

ROTHER AND HASTINGS PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY FULL ANALYSIS



Rother District Council & Hastings Borough Council

October 2016 – Final Report

Photo: Dr Sarah Jacques

Prepared by



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4 global Consulting Terms of Reference

It is not possible to guarantee the fulfillment of any estimates or forecasts contained within this report, although they have been conscientiously prepared on the basis of our research and information made available to us at the time of the study.

The author(s) will not be held liable to any party for any direct or indirect losses, financial or otherwise, associated with any contents of this report. We have relied on a number of areas of information provided by the client, and have not undertaken additional independent verification of this data.

1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Rother District Council and Hastings Borough Council have jointly commissioned 4 global Consulting and Strategic Leisure Ltd to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the two local authorities as a single area. Rother and Hastings Councils will be hereafter referred to as ‘the Councils’ and the overall geographical area will be referred to as the ‘study area’.

1.1.2 Rother District Council (RDC) and Hastings Borough Council (HBC) have close sporting links with a number of clubs and sites serving the local residents of both local authorities. It is therefore considered pragmatic to consider the two local authorities as a single study area, while realising the planning and development constraints faced by the two individual authorities.

1.1.3 A PPS is a strategic assessment that provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) in the local authority. Given the breadth of sports played in the study area, as well as the intention of the Councils to incorporate as much grass-roots participation as possible within the study, the assessment will focus on the following sports;

- Football
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Stoolball
- Outdoor Bowls
- American Football

1.1.4 The Councils are committed to providing sports provision that meets the needs of its residents and local clubs. The Councils also have an obligation to assess planning applications with a complete evidence base and make decisions that benefit the local residents of Rother and Hastings. The Councils have adopted development plans in place (Rother Core Strategy, 2014 and Hastings Planning Strategy, 2014) and these must be assessed in line with the future demand for playing pitches and how any loss of playing fields would impact the local residents.

1.1.5 The objectives of the Rother and Hastings PPS are;

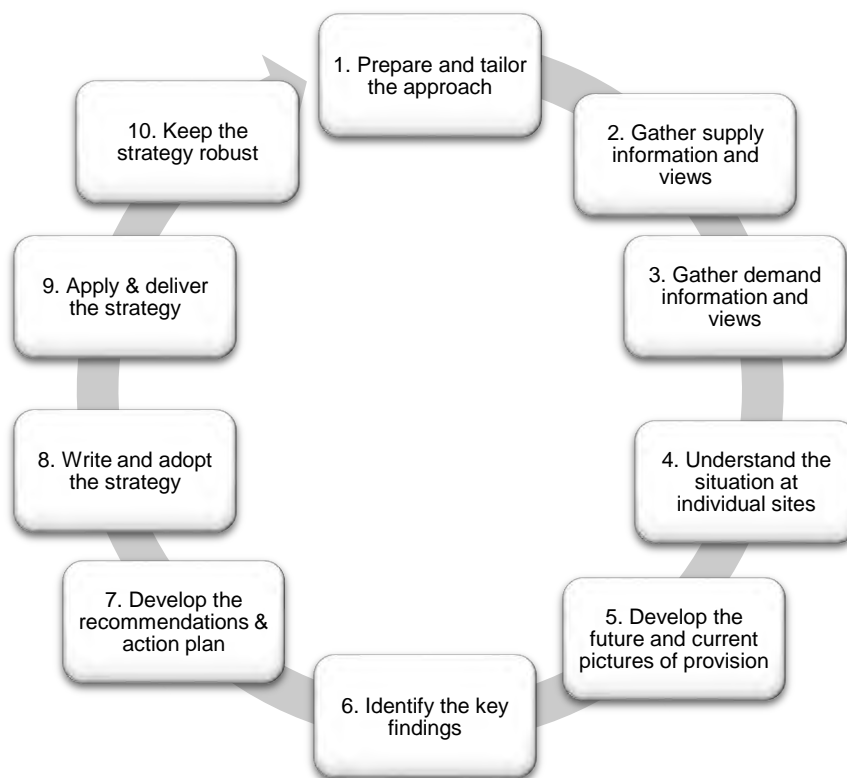
- Engage with Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies (NGB’s) for sport and use the national PPS methodology to provide the project with a structure proven across the rest of England.
- Provide a robust evidence base that can be used by multiple Council units and other stakeholders for a wide range of future projects

- Gather a representative evidence base, by achieving a high response rate from the surveys sent to clubs, schools and parish councils/community organisations
- Identify cross boundary NGB issues, the nature and location of any overuse, unmet demand and spare capacity for play across all pitch types and sports including all elements of current and future demand
- Establish clear, prioritised, specific and achievable recommendations and actions to address the key issues around pitch provision and participation

1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 The assessment methodology adopted for the PPS follows the published guidance from Sport England. The guidance used is the 2013 version, *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy*¹. Figure 1 summarises the approach proposed in this guidance and is broken down into 10 steps.

Figure 1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach (Sport England, 2013)



¹ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3522/pps-guidance-october-2013-updated.pdf>

1.2.2 To facilitate information gathering and help ensure PPS reports are based on a robust evidence base, 4 global has developed an online data entry and assessment platform (see images below), which contains all pitch provider and club information. This will enable the Council to keep supply and demand information and the strategy up to date through to the end of the strategy and beyond.

Figure 2 - 4 global's Online Playing Pitch Platform



1.2.3 A Project Steering Group comprising representation from the Councils, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) has guided the study from its commencement. At critical milestones, the Steering Group members have reviewed and verified the data and information collected to allow the work to proceed efficiently through each stage, reducing the margin of error. Details of the steering board and the organisations they represent are included in Appendix A – Steering Board Members.

1.3 The Structure of our Report

1.3.1 The structure of the PPS report is as follows

- Section 2 – Strategic Context
- Section 3 – Football
- Section 4 – Cricket
- Section 5 – Rugby
- Section 6 – Hockey
- Section 7 – Tennis
- Section 8 – Stoolball
- Section 9 – Bowls
- Section 10 – American Football
- Section 11 – Scenario Testing
- Section 12 – Summary of Key Findings
- Section 13 - Recommendations and Action Plan.

1.3.2 Supporting information is included in the appendices and referenced throughout.

1.3.3 In addition to the detailed report, an Executive Summary has also been produced, which brings together the key outputs of the study, as well as the main issues and opportunities for each sport and the overall Action Plan. This is included as a separate document.

2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1.1 This section summarises the most important policies and context that impact upon the strategy and its interpretation. It also gives an overview of the demographics of the study area, which provides contextual background to sport participation and the need for provision now and in the future.

2.1.2 Sport specific strategies and policy documents published by NGBs are included within each sport's section to provide more relevant context to each sport.

2.2 National Context

2.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England. This provides the framework, which must be taken into account in the preparation of local plans and is a material consideration in determining planning decisions. The NPPF highlights the purpose of the planning system in terms of contributing to the achievement of "sustainable development", and defines the three dimensions of this – economic, social and environmental. Gains in these should be sought simultaneously.

2.2.2 A 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' is central to the NPPF. Paragraph 14 states that, for plan-making, this means:

- Local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area;
- Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:
- Any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or
- Specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.

2.2.3 The NPPF sets out the requirement of local authorities to establish and provide adequate and proper leisure facilities to meet local needs. Paragraphs 73 and 74 outline the planning policies for the provision and protection of sport and recreation facilities.

- "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required".

- ‘Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.’

2.2.4 Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications that affect sports pitches and it has a long established policy of playing pitch retention, even prior to the NPPF guidance. It looks to improve the quality, access and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand. Sport England requires local authorities to have an up-to date assessment of playing pitch needs and an associated strategy including a recommendation that the evidence base is reviewed every three years. The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide playing pitches, as follows:

- Protect: To provide evidence to inform policy and specifically to support Site Allocations and Development Management Policies which will protect playing fields and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership
- Enhance: To ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that best uses are made of existing resources - whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on local authority budgets
- Provide: To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements through grant aid and also through the Community Infrastructure Levy² (CIL) and Section 106 agreements

2.2.5 Sport England and local authorities can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding sports pitches and facility developments in the area and to support or protect against planning applications brought forward by developers.

