at Mill Lane on youth pitches, Emerald Park played to capacity. 5v5 pitch at Burgh Castle also overplayed	Pitches used are low standard to poor (Burgh Castle compacted and thatching, Mill Lane has similar concerns). Pitches would benefit from improved maintenance / investment into quality. Capacity of Mill Lane in particular impacted by poor quality pitches. Emerald Park not available next season, ongoing concerns about access to new pitch. New pitch will replace facilities at Emerald Park and will also help to reduce pressures at other sites, access to grass pitches likely to still be required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to new 3G AGP at East Norfolk College Qualitative improvements to other facilities
Gorleston Rangers FC	Corporation Fields / Magdalen Playing Fields	Significant overplay evident (youth and 9v9). Small amount of	Pitch quality approaching poor – requires improvement if capacity not impacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative improvements, including maintenance

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Club	Main Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Comments / Key Priorities
		spare capacity on 5v5 and 9v9. Training exacerbates position further	further. Compaction, weeds, drainage. Limited quality of changing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of changing rooms Capacity issues addressed (particularly training)
Great Yarmouth Town F.C.	Wellesley Ground / Barnard Bridge	Wellesley Recreation Ground at capacity at peak time. Barnard Bridge almost no spare capacity at peak time (at capacity for 9v9). Training creates overplay.	Wellesley Recreation Ground good, changing requires improvement. Barnard Bridge site would benefit from improvements – quality standard to poor – deterioration would see capacity reduced. Funding received for maintenance improvements and works ongoing. New 3G pitch at Wellesley will alleviate issues with overplay as it will accommodate training. 3G 9v9 pitch will also reduce overplay at 9v9 level and increase capacity for younger teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> investment into changing facilities at Wellesley Recreation Ground New 3G AGP will support junior activity Ongoing improvements at Barnard Bridge First team highlight lack of access to 3G AGP for training (full size) as concern)
Hemsby F.C.	Hemsby Recreation Ground	Large site with only 9v9 overplayed, small amount of spare capacity.	Capacity impacted by poor quality pitches - thatching, skids, compaction weeds. Requires improvement. Club highlight maintenance procedures as being inadequate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch quality improvement
Hopton Harriers F.C.	Hopton Playing Field	Small site with extensive overmarking. Small sized pitches encroach onto senior pitch. Significant overplay.	Poor quality impacts on capacity. Training further exacerbates deficiencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch quality Increased capacity for club – potential requirement for additional site
Martham F.C.	Martham Recreation Ground / Flegg 3G	Capacity across the week although more limited at peak time. No	Pitch quality improving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance of quality Capacity pressures at peak time

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Club	Main Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Comments / Key Priorities
		remaining spare capacity on 9v9.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing facilities limited
Ormesby Lads F.C.	Ormesby Playing Fields	0.5 spare capacity on all pitches at peak time except 7v7 (no remaining capacity).	Club raise concerns about capacity (peak time) Quality requires investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch quality Access to AGP
Yarmouth FC Ladies	Beaconsfield Recreation Ground.	No remaining spare capacity on youth pitch, only 1 MES on adult pitch.	Poor quality significantly impacts capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch quality improvements
Shrublands FC	Southtown Common	Pitches have capacity, except for senior pitch. Capacity is however very limited at peak time due to use by large club (9v9 is only pitch with any capacity).	Quality is limited on site – weeds, mud and compaction. Requires improvement. Changing facilities currently being rebuilt following fire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch quality improvements Additional capacity Improved changing accommodation

11.239 The above therefore suggests that there are some site-specific capacity issues to be addressed but that there are also key concerns about the quality of facilities that require immediate improvement. The quality of pitches is impacting the capacity of pitches for match play but is also further compromised by the training activity on some sites.

11.240 There are some clubs seeking additional capacity, with facilities for Hopton Harriers in particular being poor and Gorleston Rangers, Shrublands, Bohemians and Caister FC all experiencing capacity issues to a greater or lesser degree. For each of these clubs, a lack of off site training facilities exacerbates the situation.

11.241 Modelling earlier in the section suggested that there is opportunity to increase club match play activity on 3G AGPs, which may help to reduce capacity pressures at some sites, and this is highlighted as a key solution in the sub area specific sections. On a site specific note, the creation of the new pitch in Great Yarmouth (Wellesley Recreation Ground) will address the capacity issues experienced by Great Yarmouth FC, whilst the new pitch at Gorleston FC will also address capacity issues at this club, although access to grass pitches will continue to be required given the size of the club and the number of fixtures that need to be sustained.

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11.242 Work is also underway to consider the conversion of Gorleston Recreation Ground into a football including a 3G AGP, grass pitches and a new pavilion. This would further improve pitch provision in the Gorleston-on-Sea sub area.

Future Demand

11.243 The future requirement for playing pitches (grass and AGP) will be impacted by several factors, including;

- Population growth or change to the demographic profile of the population
- Changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played
- Club specific development plans and aspirations and
- Amendments to the current facility stock.

11.244 Future demand may also be influenced by changes in the way the game is played, for example the increasing use of 3G pitches over grass.

11.245 The impact of changes to the population are considered below. Scenario testing will also be carried out in the strategy document to explore the potential impact that improvements / changes to the pitch stock could have.

Population Change

11.246 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are used to project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth up to 2039.

11.247 Table 11.17 summarises the current TGRs for football and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected population change on demand for football in Great Yarmouth. It takes into account the projected changes in population profile, as well as the increase in the number of residents and is based upon population data set out in Section 2.

Table 11.17: TGRs for Football in Great Yarmouth

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Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Additional Teams Generated by 2027	Additional Teams Generated by 2032	Additional Teams Generated by 2039
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	37	17116.828	433	1.2	0.8	1.9
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	6	16020.643	394	0.8	-0.1	0.8
Football Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	38	2361	62	-0.3	-0.5	-0.8
Football Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	8	2308	288	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2
Football 9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	24	1174	49	-0.8	-0.6	-1.0
Football 9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	6	1134	189	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2
7V7 (8 – 9 years)	27	2260	84	-0.3	-0.4	-0.8
5v5 (6 – 7 years)	18	2171	121	0.3	0.1	0.0

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- 11.248 It indicates that whilst there will be growth in adult football (up to 3 senior teams by 2039) while participation in the remainder of age groups is actually likely to increase.
- 11.249 This suggests that based upon changes to the population growth alone, the peak time for football, with the exception of adult football, is now.
- 11.250 Whilst population growth may see a small increase in adult football, it is likely that this will only help to offset the current decline that is evident in this form of the game and therefore it is unexpected that significant increases will be experienced. This means that without any changes to the pitch stock, the current position will remain by 2039.

Increasing Participation

- 11.251 Whilst population growth will have some impact on demand, as highlighted, the changing population profile to some extent will negate the increases in the number of people in the Borough.
- 11.252 It is clear however that changes to the way that football is played, and ongoing club development initiatives have potential to stimulate further demand and require additional capacity to meet this demand. Many of the football clubs demonstrate that they have significant aspirations for growth.
- 11.253 The current picture for football is however very uncertain, with the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on both short- and long-term participation in football unclear. In the first instance, reinvigorating and stabilising the football scene is key priority.
- 11.254 With regards participation, amongst numerous targets, The Norfolk FA seeks to;
- Sustain the number of registered male players
 - Grow the number of female players by 30%
 - Ensure that 75% of youth clubs have female teams
 - Increase the number of disability players.
- 11.255 The achievement of these goals will see particular increases in female and disability sport, alongside retention and possible growth in the male game.

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- 11.256 There is only a small amount of capacity in the pitch stock and significant increases in participation will be difficult to accommodate. In particular, there is very little capacity to sustain additional youth play and there are site specific pressures at many of the key clubs.
- 11.257 Consultation with clubs however demonstrated that most do have aspirations to grow, with increasing the number of girls and women's football teams seen as the key priority. Several clubs also have an aspiration to increase the number of mini teams.
- 11.258 We have therefore considered the impact of a 10% growth in junior, 9v9 and mini football participation on the adequacy of provision and this reveals the following results;
- An increase of 5 youth teams would generate 2.5 match equivalents. With capacity already inadequate, this suggests that additional capacity would be needed to meet this demand
 - Pressures would increase on 9v9 pitches, with a further 3 teams (1.5 match equivalent sessions) resulting in spare capacity equivalent to just 2.5 MES at peak time.
 - The growth in 7v7 teams could be accommodated (3 teams), with spare capacity across the week just 5 match equivalents available at peak time.
 - 2 additional 5v5 teams could also be accommodated (reducing spare capacity to 2.5 MES at peak time).
- 11.259 This therefore suggests that the position will remain similar to the existing position. On a site specific note however, it is important to consider the aspirations of each club.
- 11.260 Table 11.18 therefore reviews the aspirations of each of the key clubs in terms of development and evaluates whether these could be accommodated within the existing infrastructure. It should be noted that achievement of all of the club development goals would significantly exceed the 10% growth targets which were modelled above.

Table 11.18: Meeting Club Growth Aspirations

Club	Main Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Club Aspirations	Future Issues
AC Mill Lane FC	Lynn Grove Academy / Mill Lane	Some overplay evident. Scope to increase use of 3G	Pitch quality reasonable, long term security of tenure is essential.		
Belton F.C. / Bohemians FC	New Road Sports field	Overplay on 9v9 and youth pitches. No	Pitch quality limited – compaction, undulating, thatch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Female • 1 youth boy 	Existing overplay means that

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Club	Main Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Club Aspirations	Future Issues
		remaining spare capacity on adult pitches. Capacity pressures exacerbated further by training. Very limited spare capacity at peak time, particularly on larger pitches	and weeds. 9v9 pitch rated as poor and this directly impacts capacity. Club concern about overuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 youth girls 	increases cannot be accommodated
Caister F.C.	King George V Playing Field / Caister Junior School. Training on site.	No remaining spare capacity on 11v11 pitch, small amount of capacity for 5v5. Small amount of capacity on 9v9 and 7v7 but training creates significant overplay at King Georges Field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitches showing clear signs of heavy usage. Compaction, muddy etc. Pitches would benefit from improved maintenance Floodlighting and stand required if first team were to achieve promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Female 1 youth boy 1 youth girls 	No remaining spare capacity on 11v11 pitches for proposed increases
Gorleston F.C.	Emerald Park / Mill Lane / Green Lane / Burgh Castle /	Club spread across multiple sites. Overplay at Mill Lane on youth pitches, Emerald Park played to capacity. 5v5 pitch at Burgh Castle also overplayed	Pitches used are low standard to poor (Burgh Castle compacted and thatching, Mill Lane has similar concerns). Pitches would benefit from improved maintenance / investment into quality. Capacity of Mill Lane in particular impacted by poor quality pitches. Emerald Park not available next season, ongoing concerns about access to new pitch. New pitch will replace facilities at Emerald Park and	None recorded	N/a

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Club	Main Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Club Aspirations	Future Issues
			will also help to reduce pressures at other sites, access to grass pitches likely to still be required.		
Gorleston Rangers FC	Corporation Fields / Magdalen Playing Fields	Significant overplay evident (youth and 9v9). Small amount of spare capacity on 5v5 and 9v9. Training exacerbates position further	Pitch quality approaching poor – requires improvement if capacity not impacted further. Compaction, weeds, drainage. Limited quality of changing facilities	Increases in all age groups	Pitches already overplayed so increases cannot be accommodated
Great Yarmouth Town F.C.	Wellesley Ground / Barnard Bridge	Wellesley Recreation Ground at capacity at peak time. Barnard Bridge almost no spare capacity at peak time (at capacity for 9v9). Training creates overplay.	Wellesley Recreation Ground good, changing requires improvement. Barnard Bridge site would benefit from improvements – quality standard to poor – deterioration would see capacity reduced. Funding received for maintenance improvements and works ongoing. New 3G pitch at Wellesley will alleviate issues with overplay as it will accommodate training. 3G 9v9 pitch will also reduce overplay at 9v9 level and increase capacity for younger teams.	Increases in all age groups	Small amount of scope to increase capacity. New 3G pitch will improve position enabling club to expand.
Hemsby F.C.	Hemsby Recreation Ground	Large site with only 9v9 overplayed, small amount of spare capacity.	Capacity impacted by poor quality pitches - thatching, skids, compaction weeds. Requires improvement. Club highlight maintenance	Growth in mini soccer	Capacity for growth at existing club base if poor quality pitches are improved

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Club	Main Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Club Aspirations	Future Issues
			procedures as being inadequate.		
Hopton Harriers F.C.	Hopton Playing Field	Small site with extensive overmarking. Small sized pitches encroach onto senior pitch. Significant overplay.	Poor quality impacts on capacity. Training further exacerbates deficiencies.	Growth in all age groups	No capacity for expansion – site is already overplayed
Martham F.C.	Martham Recreation Ground / Flegg 3G	Capacity across the week although more limited at peak time. No remaining spare capacity on 9v9.	Pitch quality improving	Increases in all age groups	Capacity limited at peak time and no scope to increase 9v9.
Ormesby Lads F.C.	Ormesby Playing Fields	0.5 spare capacity on all pitches at peak time except 7v7 (no remaining capacity).	Club raise concerns about capacity (peak time) Quality requires investment	None recorded	N/a
Yarmouth FC Ladies	Beaconsfield Recreation Ground.	No remaining spare capacity on youth pitch, only 1 MES on adult pitch.	Poor quality significantly impacts capacity.	Youth girls	No remaining capacity on youth pitch without qualitative improvements
Shrublands FC	Southtown Common	Pitches have capacity, except for senior pitch. Capacity is however very limited at peak time due to use by large club (9v9 is only pitch with any capacity in peak period).	Quality is limited on site – weeds, mud and compaction. Requires improvement. Changing facilities currently being rebuilt following fire.	Youth girls and mini soccer	Capacity available although limited in peak period. Pitches could accommodate girls football which takes place outside of peak times.

11.261 The above therefore demonstrates that there is a need to improve pitch capacity for several of the key clubs, particularly if growth aspirations for junior football are realised. For all clubs, reflecting the overall Borough-wide picture, it is accommodating junior / 9v9 football where the greatest challenges will be felt.

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Summary and Issues for the Strategy to address

11.262 Table 11.19 overleaf therefore briefly summarises the current stock of football facilities and the key issues for the strategy to address.

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Football– Key Issues

Supply

- 30% of pitches available to the community are full sized pitches, whilst the remainder of facilities are small sized. This suggests that facilities are effectively tailored to meet the needs of players in different age groups.
- The proportion of pitches secured for community use is high, particularly for smaller sided pitches. Most of the secondary schools are however available on an unsecured basis and community use has been ad hoc recently, primarily as a result of Covid 19.
- The majority of sites that are not available to the community are at primary schools. Pitches at Flegg High School are not available due to the quality of pitches (although the AGP is available).
- Management of active community pitches is mixed, with the public sector being just the largest provider. There are few pitches that are fully controlled by the clubs, although some clubs do work alongside the Parishes / Playing Field Committees to support the maintenance process.
- The majority of pitches are located in the Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell and Northern Parishes. Provision is much lower in Great Yarmouth and Southern Parishes.
- The stock of grass pitches is supported by three full size 3G AGPs and two small 3G pitches. Cliff Park Ormiston Academy contains a sand based AGP, which is used for football although it is not the preferred surface. Only full size pitches at Lynn Grove School and Flegg High School are currently available to the community, although it is anticipated that use at East Norfolk College will also soon be available.
- there are mixed views in relation to the overall pitch stock in the Borough, with a larger proportion of clubs indicating that they are happy with provision than are not satisfied. Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of clubs responding to the consultation are currently happy with pitch provision. For those clubs who are dissatisfied, the number of pitches and access to pitches is the biggest concern. These issues are also perceived to

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impact club development, although a shortage of volunteers and the cost of pitch hire also emerged as key issues.

- Across the borough in general, the quality of pitches is poor to low standard. 17 pitches achieve a poor rating. For those pitches that do fall into the standard category, the vast majority of pitches are clearly closer to the poor categorisation than they are good (and consequently are rated low standard). There is a concern that if maintenance procedures are insufficient to keep up with usage across the season, more pitches will become poor later in the season.
- While pitches are low standard / poor, they are generally playable. Many of the pitches are thought to be impacted by the amount of use that takes place
- maintenance schedules vary but in general, are basic. This has a detrimental effect on both the immediate quality of the pitch, but also the long-term capacity of the pitch across the season and beyond. Many of the issues arising (including drainage / compaction / evenness) could be addressed through improved in and out of season maintenance.
- while drainage emerges as a key issue, it is clear that in some instances, this is exacerbated by heavy usage and the resulting compaction at the site. Waterlogging is responsible for many cancellations on pitches across the borough. Improved drainage, linked with better maintenance procedures will significantly enhance the quality of pitches.
- unofficial use of pitches, and the resulting dog fouling and litter is detrimental to pitch quality, but also is impacting the user experience.
- the quality of changing provision is varied but there are some sites where this needs to be improved.
- The quality of AGPs is good

Demand

- there are 168 teams in total, including two walking football teams.
- There is no evidence of teams travelling outside of the Borough to play and it appears that all those that wish to play within Great Yarmouth are doing so.
- FA affiliation data suggests that this represents a positive increase in participation, with 145 teams playing at the time of the Local Football Facilities Plan in 2020.

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This suggests that if anything, there has been a positive impact of covid 19 on the number of people playing football.

- Whilst there have been positive trends in mini and junior football, consultation suggests that the number of adult teams is declining significantly. This has not been experienced in the club sector, but there are now very few teams left that are not part of a large club. Two leagues have folded in recent years.
- spread of play is fairly even across different areas of the Borough, although it is clear that more play takes place in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell than any other area. There are however opportunities for all forms of the game in all areas of the borough.
- There are 20 female football teams. This level of participation is comparable with local areas of a similar size.
- There are no professional football clubs based within the Borough boundaries. Gorleston FC and Great Yarmouth Town however play in leagues in the National League System. Teams playing within the National League System must adhere to specific requirements in relation to the facilities provided at the home ground. There are currently significant issues for both clubs in terms of the facilities provided. Improvements are however underway, and it is hoped that facilities will meet demand by 2024.
- whilst there are several AGPs available in Great Yarmouth, there remains extensive use of the grass pitches for training. Many clubs are training on a Saturday and playing competitive fixtures on a Sunday. This places significant pressure on the grass pitches as it essentially doubles the amount of use that pitches are required to sustain.
- Whilst most clubs make some use of AGPs, for many clubs this is concentrated during a small window of the winter months and is booked on an ad hoc weekly basis when the quality of grass pitches deteriorates too far. For some clubs, if training cannot take place on the grass pitches it does not take place at all. Training facilities was raised as one of the key concerns by clubs, although for many this related to the impact of training on their grass pitches, rather than access to 3G pitches.