² The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. It came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010. Development may be liable for a charge under the Community Infrastructure Levy. Source: Planning Portal <https://www.planningportal.co.uk> (Department for Communities and Local Government: 2016)

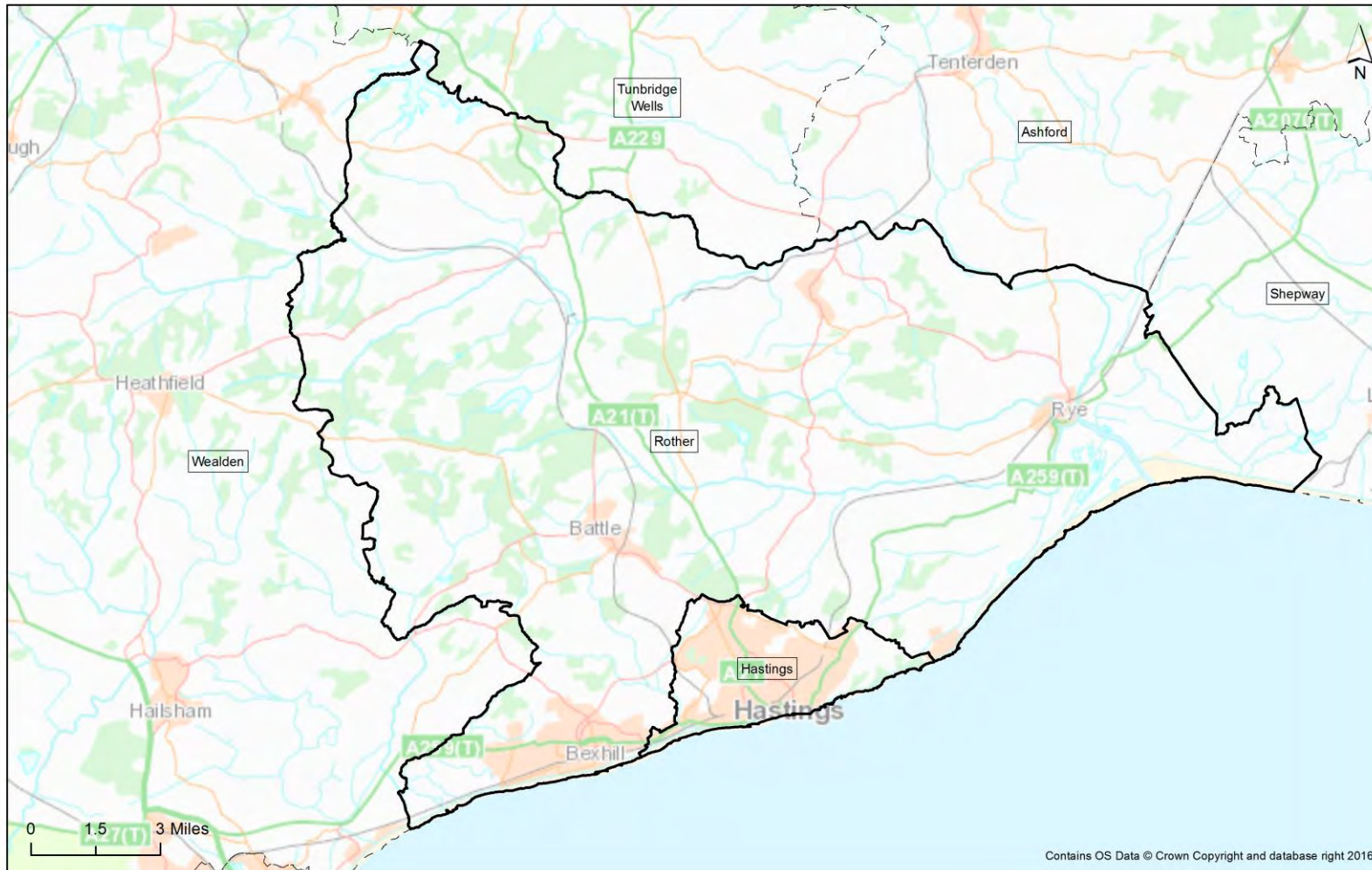
A NEW STRATEGY FOR AN ACTIVE NATION: SPORTING FUTURE (2015)

- 2.2.6 It has been 13 years since the previous strategy for sport (Game Plan, 2002) was written and published by the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). Since then the sporting world and the way the public engages with sport has fundamentally transformed and changed which in turn means that the government has identified a need to update the way it delivers sport.
- 2.2.7 The current government therefore released an updated sports strategy in late 2015, to address the changing landscape for sports and physical activity in the UK. As a result of this strategy and of particular relevance to Local Authorities and local sport delivery organisations, the methods used to measure the impact of physical activity will change significantly, through the introduction of Active Lives.
- 2.2.8 The strategy is based on five simple but fundamental outcomes, which all organisations that deliver sport and physical activity should look to address
- Physical health
 - Mental health
 - Individual development
 - Social and community development
 - Economic development
- 2.2.9 The success of an organisation in demonstrating the above outputs will influence future funding decisions, with an overall objective of basing these decisions on the social good that sport and physical activity can deliver, not simply on the number of participants.
- 2.2.10 The strategy also looks to focus on increasing participation among hard to reach demographic groups, whose engagement in sports and physical activity is well below the national average. As a result, funding will be distributed to focus on those who tend not to take part in sport, including women and girls, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people.
- 2.2.11 When considering the Council's responsibilities for delivering sport and physical activity, the new strategy emphasises the importance of local authorities, stating that they will continue to have an absolutely crucial role in delivering sport and physical activity opportunities.

2.3 Local Context

- 2.3.1 The study area of Rother and Hastings is situated in Sussex, on the South-East coast of England. A summary of the local context for both local authorities is included in the two following sections. Map 1 below shows the two local authorities spatially, illustrating the difference in size, as well as the location of Hastings, bordered on all land-boundaries by Rother.

Map 1 – Rother and Hastings



Rother and Hastings Boundary

2.4 Local Context – Rother

- 2.4.1 Rother is located in the eastern part of East Sussex and shares a border with the County of Kent. The District derives its name from the River Rother which traverses the northern part of the area from Ticehurst through rural villages to reach the English Channel at Rye. The District covers approximately 200 square miles and with the exception of Bexhill and the historic towns of Battle and Rye, the area is mainly rural. Rother is a district that includes pockets of severe and enduring deprivation, within a district of relative affluence.
- 2.4.2 Approximately 92,325 people currently live in Rother (ESiF 2014 estimates), many dispersed across the rural area, but with nearly half being in Bexhill. There is a high proportion of elderly people, especially in Bexhill.
- 2.4.3 Based on planned housing growth, Rother's population is projected to increase by approximately 9,200 people between 2011 and 2028. ONS population projections also show that older age cohorts that are forecast to increase most.
- 2.4.4 The main settlement in Rother is Bexhill, with the key demographic trends summarised in the below points;
- Bexhill is the largest settlement in Rother district. It has a population of 43,714 people, equivalent to 48% of the district as a whole.
 - The town's age structure reflects a combination of the town's history, seaside location, and quiet character, with relatively low house prices compared to the wider South East.
 - There is a high proportion of older people, with 34.3% of the population aged over 65 years, which compares with 24.7% for East Sussex and 18.6% for the South East.
 - Migration information confirms a trend in older couples (aged 45+) and retirees moving to the town.
 - The proportion of children, younger adults and people aged 30-44 are all correspondingly lower than county and regional averages.

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION – ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 2.4.5 A number of current strategic policies and strategies will influence the supply and demand for sport and recreation facilities in Rother. These strategies are summarised in the section below:
- Rother Corporate Plan (2014 – 2021)
 - Local Plan Core Strategy (2011 – 2028)
 - Previous Playing Pitch Strategy (2012 – 2018)
 - Leisure Facilities Strategy (2015-2020)
 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007)

Rother Corporate Plan (2014 – 2021)

2.4.6 This plan sets out for the following vision for Rother:

‘The Rother District will be recognised for its high quality of life as a place where there is a strong emphasis on community and neighbourhoods. This will be achieved by continuing to support and further encourage the development of vibrant, strong, safe and inclusive communities’

2.4.7 The document identifies the following key requirements that are relevant to the PPS for the local authority;

- For Rother to be a place that is able to attract and retain young people. It should encourage a local identity that welcomes all people and tackles deprivation as well as retaining confidence in public safety
- For residents to have the opportunity of being pro-active in sport as well as cultural activities, leading to a greater community spirit and health lifestyles for everyone
- An outstanding countryside and coastline that are carefully managed, conserved and promoted for their contribution to the quality of life of local residents
- A range of transport options that meet the needs of people living, visiting and working in the district

2.4.8 Further to the vision of the district, the Council’s core aims for 2014 – 2021 are, in priority order;

- An efficient, flexible and effective Council
- Sustainable economic prosperity
- Stronger, safer communities
- A high quality physical environment

Active Rother Project

2.4.9 The Active Rother programme for Rother 2013 sets out the challenges faced in the District in terms of low participation rates, and growing obesity, plus the impact of deprivation in specific wards.

2.4.10 This strategy built on the Active Communities Programme, run since 2008, and highlights the need to maximise investment in open space to develop increased opportunities for participation, and increased use of facilities.

Local Plan Core Strategy (2011 to 2028)

2.4.11 The overall vision for Rother contained in the Core Strategy presents a description of Rother in 2028, highlighting the changes from today.

*“**Rother District** is recognised for its high quality of life, where there is a strong emphasis on community life. This has been achieved by continuing to support and further develop vibrant, safe, balanced and inclusive communities.*

There is a strong commitment to a more sustainable, low carbon future and adapting to climate change. There is sensitive stewardship of environmental resources and conservation of the area’s outstanding environmental and cultural assets.

Sustainable economic growth has been secured, with much improved job opportunities, which encourage young people to stay in the area and provides greater prosperity for all.

Improved economic and social well-being has been facilitated by better access to jobs and services, in both urban and rural areas, and improved connectivity with the rest of the region, including through effective telecommunications networks.

Development and change has contributed significantly to meeting local needs and aspirations, having responded positively to the district’s circumstances, as well as to regional and sub-regional imperatives.

There has been a notable improvement in economic conditions in the coastal towns of Bexhill and Rye as a result of a strong focus on regeneration notably through close working with neighbouring Hastings.

Bexhill has retained and strengthened its distinct identity and become one of the most attractive places to live on the south coast - attractive to families, the young and older people alike. It is the main focus of development in the district, and this continues to enable improvements in the supply of jobs and services.

Rye has improved its economic and social circumstances whilst fully respecting and sensitively managing its historic character, vulnerability to flooding and ecologically important setting. It maintains a strong tourism sector and Port activities.

The inland and essentially rural areas of Rother, falling mainly within the High Weald AONB, retain their essential local character.