Adequacy of Provision

On a site specific level;

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- When considering match play (as well as the impact of school use at school sites), across the week, there is a small amount of spare capacity across the Borough, with most sites having scope to sustain at least some additional play.
- When just considering match play / curricular usage, there are a few sites that exhibit overplay – this is evident at Barnard Bridge Sports Ground, Corporation Pitches / Magdalen Playing Fields, Gorleston Playing Fields, Lynn Grove Academy, Mill Lane Playing Fields, New Road Sports Field and Southtown Common. It is clear therefore that the majority of overplay is associated with the larger clubs;
- There are only four sites where there is no formal community play registered for 2022 on the grass pitches. These are Caister Academy, Cliff Park Ormiston Academy, Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy and Cobholm Recreation Ground,
- The concentration of play at peak time means that a higher number of pitches are required to meet the needs of teams than may otherwise be the case. As a consequence, availability at peak time is much lower – there are just 27 MES available during the respective peak periods (excluding overplay). There is no remaining capacity at peak time on 37 pitches
- When taking into account the impact of training on grass pitches (which takes place on multiple sites), shortages are exacerbated
- Whilst high levels of demand contribute to the low levels of spare capacity in the Borough, it should be noted that the quality of pitches is also a key contributing factor. The poor quality of pitches significantly reduces the number of games that could be sustained. This means that particularly when taking into account the impact of training, there are pressures on the existing infrastructure.
- overall, therefore in quantitative terms, there are enough pitches to meet demand across the borough as a whole. There are however pressures at some key sites and to meet the needs of large clubs and a need to improve pitch quality in order to maximise the capacity of the facilities that are provided.
- Alongside qualitative improvements and improving the capacity of existing pitches, there are opportunities to make better use of the school sites. Several of the secondary schools are open for community use but do not currently have regular users of the grass pitches. The grass pitches at Flegg High School are not open for community use due to their poor condition. If these pitches were to be improved, alongside the presence of the 3G AGP at this site, this would create a nice football

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hub. There is also a need to secure access to these school sites in order to ensure that access is guaranteed long term

- Across the borough, there are clubs seeking additional capacity, with facilities for Hopton Harriers in particular being poor and Gorleston Rangers, Shrublands, Bohemians and Caister FC all experiencing capacity issues to a greater or lesser degree. For both of these clubs, a lack of off-site training facilities exacerbates the situation.
- The adequacy of provision is not however even across the Borough;
 - in Great Yarmouth overall, there is a small number of senior pitches with potential for improvement and potential to convert them to pitches of other size. The proposed new 3G AGP will significantly improve the position for 9v9 football and overall therefore provision will just be adequate. Qualitative improvements are however required, and with limited spare capacity, significant growth would place further pressures on the playing field infrastructure.
 - in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell overall, there are some existing capacity pressures. The proposed new 3G AGP will significantly improve this position, but there remain challenges accommodating Shrublands and Gorleston Rangers Football Clubs in particular. Qualitative improvements are required to maximise the number of games that can be sustained and there may be a requirement for additional capacity given the lack of available pitch provision at peak time (although these pressures could be reduced by better use of the AGP). Growth would place further pressures on the playing field infrastructure.
 - capacity for match play is largely adequate in the Northern parts of the Borough, but the addition of training on grass pitches reveals several concerns - it creates overplay in both Caister and Hemsby Recreation Ground. The extra wear and tear generated by the use of the facilities for training is also responsible for many of the quality issues identified, with compaction a significant recurring issue. This means that the quality of pitches becomes even more important, as well as reducing the amount of training that takes place on grass.
 - there are both capacity and quality pressures in the Southern Parishes that need to be addressed. To an extent, the quality issues cause the capacity

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pressures, but even following qualitative improvements, the pressures at peak time suggest that additional capacity is required.

- Using a baseline of 165 community teams in Great Yarmouth, FA modelling suggests that there is a theoretical requirement for 4.4 full size AGPs – taking into account existing facilities and those to be developed, this would suggest that there is a small shortfall. Reluctance to use the facilities by clubs should however be taken into account during any facility planning process. Increasing use of the existing 3G AGPs for match play should take priority over the provision of new 3G AGPs in the short term.
- Future population growth will have limited impact, with only the number of adult football teams projected to increase. This increase is however more than likely to offset the current decline in participation in this age group, rather than create significant additional demand.
- Whilst population growth will have limited impact, club development initiatives, have potential to stimulate further demand and require additional capacity to meet this demand. Analysis of club aspirations for growth suggests that this is likely to have the biggest impact in terms of the adequacy of provision. Capacity pressures for youth football in particular will be exacerbated. A 10% increase in participation would see pitch provision inadequate for youth football and very limited remaining spare capacity for 9v9. There are however significant aspirations for club development and most of the clubs will be unable to achieve their growth aspirations within the existing infrastructure.

Key Issues for Strategy to Address

The key facility issues for this strategy to address are therefore;

- The quality issues identified at the existing pitches; particularly where poor quality is reducing capacity. Many of the pitches are a very low standard quality (basic). Pitch quality improvements are essential if the needs of clubs are to be met. Pitch quality emerged as the key theme of consultation, and several clubs have already started to engage with the Pitch Improvement and Pitch Power FA programmes. The quality of pitches is particularly important given the requirement for many to sustain matches (and in some instances training) in more than one time slot – it is

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

evident that there are pressures to sustain the total number of fixtures that are required and not just demand at peak time.

- The capacity pressures on key club sites – there is a need for additional capacity to be delivered – this can be created through quality improvements / access to AGPs for match play. New provision may however be required to meet the needs of clubs in some parts of the Borough
- The potential to better use the stock of AGPs reduce pressures on grass – full community use of existing and new AGPs is essential if the needs of clubs are to be met
- The impact of training on grass pitches – effective use of AGPs would minimise the negative impact of this
- The need to address the current issues for the two pyramid clubs – Great Yarmouth FC and Gorleston FC.

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS)

Strategy and Action Plan



For Great Yarmouth Borough Council
October 2022

**Document prepared by Tetra Tech Environmental and Planning
Limited**

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 In March 2021, Great Yarmouth Borough Council appointed Tetrattech to produce a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS). This PPOSS updates the playing field and outdoor sports facility elements of the existing Great Yarmouth Sport, Play and Leisure Strategy (2015 – 2019). It will sit alongside the recently completed Physical Activity Framework Strategy and Strategic Outcomes work and together, these documents provide an evidence base for decision making relating to sport, leisure and physical activity across the Borough of Great Yarmouth.

1.2 This document sets out the strategy and action plan for the Borough. The accompanying assessment report assesses the existing provision and identifies the key issues that need to be addressed.

1.3 The primary purpose of this PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework that ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches and sports facilities meet the needs of existing and future residents and visitors to the Borough up to 2039. It considers the following facilities;

- Football pitches (grass and third generation turf (3G))
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby union pitches
- Hockey pitches (artificial grass pitches (AGPs))
- Tennis courts
- Bowling greens
- Athletics tracks
- Golf Courses.

1.4 Vision and Objectives

1.5 This strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives;

- To ensure that there are enough playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities to meet current and projected future need up to 2039;
- To support the provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities of appropriate quality;
- To maximise access to playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and;
- To support increasing participation in outdoor sports and promote sustainable club development.

1.6 These objectives are consistent with Sport England's planning principles for sport as set out in Figure 1.1 overleaf.

Figure 1.1 - Sport England Planning for Sport principles



- 1.9 More specifically, the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS);
- provides a clear understanding of supply and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities at individual sites.
 - Evaluates the adequacy of pitch provision and outdoor sports facilities to meet current and projected future demand
 - Identifies the key issues that impact on the delivery of playing pitches
 - Provides recommendations and action plans to enhance the future delivery of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and to address the issues identified.

- 1.10 It seeks to ensure that;
- Valuable facilities are protected
 - There are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and future demand
 - All clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality

1.11 Methodology

1.12 The assessment and strategy have been produced in line with guidance by Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; 2014) and ‘Playing Pitch Guidance, An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).

1.13 The Playing Pitch Guidance sets out the process for delivering a strategy for football, cricket, rugby (league and union) and hockey. It advocates a 10 step approach summarised in Table 1.1. The assessment reports on Stages 1 – 6 and this document covers the strategy development phase (Stages 7 and 8). The implementation phase (9 and 10) will take place over the life of the strategy document.

Table 1.1 – Ten Step Approach

Stage	Step
1. Undertaking an Assessment	1. Prepare & Tailor the approach
2. Gather Information on Supply & Demand	2. Gather Supply information and views
	3. Gather demand information and views
3. Assessment Bring the Information Together	4. Understand the situation at individual sites
	5. Develop the current and future picture of provision
	6. Identify the key findings and issues

Stage	Step
4. Strategy Development	7. Develop the recommendations and action plan
	8. Write and Adopt the strategy
5. Implementation	9. Apply and deliver the strategy
	10. Keep the Strategy Robust and up-to-date

- 1.14 Recommendations and priorities have been developed following extensive consultation, analysis and scenario testing and in conjunction with the following key stakeholders;
- Officers of Great Yarmouth Borough Council;
 - Active Norfolk;
 - Representatives of the Norfolk FA and The Football Foundation, Norfolk Cricket Board, The ECB, the RFU, England Hockey, The LTA, England Athletics ,England Golf;
 - Sport England.
- 1.15 The views of these groups have been used to shape this strategy and to finalise the action and implementation plan. The consultation process does not stop here - many of the identified short-term actions involve ongoing consultation with wider groups, ensuring that any priorities implemented are reflective of the needs and aspirations of current pitch users.
- 1.16 It is hoped that the implementation of the strategy will continue to build partnerships between the Council, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, schools, further education providers, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve pitch and outdoor sports provision. This document will provide clarity about the way forward and allow key organisations to focus on the key issues that they can directly influence and achieve.
- 1.17 As detailed in the assessment report, as far as possible the strategy aims to capture all playing fields and associated pitches, as well as participation within Great Yarmouth Borough. There may however be instances where a site / club is unknowingly omitted.
- 1.18 Where pitches / playing field sites have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches / playing field sites and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusion of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.
- 1.19 The strategy monitoring process will ensure that the document is kept up to date as any omissions / errors arise and where changes occur.

1.20 Context and Wider Links

1.21 The strategy contributes to the delivery of many national, regional and local targets, in particular, the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The strategy will also help to deliver on the priorities of Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport.

1.22 The key principles of each strategic document, and how the delivery of this PPOSS will contribute is outlined in full in the assessment report. The links between the achievement of the objectives in this strategy document and other national, regional and local strategies and policies are summarised in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 – Contribution of PPS towards national and local priorities

Document	Ensure there are enough pitches and outdoor sports facilities	Support provision of facilities appropriate quality	Maximise access to playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities	Support increasing participation and promote sustainable club development
National Planning Framework	√	√	√	√
Sport England – Policy on Playing Fields	√	√	√	√
Sport England: Uniting the Movement	√	√	√	√
The Football Association – Strategic Plan, and National Facilities Strategy – Delivered through Local Football Facility Plans	√	√	√	√
Inspiring Generations, ECB, 2020 - 2024	√	√	√	√
RFU Strategic Plan	√	√	√	√
England Hockey National Facilities Strategy (2017 - 2021)	√	√	√	√
Great Yarmouth Borough Core Strategy – Local Plan Part 1	√	√	√	√
Great Yarmouth Borough Local Plan Part 2	√	√	√	√

Together for Norfolk – Great Yarmouth Borough Corporate Plan	√	√	√	√
Active Great Yarmouth Framework	√	√	√	√

1.23 It is clear that the effective provision of sports facilities playing fields can directly contribute to the achievement of many of the strategic goals of local and national organisations and strategies.

1.24 Sport England’s recently published strategic outcomes planning guidance demonstrates that sport and physical activity are increasingly seen as a co-producer of local outcomes and local authorities across the country are using their services, assets, partnerships and infrastructure to make a significant contribution to their residents’ lives as a direct provider, commissioner or enabler. Sport England’s guidance shows that having a clear, strategic and sustainable approach to sport and physical activity is essential to making effective investment into provision – both facilities and services.

1.25 Great Yarmouth Borough have recently worked alongside Sport England, Active Norfolk and its delivery partners to create a clear and sustainable approach to sport and physical activity. This PPOSS is a key component of the evidence base informing this approach. It will help to ensure that appropriate interventions to maximise the role that playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities can play in meeting the desired outcomes are delivered.

1.26 Demographics and Geography

1.27 The current population of the Borough is 101,250 and the proportion of the population aged over 65 is high, and growing. By 2032, the total population will increase by 4%. The structure of the population will remain relatively consistent in this period, with a slight increase in the number of people falling into junior age groups for sport (5-18), and similar small growth in the 18 – 45 age group . These age groups have a higher propensity to participate in pitch and outdoor sports than those over 45 and so these small increases suggest that there will only be a limited rise in demand.

1.28 The highest levels of growth will be seen in the older age groups. Critically however, almost all of this increase will take place in those residents aged 70 and above (3531 people). These groups have a lower propensity to participate in pitch and outdoor sports and this may therefore impact the type of facilities that are required in the Borough longer term.

- 1.29 By 2039, population is projected to increase further, to 108,131 -an increase of 6879 people from 2022 . As between 2027 and 2032, the growth will again focus on the older age groups, minimising the overall impact on playing pitch and outdoor sports over the strategy period.
- 1.30 While population growth will therefore create a small increase in demand, the proportion of those residents in the age groups most likely to participate in pitch sports is more limited. This means that the more likely driver of changes in demand is the rate of participation by the resident.
- 1.31 Active Lives survey indicates that 39.5% of the population in Great Yarmouth are considered to be physically inactive. This is above national and Norfolk averages. Just 51.7% of the population are considered to be active, which again is below national and regional levels. This suggests that there is significant scope to increase levels of activity in the Borough, and to increase the number of people participating. An effective and desirable network of facilities will be essential if this is to be achieved.

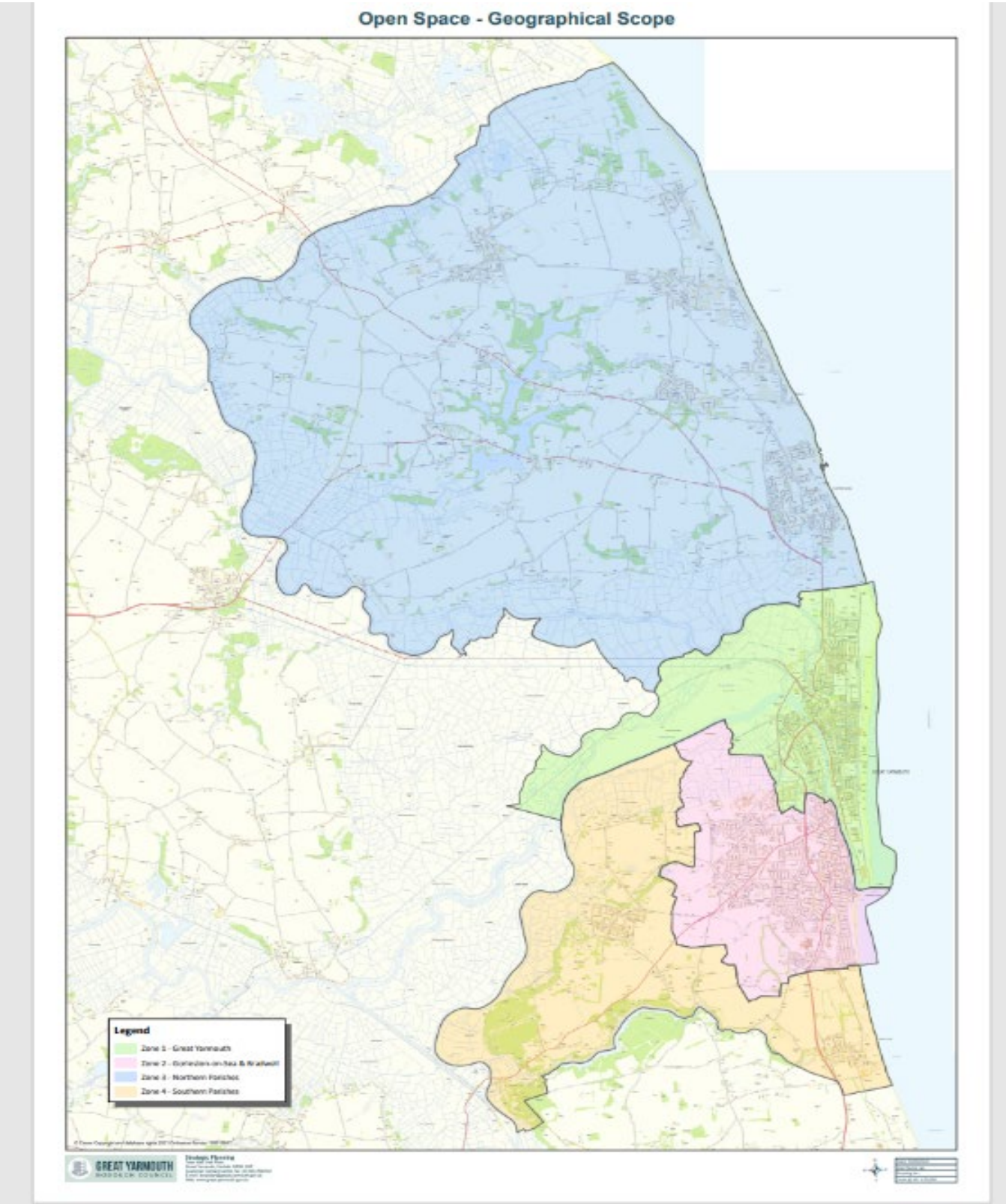
Geography

- 1.32 The majority of people in the Borough reside in the urban areas, with the rural hinterland containing numerous small villages. To ensure that the strategy considers how needs differ across the Borough, as well as what the needs are across Great Yarmouth as a whole, for the purposes of analysis, the Borough has been subdivided into 4 sub areas. These sub areas have been designed to be reflect the characters of the different parts of the Borough and comprise:
- Great Yarmouth – covering the wards (urban area) of Great Yarmouth Town;
 - Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell – includes the wards (urban area) of Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell Parish – these conurbations join up to Great Yarmouth geographically, but are separated by the River Yare and the industrial area;
 - Northern Parishes –Parishes situated to the North of Great Yarmouth. Includes the larger settlements of Caister-on-Sea, Hemsby, Martham and Winterton-on-Sea
 - Southern Parishes –Parishes located to the South of Gorleston-on-Sea including the larger settlements of Belton and Hopton-on-Sea.
- 1.33 Figure 1.2 overleaf illustrates the sub areas that have been used.
- 1.34 The Local Plan Part 2 (2021) updated the Core Strategy housing requirement and indicated that 3993 new dwellings will be required over the plan period to 2030. In terms of location, new housing will be spread across the Borough. The Core Strategy (Policy CS2) indicates that approximately;;

- 35% of new development will take place in the borough's Main Towns at Gorleston-on-Sea and Great Yarmouth
- 30% of new development will take place in the borough's Key Service Centres at Bradwell and Caister-on-Sea
- 30% of new development will take place in the Primary Villages of Belton, Hemsby, Hopton on Sea, Ormesby St Margaret, Martham and Winterton-on-Sea
- 5% of new development will take place in the Secondary and Tertiary Villages named in the settlement hierarchy

1.35 This therefore suggests that whilst population growth will be felt Boroughwide, there will be particular impact in the more urban areas and in Caister. This is taken into account when evaluating demand for facilities and the future facility requirements.