Battle continues to be a thriving small market town and tourist centre which retains its character, with sensitive conservation of its historic core and setting.

The character and diversity of villages has also been retained. They are vibrant and inclusive, having evolved organically in a manner sensitive to their surroundings.

The countryside continues to be protected for its intrinsic value as well as being more accessible and economically active, while change is carefully managed to respect its character”.

2.4.12 The vision translates into the following Strategic Objectives;

Table 1 – Strategic Objectives for Rother District Vision 2028

Theme	Strategic Objective
Overall Spatial Strategy	To achieve a pattern of activity and development that contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy, the ‘Spatial Vision’ and responds to particular local circumstances and environmental resources.

Theme	Strategic Objective
Bexhill	To strengthen the identity of Bexhill and for it to become one of the most attractive places to live on the south coast, attractive to families, the young and elderly alike, within an integrated approach to securing a more prosperous future for the Bexhill and Hastings area.
Hastings Fringes	To provide attractive and accessible fringes of Hastings, consistent with environmental designations.
Rye	To improve the economic and social well-being of Rye, including in relation to its market town role, tourism and the Port of Rye, whilst fully respecting and sensitively managing its historic character, vulnerability to flooding and ecologically important setting.
Battle	To support the market town and tourist centre role and character of Battle, and conserve its historic core and setting.
Rural Areas	To meet local needs and support vibrant and viable mixed communities in the rural areas, whilst giving particular attention to the social, economic, ecological and intrinsic value of the countryside.
Sustainable Resource Management	To mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, and to use natural resources efficiently.
Communities	To continue to support, and further develop, vibrant, safe, balanced and inclusive communities.
Local Housing Needs	To provide housing in a way that supports local priorities and provides choice, including for affordable housing.
Economy	To secure sustainable economic growth for existing and future residents and provide greater prosperity and employment opportunities for all.
Environment	To maintain the high quality, and improve the long term stewardship, of the natural and built environment, with full regard to potential future consequences of climate change.
Transport and Accessibility	To provide a higher level of access to jobs and services for all ages in both urban and rural areas, and improve connectivity with the rest of the region.

2.4.13 As part of the Core Strategy, planning policies OSS1, BX1, HF1, RY1, BA1 and RA1 provide greater detail on housing numbers across the Rother part of the study area.

2.4.14 The distribution of approximate development levels is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Approximate Development Levels 2011 – 2028 for Rother

Area	Housing
Bexhill	3,100 dwellings
Hastings fringes	100-250 dwellings
Battle	475-500 dwellings
Rye	355-400 dwellings
Villages	1,670 dwellings
Total	At least 5,700 dwellings

2.4.15 One of the key priorities for the Local Plan is: ‘**Better facilities for sports, leisure and culture**’. There is a strong relationship between health and recreation, while evidence has shown that there are existing deficiencies in some leisure provision. Promoting active communities is a key priority action for the Local Plan.

2.4.16 Policy CO3 of this strategy states that the provision of sufficient, well-managed and accessible open spaces sports and recreation facilities, including indoor sports facilities, will be achieved by;

- Safeguarding existing facilities from development, and only permitting their loss where it results in improved provision (in terms of quantity and quality) as part of a redevelopment or elsewhere within the locality;
- Allocating land for open space, sports and recreation purposes, and permitting proposals for the improvement of existing or provision of new facilities, in localities where deficits in facilities are identified;
- Application of the quantity, access and quality standards of Rother’s Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study across all open spaces, including indoor sports facilities within the district;
- Requiring either direct provision or financial contributions towards improvements to existing open space, sport and recreation provision to ensure adopted standards are maintained within the locality;
- Increasing access to the countryside by promoting improvements to the rights of way network, especially around the urban areas, particularly in reference to Combe Valley Countryside Park;
- Giving particular support for water-based recreation along the coast near Camber Sands and Bexhill, and at Bewl Water, having due regard to environmental considerations.

Rother Playing Pitch Strategy (2012 – 2018)

2.4.17 This 6-year strategy was undertaken by Rother District Council and provides recommendations in line with the previous Sport England PPS guidance.

2.4.18 Rother District Council have chosen to update its existing Playing Pitch Strategy prior to the end of the lifecycle of the previous strategy. This is due to the following reasons;

- The publication of a more recent (October 2013) ‘Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance’ Sport England
- The adoption of the Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2028 which sets new, increased development targets across the District, with over 50% of housing development focused at Bexhill
- Local intelligence of an existing need for increased and improved pitches, as well as the threatened loss of existing private pitches, in Bexhill
- The recent adoption of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Rother, which will provide a potential source of funding for well-evidenced local priorities for sporting infrastructure

2.4.19 The complete recommendations section is included in Appendix B – Supporting Information, however the general recommendations for each ward are contained in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – General Recommendations per ward from 2012 RDC PPS

Ward	General Recommendation
Bexhill	Increase opportunities for community use of existing and future facilities at educational establishments.

Ward	General Recommendation
Battle	Ensure initiatives for new or improved provision are inclusive i.e. suitable for all abilities and genders.
Brede Valley	Ensure that there is at least one high quality football facility and also a good quality cricket facility in the area (possibly joint use) with associated training provision.
Crowhurst	Support initiatives to increase the quality of existing facilities, particularly for training.
Darwell	Improve existing provision rather than creating new facilities.
Eastern Rother	Focus on the improvement of pavilions rather than the development of new facilities
Ewhurst & Sedlescombe	Improve existing provision rather than creating new facilities.
Marsham	Explore options to link with educational establishments or youth clubs for coaching and training across all sports
Rother Levels	Focus on the improvement of pavilions rather than the development of new facilities
Rye	Consider how the former Freda Gardham School site could address quantitative issues for all sports in Rye
Salehurst	Increase the amount of community use at education sites, particularly at Bodiam and Robertsbridge Community College
Ticehurst & Etchingham	Improve the quality of existing provision

Rother District Council Leisure Facilities Strategy

2.4.20 In 2015, Rother District Council developed an indoor sports and leisure facilities strategy for the local authority, which looked to update the 2009 – 2020 Rother and Hastings Leisure Facilities Strategy

2.4.21 Table 4 below summarises the key recommendations from the strategy and illustrates the key priorities for leisure facility development in Rother.

Table 4 – RDC Leisure Facilities Strategy Action Plan

Ward	General Recommendation
Sports Halls	
Protect	SH 1. Protect the existing stock of sports halls for community use as there is a need to retain the existing quantity of supply across the district to meet demand up to 2025 and beyond. Timescale – ongoing Lead responsibility – Rother District Council
Enhance	SH 2 Consider the opportunities to improve the quality of existing venues in terms of sports halls, flooring, lighting and changing accommodation. Timescale – ongoing Lead responsibility – Rother District Council
Provide	SH 3. Provide a new indoor sports hall located in Bexhill to meet the needs of indoor hall sports, so as to increase and broaden the sports and physical activity participation and contribute to the District Council's collective regeneration objectives for the District. The scale of the sports hall should be a 34.5m x 20m the maximum size for a 4 badminton court size sports hall Timescale – short term 2015 - 2020 Lead responsibility – Rother District Council
Swimming Pools	

Ward	General Recommendation
Protect	SP 1 Protect the existing stock of swimming pools for community use as there is a need to retain the existing quantity of supply across the district to meet demand up to 2025 and beyond
	Timescale – ongoing Lead responsibility – Rother District Council Planning and Active Rother
Enhance	SP 2 consider the opportunities to improve the quality of existing swimming pools in terms of changing accommodation and modernisation of the pool
	Timescale – ongoing Lead responsibility – Rother District Council
Provide	SP 3. Provide a new swimming pool located in Bexhill as an integral part of the Bexhill proposed new Leisure Centre. The requirement is for a pool facility which meets the full swimming activities of learn to swim, casual recreational swimming, fitness lane swimming and club development. The recommendation is for is a 6 lane x 25 metre main pool and a separate teaching/learner pool of 100 sq metres of water.
	Timescale – short term 2015 - 2020 Lead responsibility – Rother District Council
Health and Fitness	
Protect	HF 1. To retain the existing supply of health and fitness venues in the District and promote enhancement of the quality of the venues
	Timescale – short term 2015 - 2020 Lead Responsibility – Rother District Council
Provide	HF 2. Provide a new health and fitness centre with a gym of 120 stations for cardio vascular, strength and conditioning as an integral part of the Bexhill new Leisure Centre (with recommendation SH 3 and SP 3)
	Timescale – short term 2015 - 2020 Lead Responsibility – Rother District Council
Studios	
Provide	S 1 Provide two studios as part of the Bexhill new sports and leisure centre (with recommendation SH 3, SP 3 and HF 2)
	Timescale – short term 2015 - 2020 Lead responsibility – Rother District Council
Squash	
Protect	SQ 1. Retain the existing squash court provision for both pay and play and membership access
	Timescale – ongoing Lead Responsibility – Rother District Council
Provide	SQ 2. Consider the provision of 2 squash courts as part of the Bexhill new Leisure Centre (with recommendations SH 3, SP 3, HF 2 and S 1)
	Timescale – ongoing Lead Responsibility – Rother District Council

Rother District Council Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study

2.4.22 In 2006/07, Rother District Council commissioned an audit and assessment of Rother’s open spaces, sport and recreation facilities. The Study compiled a full audit of open spaces within the District and assessed these spaces for the open space, sport and recreation needs of people living, working and visiting Rother. The Study produced local provision standards (in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility) for different types of open space. These local standards were then compared to the existing provision, enabling the identification of surpluses and deficits of provision to be identified across the District.

2.4.23 Table 5 below summarises the outputs of this analysis, providing standards for quantity and quality of facilities, as well as an overall quality vision for outdoor sports facilities within Rother.

Table 5 – RDC Open Space, sports and recreation study key recommendations

Standard	Explanation
Quantity Standard	Bexhill – 0.95 ha per 1,000 populations. Battle and Rye – 3.33 ha per 1,000 populations. Rural – 2.10 ha per 1,000 populations.
Accessibility Standard	20 minutes’ walk time.
Quality Vision	A clean and litter free sports facility with appropriate and well-drained good quality surfaces, and appropriate ancillary accommodation including toilets, car parking, litter and dog-fouling bins. All new sites should meet national governing body guidelines, with all existing sites aspiring to this.

2.5 Local Context – Hastings

2.5.1 Hastings is a community of approximately 90,000 people located with the English Channel to the south, Combe Haven Valley to the west, Fairlight to the east and the High Weald to the north. Together with Bexhill the town of Hastings sits in an urban area with a population around 135,000. Its history is shaped partly by its relationship to the sea, but also by its distance (60 miles) from London. The town has 8 miles of coastline and is surrounded by the mainly rural district of Rother. The population of Hastings is typically younger than the rest of East Sussex, with a current age profile similar to the national picture. Based on the housing growth proposed between 2011 and 2028, the population is forecast to grow by 3.2%. At the same time a growth in the number of households is expected to increase from 41,100 in 2011 to 44,500 in 2028 (an increase of 8.2%).

2.5.2 By 2028 there will be a greater proportion of older people, with particular growth in the post retirement age group (30% in 2028, compared to 24% in 2011).

2.5.3 Ensuring that the PPS action plan and recommendations are in line with the priorities of the most recent sport and physical activity strategy is key, in order to allow HBC to continue improving the provision and accessibility of sports provision in its most deprived areas.

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION – HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

2.5.4 A number of current strategic policies and strategies will influence the supply and demand for sport and recreation facilities in Rother. These include:

- Hastings Corporate Plan (2017 – 2018)
- Hastings Planning Strategy (2014 – 2018)
- Hastings Leisure Facility Strategy (2015-2020)
- Hastings Specific Development Management Plan (2014)
- Hastings Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2015 – 2018)
- Hastings Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2006)
- Hastings Pitch Improvement Plan (2003)

Hastings Borough Council Corporate Plan 2017/18

2.5.5 Hastings Borough Council has developed a corporate plan for the period 2017-18 with the following aspirations:

- Hastings will be recognised as an international centre of excellence for cultural and scientific creativity, supported by the highest quality educational establishments to provide first-class career opportunities to its citizens.
- Rewarding jobs with a decent wage, good standards of healthcare and warm, comfortable, affordable homes will be available to all.
- It will be a town that welcomes visitors and new residents wherever they are from, where diversity, individuality and eccentricity are celebrated, and the individual needs of all are recognised and met.
- The best of the town's historic built and natural environment will be preserved, while embracing new developments that excite and enrich the town's appearance.
- It will be a 'green' town, where industries, structures and practices that help to reduce the town's carbon footprint are strongly promoted, creating the best possible quality of life for all our workers and citizens, who are enabled and encouraged to accept opportunity as their birth-right.
- Finally, Hastings' corporate plan aspires to make the town famous not just for its history, but for its vision and achievements, a place to be admired throughout the world, to which every visitor would seek to return.

2.5.6 The key priorities of the council within the context of the corporate plan for 2017/18 are:

- **Creating decent homes:** To facilitate the supply of secure, affordable and well-designed homes, through strategic planning policies, planning conditions, regulation of the private rented sector, tackling and eliminating bad landlords, and by working with social housing providers.

- **An attractive town:** To maintain visually interesting, well-maintained, uncluttered, clean and functional urban public spaces, especially along the seafront and in our town centres, integrated with high quality protected green spaces accessible to all.
- **A greener town:** To promote practices that minimise our carbon footprint through our policies and our own operations, protect and enhance biodiversity, and limit damaging consequences of human intervention on the natural environment.
- **Transforming the way we work:** To maximise the benefits provided by new technology, to take opportunities for smarter ‘One Team’ working and continue our drive to be more Customer First focused and efficient in the design and delivery of services.

Planning Strategy (2014 to 2028)

2.5.7 The overall Planning Strategy vision for the Borough is:

“By 2028 Hastings, founded upon our unique heritage, natural environment and seaside location, and supported by social, economic, cultural and environmental regeneration will be a safe and thriving place to live, work and visit, that offers a high quality of life, and has a strong economy and sustainable future.”

2.5.8 The ambition of the council is for a town which is:

- Prosperous
- Inclusive and cohesive
- “Green”
- Interlinked to the wider economy
- Skilled
- Healthy
- Diverse

2.5.9 Hastings Borough Council wants to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home, which they can afford. This will require the delivery of at least 3,400 new dwellings between 2011 – 2028,

Table 6 – Housing projections for HBC

Sources of new homes likely to come forward by 2028	Net number of units
Units completed 2011/12 - 2012/13	373
Commitments – sites under construction, with planning permission or resolution to grant planning permission	1,209
Small site (5 or less net dwellings) commitments 2013/14 – 2015/16	157
Existing Local Plan allocation (excluding those with no extant permission)	747
Other sites potentially developable sites - no planning status (informed by the SHLAA and the merging Development Management Plan document)	771
Small site (less than 6 dwellings) windfall allowance 2016/17 – 2027/28 (12 years x 35 dwellings)	420
Total	3,647

2.5.10 The Planning Strategy is separated into a number of policy areas, with those relevant to the PPS summarised below;

2.5.11 **Policy FA1: Strategic Policy for Western Area:** The following table sets out the overall indicative quantity of development for Western Area, which will be explored in further detail in the Development Management Plan.

Table 7: Indicative quantity of development for Western Area

Planning Focus Area	Housing – range of dwellings by area up to 2028
1. Little Ridge and Ashdown	220-280
2. Greater Hollington	250-310
3. Filsham Valley and Bulverhythe	630-700
Total	1,100 - 1,290

2.5.12 Policy FA2: Strategic Policy for Central Area: The following table sets out the overall indicative quantity of development for the Central Area, which is explored in more detail in the Development Management Plan.

Table 8: Indicative quantity of development for Central Area

Planning Focus Area	Housing – range of dwellings by area up to 2028
4. St Helens	210 - 250
5. Silverhill and Alexandra Park	300 - 360
6. Maze Hill & Burtons St Leonards	220 - 280
7. Central St Leonards and Bohemia	240 - 300
8. Hastings Town Centre	200 - 240
10. West Hill	50 - 70
Sub-total	1,220 - 1,500

2.5.13 **Policy FA5 Strategic Policy for the Eastern Area:** The following table sets out the overall indicative quantity of development for Eastern Area, which will be explored in further detail in the Development Management Plan.

Table 9: The indicative quantity of development for Eastern Area

Planning Focus Area	Housing – range of dwellings by area up to 2028
9. Old Town	50 - 70
11. Hillcrest and Ore Valley	440 - 540
12. Clive Vale and Ore Village	250 - 310
13. Hastings Country Park	0
Total	740 - 920

2.5.14 Protecting the existing stock of playing fields and sports pitches is also important to maintain the health and wellbeing of local people, and in light of increasing pressures for development. We therefore seek to protect the existing provision, and encourage the development of new facilities in central locations.

2.5.15 **Policy CI2: Sports and Leisure Facilities:** Major sports and leisure facilities should be centrally located, or easily accessible to all of the community. Provision for casual recreation, such as multi-use games areas should be locally based within communities to allow the best possible access.

Hastings Sport & Physical Activity Strategy (2016-2020)³

- 2.5.16 Hastings Borough Council have refreshed their sport and physical activity strategy, to reflect the progress that has been made in the recent past, as well as the changing nature of the challenges faced by the borough.
- 2.5.17 The strategy emphasises the challenges of deprivation in the borough, with recent figures showing that 27.7% of children in the borough live in poverty. The strategy emphasises the importance of focussing on those key groups that are less likely to take part in physical activity. These groups include women and girls, elderly people, disabled people and those from lower socio-economic groups.
- 2.5.18 The Strategy explained that since the previous issue of the strategy, physical activity and obesity levels in Hastings have improved, however the health of people living in Hastings is still poorer than other areas.
- 2.5.19 The strategy sets out the following strategic vision;

“Hastings will be an active town where high quality sport and physical activity opportunities are accessible to all and the majority of people are actively engaged in sport and physical activity”

- 2.5.20 The purpose of the strategy is to;

- Ensure a coordinated approach to physical activity and sporting opportunities in the town, allowing a wide range of partners to develop skills and expertise in order to increase the impact of local interventions.
- Raise awareness of the contribution that sport and physical activity can give to developing the health of local residents, addressing inequalities and developing the economic and social health of the area.
- Build the capacity of all statutory, community and voluntary organisations to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

- 2.5.21 The strategy sets out the following key priorities for the 2016 – 2020 time period

- Increasing participation in physical activity and encouraging more residents to meet the Department of Health’s physical activity recommendations
- Enhancing skills and building volunteer capacity within the local sport and physical activity sector
- Strengthening partnerships and coordinating physical activity and sporting opportunities in the town

³ Hastings Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2016-2010 (Hastings Borough Council and Active Hastings: 2016)

2.5.22 The following playing fields and/or sports pitches are identified as part of the green infrastructure network and should be protected in line with policy CI2 of the Hastings Planning Strategy

- Ark William Parker Academy
- Baird Primary Academy
- The Firs (Mini soccer centre)
- The Pilot Field
- Alexandra Park.