Figure 1.2 – Sub Areas of Great Yarmouth



1.36 Role of the Playing Pitch Strategy

1.36.1 The end goal of this strategy is to deliver the overarching vision and achieve the specific aims and objectives set out on the previous pages. To do this, it is essential that provision for each sport continues to evolve and improve to meet with changing needs and aspirations.

1.36.2 The focus of a PPOSS is mainly on facilities. Sport England states that building the right thing in the right place makes taking part in sport and physical activity a realistic option for many and leads to a better experience for those who are already engaged. The clear messages from the government and Sport England are that people need to be more active – this strategy therefore seeks to ensure that the network of facilities in the Borough facilitates this.

1.37 Structure

1.37.1 The remainder of this strategy is set out as follows;

- Section 2 – Sport Specific Issues and Scenario Testing
- Section 3 - Recommendations – General and Sport Specific
- Section 4 – Impact of New Development
- Section 5 - Action Plans and Monitoring and Review

2.0 Sport Specific Issues

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This section summarises the current and projected future position for each sport and the key issues that need to be addressed. Further detail is provided in the supporting assessment report (September 2022).
- 2.1.2 To help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are also tested in this section. The results of these scenarios have helped to drive the sport and site-specific recommendations set out in Sections 3 and 4.
- 2.1.3 Recommendations for delivering on the key issues identified on a sport by sport basis are set out in Section 3, while Section 4 contains a site specific action plan.

2.2 Sport Specific Issues

Cricket

Cricket - Supply	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 grass cricket squares, representing a reduction on provision in the previous PPS. Seven of the eight grounds are club / public facilities. Almost all cricket grounds are situated within the Northern Parishes.• There are some concerns relating to security of tenure. Several sites are rented whilst Great Yarmouth CC, Martham CC and Rollesby rent whilst Caister CC have a short length of time remaining on their lease.• Although the majority of clubs believe that the quality of their facilities has improved, pitch quality continues to represent a challenge across the Borough. Maintenance was highlighted as the key reason for pitch improvements, but also emerged as one of the ongoing challenges.• All grounds are functional and playable for the standard of play that they sustain, but most facilities would benefit from investment. Most wickets were well maintained (although signs of water stress were found) but the quality of outfield is varying, with the surface of many grounds uneven, and the impact of unofficial use (recreational activity etc for example) evident.• There is a lack of training facilities on some sites and poor-quality facilities on others.• Works are required to some pavilions and many are very basic, which may impact on player recruitment.	

Demand

- There are 17 teams of which 11 are senior teams, 2 are midweek teams and 4 are junior teams. This represents a reduction in the number of teams playing in the Borough at the time of the previous PPS for both junior and senior cricket.
- The lack of junior teams is a cause for concern and suggests that there are poor foundations for the development of cricket. Larger clubs are generally more sustainable and able to provide higher quality facilities. Clubs without junior / female sections also struggle to access funding to help improve their facilities.
- Exacerbating the issue of poor structures for cricket development, there is little evidence of engagement with ECB junior development programmes, including both All Stars and Dynamos as well as Women and Girls
- There is little cricket played in schools and therefore a lack of transition of interested players into clubs.

Adequacy of Provision

2.2.1 Analysis of the adequacy of provision demonstrates that;

- All active grass pitches accommodate cricket during the season.
- Across the Borough, there is spare capacity for 93 additional matches (not taking into account the overplay at Caister CC and Rollesby CC). This is located primarily at Martham CC and Great Yarmouth CC. Rollesby CC is the only other site where an additional adult team could be accommodated over the course of the season.
- There is overplay at both Caister CC / Broadland CC and Winterton CC – both sites have very small squares.
- At peak time, there is also a small amount of spare capacity (1.5 MES), located at Great Yarmouth CC and Rollesby CC.
- Wear and tear on the wicket is influenced by the use of the grass square for training. This arises directly as a result of the lack of suitable off field training facilities. The quality of pitches is also not maximised which reduces the number of matches that can be played.
- Future population growth alone will have no impact on demand for cricket, with the likely number of teams remaining constant. Norfolk Cricket Board, working alongside the ECB through their Strategy 'Inspiring Generations' are however seeking to grow cricket- this may have longer term influence on demand for cricket . In the short term, engagement with

development initiatives will require good quality outfields which means that maintenance and management are of increasing importance.

- Clubs have limited growth aspirations, but those that do focus on the development of female sections and improvements to junior participation.

2.2.2 Table 2.1 summarises the position at each of the Club Bases

Table 2.1 – Position at each of the Club Bases

Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Issues	Capacity	Other Issues
Great Yarmouth CC	Scope to increase play across the season (14 strips, 56 matches), 1 MES available at peak time	None identified	Spare capacity likely to remain		Some quality issues on pitch including drainage, currently rated as standard (scope to increase capacity). Lack of off field training facilities also impacting on usage of square. Site suffers from unofficial use. No security of tenure
Caister CC	Square at capacity with small amount of overplay (4 strips shortfall. No availability at peak time.	Creation of additional Saturday side and introduction of junior teams (initially through softball which has now started).	No availability at peak time without displacing Broadland CC. Square over capacity although scope to reduce this with qualitative improvements.		Some quality issues on outfield / square. Rated standard (scope to increase capacity). Increase to good would improve capacity issues. Lack of off field training facilities also impacting on usage of square. 10 years remaining on lease.
Broadland CC	Share with Caister CC so capacity as above	Creation of additional Saturday side and introduction of junior teams	As above, if Caister CC were to increase Broadland CC may be displaced, limited opportunity for club development within constraints of existing facilities.		As above, club also highlight lack of training facilities. Club ideally looking to secure own ground.
Martham CC	Some limited capacity available (6 strips / 24 matches). No peak time availability	Increased junior section starting with U9s with hope that teams transition through age groups	Scope to accommodate 3 – 4 additional junior teams.		Grass square even, outfield slightly uneven but ground good. Training facilities almost unusable and changing requires improvement. No security of tenure.
Rollsby CC	Some limited spare capacity available (3 strips / 13 MES). Spare capacity of 0.5 at peak time.	No stated aspirations	Limited spare capacity to remain		Pitch quality limited, requires improvement and remediation works. Lack of training facilities and basic changing. Security of tenure is also issue.

Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Issues	Capacity	Other Issues
Winterton CC	Square at capacity (overplay of 2 strips). No capacity at peak time.	Looking to develop U12 group that is just being established	Existing deficiency will remain and increase slightly (by circa 6 MES) if capacity is not increased.		Off field practice facilities poor, changing requires immediate upgrade. Square and outfield require further investment.

2.2.3 The key issues that need to be addressed in relation to cricket in Great Yarmouth are therefore below;

Cricket - Key Issues
<p>The key issues for cricket are therefore;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to address qualitative issues – almost all sites have improvements that are necessary to retain standard quality and improve facilities to a good level. This will also directly generate capacity improvements. • The need to increase capacity for clubs who are at capacity or are overplaying facilities • A requirement for improved training facilities. Almost all clubs have poor facilities (which impacts on the use of the square) and there is also a dearth of indoor provision • There are several clubs with poor changing pavilions • The sustainability of smaller clubs and long term recruitment of players • The potential to develop cricket through the use of NTP in areas of higher population.

Potential Opportunities - Scenario Testing

2.2.4 Although overall, there is a small amount of spare capacity remaining across the Borough at peak time, there is little remaining spare capacity at any ground and two sites where overplay is evident. Scenario testing is therefore needed to evaluate how this can be addressed.

Qualitative Improvements

2.2.5 Whilst pitch quality at Martham CC is good, quality at all other grounds is standard. Improving the quality of these facilities would have a direct impact on site capacity (with the number of senior games each wicket is able to accommodate increasing from 5 to 7).

2.2.6 Whilst qualitative improvements to maximise capacity are important at all sites, they take on greater importance where they can address existing capacity issues. Scenario modelling shows that improvements to quality would address capacity issues across all sites except at Caister CC, where overplay would remain even if the site was of good quality.

2.2.7 There is no scope to increase capacity at Martham CC through qualitative improvements - provision is already adequate to meet current and projected future demand.

Non-Turf Wicket

2.2.8 An artificial wicket will sustain 60 MES throughout the season; while a grass wicket will sustain only 5 (or 7) depending upon quality. This significantly increases the quantities of play that can be sustained at a site and (where permitted by league regulations) can therefore provide a sustainable option for improving capacity.

2.2.9 With deficiencies remaining at Caister CC after qualitative improvements, a Non Turf wicket will significantly improve capacity at this site and would address deficiencies if also used for match play.

2.2.10 With other sites remaining close to capacity, and the restrictions at key club bases arising from small squares, creation of new NTP at other sites will also be of benefit. This is particularly the case at Winterton, which has a large number of teams. Use of NTP for junior teams (coupled with the qualitative improvements above) would significantly improve capacity.

2.2.11 While the above will address capacity issues in the short term, increases to participation may see a requirement for additional facilities. This would need to be carefully balanced with sustainability issues.

Tennis

Supply

- There are 43 courts. Of these, 27 offer community use. This represents a reduction in the provision of tennis courts since the previous PPOSS.
- Community use is available on a range of sites, including parks, schools and club bases.
- Twelve courts are floodlit. Floodlighting extends the use of the courts, enabling activity in evenings and during the winter months. There are no indoor tennis courts in the Borough.
- The distribution of courts is geographically unbalanced - provision is primarily focused in Gorleston-on-Sea. Browston Hall Country Club and Broadland Sports Club are important providers of tennis outside of the urban areas.
- Access to school sites has also been more limited as a result of the covid pandemic but on the whole access is good, however the customer journey is poor, with limited promotion and no online booking available outside of Ormiston Venture Academy. Similar issues are evident at both public venues

- The quality of facilities is mixed. Around a third of all the courts are in poor condition. Generally speaking, it is the public facilities that are of the lowest quality. There is however significant scope to improve the quality of facilities across the Borough.

Demand

- Public courts are pay and play and there is no monitoring of usage.
- The Ormiston Venture Academy, Gorleston-on-Sea, is the only site to offer online booking. This has been set up following refurbishment of the courts in partnership with the LTA. Analysis of bookings suggests that these courts are well used. Other school sites are accessed on a pay and play basis and it is understood that there is significant scope to increase this usage
- Gorleston LTC is the only club in the Borough. There are 163 members of this club, meaning that it is clearly important in meeting the demand from regular tennis players.

Adequacy of Provision

2.2.12 Public tennis facilities, which are essential in meeting the demands for grass roots tennis are limited and of poor quality. They are seasonal and poorly promoted. These facilities are critical not only in meeting the needs of local residents, but also in providing resources and amenities for the millions of tourists that arrive each year. There is therefore significant scope to improve the role that they play.

2.2.13 With just one club in the Borough, this club is essential in providing tennis for those that wish to play in a club environment. Some qualitative improvements are required at the site, and an increase in members is required to ensure long term sustainability. The club cite the lack of transition from the grass roots tennis venues as one of the key barriers to their success.

2.2.14 With public and schools provision primarily focused in the urban areas. two other private venues which offer tennis courts for their members are important components of the tennis infrastructure due to their locations outside of the main urban area. There is also a role for schools to play in meet demand outside of Gorleston-on-Sea, where the majority of public courts as well as the only club are located.

2.2.15 LTA insight demonstrates the importance of providing a balance of different types of facility, so the three types of facility all have a key role in meeting demand. Application of LTA parameters suggests that the existing number of courts is just about adequate, if participation levels broadly equate to those found at a national level. Whilst there is capacity within the existing facilities it

is clear that current usage is inhibited by booking procedures, as well as the poor customer journey. This will need to be a key focus if participation targets are to be met.

2.2.16 LTA modelling for the Borough suggests that if target participation levels were to be achieved, the number of courts would be insufficient. That said, facilities are currently underused and many existing facilities require qualitative improvements. Added to this, there are opportunities to improve accessibility by opening up new facilities as well as improving the customer journey. Priority should therefore be given to maximising activity on existing facilities before providing new. Opening up the facilities in areas where access is lower represents a significant opportunity to improve participation.

2.2.17 The existing facility stock will be able to accommodate the small extra participants generated by the increased number of residents (assuming that current participation does not reach target levels before this, where new provision would already be required). New residents will however place further pressures on the existing facility stock.

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

Tennis - Key Issues
<p>The key issues for the strategy to address are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The need to protect the existing quantities of provision• The need to improve existing courts in order to provide high quality public facilities• The poor access to tennis courts in some parts of the Borough and the opportunities to improve access to school sites in order to address this• The opportunities to improve the customer journey at both public and school sites – this represents a particular opportunity as there is now funding available• The potential to increase participation in tennis through effective marketing, promotion and engagement with LTA programmes.

Bowls

Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 19 bowling greens. This represents a similar level of provision to 2015• Most sites are single green sites. Wellesley is the largest site, offering four greens whilst there are also two greens at Gorleston Cliffs.• Management of facilities is undertaken by a wide variety of bodies. These include private clubs, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Parish Councils.

- The quality of greens varies from good to standard. Most greens have bare patches, and some have signs of thatching. The majority of sites also have some weeds and / or divots in the playing surface and there is evidence of compaction on many greens.
- Quality is one of the biggest issues for bowling clubs, with the playing surface raised as one of the key concerns. Pitch maintenance was also rated as one of the more prevalent issues. Crucially, reflecting the challenges identified, 50% of clubs indicate that they believe that they don't have adequate skills or training to maintain their greens effectively.

Demand

- Around 80% of current members travel less than 3 miles, with half of those members travelling less than a mile. This suggests that people bowl local to their home
- National databases reveal a statistically significant decline in the number of people playing bowls. The profile of players is also much more focused towards the older age groups than other sports considered in both Great Yarmouth and nationally
- There are 618 playing members of responding clubs, of which less than 10 are junior players. Participation is skewed towards males, with 67% of club members being male.
- Membership of clubs in Great Yarmouth appears to be fluctuating, but almost half of all clubs registered a recent decline in membership. Several clubs highlight concern for the decline that is being experienced in the game and the subsequent impact that this has on income, and consequently, facility quality.
- Bowls England highlight retention and recruitment of members as the key priority and this is reinforced by the clubs playing within Great Yarmouth Borough

Adequacy of Existing Provision

2.2.18 Whilst most greens are functional, there are qualitative improvements required at almost all sites and issues relating to quality are perceived to impact on demand. In particular, a need to improve maintenance procedures is identified, both in terms of the work actually carried out, but also the processes, workforce and succession planning relating to maintenance.

2.2.19 The average membership of bowling greens across Great Yarmouth is 48 members (for those clubs that have responded). This represents a decline since the previous PPOSS (60 members across Norfolk) but remains a strong level of participation overall. All responding clubs indicate that they have capacity to accommodate additional members and almost all are proactively looking to do so.

2.2.20 At any one time, a good quality green can accommodate circa 48 players and the number of club members that can therefore be sustained is significantly higher. Bowls England use membership levels as the key reference point for the sustainability of a green. They suggest that

the retention of an existing bowling green is difficult to support where membership is below 16 - 20 people. Two clubs in the Borough are at this level and provision at a third is not much higher. On the other side of the coin, there are several clubs where membership is already approaching maximum levels. These include Caister (80) and Bradwell (135).

2.2.21 From a quantitative perspective therefore, on the whole, the existing facilities are sustainable and do have capacity for additional members. There may however be a need to review provision in a small number of cases should population growth generate significant additional demand and there is also a need to provide immediate support where clubs are struggling with sustainability issues.

2.2.22 Future population growth will generate between 125 and 183 new bowling club members by 2039. This can be accommodated within the existing stock. The Gorleston-on-Sea / Bradwell and Caister areas however may come under pressure following growth, with provision close to capacity already at key sites in this part of the Borough

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

Bowls - Key Issues
<p>The issues to address in relation to bowls are therefore;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support clubs in addressing concerns around maintenance procedures, succession planning and expertise in grounds maintenance within clubs • Address quality issues at the bowling greens – this includes improvements to the playing surface in particular • Ensure that existing greens are protected • Support ongoing efforts to sustain and increase participation (particularly those where membership is reaching unsustainable levels) and work with clubs to improve the promotion of bowls.

Athletics

Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is one floodlit synthetic track located at Wellesley Recreation Ground. This track is the only dedicated athletics facility in the Borough and is owned by the Council. It is a six lane facility with an eight lane straight. Facilities are also provided for throws and jumps. • The track is categorised as a Level 1 County Standard facility, meaning that it is able to host County level competitions. The throws cage meets UKA and World Athletics Standards. • The facility is functional although some qualitative improvements are required.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no indoor venues within a 60 minute drivetime.
Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Lives Surveys report a decline in participation between 2015 – 2020 for both adults and young people. The proportion of young people in particular participating however remains significance and interest in athletics has increased since the 2019 Covid Pandemic • Great Yarmouth Athletics Club are the main users of the track at Wellesley Recreation Ground. The club are one of the smaller clubs in the East Region but offer adult athletics and also run a junior section. The club are open to athletes of all abilities and operate right across the range from beginners to those competing in the Olympics. • The site is also used informally by local residents as well as accommodating ad hoc school activity. • Although not based at the athletics track, Great Yarmouth Road Runners are also based in the borough. • The increase in interest in running / athletics since the Covid 19 pandemic provides a significant opportunity for both of these clubs to grow and to further develop the sport of athletics.

Adequacy of Existing Provision

- 2.2.23 The existing facility is well located to meet the needs of Great Yarmouth Athletics Club. It is the only synthetic track in the area and almost all residents of the Borough are within the target drivetime catchment.
- 2.2.24 Whilst there is scope for growth at Great Yarmouth Athletics Club, the club make good use of the facility and compete in all disciplines of athletics
- 2.2.25 Although the quality of the surface is currently adequate, longer term some improvements will be required if it is to continue to meet demand, and a full track resurface should be expected around 2029. Upgrades to the floodlights are needed in the short term to ensure that the track continues to meet with required specifications
- 2.2.26 There are aspirations for the track to achieve and maintain Track Mark Accreditation and Level 2 status to support the growth and development of the club and to improve the range of facilities available in the East Region. The improvement of the floodlighting and the requirement for appropriate covered spectator seating are central to this.
- 2.2.27 England Athletics identify a requirement for indoor athletics tracks as there are no facilities within a 60 minute drivetime of Great Yarmouth Athletics Club.

Key Issues – Athletics

Athletics – Key Issues

The key priorities for the strategy to address in relation to athletics are therefore;

- The need to protect the existing athletics track
- Ensure that the required quality improvements both now, and in future years are carried out. This will be essential both to ensure the ongoing functionality of the facility and achieve TrackMark accreditation, but also if aspirations to upgrade the track to a level 2 (regional and national facility) are to be achieved. Floodlighting and spectator seating are particular priorities
- Support ongoing efforts to sustain and increase participation and work with the club to support the promotion of athletics.

Golf

Supply

- There are three standard courses, three par 3 courses and 1 Golf Driving Range (GDR). Most facilities are located in the east of the borough, where the main population centres lie, and are well located to serve local residents.
- Relative supply is a useful indicator in terms of benchmarking local provision alongside other similar areas. Standard golf course provision both in the borough and the local driving catchments is relatively poor, though to a great extent this is caused by the lack of a full 360 degree catchment, because of the area’s coastal location. Par 3 provision is good but includes facilities that are considered more as recreational amenities, while GDRs are about average, though this ratio only includes the one range.
- All borough residents can access a golf facility within a 20-minute drive, and most of these are within the Borough itself, though facilities just over the boundary in Broadland and East Suffolk also have a role to play. Choice of facility may in some cases be restricted.
- The range of types of courses suggests that all types of golfer can currently be accommodated – pay and play is available, with varying daily green fees as well as membership at a variety of membership fees. There are no waiting lists.
- Facilities specifically for training/coaching/practice and the development of skills for new and improving players exist in the borough but are secondary to the needs of established golfers and club members. There is no venue with a full-length standard course that might be considered as a specialist academy or learning facility, although all clubs have a coaching and development programme. This may well be the biggest gap in provision.

Demand

- Participation locally is estimated to be about 20% above the national average and reflects the characteristics of the area
- Recent trends confirm that participation in golf in Norfolk and Suffolk has declined over the past 10 years, but only slightly, bucking the national trend
- Future demand is made up of latent demand, population change, and development initiatives undertaken by the NGB and other bodies. MS data suggests that there is some latent demand from people in golf-playing segments that would like to take up the sport, but whether it is as high as indicated (43%) is open to debate. Any increase in population might well be mitigated by an ageing of the population, resulting in fewer people in the 'active' age groups, though this might include more golfers, as it is a sport of appeal to older people. NGB targets from the EG strategy of a 3-4% increase in participation over the last 4 years of its strategy may well be ambitious but would have particular implications for the type of courses required in the area, as additional participants will be mainly new players needing to learn and develop their skills.

Adequacy of Existing Provision

- 2.2.28 There are a variety of golf facilities in the Great Yarmouth area. All of these facilities are relatively inexpensive to join or play casually at, and there is a sufficient supply of facilities to accommodate different ranges, pockets and abilities.
- 2.2.29 Although existing courses suggest they are keen to attract new players, there is little evidence (without England Golf intervention or coordination) that existing predominantly members' clubs will be suitable to accommodate additional numbers and types of new golfers, especially those who have no experience in the game.
- 2.2.30 there are no 'public/municipal' courses available only on a pay and play basis, which fulfil the need for more casual access, and offer more affordable golf, particularly for beginners and those not wishing to join a club, which might meet the ambitions of England Golf to improve and widen participation.
- 2.2.31 While there is a good range of par 3 courses and GDRs, it is difficult to see England Golf's priority groups being accommodated at existing facilities. There is therefore no shortage of golf facilities in the area, but a lack of courses suitable specifically for beginners.
- 2.2.32 England Golf's key priority is in 'providing and developing entry level facilities that offer more playing opportunities, as without them playing opportunities in many areas will continue to be limited to traditional or commercial member golf clubs'. Most additional demand in the future is likely to occur mainly from beginners, juniors and others new to the game, particularly women and girls, and this will have implications for the types of facility that are required in the future, at least in the initial stages. There is also evidence that future development in golf facilities will

need to take into account social factors such as the availability of time and money, the introduction of technology to golf provision and the need for smaller, shorter courses which are more flexible in their use.

Golf – Key Issues to address

The key priorities for the strategy to address in relation to golf are therefore;

- Ensure that existing courses in Great Yarmouth at Gorleston, Caister and Caldecott are retained and protected
- Retain the other par 3 courses for recreational value, and this should include the Bure Park pitch and putt, where some engagement with golf governing bodies may be appropriate as part of the wider development of the game in the borough;
- Support proactive golf development - particularly among the target groups of the governing body. This might involve more active promotion of teaching and coaching at the two existing private clubs, and in particular the identification of Caldecott, with its two existing courses, indoor facilities and pay and play access, as a development academy, suitable for beginners who can then progress to the main courses, either here or at the two private clubs. This approach would involve a degree of cooperation between the existing providers, together with the County GB.
- In view of the uncertainty of the usage of the existing GDR at Browston Hall, there is a case for the provision of an additional or alternative floodlit range in the borough, available to existing golfers for practice and new participants for tuition.

Rugby Union

Supply

- There are 4 formal rugby union pitches. Two of these are located at Cobholm Playing Fields whilst the remaining 2 pitches are at school sites. Great Yarmouth -Broadland FC leased Cobholm Playing Fields but this lease has now expired, meaning that the club have no security of tenure.
- Four further schools have rugby posts and spaces for rugby pitches but at the time of consultation there were no formal markings identified. These may be available in future years.
- The quality of facilities used by the club is standard. There is evidence of rust on the goalposts for both pitches and some concerns about moles potentially encroaching onto the pitches in future years. The site is publicly accessible and suffers from issues relating to unofficial use as a result.
- The ancillary facilities are basic with poor changing rooms for teams and officials. There is no heating and upgrading the ancillary facilities is the club's highest priority.
- Reflecting the importance of pitch quality, the RFU now have a partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA). This is a resource that can be used to help drive pitch quality improvements, particularly around improving capacity for midweek rugby play.

Demand	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great Yarmouth - Broadland RUFC are the only rugby club in the Borough. They play at Cobholm Playing fields which is their preferred home ground.• The club consists of 2 teams, both senior. There has been no change in regard to the number of teams operating in the past 3 years, although this represents a decline from the 2015 Playing Pitch Strategy.• As is common with rugby clubs nationwide, training at Great Yarmouth – Broadland RFC takes place at the club base. Both teams train twice per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays and training is therefore equivalent to 2 Match Equivalent Sessions (MES). Training takes place in the training area, but does also spread onto the competitive pitches.• There is evidence of participation in some schools in the Borough, but little transition between schools and the club, given that there are no opportunities for juniors currently. Much of the interest generated from activity in schools is therefore likely to travel outside of the Borough	

Adequacy of Provision

- 2.2.33 The pitches at Cobholm Playing Fields are able to sustain the level of play required. With competitive activity equivalent to 1 MES and capacity on each pitch of 2 MES, spare capacity equates to 2 MES.
- 2.2.34 Most of the training takes place on the training area and therefore doesn't impact on the pitches themselves. Even if the pitches were used for all training, the two pitches would remain adequate (1 MES spare capacity)
- 2.2.35 There are also other pitches available at school sites, with a small amount of spare capacity which could be used should demand increase
- 2.2.36 Projections demonstrate that population growth alone will have no impact on demand for rugby. Growth aspirations for rugby, and the opportunities arising from the World Cup may see potential increases in interest. The club facilities however currently restrict growth, and retention of existing players is the key priority. Unless there is significant growth following facility improvement, It is therefore likely that the facilities will remain adequate for the club over the strategy period if secured for long term usage.

Key Facility Issues to Address

Rugby Union – Key Issues for Strategy to address

The key priorities for the strategy to address in relation to rugby union are therefore;

- The requirement to protect existing facilities for rugby union
- The lack of security of tenure for the club
- The opportunities for improvement to pitch quality (maintenance)
- Requirement to enhance the quality of the ancillary facilities.

Scenario Testing

2.2.37 Pitches are currently rated as M1/ D1, meaning that there is capacity for 2 MES per pitch (4 MES total), which is sufficient to meet both training and match play needs. Improvements to maintenance procedures would ensure a better quality playing experience, but also future proof the club and prevent potential issues with moles. Improving the maintenance to M2 / D1 would improve site capacity to 6 MES.

Hockey

Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is one sand based full sized AGP in Great Yarmouth Borough suitable for hockey. This is located at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy in Gorleston-on-Sea. The pitch is owned by the school and currently rented to various clubs that use it for different sports including hockey. • This pitch is 15 years old and is in poor condition. The quality of the pitch negatively impacts the quality of the hockey game .
Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarmouth HC are the sole hockey club in Great Yarmouth Borough. They operate 1 senior women’s team and 1 junior female team. This participation represents a decline in recent years, with a reduction in the number of senior teams due to falling numbers. • The club rent the pitch at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy on a pay as you go basis, and both competitive activity and training takes place at this site. Each team plays a competitive game on an alternate Saturday mornings and trains on a Thursday evening. Together weekly usage of the pitch for hockey equates to 2 hours per week.

Demand

Adequacy of Provision

2.2.38 There is spare capacity equivalent to 10 - 15 hours (midweek) on the sand based AGP. There is limited use by the hockey club and some use for football. Whilst this means that the hockey club must compete for desirable time slots, the club do not identify any issues with securing access to the facility when they require it.

- 2.2.39 Based on existing levels of usage, one pitch is currently adequate to meet demand. At peak time, the club demand equates to 1 MES, and with the standard capacity of the pitch being 4 MES, this means that there is room for growth in participation
- 2.2.40 Based on current activity levels, hockey alone is insufficient to sustain the pitch commercially. It is therefore essential that the need for pitch resurfacing is planned for now, both in terms of how the pitch can be retained long term, but also how the resurfacing of the facility will be funded. England Hockey have recently worked alongside England Netball / The LTA to develop a Gen2 surface suitable for all sports. The use of this surface improves the number of sports that can be played and therefore the commercial viability of the site.
- 2.2.41 Projections demonstrate that population growth alone will have no impact on demand for hockey. The club do however have aspirations for growth. One pitch would still be adequate to meet demand even if these levels of play were achieved. Increases in line with England Hockey targets would ensure that the club remains sustainable and that the facility is heavily used

Hockey – Key Issues
<p>The key issues in relation to hockey are therefore;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of retaining a pitch of suitable surface to meet the needs of hockey. • The need to resurface the existing pitch to ensure it remains of adequate quality • Sustainability of the existing pitch.

Scenario Testing – Conversion of sand based AGP to 3G

- 2.2.42 The assessment report demonstrates that one pitch is required to ensure the current and projected future needs of the hockey club are met. No further scenario testing is therefore required. The provision of a Gen2 facility represents a viable alternative option to a sand based pitch and would mean that tennis / netball could be played on the site as well as hockey.
- 2.2.43 In order to maintain a continued supply to the hockey club;
 - Circa 2 hours would be required on a Saturday for hockey, which may increase if membership of the club grows
 - 2 hours would also be required for hockey on Thursday evening.
- 2.2.44 This means that there would be scope to accommodate tennis / netball on Monday / Tuesday / Wednesday Friday as well as Sunday.

Football

Supply

- The proportion of pitches secured for community use is good, particularly for smaller sided pitches. Most of the secondary schools are however available on an unsecured basis and community use has been ad hoc recently, primarily as a result of Covid 19. The majority of pitches not available to the community are at primary schools.
- Management of active community pitches is mixed, with the public sector being just the largest provider. There are few pitches that are fully controlled by the clubs, although some clubs do work alongside the Parishes / Playing Field Committees to support the maintenance process.
- The majority of pitches are located in the Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell and Northern Parishes. Provision is much lower in Great Yarmouth and Southern Parishes.
- The grass pitches are supported by three full size good quality 3G AGPs. Pitches at Lynn Grove School and Flegg High School are available to the community, it is anticipated that use at East Norfolk College will also be available in 2023. The sand based AGP at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy is used for football although it is not the preferred surface and there are two small sized 3G AGPs
- There are mixed views in relation to the overall pitch stock in the Borough, with a larger proportion of clubs indicating that they are happy with provision than are not satisfied. Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of clubs responding to the consultation are currently happy with pitch provision. For those clubs who are dissatisfied, the number of pitches and access to pitches is the biggest concern. These issues are also perceived to impact club development, although a shortage of volunteers and the cost of pitch hire also emerged as key issues.
- Across the Borough in general, the quality of pitches is poor to low standard. 17 pitches achieve a poor rating. For those pitches that do fall into the standard category, the vast majority of pitches are clearly closer to the poor categorisation than they are good (and consequently are rated low standard). There is a concern that if maintenance procedures are insufficient to keep up with usage across the season, more pitches will become poor later in the season.
- While pitches are low standard / poor, they are generally playable. Many of the pitches are thought to be impacted by the amount of use that takes place
- Maintenance schedules at most sites are basic. This has a detrimental effect on both the immediate quality of the pitch, but also the long-term capacity of the pitch across the season and beyond. Many of the issues arising (including drainage / compaction / evenness) could be addressed through improved in and out of season maintenance.
- While drainage emerges as a key issue, it is clear that in some instances, this is exacerbated by heavy usage and the resulting compaction at the site. Waterlogging is responsible for many cancellations on pitches across the borough. Improved drainage, linked with better maintenance procedures will significantly enhance the quality of pitches.
- Unofficial use of pitches, and the resulting dog fouling and litter is detrimental to pitch quality, but also is impacting the user experience.

- The quality of changing provision is varied.

Demand

- There are 168 teams, including two walking football teams. There is no evidence of teams travelling outside of the Borough to play.
- FA affiliation data suggests that this represents a positive increase in participation, with 145 teams playing at the time of the Local Football Facilities Plan in 2020.
- Whilst participation in mini and junior football is growing, the number of single adult teams is declining significantly. Most large clubs continue to run adult teams, but there are now very few teams left that are not part of a large club. Two leagues have folded in recent years.
- The spread of play is fairly even, although more play takes place in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell than any other area, linking with the higher levels of provision.
- There are no professional football clubs based within the Borough boundaries. Gorleston FC and Great Yarmouth Town however play in leagues in the National League System.
- Despite the availability of 3G AGPs, there remains extensive use of the grass pitches for training. This places significant pressure on the grass pitches as it essentially doubles the amount of use that pitches are required to sustain.

Adequacy of Provision

2.2.45 On a site specific level;

- When considering match play (as well as the impact of school use at school sites), across the week, there is a small amount of spare capacity across the Borough, with most sites having scope to sustain at least some additional play.
- There are only four sites where there is no formal community play registered for 2022 on the grass pitches. These are Caister Academy, Cliff Park Ormiston Academy, Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy and Cobholm Recreation Ground,
- When just considering match play / curricular usage, there are a few sites that exhibit overplay – this is evident at Barnard Bridge Sports Ground, Corporation Pitches / Magdalen Playing Fields, Gorleston Playing Fields, Lynn Grove Academy, Mill Lane Playing Fields, New Road Sports Field and Southtown Common. It is clear therefore that the majority of overplay is associated with the larger clubs;
- The concentration of play at peak time means that a higher number of pitches are required to meet the needs of teams than may otherwise be the case. As a consequence, availability

at peak time is much lower – there are just 27 MES available during the respective peak periods (excluding overplay). There is no remaining capacity at peak time on 37 pitches

- When taking into account the impact of training on grass pitches (which takes place on multiple sites), shortages are exacerbated
- Although high levels of demand contribute to the low levels of spare capacity in the Borough, the quality of pitches is also a key contributing factor. The poor quality of pitches significantly reduces the number of games that could be sustained. This means that particularly when taking into account the impact of training, there are pressures on the existing infrastructure.

2.2.46 Overall, therefore in quantitative terms, there are enough pitches to meet demand across the borough as a whole. There are however pressures at some key sites and to meet the needs of large clubs and a need to improve pitch quality in order to maximise the capacity of the facilities that are provided. There is also a need to ensure that security of tenure is retained, as spare capacity reduces significantly when unsecured pitches are taken out of the equation.

2.2.47 Alongside qualitative improvements and improving the capacity of existing pitches, there are opportunities to make better use of the school sites. Several of the secondary schools are open for community use but do not currently have regular users of the grass pitches. The grass pitches at Flegg High School are not open for community use due to their poor condition.

2.2.48 Across the borough, there are clubs seeking additional capacity, with facilities for Hopton Harriers in particular being poor and Gorleston Rangers, Shrublands, Bohemians and Caister FC all experiencing capacity issues to a greater or lesser degree. For many of these clubs, a lack of off-site training facilities exacerbates the situation

2.2.49 There is a theoretical requirement for 4.4 full size AGPs – taking into account existing facilities and those to be developed, this would suggest that there is a small shortfall. Reluctance to use the facilities by clubs should however be taken into account during any facility planning process. Increasing use of the existing 3G AGPs for match play should take priority over the provision of new 3G AGPs in the short term.

2.2.50 Future population growth will have limited impact, with only the number of adult football teams projected to increase. This increase is however more than likely to offset the current decline in participation in this age group, rather than create significant additional demand.

2.3 Whilst population growth will have limited impact, club development initiatives have potential to stimulate further demand and require additional capacity to meet this demand. Analysis of club aspirations for growth suggests that this is likely to have the biggest impact in terms of the adequacy of provision. Capacity pressures for youth football in particular will be exacerbated. A 10% growth in junior, 9v9 and mini football participation would have the following impact on the adequacy of provision;

- An increase of 5 youth teams would generate 2.5 match equivalents. With capacity already inadequate, this suggests that additional capacity would be needed to meet this demand
- Pressures would increase on 9v9 pitches, with a further 3 teams (1.5 match equivalent sessions) resulting in spare capacity equivalent to just 2.5 MES at peak time.
- The growth in 7v7 teams could be accommodated (3 teams), with spare capacity across the week just 5 match equivalents available at peak time.
- 2 additional 5v5 teams could also be accommodated (reducing spare capacity to 2.5 MES at peak time).

2.3.1 The above assume that all pitches that are currently available remain so.

2.3.2 There are however significant aspirations for club development and most of the clubs will be unable to achieve their growth aspirations within the existing infrastructure. Sites where pressure exist include New Road Sports Field, King George V Playing Field, pitches associated with Gorleston FC, Corporation Fields, Magdalen Fields, Hemsby Playing Fields, Hopton Playing Fields, Martham FC, Beaconsfield Recreation Ground.