Hastings Leisure Facilities Strategy (2015-2018)

2.5.23 The identified priorities for future facility provision in the borough are shown in Table 10 below:

Table 10: Priorities for future facility provision in HBC

Facility Type	Recommendation
Athletics tracks	The short term priority is for a viable operations plan to be agreed post the current agreement which ceases 2018.
Sports halls	Additional hall space required at peak times. Location to be further assessed. Alternatively, look to extend community use of educational halls.
Health & fitness suites	Additional stations required at Falaise. Quantity to be confirmed.
Swimming pools	Additional 414 m ² required (equivalent of 7-8 lanes of a 25m pool). Leisure water, dedicated learner pool and additional 25m lanes required.
Synthetic turf pitches	Additional 1-2 full sized, floodlit third generation pitch required.
Football stadia	Upgraded facilities required.
Bowling green's indoor	No additional, but significant improvements required
Bowling green's outdoor	No additional
Indoor tennis courts	Low cost indoor courts are required. Number of courts and location requires further assessment.
Outdoor tennis courts	Enhancement of current Alexandra Park courts is a priority, with future option to reinstate additional courts if required
Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's)	Additional MUGAs required. Quantity and location requires further assessment.
Climbing walls / climbing facilities	Current supply adequate for beginners. Enhancements of current stock required for regular climbers.
Water sport facilities .	Further assessments required
Skate parks .	Additional Indoor park required and extension to White Rock Skate Park

Specific Development Management Plan

2.5.24 Hastings Borough Council is in the process of producing a series of documents that will guide the future planning of the town. Together, these documents will form the new Hastings Local Plan.

- The Hastings Planning Strategy was adopted in February 2014. This is the overarching strategic document that provides a long-term plan to deliver regeneration and sustainable growth in the town over the next 15 years.

- The Development Management Plan is the second key document prepared as part of the Local Plan process. Its purpose is to set out clear policies to help shape the design and construction of new development and to allocate sites to deliver the overarching policies in the Planning Strategy. This document has been updated and will form part of the evidence base for Hastings Local Plan.

2.5.25 The Local Plan therefore shares the same strategic objectives as the Planning Strategy, which are:

- Achieve and sustain a thriving economy
- Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home, which they can afford, in a community in which they want to live
- Safeguard and improve the town’s environment Addressing the impacts of climate change
- Supporting sustainable communities
- Provision of an efficient and effective transport system Making best use of the Seafront and promoting tourism

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2006)

2.5.26 The Strategy identifies some priority Sport and Recreation Facilities as key sites in the Borough. For example:

- Bexhill Road Recreation Ground
- Horntye Park
- William Parker Sports College
- Sandhurst Recreation Ground (Football/cricket)

2.5.27 Sites of Borough wide significance, subject to further review include:

- Tilekiln
- White Rock

Hastings Playing Pitch Improvement Plan (2003)

2.5.28 The results of the 2003 Pitch Improvement Plan are shown in Table 11 below

Table 11: Summary of 2003 Pitch Improvement Plan Results

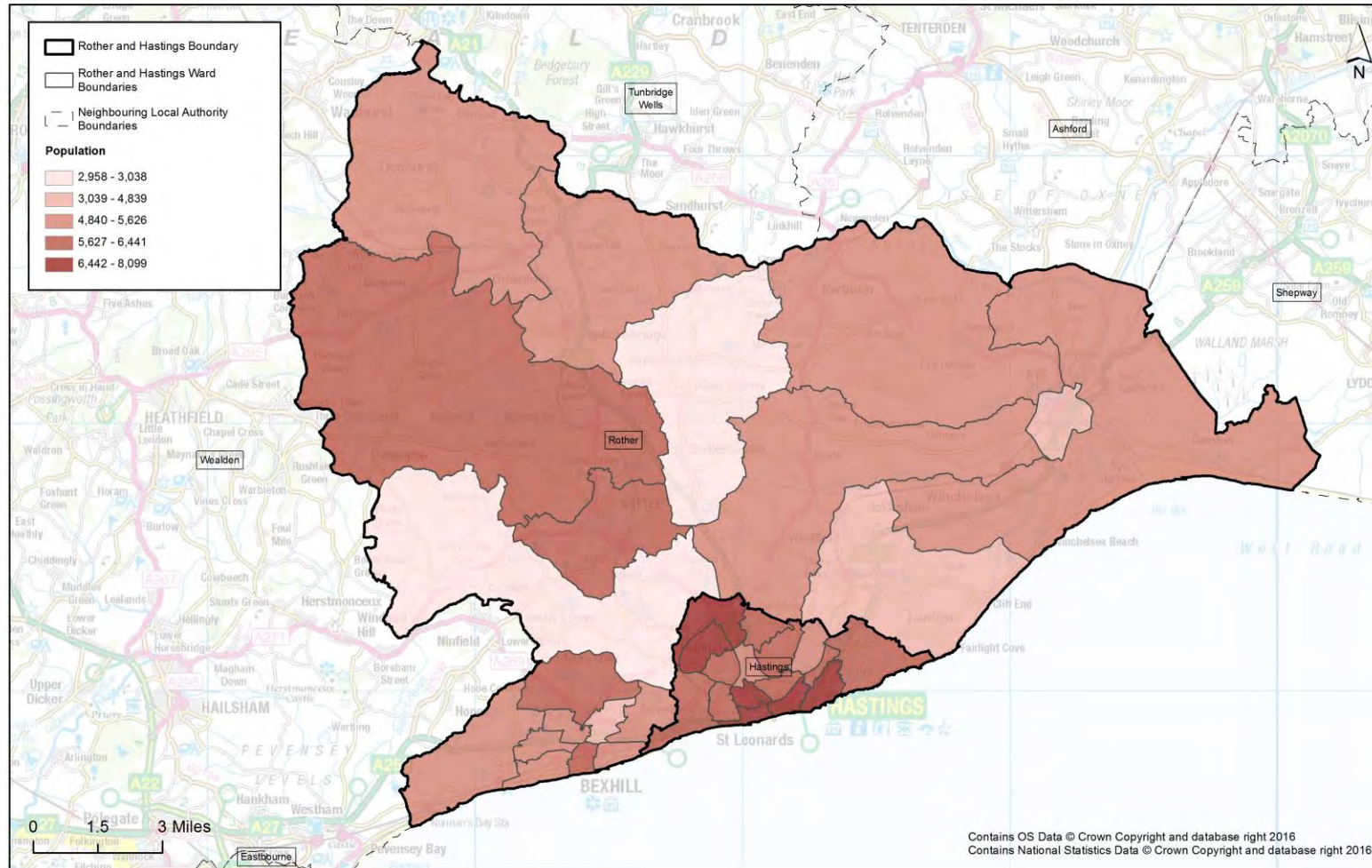
	Supply	Peak Demand	Surplus/deficit
Football			
Mini-soccer	17	12	+5
Junior soccer	18	18	0
Senior soccer	20	16	+4
Cricket			
Junior cricket (grass)	0	2	-2
Junior cricket (artificial)	1	3	-2
Senior cricket	7	7	0
Rugby			
Mini rugby	1	2	-1

Junior rugby	0	2	-2
Senior rugby	2	2	0
Hockey			
Junior hockey	0	1	-1
Senior hockey	1	1	0