Geographic Issues

2.3.3 Geographically, the adequacy of provision is not equal;

- in Great Yarmouth overall, there is a small number of senior pitches with potential for improvement and potential to convert them to pitches of other size. The proposed new 3G AGP will significantly improve the position for 9v9 football and overall therefore provision will just be adequate. Qualitative improvements are however required, and with limited spare capacity, significant growth would place further pressures on the playing field infrastructure.
- in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell overall, there are some existing capacity pressures. The proposed new 3G AGP will significantly improve this position, but there remain challenges accommodating Shrublands and Gorleston Rangers Football Clubs in particular. Qualitative improvements are required to maximise the number of games that can be sustained and there may be a requirement for additional capacity given the lack of available pitch provision

at peak time (although these pressures could be reduced by better use of the AGP). Growth would place further pressures on the playing field infrastructure.

- capacity for match play is largely adequate in the Northern parts of the Borough, but the addition of training on grass pitches reveals several concerns - it creates overplay in both Caister and Hemsby Recreation Ground. The extra wear and tear generated by the use of the facilities for training is also responsible for many of the quality issues identified, with compaction a significant recurring issue. This means that the quality of pitches becomes even more important, as well as reducing the amount of training that takes place on grass.
- there are both capacity and quality pressures in the Southern Parishes that need to be addressed. To an extent, the quality issues cause the capacity pressures, but even following qualitative improvements, the pressures at peak time suggest that additional capacity is required.

2.3.4 Table 2.2 provides an overview of the adequacy of provision to meet current demand for football in each part of the Borough. It should be noted that these figures include all pitches that are available for the community (secured and unsecured). Loss of unsecured pitches would increase the inadequacies that are identified and reduce any spare capacity.

Great Yarmouth PPOSS



Table 2.2 – Adequacy of Current Provision

Sub Area	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9		7v7		5v5	
	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)
Total	11.5	8	-1.25	-0.5	8	4	49	6.5	25.5	3.5
Great Yarmouth	5	3	0	0	0	0	4	1.5	2.5	0.5
Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell	0.5	2.5	-1	0	2	2.5	23	3.5	11	1
Northern Parishes	5	3	3	1	6.5	3.5	13	1.5	21	3
Southern Parishes	0	-0.5	-3.25	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	9	0	4	0
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spare capacity across the Borough and at peak time • Overplay at Gorleston Playing Fields, Lynn Grove Academy and Southtown Common • Spare capacity mostly in Great Yarmouth and North sub areas • Supply tightly balanced in Southern Parishes • In Gorleston, provision across the week is of 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision inadequate both across the week and at peak time • Overplay at Hopton Playing Fields, Mill Lane and New Road • Overplay evident in Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell and Southern Parishes. • Pitch capacity across the week needs to be addressed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity limited both across the week and at peak time • Overplay at New Road Sports Field and Corporation Playing Fields • No spare capacity in Southern Parishes and pressures on the pitch stock at peak time in Gorleston 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited spare capacity across the week, • Available capacity in all areas of the Borough, but except Southern Parishes at peak time • Limited spare capacity at peak time (although potential for consecutive fixtures) • No overplay on any site but some pitches have no remaining spare capacity at peak time 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good level of capacity across the week • Limited spare capacity at peak time (although potential for consecutive fixtures) • Burgh Village Hall is the only site with unmet demand at peak time • Provision at peak time limited in all areas except Northern Parishes, which is where greatest amount of spare capacity occurs. 	

Great Yarmouth PPOSS



	<p>greater concern than at peak time..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly capacity is limited by pitch quality• Scope to use pitches at Caister Academy, Ormiston Academy, Cobholm Recreation Ground as these are not currently used				
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Football – Summary Issues

The key issues that need to be addressed for football are therefore;

- The quality issues identified at the existing pitches; particularly where poor quality is reducing capacity. Many of the pitches are a very low standard quality (basic). Pitch quality improvements are essential if the needs of clubs are to be met. Pitch quality emerged as the key theme of consultation, and several clubs have already started to engage with the Pitch Improvement and Pitch Power FA programmes. The quality of pitches is particularly important given the requirement for many to sustain matches (and in some instances training) in more than one time slot – it is evident that there are pressures to sustain the total number of fixtures that are required and not just demand at peak time.
- The capacity pressures on key club sites – there is a need for additional capacity to be delivered – this can be created through quality improvements / access to AGPs for match play. New provision may however be required to meet the needs of clubs in some parts of the Borough
- The potential to better use the stock of AGPs reduce pressures on grass – full community use of existing and new AGPs is essential if the needs of clubs are to be met
- The impact of training on grass pitches – effective use of AGPs would minimise the negative impact of this
- The need to address the current issues for the two pyramid clubs – Great Yarmouth FC and Gorleston FC..

Football Scenario Testing - Quality

- 2.3.5 The assessment highlights the significant concerns that are evident with regards the quality of the pitch stock and indicates that the quality of many of the pitches falls within the lower echelons of the standard range. There are also several poor quality sites.
- 2.3.6 Scenario modelling evaluating the impact of improving all poor quality pitches to standard (and retaining the remainder of pitches at standard) suggests that;
- When considering just match play, all sites would have adequate capacity to accommodate the current level of demand, with the exception of Lynn Grove Academy and Martham Playing Fields (where pressures would remain)
 - If training on grass pitches was to continue, there would also be shortfalls on Corporation Pitches, New Road, Barnards Bridge, King George Playing Fields (Caister), Emerald Park , Green Lane and South Town Common
- 2.3.7 If the quality of all pitches in the Borough was improved to good;

- All adult pitch sites would have adequate capacity across the week for match play. When considering the impact of training, only Caistor and Southtown Common would remain overplayed
- Similarly, improvements to both youth and 9v9 pitches would see all shortfalls eliminated if training is not taken into account. New Road / Corporation Playing Fields would be the only sites to have overplay when considering training
- improvements to 7v7 and 9v9 pitches would increase capacity further.

Summary

2.3.8 Table 2.3 provides a brief overview of the capacity position for each of the sports in the Borough

Sport	Current Position	Future Position
Cricket	Spare capacity of 70 MES taking into account overplay, 1.5 MES at peak time	1.5 MES at peak time, availability likely to reduce to 20 MES across the season
Rugby Union	Supply meets demand	Supply meets demand
Hockey	Supply meets demand	Supply meets demand
Athletics	Supply meets demand	Supply meets demand
Golf	Requirement for additional GDR	Requirement for additional GDR
Tennis	Capacity adequate to meet current demand	Potential requirement for future additional provision if participation increases are delivered long term.
Bowls	Capacity adequate to meet existing demand	Capacity adequate to meet projected future demand.
Football	Adult Football – 8 MES peak time Youth Football – -0.5 MES peak time (but greater pressures across the week) 9v9 Football – 4 MES peak time 7v7 Football – 6.5 MES 5v5 Football – 3.5 MES Peak time The above assume that all pitches currently available remain available.	Adult Football – 6.5 MES peak time Youth Football – overplay of 2 MES at peak time 9v9 Football – 2.5 MES at peak time 7v7 Football – 5 MES at peak time 5v5 Football – 2.5 MES peak time The above assume that all pitches currently available remain available.

3.0 Strategic Framework

3.1.1 Section 2 summarised the context for each sport and the key issues that need to be addressed across Great Yarmouth Borough drawing upon supply and demand modelling, consultation and site visits. The full assessment of issues identified, modelling and evaluation of options using site specific modelling is set out under separate cover (assessment report).

3.1.2 This section sets out a strategy for the future delivery of facilities for football, cricket, rugby union, hockey, bowls, tennis, athletics and golf.

3.1.3 It seeks to address the issues identified for each sport and to guide the proactive improvement of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities in Great Yarmouth Borough. It is focused around the following principles;

- Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision – the strategy seeks to ensure that the Borough contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and type and in the right place. It promotes the protection of existing provision, but also recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the impact that qualitative improvements can have on capacity. For most sports in Great Yarmouth Borough, the improvement of existing facilities will be of greater priority than the creation of more, at least in the short term;
- It is essential to maximise the role of existing resources – the strategy will seek to extend the capacity and function of existing facilities;
- The strategy will seek to maximise sustainability – it will seek to build relationships between sports, promote good practice and deliver sustainable solutions for sport and recreation across the Borough;
- Pitch provision will be delivered in partnership. The strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities and to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and effectively aligned to maximise the value of assets to the community. The strategy recognises the important roles that Parish Councils, Schools, Clubs and others play in the provision of sports facilities across the Borough.

3.1.4 Section 1 set out the key objectives for this strategy. To deliver these objectives there are a series of key themes and recommendations which are relevant to all sports. They provide a framework for the protection, management and enhancement of the facility infrastructure and for the sport specific recommendations.

3.1.5 The strategic priorities are set out below. The priorities for each sport are summarised in Table 3.1

Objective 1 – Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand

The strategy will seek to ensure that there are enough facilities by;

- Protecting the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities and playing fields where it is required to meet demand – it provides evidence for the application of policies protecting playing fields, building on the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 97) and Sport England’s statutory consultee role on planning applications affecting playing field land
- Clearly identifying any pitches that are not required to meet current or projected future sporting needs and recommending the next steps for these sites.
- Promoting improvements to the pitch maintenance procedures and investing in pitch quality works to increase site capacity
- Maximising the role that 3g Artificial Grass Pitches play in competitive sport as well as for training
- Securing long term usage agreements on key club bases to ensure ongoing security of tenure
- Maximising the role that school facilities play in meeting community need and securing long term community access
- Extending existing / providing new facilities where demand is evident
- Ensuring new development that would generate demand for additional pitches contributes towards playing pitch and outdoor sports provision in the Borough

3.1.6 The assessment demonstrates that the majority of facilities in the borough are valuable resources and indicates that demand will increase in future years both as a result of population growth, but also if aspirations to develop new teams are realised.

3.1.7 Both Sport England and NPPF policy require that playing fields are afforded protection unless specific exception criteria are met. This also applies to disused playing fields

- 3.1.8 The site specific table (Table 5.1) details which playing field sites should be afforded protection. This table will be reviewed as part of the ongoing monitoring of this document as strategy recommendations are delivered.
- 3.1.9 The protection of the existing facilities will form the basis of the strategy. Work is however required to ensure that the stock of facilities offers adequate capacity both to meet current demand, but also to include future demand. For most sports the future demand for provision identified in Great Yarmouth can be met through a combination of:
- Investing in pitch and facility maintenance to better equip the pitches to sustain the required level of use
 - Improving quality to improve the capacity of pitches where this is identified as being required
 - Maximising the sustainability of existing sites, embracing new technological solutions and opportunities to improve the customer journey
 - Securing long term community use – both in terms of access agreements to school sites but also leases for community clubs.
 - Maximising the use of AGPs for competitive play and training (existing pitches and new facilities).
- 3.1.10 Some new provision may be required longer term.
- 3.1.11 The population growth that is projected to arise up to 2039 means that it is important to ensure that contributions are requested from new developments. This is to ensure that even where new provision is not required, improvements can be made to the capacity of existing provision to ensure that it can meet the increase in demand that will be generated. New provision may be required in some instances to meet demand for football. This will depend upon the location of the proposed development and the position of capacity demonstrated on the nearby sites.
- 3.1.12 This strategy promotes the use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) to assess the impact of each specific new development and this will be discussed in detail in Section 4. The future projected scenarios in this strategy document consider the impact of overall projected growth up to the year 2039 (including the likely changes to the population profile etc as well as the impact of growth) but the PPC will enable the impact of specific developments to be quantified as they arise.
- 3.1.13 In addition, it should be ensured that the existing sporting use of playing fields is not compromised by new development. For example, where there is a development that may

prejudice the use of an existing cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development.

Objective 2 – Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer term aspirations

The strategy promotes the provision of facilities of adequate quality by;

- Ensuring that all pitches are maintained using regimes appropriate for the level of use that they sustain and the activities that are undertaken. This should include both regular maintenance and out of season reinstatement and capital investment
- prioritising improvements and enhancement at sites that do not meet current or projected future need
- Ensuring that pitches are accompanied by appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. changing / catering where required)
- Supporting clubs that require improved facilities in order to play at a higher standard and developing a hierarchy of pitch and training facilities
- Implementing a programme of rest and recovery of playing fields.

3.1.14 Pitch quality is perhaps the key issue in Great Yarmouth, with many clubs facing challenges in capacity caused in full or in part by the quality of facilities, many existing sites not operating at full capacity, or providing a poor player experience due to quality challenges that are faced. Qualitative issues were highlighted by the majority of clubs in most sports as the key issue impacting club development and satisfaction and it is clear that quality impacts the number of games that can be sustained.

3.1.15 In particular, there are challenges associated with maintenance including declining budgets and the importance of volunteers. Modelling and scenario testing highlighted the opportunities to improve capacity through grass pitch enhancement.

3.1.16 Poor grass pitch quality is often not a result of issues with the pitch, but more the appropriateness of the maintenance regime for the pitch conditions that takes into account the level/standard of play. This strategy seeks to ensure that pitches are subjected to appropriate maintenance programmes prior to rectifying any underlying quality issues (to ensure that quality issues are not caused by issues with the maintenance process).

3.1.17 Improvements to maintenance can therefore help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each NGB, in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes and new tools are now being introduced (Pitch Power) which enables clubs to proactively seek advice. This strategy seeks to ensure engagement with these pitch improvement tools, ensuring that maintenance programmes are tailored to the characteristics of the pitch and the demand. Pitch improvement works may also be required (in addition to tailored maintenance schedules) and requirements can also be evaluated through the same pitch improvement programmes.

Objective 3 – Maximise access to playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities

The strategy seeks to maximise access by;

- Ensuring that clubs are granted appropriate leases, and ensuring that support is available for clubs who need to negotiate long term security of tenure
- Promoting the community use of school sites, and seeking to deliver long term community use agreements
- Ensuring appropriate distribution of facilities – considering demand at a site specific level to ensure geographical pressures in supply are addressed.

3.1.18 Access to school grounds creates significant benefits for clubs and the loss of school facilities for community access would generate shortfalls of provision and would see several clubs displaced. It is essential to secure against changes to access arrangements at any time in the future.

3.1.19 This strategy therefore seeks to promote the use of school sites and prioritises action to work alongside schools to protect and formalise long term agreements as well as securing agreement for access to sites that are not currently available.

3.1.20 The strategy also recognises the value of clubs securing long term leases, particularly with regards the opportunities that this brings to secure funding. Clubs wishing to secure leases should meet key criteria, including;

- Clubmark / appropriate NGB charter mark accreditation
- Proactive approach to school club links
- Sustainability both financially and in terms of internal management
- Processes in place to prove capacity to maintain sites to existing / better standards

3.1.21 Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.

3.1.22 Whilst the assessment focuses on facility requirements over the strategy period, the strategy also seeks to ensure that the facility infrastructure supports sustainable club development. In some instances, growing participation will be essential if facilities are to remain sustainable, whilst in others, additional capacity is required if club growth is not to be inhibited.

Objective 4 – Support increasing participation and promote sustainable club development
<p>The strategy seeks to promote sustainable club development by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring that clubs are granted appropriate leases, and ensuring that support is available for clubs who need to negotiate long term security of tenure• Providing clubs with the support they need to manage and maintain their facilities• Ensuring that facilities are able to meet both current and projected future demand.

3.1.23 The strategy seeks to identify where support for club development is particularly needed and highlight where this should be prioritised. It identifies opportunities where the provision of new facilities may stimulate growth.

3.1.24 The actual impact of sports development initiatives, as well as any changes in the direction of sports cannot however be accurately be quantified. In addition, the full impact of the recent Covid 19 pandemic is also as of yet unknown, although it is clear that this has impacted not only participation, but also the quality and sustainability of some clubs, as the impact of a lack of use of facilities becomes apparent. This reinforces the importance of the annual monitoring process (see Section 5).

3.2 Sport Specific Recommendations

- 3.2.1 The strategic recommendations set out the framework for the delivery of playing fields and sports facilities across Great Yarmouth and guide the sport specific recommendations that are set out in Table 3.1 overleaf. The table includes the overall recommendation, as well as the key actions required to deliver each of the recommendations. It also highlights the key sites that are impacted by the recommendation.
- 3.2.2 While to date and for clarity, each sport has been considered separately within this strategy, recommendations should be implemented strategically, considering opportunities for partnerships between sports. There are some good examples of sustainable clubs and multi sport partnerships already and these provide foundations for a successful future delivery model. It will be essential to ensure that good practice and insight from these successful ventures is spread across the Borough through knowledge sharing and effective training and guidance.
- 3.2.3 Section 5 therefore contains a site specific action plan, which brings together all of the recommendations for each of the sports. This action plan is broken down by area of the Borough, with the key issues in each area also highlighted.

Table 3.1 – Sport Specific Recommendations

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
Cricket 1	Protect all current club sites. In addition to retaining the actual ground, this should include ensuring that the existing functionality at cricket grounds is protected, with risk assessments (including ball strike assessments strategy document) and appropriate mitigation in place where new developments are located in close proximity to sites.	All club sites	Keep list in strategy document protecting sites up to date Incorporate appropriate policy in Local Plan Ensure PPS is taken into account when making decisions on playing fields	GYBC
Cricket 2	Maximise long security of tenure for all clubs	Key Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martham CC (currently rent) • Rollesby CC (currently rent) • Great Yarmouth CC (currently rent) • Caister CC (10 years remaining on current lease). 	Work alongside clubs to negotiate long term leases	NCB / GYBC
Cricket 3	To improve quality, focus initially on ensuring that maintenance regimes are focused and tailored to the needs of each ground.	Scope to improve maintenance at all sites. The following clubs highlight specific issues;	Work with clubs / providers to use the Pitch Power tool and / or commission Grounds management reviews and to act on findings at all sites.	NCB / ECB / Clubs and Providers

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
	<p>The Pitch Power tool will soon be available for use by all cricket clubs and pitch providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Yarmouth CC –square requires remedial treatment, • Rollesby CC – grass cover • Winterton CC – requires irrigation, ongoing improvement to square • Caister CC – better accommodate balance between football / cricket. Signs of water stress 		
Cricket 4	<p>Invest in pitch quality improvements where pitch quality assessment (see Cricket 3) suggests this is still required following maintenance improvements and where improvements are necessary to meet with league standards / needed to ensure that play can continue.</p> <p>This may include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage works • Outfield levelling • Work to improve the square • Provision of appropriate facilities (sight screens etc). 	<p>The following issues may require further investigation (dependent upon results of quality assessment – see Recommendation 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage, poor condition of square – Great Yarmouth CC • Outfield levelling – Winterton, King George Caister 	<p>Work in partnership to identify detailed improvements required through use of PQA (Recommendation 3)</p> <p>Provide support and guidance to clubs in the submission of external funding bids. This should include the identification of opportunities. Opportunities to deliver this at some sites will be dependent on the success of cricket 2 (security of tenure)</p>	<p>NCB / ECB / Clubs and Providers</p>

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
Cricket 5	<p>Ancillary provision can be as important to cricket clubs as the playing facilities.</p> <p>Improve clubhouse and changing facilities to ensure all clubs have a basic facility of adequate standard (electricity / running water / changing rooms / basic kitchen). This is particularly of importance where these are needed to accommodate growth in the junior and female game and / or are required to support the delivery of targets around the women and girls game however improvements at all sites are essential to help clubs to attract new players.</p> <p>Support other improvements where they are necessary to facilitate the growth of the club and participation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following pavilions would benefit from upgrade to support the attraction and retention of players; • Winterton CC – require refurbishment to ensure club retains position in league • Rollesby CC – no mains electricity or showers • Martham CC – require internal upgrade to facilitate female cricket 	<p>Support clubs with proposals to upgrade pavilions / other improvements where necessary to meet recommendation.</p> <p>Where clubs are eligible, provide support and guidance to clubs in the submission of external funding bids. This should include the identification of opportunities for funding.</p>	NCB / ECB / Clubs and Providers
Cricket 6	<p>Improve both the availability and quality of training facilities.</p> <p>All clubs should have access to an off field training facility to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance. Adequate training facilities also help to attract younger players to the game.</p>	<p>Key priorities are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caister CC (no off field training facilities) • Winterton CC – training facility surface requires improvement 	Support clubs in the development of appropriate facilities	NCB / ECB / Clubs and Providers

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Yarmouth CC (no off field training facilities) Rollesby CC (no off field training facilities) 		
Cricket 7	<p>Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate capacity. Whilst there is limited overplay, there is little room for growth.</p> <p>Key priorities for addressing this issue include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking with Cricket 3 and 4, support improvements to quality to improve square capacity. Improvements to outfield will also ensure that programmes that take place on the outfield (including All Stars) can be effectively sustained. Supporting clubs in the creation of Non Turf Pitches Providing additional pitches on the existing square where there is scope to do so 	<p>Key priority is those that are currently overplaying facilities and / or are unable to accommodate their projected growth.</p> <p>With only Martham CC rated good, qualitative improvements will increase capacity at all other sites to a point where capacity is adequate to meet current demand. Caister CC is the only exception to this – scenario modelling shows that the pressures will still remain.</p> <p>Key priorities are therefore;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative improvements at all sites NTP at Caister CC Additional pitches on square at Winterton CC, NTP Long term, potential additional facilities to support Broadland CC (which would reduce capacity pressures at Caister CC). To be carefully balanced with 	<p>Linking with C2 and C3, improve quality to enhance capacity at sites currently rated standard.</p> <p>Following qualitative improvements, work with clubs and leagues to introduce use of non turf wickets (on the square) in order to maximise capacity across the season.</p> <p>Continue to monitor and review capacity requirements.</p>	

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of spare capacity at other sites • Use of school sites. <p>Demand should be monitored</p>	<p>sustainability issues. Potential for reinstatement of facilities at Southtown Common / Hemsby and or use of Flegg HS to accommodate additional demand depending upon location.</p>		
Cricket 8	<p>Reinvigorate cricket across Great Yarmouth Borough, by supporting clubs to remain sustainable and promoting club growth. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with ECB development programmes • Succession planning and support for volunteers • Improving facilities (see cricket 2-7) to support attraction / retention of players 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct engagement with clubs to promote involvement with All Stars, Dynamos and Women and Girls – longer term this should support player recruitment • Work alongside clubs to support volunteer development and maximise succession planning. 	NCB
Cricket 9	<p>Explore opportunities to provide a site containing non turf wickets that can be used for informal play (for general community access) to promote informal cricket in the Borough</p>	Southtown Common	<p>Work alongside GYBC to stimulate informal cricket at Southtown Common to supplement the existing club based infrastructure</p>	NCB / GYBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
Rugby Union 1	<p>Protect existing club base to ensure ongoing provision for rugby union.</p> <p>This should include immediate renewal of the lease, which has now expired, (or asset transfer) to ensure long term security of tenure.</p>	Colbholm Playing Fields	<p>Keep list in strategy document protecting sites up to date</p> <p>Incorporate appropriate policy in Local Plan</p> <p>Review lease agreements of club with immediate effect and ensure that the club continues to have long term security of tenure.</p>	GYBC
Rugby Union 2	<p>With a view to retaining and maximising capacity, work alongside GMA and RFU to improve the capacity at the club base. This should revolve around improving the current maintenance regimes.</p>	<p>Club site currently M1/ D1.</p> <p>Whilst the club rely on natural drainage currently, there is no evidence to suggest that this is not effective. There is significant scope to improve maintenance procedures however and moles are close to encroaching on the pitches.</p>	<p>Clubs to work alongside RFU and GMA to establish and implement improved maintenance regime. The Pitch Power tool will soon become available to rugby clubs.</p>	RFU / GYBC / Clubs
Rugby Union 3	<p>Ensure that associated ancillary provision meets with club need to maximise sustainability</p>	<p>Club base requires improvement to changing accommodation if club are to retain existing and attract new players. This will be particularly important if increases in participation by women and girls are to be achieved.</p> <p>Current club facilities are very poor, but the club's ability to action this is limited by the lack of security of tenure.</p>	<p>Support club in renewal of lease (or asset transfer) to enable improvements to take place.</p> <p>Support club to apply for funding to ensure that ancillary provision meets needs.</p> <p>Improved changing accommodation is currently the club's key priority.</p>	RFU
Hockey 1	<p>Protect the needs of hockey by ensuring that a minimum of one pitch</p>	Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	<p>Ensure the proper protection of the hockey surface through the planning process.</p>	GYBC / EH

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
	<p>of appropriate surface is retained for community use.</p> <p>Due to the levels of hockey usage at the site, a Gen2 surface would provide a good level of flexibility for other sporting use.</p>		<p>Seek to remove permitted development rights / apply planning conditions to ensure that full consultation with relevant NGBs must be carried out prior to any change in pitch surface.</p> <p>Represent the needs of hockey in any discussion and resist the loss of the facility (and / or conversion to 3G) to ensure that adequate facilities of appropriate surface for hockey are retained.</p>	
Hockey 2	<p>Work with provider to ensure that required refurbishment of pitch surfaces is scheduled and that a sinking fund is in place to secure this work.</p> <p>Ensure that any new surface is supported by effective maintenance procedures.</p>	Cliff Park Ormiston Academy – surface is now 14 years old and requires immediate refurbishment	<p>Work alongside EH to plan refurbishment of existing surface.</p> <p>Establish a sustainability plan to ensure that funds are in place for the surface to be refurbished and for the long term provision of the pitch (ensuring a surface compatible with hockey is retained). Due to the level of hockey usage at the site, a Gen2 surface would provide a good level of flexibility for other sporting use.</p> <p>Establish a maintenance plan to maximise the longevity of the surface.</p>	EH
Hockey 3	Work with the club to support hockey development. Growth in participation	Great Yarmouth Ladies	Establish regular partnership meetings. This could be delivered in partnership with	EH

Great Yarmouth PPOSS



Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
	will be essential if the pitch is to remain sustainable		Lowestoft HC, another nearby small hockey club.	
Bowls 1	Protect active bowling greens.	All sites	<p>Ensure list in strategy is kept up to date</p> <p>Inclusion of appropriate policy in Local Plan</p> <p>Use of this PPS for decision making</p>	GYBC
Bowls 2	Promote the importance of effective maintenance regimes and support clubs in obtaining and implementing external grounds maintenance advice for their greens. Maintenance was highlighted as one of the key issue for clubs across the Borough.	All sites.	<p>Promote sustainability at bowling greens by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the help that is available on green maintenance / management • Improving knowledge sharing and joint working (potentially including sharing of machinery) • Provide regular training and guidance events for the bowls clubs on the management and maintenance of facilities. • Promotion of succession planning - ensure that training targets both existing maintenance teams and other club members to maximise succession planning, enhance knowledge and reduce reliance on small numbers of volunteers. • Supporting clubs in the compilation of funding bids for machinery / external funding. 	
Bowls 3	Support clubs where qualitative improvements are required where these impact upon play and where capital investment is still identified as being necessary following attempts to	Most issues identified should be addressed through Bowls 2	Quality issues may be impacted / caused by poor maintenance regimes and this should be eliminated first. Professional assessments	

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
	tailor maintenance procedures (See bowls 2).	(maintenance) above. Other issues identified include; Marine Parade – surface / edging Green Lane – edging	should be undertaken in order to ascertain the work required. Where clubs require qualitative improvements but there is not adequate capital, support clubs in the compilation of funding bids and work alongside the committee to identify other means of generating income.	
Bowls 4	<p>To ensure the club infrastructure remain sustainable, support initiatives to increase participation in bowls by improving the promotion of the clubs. This should include work to remove several key barriers to participation in the sport including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor marketing and a lack of proactive promotion; • Lack of online presence • Struggle to recruit volunteers and heavy reliance on volunteers to manage and maintain greens. <p>Given the low membership numbers at several sites this is essential if clubs are to remain sustainable. Increasing membership was a key priority of clubs across the Borough.</p> <p>Review the impact of proposed housing growth on club capacity.</p>	<p>Clubs where membership numbers are currently lower include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repps with Bastwick • Runham • Rollesby • Hopton • Winterton • Filby <p>Analysis of accessibility and travel patterns suggests that local access to bowling greens is important and it is therefore essential that this is maintained</p>	<p>Work alongside the clubs to support club development initiatives and provide advice and guidance to stimulate improvement.</p> <p>Sustainability at clubs should be monitored – sites with less than 20 members are unsustainable and immediate support will be required to increase membership.</p> <p>Work alongside clubs in areas of high housing growth to ensure that increased demand can be accommodated - Caister / Gorleston on Sea / Bradwell may have limited spare capacity if growth aspirations are achieved.</p>	GYBC, Active Norfolk

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
Tennis 1	<p>Protect the existing quantity of tennis courts across the Borough to ensure that the amount of courts is adequate to meet current and projected future demand.</p> <p>To ensure sustainability of existing stock, seek to maximise use of these facilities through tennis development.</p>	All existing sites	<p>Ensure the list in the strategy document is monitored</p> <p>Include appropriate policy within the local plan</p> <p>Monitor the requirement to provide additional courts – the requirement for more will be dependent upon the degree to which target participation levels are achieved</p>	GYBC
Tennis 2	<p>Maximise opportunities for pay and play tennis across all areas of the Borough. This includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good quality and accessible floodlit public facilities • Well promoted school sites • Pay and play at clubs / schools to support access to tennis in the more rural parts of the Borough. <p>To effectively achieve this;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality facilities will require refurbishment • Consideration should be given to the installation of LTA customer journey technology to improve 	<p>Key public venues:</p> <p>Gorleston Cliffs – requires refurbishment (funding application is now in process) of all six courts. The increase in available courts at this site will offset the loss of the single court at Wellesley Recreation Ground</p> <p>Key pay and play school sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ormiston Venture Academy (current successful facility represents a good baseline model for others to follow) • Flegg High School (not currently available) • Charter High School (not currently available) 	<p>Work alongside the LTA to prioritise the refurbishment of courts at Gorleston Cliffs. This site is critical to meeting the tennis needs of residents and visitors and is currently poor quality with some courts unusable.</p> <p>Support schools in working alongside the LTA to initiate activity to improve public tennis courts – this should include quality assessments of existing facilities as well as identification of appropriate access and customer management systems.</p> <p>Undertake relevant marketing and promotion to increase awareness. This should also include piloting existing LTA initiatives on public facilities in order to improve grass roots take up of tennis. Marketing should be informed by the use of LTA segmentation data.</p>	LTA / GYBC / Schools

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
	<p>booking and management systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that the opportunities for public and pay and play are linked with increased promotion of courts that are available and organised introductory activities <p>Public venues should include floodlights in order to ensure year round access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved customer journey at all other school sites – marketing and promotion 	<p>Work alongside the venues to offer pay and play access to none member, both residents and none residents.</p>	
Tennis 3	<p>Ensure that the club remains sustainable and is able to accommodate growth by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrading floodlighting to maintain capacity and reduce seasonality Improving court quality where issues are identified Supporting improvements to the clubhouse where necessary to support membership Supporting clubs to attract and retain members through effective marketing and promotion. 	<p>Gorleston LTC – currently require floodlighting upgrade and work to clubhouse to help attract new members.</p>	<p>Work with Gorleston LTC to maintain existing membership and increase membership</p> <p>Support club in applications for funding where appropriate</p> <p>Work alongside the club to offer pay and play access to none members.</p>	<p>LTA / Club / GYBC</p>

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
Football 1	Protect all football pitches to ensure that the existing capacity is protected.	All active playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep list in strategy document protecting sites up to date Incorporate appropriate policy in Local Plan <p>Ensure PPS is taken into account when making decisions on playing fields</p>	GYBC
Football 2	<p>Secure the future of the existing pitch stock through qualitative improvements. This should start with the promotion of immediate improvements to maintenance and ensure that maintenance is tailored to each ground and to the level of play that each pitch must accommodate.</p> <p>This should be driven through the use of the FA Pitch Power tool by all clubs and pitch providers. Many providers across the Borough have already engaged with this tool with positive results.</p>	<p>GYBC to engage with Pitch Power Tool and GMA.</p> <p>All clubs to engage with Pitch Power.</p> <p>Sites where quality is a key concern (poor quality) include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaconsfield Recreation Ground Burgh Castle Playing Fields Gorleston Playing Fields / Recreation Ground Hopton Playing Field Mill Lane Playing Fields Ormesby Playing Fields 	<p>Work with clubs to promote use of Pitch Power tool and then subsequent access to maintenance improvement support</p> <p>Proactively support clubs at multi sports sites to tailor their maintenance to ensure that capacity and quality for both the on site summer and winter sports is maintained</p>	NFA / GYBC / FF / Clubs

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
		<p>Other sites where capacity is pressured which would benefit from improvement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill Lane Playing Fields • New Road Sports Field <p>Scenario modelling shows that improvements to quality will benefit all sizes of pitch and in all locations.</p> <p>If adult pitches and youth pitches were improved to good, there would be very few deficiencies remaining, although some sites would still struggle to accommodate training.</p>		
Football 3	<p>Invest in pitch quality improvements where Pitch Quality Assessments (See Football 2) suggest that this is required (following maintenance improvements) and where improvements are necessary to meet with league standards / needed to ensure that play can continue.</p> <p>This may include decompaction, drainage works, levelling, which are currently the key issues identified in the Borough.</p>	<p>To be determined through implementation of Football 2.</p>	<p>Work in partnership FA / Provider / Users to identify detailed improvements required through use of Pitch Power etc</p> <p>Provide support and guidance to providers / clubs in the submission of external funding bids</p> <p>Seek to direct S106 funding towards pitch quality improvements where facilities requiring investment are located within catchment of new development.</p>	<p>NFA /GYBC / FF/ Clubs</p>

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
Football 4	Ensure that quality of AGPs is retained through regular inspections and completion of any works required for ongoing inclusion on FA pitch register	All 3G pitches on pitch register at time of PPS assessment report Any new AGPs	Work alongside AGP providers to ensure that regular inspections are undertaken Ensure that all 3G pitches are tested regularly to retain inclusion on 3G pitch register	NFA / FF
Football 5	Support improvement to ancillary facilities to ensure all sites have a facility of adequate standard (electricity / running water / changing rooms / basic kitchen) where these are required.	Key sites - Barnard Bridge – roof replacement - Wellesley Recreation Ground	Provide support and guidance to clubs / Council in the submission of funding bids. This should include the identification of opportunities for funding.	NFA / FF / GYBC
Football 6	Support clubs in the football pyramid to ensure that pitches meet club needs, including Ground Grading Standards	Gorleston FC – linked to F5 above, support club in discussions with East Norfolk College. Full access to this site is critical if the needs of this club are to be met. Great Yarmouth Town – required improvements to changing accommodation	Regularly communicate with club to identify any issues and support the actions required to deliver	NFA / FF
Football 7	Work alongside providers to ensure that community access to the existing stock of facilities is maintained. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that sites with existing CUA / planning conditions meet 	East Norfolk College AGP – ensure that community use agreement is delivered Key School Sites that currently offer unsecured community use:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor existing CUA and work alongside clubs / schools to address issues where these arise Engage with key school sites to put in place long term community use agreements and ensure community access is maintained – whilst there are existing agreements, these are currently subject to change and very regularly 	NFA / GYBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
	<p>their community use requirements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> timely negotiation of community use agreements / leases with schools and landowners where appropriate and possible. Seeking to negotiate community usage of sites that are not currently available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn Grove Charter Academy Caister Academy Ormiston Cliff Park Academy <p>Opportunities to increase capacity (see below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flegg High (but require qualitative improvement) <p>Other lease agreements that require renegotiation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Road Sports Field Belton (2 years remaining) Southtown Common 	<p>reviewed. These facilities are essential to maintaining adequate capacity within the infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support clubs in negotiations with providers to ensure continued use of sites that are currently leased to clubs. 	
Football 8	<p>Increase capacity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative improvements detailed above Maximising use of existing AGPs for both match play and training Maximising the use of new planned AGPs Securing use of additional school sites that are not currently available 	<p>Qualitative improvements – key mechanism of addressing capacity issues</p> <p>New AGPs</p> <p>No immediate short term requirement following new pitch at Wellesley Recreation Ground. Longer term, additional pitch required. Charter Academy have aspirations for such a</p>	<p>As in Football 4 above, seek to improve football pitch quality to increase capacity. In most areas, pressures across the week are as significant as at peak time and therefore quality enhancements make significant inroads into this. NFA / GYBC to work with clubs / providers to tailor and improve maintenance.</p> <p>Work with clubs and providers to increase use of AGPs for match play and training. Seek to eliminate / reduce barriers to access and educate clubs on the benefits of using AGPs.</p> <p>Longer term, explore opportunities to provide a new AGP – this should include viability</p>	NFA /