POPULATION PROFILES AND PROJECTIONS FOR THE STUDY AREA

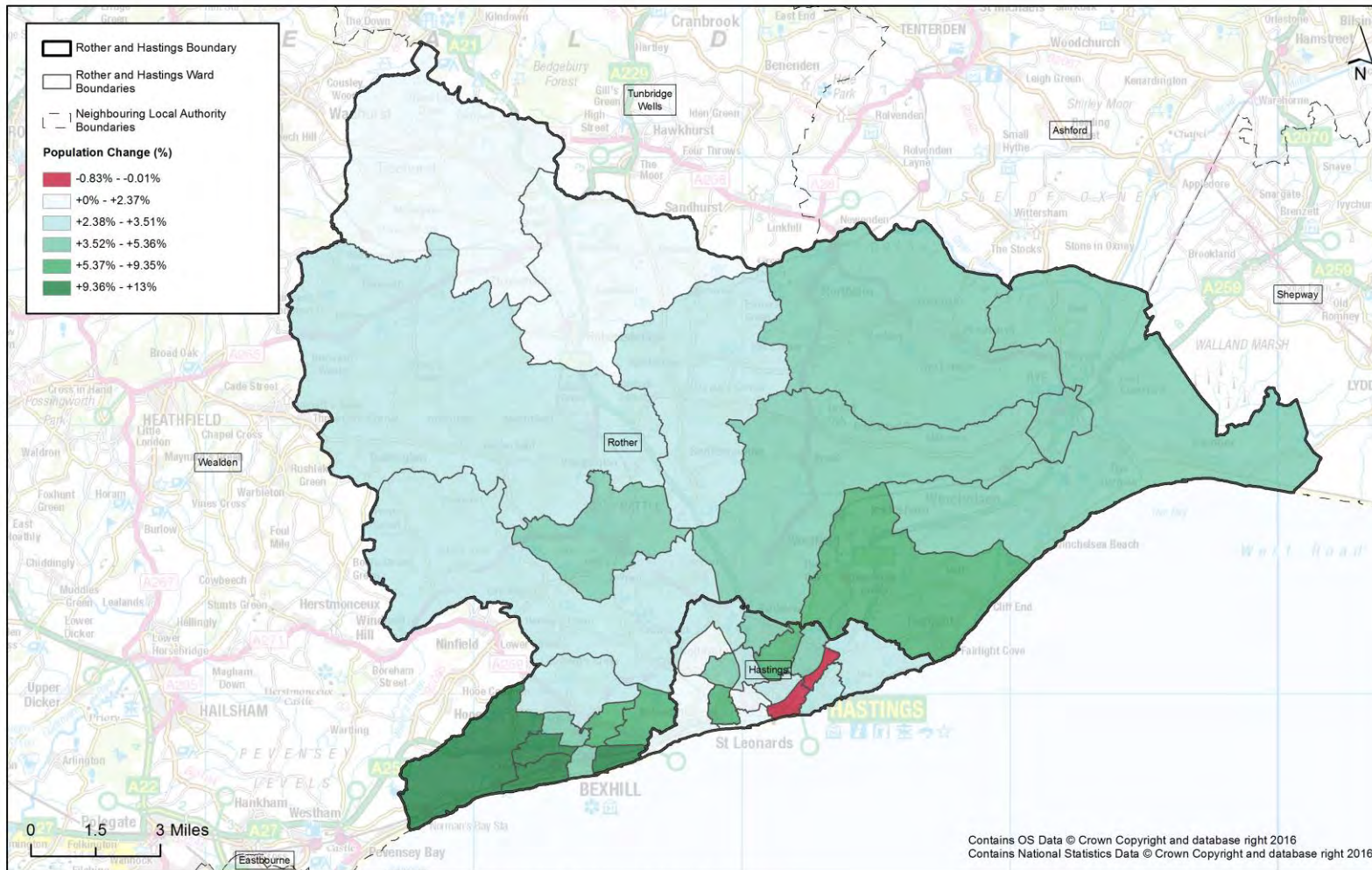
- 2.5.29 Understanding the population and future growth projections are important in planning the future provision of sports facilities.
- 2.5.30 The Councils have provided housing projections in line with the Core Strategy housing growth figures, with both the current and projected populations shown spatially overleaf. Map 2 illustrates the relatively high density of population in Hastings and the sparser distribution of population across Rother.
- 2.5.31 The overall population in Rother and Hastings is projected to grow between 2016 and 2028 by 4%, from 182,941 to 191,094 with the highest growth centred around Bexhill and Hastings.
- 2.5.32 In terms of demographics, a number of age groups are projected to reduce in population over the study period, with a projected reduction of 5,108 45-54 year olds. In contrast, the older age groups are projected to grow, with an overall projected increase of 17,409 for the 55+ age group.

Map 2 – Rother and Hastings Population (2016 Projected – source: Office of National Statistics 2014 population projections)



Usual resident population by ward in Rother and Hastings (2016)

Map 3 – Rother and Hastings Population Change. Source: Office of National Statistics 2014 population projections



Map 3 shows the future projected population change across Rother and Hastings, and how the population will increase around the urban areas, and particularly in western Bexhill and central Hastings. The darker the green shade, the higher the population growth in that specific area. The red shading indicates a projected reduction in population within the given ward.

Percentage change in population by ward in Rother and Hastings (2016 -2028)

DEPRIVATION

- 2.5.34 Deprivation in the study area is a severe issue, but in Hastings in particular. The health of people in Hastings is generally worse than the England average. Deprivation is higher than average and about 27.7% (4700)⁴ of children live in poverty. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average, with the difference between life expectancy for the most and least deprived areas being 10.4 years for men⁴.
- 2.5.35 The health of people in Rother is generally better than the England average. Deprivation is lower than average, however about 17.8% (2,400)⁴ children live in poverty. Life expectancy for women is higher than the England average, however it is 8.5 years lower in the most deprived areas of Rother than in the least deprived areas⁵
- 2.5.36 Hastings is the 20th most deprived local authority area in England out of 326 authorities (lower ranking = more deprived). 16 of the 53 Super Output Areas (SOAs)⁶ in Hastings are in the most deprived 10% in England, compared with 15 in 2010. These are all of Central St Leonards and Castle wards, and parts of Hollington, Gensing, Ore, Wishing Tree, Tressell and Baird.
- 2.5.37 Rother has six (10%) of SOAs amongst the most deprived 20% in England, four in Bexhill (Sidley and Central wards), one in Rye and one in Eastern Rother.
- 2.5.38 Hastings remains the most deprived in the South East, and in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) area based on both average score and proportion of SOAs in most deprived 10%.
- 2.5.39 The two most deprived neighbourhoods in Hastings are Broomgrove and Farley Bank / Halton, are among the most deprived 1% in England. The “7 Streets” area of St Leonards are among the most 2% deprived in England.
- 2.5.40 According to the IMD 2015 extent measure 40.3% of Hastings’ population experiences a degree of deprivation.
- 2.5.41 Hastings remains the 2nd most deprived seaside town in England after Blackpool according to both the rank of average score and the proportion of SOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally⁷.
- 2.5.42 Map 4 overleaf shows the high deprivation in central Hastings, as well as in eastern Rother, around Rye and Iden. Lowering levels of deprivation in Sidley and Bexhill Central wards have also been identified as priorities for Rother District Council.

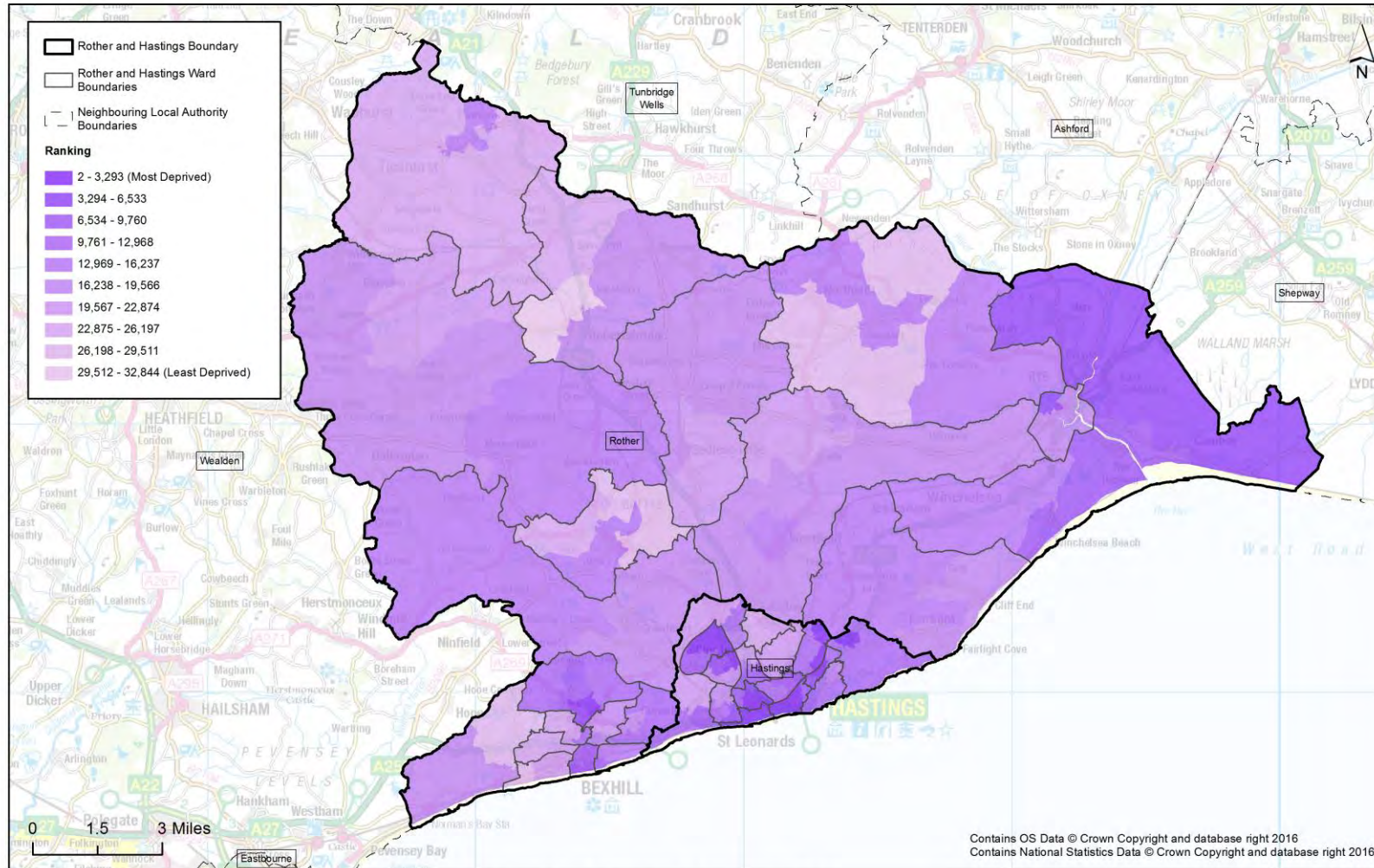
4 Hastings Health Profile (2015: Public Health England)

5 Rother Health Profile (2015: Public Health England)

6 Super Output Areas are a geography for the collection and publication of small area statistics. They are used on the Neighbourhood Statistics site and across National Statistics.