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesignation of some adult pitch sites following improvement Longer term, additional provision may be required to accommodate demand in Gorleston on Sea and South 	<p>facility, greatest unmet demand is in the south of the Borough.</p> <p>Additional school site – key priority Flegg High School (see Football 4, quality improvements also required).</p> <p>Reallocation of pitches – there is scope to redesignate senior pitches in Great Yarmouth</p>	<p>assessments and work with clubs to identify key partners. The south of the borough is a key priority if a sustainable venue can be found as the greatest pressures are found here.</p> <p>Secure access to identified school sites and seek to work with clubs to relocate teams onto these sites.</p>	
Football 9	<p>Proactively appropriate facilities to support recreational football. To maximise the sustainability and use these spaces, as well as the benefits to the local community, this action should be delivered as part of a joined up approach with other sports. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive identification of sites Exploration of opportunities to effectively introduce football activity – for example gate technology on MUGAs, organised informal activity in partnership with other governing bodies. 	<p>Recreational football is becoming increasingly important and is now a key priority of the FF and FA. Football, linked with other sports, provides an opportunity to get increasing numbers of people active as well as to maximise the usage of some existing facilities that are underutilised.</p>	<p>Identify appropriate sites and work alongside delivery partners to increase recreational football within the Borough</p>	NFA
Athletics 1	<p>Retain the existing athletics track to ensure that facilities continue to meet needs.</p>	Wellesley Athletics Track	Ensure athletics remains included in strategy	GYBC

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
			<p>Inclusion of appropriate policy in Local Plan</p> <p>Use of this PPS for decision making</p>	
Athletics 2	Address existing quality issues to ensure that track remains of appropriate quality to meet requirements of club, as well as wider aspirations of England Athletics	<p>Wellesley Athletics track – current improvements required;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trackmark accreditation (level 2) • Floodlighting • Spectator Seating 	Work alongside England Athletics to upgrade existing facilities	GYBC
Athletics 3	Work with club to support the promotion of athletics and to encourage wide use of the athletics track by schools and other parties		<p>Support the club in effective and tailored promotion and the provision of a variety of activities</p> <p>Continue to incentivise the use of the athletics track by local schools and individual users to build interest in athletics at a grassroots level.</p>	England Athletics
Golf 1	Protect existing valuable golf courses for the contribution that they make to meeting existing demand for regular playing members and casual golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorleston • Caldecott • Caister • Bure Park • Browston Hall 		GYBC / EG
Golf 2	Support the growth and development of golf in the Borough through active promotion of teaching and coaching as well as the improvement of pathways from beginners through to club members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caldecott Golf Course • Gorleston Golf Course • Caister Golf Course 	Work alongside the clubs to promote the teaching and coaching that is available and in particular seek to develop Caldecott Golf Course as a development academy	Clubs / EG

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibility
Golf 3	Seek to provide an additional / alternative floodlit golf driving range in the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great Yarmouth / Caister GC	Support the creation of additional GDR.	GYBC

4.0 Impact of New Development

4.1.1 The NPPF advises that specific evidence of the need for provision should be provided alongside clarity of what provision is required. The most recent Sport England guidance and advice indicates that local authorities should develop and maintain a robust and up to date evidence base for sporting provision (this PPOSS provides a starting point for this) and use the evidence base to;

- Estimate the nature and level of needs that may be generated from new development(s) for sporting provision (this should be informed by the Playing Pitch Calculator); and
- Establish clear deliverable actions that have the potential to help meet the needs that will be generated from new development in the area.
- Based on the nature of the actions, the level of new development in an area, and the realistic ability to secure investment into sport through CIL or planning obligations, decide how best to use the CIL and planning obligations alongside one another to deliver sporting infrastructure and to support development.

4.1.2 The preparation of this Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Assessment has been informed by the use of population projections and the strategy therefore seeks to provide the facilities that will be needed to meet the projected level of demand.

4.1.3 Whilst the changes to the population profile are likely to see facility requirements shift, each new development will have an impact on demand and place existing pressures on the facility infrastructure.

4.1.4 It should be ensured however that the impact of each new development is taken into account and the costs associated with this impact (and additional facility requirements) are considered.

Application of Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator

4.1.5 The Sport England Playing Pitch calculator (PPC) estimates the additional demand for pitches arising from specific or cumulative developments. The PPC quantifies the number of Match Equivalent Sessions that will be generated in the peak period for each pitch type and converts that into a number of pitches. The costs associated with that pitch provision are also given. Using the PPOSS, the Council can assess whether on site pitch provision is required and sustainable or if improvements to existing pitches to increase capacity in the locality are required. The costs provided can help identify the likely financial contribution that would be needed if pitches/improvements were to be provided off site.

- 4.1.6 The PPC directly uses information from the PPOSS to provide an estimate of the demand that the additional population will produce. It considers;
- a) The likely number of people from the new population in each of the individual pitch sport age groups (Derived from the profile of the current population)
 - b) Using the number of teams identified in the PPOSS and the profile of the population (a), the likely number of teams that will be generated by the new development
- 4.1.7 The number of match equivalent sessions that will be generated by the new population and the subsequent demand in terms of pitches and changing rooms required.
- 4.1.8 The Playing Pitch Calculator does not take into account the current levels of unmet demand in the area and so the resulting figures are then considered in the context of the strategic findings of the assessment in order to determine the ability of the existing facilities to accommodate the additional demand and any requirements for new and / or improved provision. The actions that should be taken to address any identified needs should therefore be guided by the findings of this Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy.
- 4.1.9 The calculator details the number of new pitches that that the new population generates demand for in the peak period for each sport. However, using the PPOSS the Steering Group will be able to assess whether;
- Existing pitches have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional demand at the times required;
 - Improvements are needed to specific pitches to accommodate the additional demand from the housing located in that sub area, or;
 - New pitches are required.
- 4.1.10 As documented in this strategy, in most instances in Great Yarmouth, the additional demand that is generated can be accommodated through qualitative improvements to the existing infrastructure. On site new provision should only be required where the new development generates enough additional demand to make a viable and sustainable playing field site (2 – 3 pitches) but may be needed for football as supply is currently closed balanced with demand. The provision of new single pitch sites should be discouraged.
- 4.1.11 For illustrative purposes, Table 4.1 summarises the findings of the application of the Playing Pitch Calculator for the Borough as a whole. It is based upon the population increase of 6879 people (extracted from the population projections. This links directly with the population projections used in the assessment report to project future requirements).

Table 4.1 Application of Playing Pitch Calculator – Great Yarmouth Borough

Boroughwide					
Sport	Pitch Equivalent	Capital Cost	Lifecycle cost	Changing Rooms (Number)	Changing Rooms (Capital Cost)
Adult Football	1.47	£141,348	£29,824	2.94	£487,650
Youth Football	2.60	£199,460	£41,887	3.14	£520,572
Mini Soccer	1.54	£37,007	£7,771	0.00	£0
Rugby Union	0.07	£9,205	£1,970	0.14	£22,683
Cricket	0.26	£74,124	£14,973	0.52	£86,688
Sand Based AGPs	0.01	£10,908	£338	0.03	£4,534
3G AGPS	0.30	£282,109	£10,873	0.59	£97,817

4.1.12 Moving forwards however, the calculator should be used to determine the impact of each new development and as part of the implementation process, this approach should be embedded into policies of Great Yarmouth Borough Council in relation to contributions from new development. The Council should work with Sport England to determine how this should work in practice.

4.1.13 For information, the approximate impact of key developments of 500 houses or more allocated in the Great Yarmouth Borough Core Strategy and Local Plan 2 is evaluated in Table 4.2. It is calculated on the basis of a multiplier of 2.3 people per dwelling using the PPC.

Table 4.2 – Impact of Larger Scale Development

CS18 - Land South of Bradwell (up to 1000 dwelling)					
Sport	Pitch Equivalent	Capital Cost	Lifecycle cost	Changing Rooms (Number)	Changing Rooms (Capital Cost)

Adult Football	0.49	£47,260	£9,972	0.98	£163,048
Youth Football	0.87	£66,690	£14,005	1.05	£174,047
Mini Soccer	0.52	£12,373	£2,598	0.00	£0
Rugby Union	0.02	£3,078	£659	0.05	£7,584
Cricket	0.09	£24,784	£5,006	0.18	£28,985
Sand Based AGPs	0.00	£3,647	£113	0.01	£1,516
3G AGPS	0.10	£94,324	£3,635	0.20	£32,705
GN1 – Land South of Links Road, Gorleston-on-Sea 500 dwellings					
Sport	Pitch Equivalent	Capital Cost	Lifecycle cost	Changing Rooms (Number)	Changing Rooms (Capital Cost)
Adult Football	0.25	£23,630	£4,986	0.49	£81,523
Youth Football	0.43	£33,344	£7,002	0.53	£87,017
Mini Soccer	0.26	£6,187	£1,299	0.00	£0
Rugby Union	0.01	£1,539	£329	0.02	£3,792
Rugby League	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.04	£12,391	£2,503	0.09	£14,492
Sand Based AGPs	0.00	£1,824	£57	0.00	£758
3G AGPS	0.05	£47,161	£1,818	0.10	£16,352
CA1 – Land West of Jack Chase Way, Caister – up to 725 dwellings					
Sport	Pitch Equivalent	Capital Cost	Lifecycle cost	Changing Rooms (Number)	Changing Rooms (Capital Cost)

Adult Football	0.47	£44,690	£9,430	0.93	£154,181
Youth Football	0.82	£63,062	£13,243	0.99	£164,599
Mini Soccer	0.49	£11,699	£2,457	0.00	£0
Rugby Union	0.02	£2,910	£623	0.04	£7,172
Cricket	0.08	£23,437	£4,734	0.17	£27,409
Sand Based AGPs	0.00	£3,449	£107	0.01	£1,434
3G AGPS	0.09	£89,190	£3,438	0.19	£30,925

4.1.14 The strategy proposes that this tool will be adapted and used to evaluate the impact of new development in Great Yarmouth through the creation of a Task and Finish group who will devise a tailored approach for using the calculator and obtaining contributions. This tool should be used to determine the potential impact of new housing allocations once these are finalised.

	Recommendation	Key Actions
General 1	Establish a group to review processes relating to contributions from new development and develop a tailored approach for using the PPC and obtaining contributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop specific subgroup (to include Sport England) Meet to understand calculator and opportunities available Review and tailor existing approach Integrate approach within planning policy
General 2	Seek to create an online platform using GIS to keep the PPS alive and ensure immediate access to PPS priorities and specific information for the local community and other key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upload site specific action plan (and any other relevant data) to online GIS system for publication

5.0 Action Plan, Implementation and Monitoring.

5.1.1 This section provides a summary of the key recommendations by sub area and a site by site action plan.

5.1.2 The site by site action plan builds on the general and sport specific recommendations and provides detail on the key priorities for each site. The site by site action plan is provided by sub area in this document. An excel version including site address etc will also be supplied to the Council so that this can be monitored and updated, as well as used in a GIS system.

Summary of Priority Recommendations by Sub Area and Site Specific Actions

Table 5.1 - Great Yarmouth Sub Area

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaconsfield Recreation Ground offers spare capacity but improvement works required to site Club have no off field training facilities Club have no security of tenure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing facilities Opportunity for lease agreement with club Maintenance improvements to address qualitative issues Provision of off field training facilities
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cobholm Playing Fields is key base for only rugby club in Borough Club have no security of tenure Adequate capacity on site but poor condition of ancillary facilities limit activity of club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing facilities Immediate renegotiation of lease Investment into improved ancillary facilities
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No existing club base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/a
Athletics	Wellesley Recreation Ground is important athletics facility with a Boroughwide catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing facility Improvements to floodlighting and spectator seating Investment to attain Trackmark 2 accreditation
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing public court in poor condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court at Wellesley Recreation Ground to be replaced with AGP (and all tennis courts at Gorleston Cliffs to be refurbished)

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other facilities at Charter Academy not currently available for use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following refurbishment of courts at Charter Academy, investigate opportunities to secure CUA
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All greens functioning but with scope to increase membership. Large site important in the Boroughwide provision of bowls Opportunity to improve green quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing greens Focus upon tailoring maintenance regimes
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply very closely matched with demand and evidence of overplay on several sites Good capacity for adult football (3 MES spare at peak time) No spare capacity for youth or 9v9 football (0 MES) Limited spare capacity for 7v7 and 5v5 No overplay until training is taken into account Greatest variation in quality found in this area - scope to increase quality of pitches Lack of 3G AGPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all sites New 3G AGP at Wellesley Recreation Ground Focus on increased maintenance to enhance pitch quality particularly at Barnard Bridge Ensure school sites offering current access are secured Improvement to changing facilities at Wellesley Recreation Ground.

5.1.3 Table 5.2 overleaf summarises the site by site action plan for the Great Yarmouth Sub Area.

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Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	Beaconsfield Rec Ground	2 11v11, 1 youth, 1 7v7	Poor (to low standard)	Decompaction works required, messy goals and weeds in grass sward. Capacity adequate but overplay evident when considering training.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool as key priority.
cricket		2 grass cricket squares	standard	Significant scope to increase use of site, quality issues particularly on square, no access to training provision. Lack of security of tenure for club impact's ability to apply for funding.	Protect, provide security of tenure to club. Engage with Pitch Power Tool to tailor maintenance programme. Depending upon result, square requires improvement works (drainage). Provide off field training facilities
Rugby Union	Cobholm Recreation Ground	2 rugby pitches (and floodlit training area)	M1/D1	Pitch capacity adequate to meet club need, changing facilities poor and toilets unsanitary. Clubhouse quality limiting ability to attract players. Lack of lease inhibits activities of rugby club.	Protect club base, provide new lease (key priority). Invest in changing accommodation and improved maintenance regime (through engagement with Pitch Power tool).
Football		1 11v11	Standard	Significant scope to increase football use - no regular use this season.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool. Seek to increase usage
Tennis	Great Yarmouth Charter Academy	4 tennis courts	Poor	3 courts currently poor, to be replaced with 2 new courts meeting NGB standards. Potential for community use in future years.	Protect, improve court quality. Seek to secure CUA and install technological solutions to improve customer journey.
Rugby Union		1 rugby pitch		Pitch not used for community rugby, curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Football	Great Yarmouth Charter Academy / Barnard Bridge Sports Ground	1 11v11, 111v11 youth, 1 9v9, 1 7v7	Standard to Poor	Basic playing surface although recently improved. Compaction evident. Heavy usage due to school and club use, training generates overplay.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool as priority. Improvement of ancillary facilities (roof). Secure long term community access agreement. School have aspirations for 3G AGP although greatest need is currently in South of Borough.
Football	North Denes primary School	1 9v9, 1 7v7, 1 5v5	Standard		Protect for curricular use
Football	St Nicholas Recreation ground	Informal playing field only		No pitches currently laid out	Protect, opportunity to provide for formal play if required.
Athletics	Wellesley Recreation Ground Athletics Track	Synthetic Athletics Track		Important athletics track meeting needs of local club. I	Protect. Improve track through Level 2 accreditation and improvements to floodlighting and spectator seating.

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Bowling	Wellesley Bowls Club	4 bowling greens	Standard	Some thatching and weeds, clubhouse requires improvement	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site.
Football	Wellesley Recreation Ground	11v11	Good	Compaction evident, pitch for pyramid team, site requires upgraded changing accommodation.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tools. Replace existing poor quality changing accommodation. New 3G AGP (9v9) to be provided on site.
Tennis	Wellesley Recreation Ground	1 tennis court	Poor	Lines worn, cracking, playing surface worn with skid hazards. To be replaced with AGP	Site to be replaced with AGP. Refurbished courts at Gorleston Cliffs to compensate for this loss.

Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell

5.1.4 Table 5.3 provides a summary of the breakdown of provision in the Gorleston and Bradwell Sub Area. Detailed site specific actions are provided in Table 5.4.

Table 5.3 – Gorleston on Sea and Bradwell Site Specific issues

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No existing club bases 	N/a
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No existing club base 	N/a
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cliff Park Ormiston Academy is key venue for hockey Requires refurbishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbish AGP with either new sand based surface or Gen2 surface
Athletics	N/a	N/a
Golf		
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor quality existing public tennis courts Important club site Opportunities to improve customer journey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all courts Refurbishment of 6 courts at Gorleston Cliffs and investment in technological solutions to support customer journey Support for club in their development aspirations
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All greens functioning but with scope to increase membership Opportunity to improve green quality 	Protection of existing greens Focus upon tailoring maintenance regimes
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply very closely matched with demand and evidence of overplay on several sites Inadequate capacity for youth football (-1 MES) Little spare capacity for 9v9 and 11v11 football (2 and 0.5 MES across the week respectively) Provision at peak time constrained for 7v7 and 5v5 football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all sites Secure immediate access to East Norfolk Sixth Form College 3G AGP Focus on increased maintenance to enhance pitch quality at Gorleston Recreation Ground, Mill Lane Playing Fields, Corporation Playing Fields Ensure school sites offering current access are secured Long term CUA at Cliff Park Ormiston Academy, Ormiston Venture Academy

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scope to increase quality of pitches• Access issues	

Table 5.4 – Site Specific Actions in Gorleston-on-Sea and Bradwell

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Golf	Bure Park	Golf Course		Important recreational golf course, attracting visitors as well as residents	Protect
cricket	Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	1 NTP	standard	Limited quality	No existing community use of NTP
Football		1 11v11, 1 9v9	Standard	Pitches unsecure, lack of community use means that there is spare capacity	Protect. Secure long term CUA. Encourage engagement with Pitch Power Tool as a priority
Tennis		4 tennis courts	Standard to Good	Courts within school grounds, any available access not promoted.	Protect, seek to improve customer journey
Hockey		Sand Based AGP		Sand based AGP used by hockey club with significant spare capacity. Surface is 14 years old and quality is poor.	Protect for use for hockey. Resurface pitch either with new sand based AGP or alternative Gen2 surface. Ensure sustainability plan and sinking fund are in place for ongoing provision of facility to serve hockey club.
Football	Corporation Pitches Magdalen Playing fields	2 11v11 youth , 2 9v9, 2 7v7 and 2 5v5 pitches	Low standard to poor	Compaction, drainage and standing water. Overplay on 9v9 pitches which increases significantly when taking into account training activity	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool
Football	Gorleston Playing Fields (Gorleston Recreation Ground)	1 11v11	Poor	Poor pitch, muddy and uneven. Scope to provide additional pitches, current pitch is overplayed.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool as key priority.