7 English Index of Multiple Deprivation (Office of National Statistics: 2015)

Map 4 – Areas of Deprivation in Rother and Hastings



Index of Multiple Deprivation by lower super output area in Rother and Hastings (2015)

2.5.43 Table 12 summarises the overall demographics in the study area

Table 12 – Summary of Rother and Hastings Demographic Profile

Key Factors	Rother and Hastings
Population 2016 (estimated - all ages) (2014-based Population Projections; R&H)	91,802 (Rother) 91,139 (Hastings) 182,941 (TOTAL)
Population 2028 (all ages)	97,353 (Rother) 93,741 (Hastings) 191,094 (TOTAL)
Population Increases Planned	Rother: At least 5,700 dwellings Hastings: At least 3,600 dwellings. Total: At least 9,347 dwellings
Population characteristics	Predominantly white; the population is ageing – the largest growth in the population will be in the 76-84 age group.
Rural Areas	Rother is predominantly rural, with the largest settlement being the coastal town of Bexhill, with smaller market towns of Battle and Rye and a number of smaller villages and rural settlements across the rest of the District. Hastings is a far smaller local authority and is made up largely of the Hastings town. It is therefore an entirely urban local authority.
Car Ownership	As Rother is more rural, a far higher percentage have access to a car, with only 17.8% not having access. This is lower than both the East Sussex and National averages 30.8% of the population in Hastings do not have access to a car, which is 10% more than the East Sussex average and almost 6% higher than the national average. This has a significant impact on the ability of residents to get to sports facilities and should therefore be considered.
Deprivation	Rother has far lower levels of deprivation, with 8.7% living in the 20% most deprived areas of England. Deprivation is a significant issue, especially in Hastings where 44.9% of the population living in the 20% most deprived areas of England.
Obesity	Rother: 21.1% of the adult population are categorised as obese, although 65.8% are classified as overweight 20.6% of reception children and 32% of Year 6 children were classed as overweight (including obese). Hastings: 22.5% of the adult population are categorised as obese, although 64.2 ⁸ % are classified as overweight (including those categorised as obese). 25.1% of reception children and 34.3% of Year 6 children were classed as overweight (including obese).
Health Issues	The health of people in Rother is generally better than the England average, with local priorities including cancers, circulatory diseases. In contrast, the health of people in Hastings is generally worse than the England average, however the same local priorities for health are highlighted

⁸ Rother Public Health Outcomes Framework - <http://www.phoutcomes.info/Hastings> (2016: Public Health England)

2.6 Neighbouring Local Authority Playing Pitch Analysis

- 2.6.1 In order to assess the recommendations for sports development and facilities in the study area, it is important to understand the priorities of neighbouring local authorities, especially regarding major facility development plans.
- 2.6.2 The reason for this is that often major sports facilities (such as a synthetic athletics track or a large AGP development) attract demand from numerous local authorities as residents are prepared to travel further for high quality facilities.
- 2.6.3 This section therefore looks to summarise the status of the Playing Pitch Strategies for neighbouring local authorities and where possible, assesses the strategic or major facility plans that may have an impact on the supply and demand for sports facilities in the study area.
- 2.6.4 In addition to the summaries below, map 9 and 10, contained with the Football AGP analysis section, provide a spatial analysis of sand-based and 3G AGP facilities across the study area and neighbouring local authorities, which can be used to assess the overall supply and demand for AGP's in the study area.

SHEPWAY DISTRICT

- 2.6.5 Following consultation with Shepway District Council, no strategic priorities or major sports facility developments were identified within the next 5 years.
- 2.6.6 The previous Playing Pitch Strategy was undertaken using the 'Towards a Level Playing Field' guidance and was issued in 2011, therefore recommendations and the action plan are not directly relevant to the Rother and Hastings Strategy.
- 2.6.7 The full 2011 strategy document is available at <http://goo.gl/FwKx0p>

WEALDEN DISTRICT

- 2.6.8 Following consultation with Wealden District Council, the Council is currently undertaking a Playing Pitch Strategy for the local authority. The strategy is scheduled for completion by early 2017 and there is a Council aspiration to have a sports park in the south of the district, however this is currently at a very early stage in consideration.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

- 2.6.9 The Playing Pitch Strategy for Tunbridge Wells commenced in May 2016 and therefore it is not possible to identify key priorities for the local authority at the time of issue for this document.
- 2.6.10 Following consultation with the local council, however, it is clear that high population growth is projected, with the borough increasing from 116,000 to 135,000 between 2013 and 2033

2.6.11 This growth, coupled with a perceived shortage in grass pitches and the presence of only 1 sand-based AGP that is available to the community, is likely to drive the need for new and improved sporting provision across the borough. This development is likely to have an impact on the supply and demand for sports provision in Rother and Hastings, however it is not possible to quantify the impact of this at such an early stage.

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

2.6.12 The Playing Pitch Strategy for Ashford Borough Council (ABC) commenced in Q4 2015 and therefore it is not possible to identify priorities for the ABC at the time of issue.

2.6.13 Following consultation with ABC, a shortage of 3G AGP provision has been identified, which is projected to worsen as the local population continues to grow. The significant population increase, influenced by the high quality transport links into central London, is also likely to increase pressure on planning and housing growth.

2.6.14 With this context in mind, it is key to develop sustainable sporting provision that can be used by local residents across the South East of England. When looking at how RDC and ABC can work together, the area of Tenterden will be key, as there is significant projected population growth and potential facility developments. Due to the proximity of Tenterden to Eastern Rother, it is important that Local Authorities work together to ensure that the facility mix meets demand and the location makes the facility accessible to the greatest number of people.

2.7 Local Sports Context for Rother and Hastings

2.7.1 This section summarises the key sports specific strategies and plans for Rother and Hastings, as well as the local participation trends in order to understand the key priorities for sports and leisure in the local and surrounding areas.

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF SPORT

2.7.2 Sport has a valuable role to play in benefitting the health and social economy of the nation and at local level. It is estimated that sport makes an £11.3 billion contribution to the health economy of England⁹. In 2010, sport contributed gross value-add of £20.3 billion to the economy in England.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND PARTICIPATION

2.7.3 This section summarises the key trends for physical activity, utilising Sport England sources such as the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation.

The Value of Participation

2.7.4 The value of participation in sport and physical activity is significant, and its contribution to individual and community quality of life should not be underestimated. This is true for both younger and older people; participation in sport and physical activity delivers:

⁹ Local Sport Profile 2015 and the Economic value of sport (Sport England: 2015)

- Opportunities for physical activity, and therefore more ‘active living’
- Health benefits – cardiovascular, stronger bones, mobility
- Physical health benefits – prevents and manages 20 chronic disease including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer, obesity, musculoskeletal conditions
- Mental health benefits – prevents mental health problems and improves the quality of life of those experiencing mental health problems and illnesses
- Social benefits – socialisation, communication, inter-action, regular contact, stimulation

2.7.5 In addition, participation in sport and physical activity can facilitate the learning of new skills, development of individual and team ability / performance, and provide a ‘disciplined’ environment in which participants can ‘grow’ and develop.

2.7.6 The benefits of regular and active participation in sport and physical activity will be important to promote in relation to future sport, leisure and physical activity in Rother and Hastings. There is an existing audience in the study area, which already recognise the advantages of participation, and a latent community who are ready to take part. The sport, physical activity and leisure offer in the study area can support the delivery of the desired outcomes across a number of strategic priorities and objectives.

Current Participation Rates

2.7.7 The participation levels evidenced below¹⁰ suggest that the study area has less of a sporting and physically active population compared to national and regional figures.

- The Active People Survey (APS) 10 (2015/16 Q2) highlights that of those aged 14+ in Rother, 35.1% participates once a week in sport; this is lower than the South East of England (39.5%) and England average (37.0%).
- However, levels of participation (16+ males and females) population in sport have increased over the period the APS Survey has been undertaken. Overall, participation rates are higher for males than females in Rother
- The Active People Survey (APS) 10 (2015/16 Q2) highlights that of those aged 14+ in Hastings, 31.2% participates once a week in sport; this is lower than the South East (39.5%) and England average (37.0%).
- Levels of participation (16+ males) population in sport have increased over the period the APS Survey has been undertaken, but those for females have decreased. Overall, participation has remained relatively constant over the period of the Active People survey.

¹⁰ Active People Survey: Sport England (2016)

2.7.8 All relevant Active People (APS 10) participation data for the study area is summarised overleaf in Table 13.

Table 13: Adult (16+) Participation in Sport – Rother and Hastings

APS 10 Measurement	Year	Rother	Hastings	South East of England	England	Comment
16+ participation in sport at least once a week	2005/06	29.1%	28.9%	37.10%	34.6 %	Rates in the two districts are lower than South East of England and England averages.
	2015/16	33.4%	29.2%	38.7%	36.1%	
16+ 1-2 x 30 minutes of moderate sports participation per week	2015/16	25.7%	21.6%	27.4%	25.5%	While Rother’s rate of participation is above the national average, Hasting’s rate is considerably lower. Rother’s rate of participation has increased from AP1 2005/06 23.4% to 25.7%, whilst that in Hastings has fallen from AP1 2005/06 24.1% to 21.6%.
16+ 30 minutes moderate intensity activity 3 or more times a week	2015/16	15.0%	14.7%	19.0%	17.7%	The proportion of people in Rother taking part in 30 minutes’ moderate intensity activity 3 times or more times a week has increased since APS1 2005/06 (11.0%), however it has steadily decreased from APS7 2012/13 (16.8%) The proportion of people (14.5%) in Hastings taking part in 30 minutes’ moderate intensity activity 3 or more times a week has increased since APS1 2005/06 (13.0%), however it has steadily decreased from APS7 2012/13 (16.8%)

2.7.9 APS 10 Q2 also identifies that:

- In terms of Latent Demand, 44.8% of all adults in Rother, and 57.2% of all adults in Hastings want to do more sport
- 33.5% of adults in Rother, and 28.2% of adults in Hastings, who are already physically active, want to do more sport (APS 8 2013/14 – data for APS 9 and APS10 are not available due to the insufficient sample size)
- 30.9% of those who are physically inactive in Rother (APS 8 2013/14), and 28% of those who are physically inactive in Hastings want to do more sport
- Satisfaction with existing sports facilities has decreased from 55.6% to 53.1% in Rother, and decreased significantly in Hastings from 61.2% to 54.1% over the last 3 years.