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Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Tennis	Gorleston Cliff Tops	4 tennis courts	Poor	Two unplayable courts, tarmac lifting, poor lines, weeds, fencing issues, well located. Remainder poor. Good location but require immediate refurbishment. Booking procedures unclear.	Protect, refurbish all 6 courts. Work with the LTA to install new technological systems to improve customer journey. Initiate activity to improve grass roots tennis.
Bowling	Gorleston Conservative Bowls Club	1 bowling green	Standard	Basic but functional green, membership average	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site.
Football	Gorleston FC - Emerald Park	3G AGP	Low standard	Planning permission granted, site tired but heavily used. Overplayed this season with no remaining capacity at peak time.	Site to be replaced by new AGP at East Norfolk College. To be retained until access to new site is secured.
Football	Gorleston FC / East Norfolk 6th Form College	3G AGP	Good	No existing community use although access agreement expected. Pitch on FA register. Key site for Gorleston FC	Secure immediate community access to new 3G AGP and associated facilities for Gorleston FC. Ensure long term community access agreement is fulfilled. Retain registration on FA 3G AGP register through regular testing and investment where required.
Tennis	Gorleston LTC	5 tennis courts, all floodlit	Good	Well defined and well maintained courts. Floodlights require upgrade and wooden clubhouse is limited in functionality (no heating / showers).	Protect, support club to acquire funding for floodlighting and clubhouse. Work with club to introduce pay and play opportunities.
Bowling	Green Lane Playing Field, Bradwell	1 bowling green	Good	Very tidy green, high membership means that club are almost at capacity	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site.

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Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football		1 11v11	Low standard	Pitch of limited quality, overplayed when taking into account the impact of training	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool
Football	Hillside Primary School	2 5v5		Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use
Football	Homefield VC CofE Primary School	5v5		Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use
Football	Lynn Grove academy	1 3G	Standard	Important 3G on FA pitch register	Retain registration on FA 3G AGP register through regular testing and investment where required. Negotiate long term CUA on grass pitches.
Football		2 11v11, 1 9v9,	Standard	Pitches are unsecured and overplayed. Key community site which must also sustain curricular use	Negotiate long term CUA on grass pitch sites.
Tennis	Lynn Grove Academy	6 tennis courts, 3 of which are floodlit	Standard	Basic standard to good courts, would benefit from lines remarking although have been recently refurbished. Access not well promoted and booking procedures unclear.	Protect, seek to improve customer journey
Bowling	Gorleston Cliffs, Marine Parade, Gorleston-on-Sea	2 bowling greens	Standard	Some bald patches but standard to good green. Membership numbers are strong but scope to increase.	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site.

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Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	Mill Lane Playing Fields	2 11v11, 2 11v11 youth, 2 9v9, 3 7v7 and 1 5v5	Poor to low standard	Weeds, moss and extensive compaction. Pitch quality poor to low standard, overplay on youth pitches and no remaining spare capacity on 11v11 or 9v9	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool as key priority.
Football	Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy	1 7v7	standard	Unsecured access, not currently used by the community so spare capacity available	Protect for curricular use
Football	Ormiston Herman Academy	2 5v5	standard	Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use
Football	Ormiston Venture Academy	1 9v9, 1 11v11 youth, 1 7v7	standard	Not available for community use	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tools. Seek to negotiate long term community access for clubs.
Tennis		4 tennis courts, all floodlit	Standard to Good	Courts recently resurfaced, good gate access system. Important facility in local infrastructure.	Protect
Football	Palms Health and Fitness club	Informal playing field only / tennis courts for private use only		Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use
Football	South Town Common	1 11v11, 1 9v9, 1 7v7, 1 5v5	low standard	Compaction evident, larger pitch overplayed. Some spare capacity on other pitches	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tools. Renegotiate lease to ensure long term community access to clubs.
Cricket		Potential location for new NTP			Explore opportunities for new NTP

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Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	St Mary and St Peter Catholic Primary School	Informal playing field only		Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use
Football	Woodlands Primary Academy	Informal playing field only	standard		Protect for curricular use. Large site with potential to accommodate community activity if required
Football	Wroughton Junior and Infant Academy	Informal playing field only		Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use

5.1.5 Table 5.5 summarises the key recommendations in the Northern Parishes, whilst Table 5.6 provides site specific actions and recommendations.

Table 5.5 - Northern Parishes

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overplay at both Caister CC and Winterton CC • Provision at Martham CC is good quality, remaining sites are of standard quality • Small amount of spare capacity available at Martham CC and Rollesby CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect existing cricket grounds • Engagement with Pitch Power to tailor maintenance programmes with a view to increasing site quality to good • NTP at Caister CC and Winterton CC • Training facilities at Caister CC and Winterton CC • Improvement to ancillary facilities at Winterton CC, Martham CC and Rollesby CC
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No existing club base 	N/a
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No existing club base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/a
Athletics	N/a	N/a
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No existing public tennis courts • Limited access to tennis in the Northern Parishes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all courts • Refurbishment of courts at Flegg High School and then negotiation of CUA
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All greens functioning but with scope to increase membership • Opportunity to improve green quality 	Protection of existing greens Focus upon tailoring maintenance regimes Proactive work to increase membership at Filby Bowls Club, Repps with Bastwick Bowls Club, Rollesby Bowls Club, Runham Bowls Club, Winterton Bowls Club
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply better matched with demand than other areas of the Borough • Spare capacity on adult pitches (3 MES at peak time) and youth pitches (1 MES at peak time) • Good level of capacity on 9v9 pitches (4.5 MES) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all sites • Ensure school sites offering current access are secured • Long term CUA at Flegg High Ormiston Academy for grass pitches – this will also require pitch improvements

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision at peak time constrained for 7v7 and 5v5 football • Some overplay particularly in Caister • concerns about the quality of provision, with many sites poor or towards the lower end of the standard quality rating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to pitch quality and capacity through enhanced / tailored maintenance procedures

Table 5.6 – Site Specific Recommendations – Northern Parishes

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	Broadland Sports Club	Informal playing field only		Informal playing field only	Protect, opportunity to provide for formal play if required.
Tennis	Broadland Sports Club	1 tennis court	Poor - Standard	Currently poor court, faint markings and requires surface improvements. Scheduled for refurbishment in next year. Scope to increase usage	Protect, refurbish.
Football	Caister Academy	1 11v11, 1 9v9	Standard	Slightly sloping but adequate. Unsecure access. Some spare capacity on both pitches	Protect. Secure long term CUA. Encourage engagement with Pitch Power Tool.
Rugby Union	Caister Academy	1 rugby pitch		Pitch not used for community rugby, curricular use only	Protect for curricular use
Football	Caister Junior School	1 9v9, 1 7v7	Low standard	Compacted and evidently heavily used. No spare capacity on one pitch, minimal on other	Protect. Secure long term CUA. Encourage engagement with Pitch Power Tool.
Bowling	Filby Bowls Club	1 bowling green	Standard	Membership is below average levels	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site. Take proactive action to increase membership.
Football	Filby playing Field	1 youth 11v11, 1 9v9	Standard	Some undulations and weeds, small amount of spare capacity available.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool
Football	Flegg High Ormiston Academy	1 11v11 adult, 2 11v11 youth	Good	Grass pitches poor condition and not available for community use. High usage of AGP	Protect, secure long term CUA. Grass pitch improvements to football pitches. Retain registration on FA 3G AGP register through regular testing and investment where required. Negotiate long term CUA on grass pitches.

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Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football		3G AGP	Good	Grass pitches poor condition and not available for community use. High usage of AGP	Retain registration on FA 3G AGP register through regular testing and investment where required.
cricket		1 grass cricket square, 1 NTP	standard		
Tennis		2 tennis courts	Poor	Courts currently poor – surface in bad condition (unavailable) but school highlight as key priority for improvement	
Bowling	Fleggburgh Playing Field	1 bowling green	Standard	Bare patches and divots on the green	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site.
Football		Informal playing field only		Scope to mark out football pitches for formal use if required.	
Golf	Great Yarmouth and Caister CC	Golf Course		Valuable existing golf course, scope to expand	New GDR to be provided. Focus on junior development opportunities.
Football	Hemsby Recreation Ground	3 11v11, 9v9, 7v7, 5v5	Low standard to poor (2 poor, one low standard)	Pitches of limited quality with drainage issues, compaction and weeds evident. Small amount of overplay on 9v9 pitch when taking into account impact of training.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool
cricket	King George Playing Field, Caister	1 grass cricket square	standard	Square demonstrates overplay and even with quality improvements this overplay will remain. Site shared with Broadland CC (who may require their own site longer term). Site would benefit from levelling and there are no off field training facilities.	Protect, engage with Pitch Power Tool to tailor maintenance programme. Levelling of outfield may also be required. Provide on square NTP and off field training facilities.

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Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Football	King George V Playing Field Caister	2 11v11, 1 5v5	Low standard to poor	Barriered pitch, evidence of heavy use, compaction and muddy. Additional pitches are undulating. No spare capacity on 11v11 and overplayed when taking into account training. 5v5 could accommodate more play.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool
Football	King George V playing field Rollersby	Informal playing field only			Protect, opportunity to provide for formal play if required.
Bowling	King George V Playing Field, Caister	1 bowling green	Good	Somet thatching but good quality green. Strong membership numbers - little scope for expansion	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site.
Football	Martham Academy and Nursery	2 7v7	Standard	Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use
Football		1 11v11, 1 9v9, 2 7v7 and 2 5v5	Standard	Some evidence of compaction, busy site with some remaining capacity. Pitch quality varying.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool
cricket		1 grass cricket square, 1 NTP	Good	Square quality good, but club do not have long term security of tenure which impacts their ability to secure funding. Changing facilities are not currently suitable to host female cricket. Site offers sufficient capacity to meet current and projected future demand.	Protect, engage with Pitch Power Tool to tailor maintenance programme. Upgrade changing accommodation.
Bowling		Martham Recreation Ground	1 bowling green	Good	Good quality green but challenges main
Football	Ormesby St Margaret Playing Fields	1 11v11, 1 9v9, 1 7v7, 2 5v5	low standard to poor	Thatching, undulating and weeds. Approaching poor quality, only small amount of spare capacity.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool
Bowling		1 bowling green	Standard	Some thatching	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site.
Football	Repps with Bastwick Playing Field	Informal playing field only		No pitches currently laid out	Protect, opportunity to provide for formal play if required.

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Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Bowling		1 bowling green	Standard	Pavilion roof requires replacement. Membership of only 10 is very low and club require immediate support to increase this.	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site. Take proactive action to increase membership.
Bowling	Rollesby Bowls Club	1 bowling green	Standard	Small playing surface, membership relatively low and would benefit from increasing.	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site. Take proactive action to increase membership.
cricket	Rollesby Cricket Ground	1 grass cricket square	standard	Square and outfield would benefit from investment, changing facilities basic with no heating / electricity / showers. No training facilities. Small amount of spare capacity available.	Protect, engage with Pitch Power Tool to tailor maintenance programme. Provide off field training facilities and upgrade changing accommodation.
Football	Rollesby Primary School	Informal playing field only		Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use
Bowling	Runham Bowls Club	1 bowling green	Standard	Maintenance requires improvement, membership very low. Club require support to ensure that they remain sustainable	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site. Take proactive action to increase membership.
Bowling	Winterton Playing Field	1 bowling green	Good	Well kept green with fairy ring	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site. Take proactive action to increase membership.
Football	Winterton Primary School and Nursery	Informal playing field only		Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use
cricket	Winterton Playing Field	1 grass cricket square	standard	Changing facilities poor condition, outfield would benefit from levelling. Square is heavily used and currently overplayed.	Protect, engage with Pitch Power Tool to tailor maintenance programme. Refurbish both changing facilities and training facilities. Provide on square NTP.

Southern Parishes

5.1.6 Table 5.7 summarises the key recommendations in the Southern Parishes, whilst Table 5.8 provides site specific detail.

Table 5.7 – Southern Parishes

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	No existing club base	N/a
Rugby Union	No existing club base	N/a
Hockey	No existing club base	N/a
Athletics	N/a	N/a
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public tennis courts • Limited access to tennis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all courts
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both greens functioning but with scope to increase membership • Opportunity to improve green quality 	Protection of existing greens Focus upon tailoring maintenance regimes Proactive work to increase membership at Hopton Bowls Club
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater pressures in this area than other areas of the Borough with two of three sites demonstrating overplay • Quality has a significant impact on capacity at both New Road Sports Field and Hopton Playing Field • Shortages of provision at peak time for adult football (-0.5 MES), 9v9 football (-0.5 MES) and insufficient capacity for youth football across the week (3.25 MES) • Area does accommodate overspill from other parts of the Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of all sites • Improvements to pitch quality and capacity through enhanced / tailored maintenance procedures particularly at Hopton Playing Fields and New Road Sports Field • Potential additional provision longer term.

Table 5.8 – Site Specific Detail – Southern Parishes

Sport	Site Name	Pitch Provision	Rating	Key Issues	Recommendations
Tennis	Browston Hall Country Club	2 tennis courts	Standard to Good	Standard to good condition, surface adequate. Limited usage outside of members	Protect for use by members.
Bowling		1 bowling green	Standard	Appears to have minimal use, bare patches	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site.
Golf		Golf Course		Little known about current usage, but important site for members	Protect
Football	Burgh Castle Village Hall Playing Field	2 7v7, 1 5v5	One standard, one poor		Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool as key priority.
Golf	Caldecott Golf Club	Golf Course		Important golf course, key potential site for improvement to opportunities for junior players	Protect, improve opportunities for junior players
Football	Hemsby Primary School	Informal playing field only		Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use
Bowling	Hopton Bowls Club	1 bowling green	Standard	Requires out of season work to address bare patches. Membership levels are below average.	Protect, work with key partners to improve maintenance regimes and ensure long term sustainability of club site. Take proactive action to increase membership.
Football	Hopton Playing Field	11v11 overmarked with 9v9 and 7v7	Poor	Pitches heavily overmarked, demonstrating significant compaction and site overplayed.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool as key priority.
Football	New Road Sports field	1 11v11, 1 11v11 youth, 1 9v9, 1 7v7 and 1 5v5	Standard	Drainage and compaction, overplay on 11v11 and 9v9. Small amount of spare capacity on other pitches.	Protect, promote engagement with Pitch Power Tool as key priority. Renegotiate lease to secure long term community access for club.

Implementation

- 5.1.7 Given the potential level of funding required, it is likely that investment will only be achieved through a combination of opportunities and funding sources as well as partnership opportunities.
- 5.1.8 Local authority finances remain under pressure and previous major national funding programmes are no longer available. Some funding opportunities, however, still remain and it is essential that these are capitalised upon in order to maximise the opportunities to protect and improve pitch provision. Some new funding streams may also become available to support the ongoing recovery from Covid 19.
- 5.1.9 The council will seek to work on a multi-agency approach to address the facility requirements in the strategy and partnership working will be central to the achievement of this objective.
- 5.1.10 The main funding delivery mechanisms for the Council and others in delivering the strategy are:
- Section 106 developer contributions and Community Infrastructure levy
 - Capital Grant funding: From schools and national agencies such as Sport England, including its small grants, community asset fund and strategic facilities fund
 - National Governing Body (NGB) support.

New facilities

- 5.1.11 In addition to the overarching strategy principles outlined earlier in this section, the following should be considered when providing any new facilities.

- Location - When planning new facilities, the existing sporting infrastructure should be taken into account. In particular, the provision of single or double pitch sites with no or limited supporting facilities should be avoided.
- Quality - Any new pitch provision should meet with the design and quality standards guidance provided by Sport England and/or the relevant NGB (detailed below). The following general criteria must also be met:
 - a high standard of design, construction and maintenance, enabling the pitch to be played at least twice per week without detrimental impact and ensuring that sites are clean and attractive facilities
 - adequate changing facilities that:
 - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes
 - fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act
 - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort
 - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines
 - managed community access
 - accessible by public transport and by car
 - sufficient car and coach parking
 - size of pitches and run offs complies with NGB specification
 - located in a no-flood zone
 - security of tenure (at least 20 years) if a club is to be based at the site
 - for rugby clubs in particular, sites should include floodlit training facilities

5.1.12 All new and enhanced sports facilities must be designed in accordance with the relevant Sport England and (where applicable) National Governing Body (NGB) design guidance in order to ensure that the facilities are fit for purpose and of a suitable quality.

5.1.13 Sport England's web site www.sportengland.org contains a range of current guidance documents which provide detailed specifications and information regarding the design of sporting and ancillary facilities.

5.1.14 This provides a link to the NGB's supported by Sport England, and to the guidance on the respective NGB websites.

5.2 Monitoring and Review

- 5.2.1 The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust to fulfil the above roles.
- 5.2.2 Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).
- 5.2.3 This strategy document has been developed in conjunction with a large steering group and this group will be retained to deliver the implementation phase, functioning as a Delivery and Implementation Group. Further people with appropriate expertise may be brought into the process as and when required to maximise the benefits that the strategy can bring.
- 5.2.4 Following adoption of the PPOSS, a series of task and finish groups will be set up, comprising members of this group, designed to support the implementation of specific recommendations. These may include groups to evolve the developer contributions process, groups targeting maintenance improvements and groups supporting the delivery of required participation initiatives. These subgroups will meet regularly.
- 5.2.5 The Delivery and Implementation group will seek to deliver the key actions of the strategy document, but will also keep the strategy alive by;

- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action
- Recording changes to the pitch stock in the Borough and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information
- Assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport
- Assessing the impact of demographic changes and new population estimates / housing growth
- Undertaking ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for major facilities in the area
- Analysing funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities
- Reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development.

5.2.6 The ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be led Great Yarmouth Borough Council and it has been agreed that the working group will meet twice annually to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising

5.2.7 The steering group will also be responsible for agreement of the requirement for a full update of this playing pitch assessment and strategy.

5.2.8 The delivery, implementation and monitoring process is formalised in action plan format in Table 5.9.

Table 5.9 – Monitoring Processes

Monitoring Recommendation	Recommendation /Action	Timescale
M1	Reconvene steering group and establish small delivery groups to drive the implementation of key actions. These should include (but not be limited to) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer contributions process group • Maintenance Improvement Group • Sport specific delivery groups 	Short Term
M2	Record individual updates to pitch provision and any key changes that have occurred. This should include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New pitches; • Pitch improvements; • Pitch re-configuration; • Pitch loss/threat; • Community Access agreements (e.g. education or private sites); • Plans for future provision • Changes arising as a result of new development. • Updates should be led by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and should take place with individual Council / NGB representatives. 	Ongoing – led by Great Yarmouth Borough Council
M3	Prepare annual PPS progress paper. This should include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known changes to supply and demand • The delivery of PPS recommendations and any changes in priority; • Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format; • Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities; • Any issues with the application of the PPS and lessons learnt; • Actions needed to keep the PPS 'live' and up to date. 	Annually – led by Great Yarmouth Borough Council / Active Norfolk

Monitoring Recommendation	Recommendation /Action	Timescale
M4	<p>Circulate annual progress paper to steering group for comment. Full steering group meeting to be arranged if deemed to be required.</p> <p>The full annual progress paper will determine when a full refresh of the PPS is required.</p>	Annually

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