MARKET SEGMENTATION – ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 2.7.10 Sport England’s market segmentation model comprises of 19 ‘sporting’ segments. It is designed to assist understanding of attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to sports participation and to assist agencies involved in the delivery of sport and recreation to develop tailored interventions, communicate more effectively with the target market and to better understand participation in the context of life stages and cycles.
- 2.7.11 The Sport England Market Segmentation analysis for Rother District Council identifies that the dominant segments are Roger and Phyllis, Elsie and Arnold, Roger and Joy, Phillip, and Tim

Table 14: Market Segmentation Summary – Dominant Segments for Rother District Council

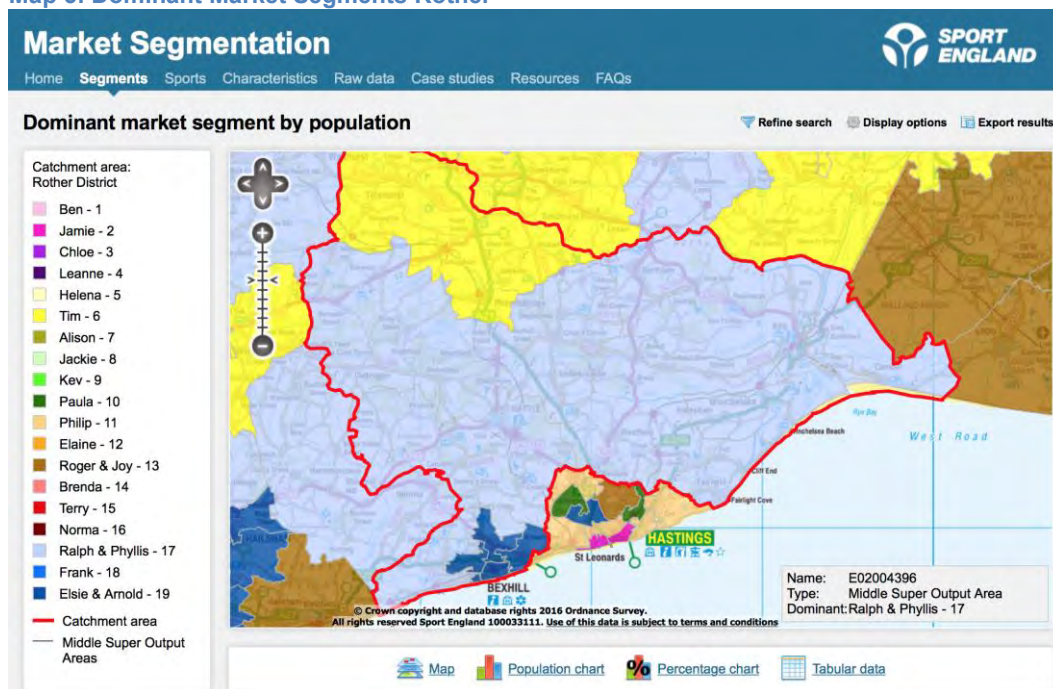
Market Segment	Segment Name	Description	Top Sports	% of Rother popn
Ralph and Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	Retired couples (aged 66+), enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles.	Keep fit/gym, Swimming, Golf	13%
Elsie and Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	Lowest participation rates of the 19 segments. Poor health and disability are major inhibitors. Participation mainly in low intensity activity. Safer neighbourhoods or people to go with would encourage participation. Organised, low-impact, low intensity events would be welcomed.	Walking, bowls and dancing	10%
Roger and Joy	Early Retirement Couples	Typically aged 56 – 65 this couple may be in employment, but nearing the end of their careers, or already have taken early retirement. They are slightly less active than the average adult population.	Walking, swimming, table tennis, golf and keep fit classes	9.5%
Philip	Comfortable Mid Life Males	Mid-life professional (aged 46-55), sporty males with older children and more time for themselves.	Cycling, keep fit/ gym, swimming, football, golf.	9%
Tim	Settling Down Males	Sporty male professionals (aged 26-45), buying a house and settling down with partner.	Cycling, keep fit/ gym, swimming, football, athletics and golf.	8.5%

- 2.7.12 The implications of the above analysis are that there is a need to ensure provision of quality facilities for: cycling; fitness; keep fit/gym; swimming; football; athletics or running, bowls, dancing, walking and golf at local level.

2.7.13 The distribution of the most dominant market segments in Rother District is shown below in Map 5. This map shows that in Rother, the majority segments across the district are Ralph and Phyllis (virtually the whole district), Elsie and Arnold (in the south of the District), Roger and Joy (just outside the south of the District), Philip (just outside the south of the District), and Tim (north of the District). This type of local intelligence should be used to develop and drive programmes to maximise participation opportunities at local level, by providing activities in which people want to take part.

2.7.14 It is key that as well as considering the dominant segments within the recommendations and action plan, a clear focus is also placed on those demographics that current have high levels of inactivity.

Map 5: Dominant Market Segments Rother



MARKET SEGMENTATION – HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

2.7.15 The Sport England Market Segmentation analysis for Hastings Borough Council identifies that the dominant segments are Elsie and Arnold, Phillip, Roger and Joy, Jamie, and Elaine. The implications of this analysis are that there is a need to ensure provision of quality facilities for: cycling; fitness; keep fit/gym; swimming; football; athletics or running, tennis, badminton, bowls, dancing, walking, horse riding and golf at local level.

Table 15: Market Segmentation – Dominant Segments in Hastings Borough Council

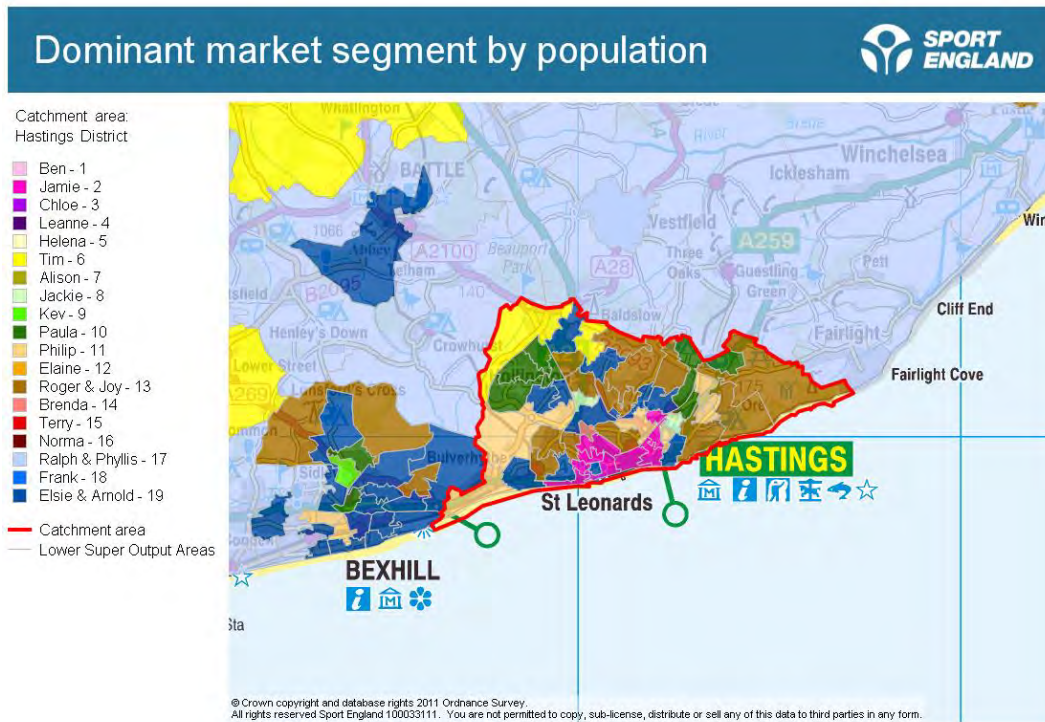
Market Segment	Segment Name	Description	Top sports	% of HBC popn
Elsie and Arnold (13)	Retirement Home Singles	Lowest participation rates of the 19 segments. Poor health and disability are major inhibitors. Participation mainly in low intensity activity. Organised, low-impact, low intensity events would be welcomed.	Walking, bowls and dancing	9.75

Market Segment	Segment Name	Description	Top sports	% of HBC popn
Philip (11)	Comfortable Mid Life Males Mid-Life Males	Mid-life professional (aged 46-55), sporty males with older children and more time for themselves.	Cycling, keep fit/gym, swimming, football, golf.	9
Roger and Joy (19)	Early Retirement Couples	Typically aged 56 – 65 this couple may be in employment, but nearing the end of their careers, or already have taken early retirement. They are slightly less active than the average adult population.	Walking, swimming, table tennis, golf and keep fit classes	8.25
Jamie (2)	Sports Team Drinkers	Young blokes (aged 18-25) enjoying football, pints and pool.	Football, Cricket, Keep fit/gym, Athletics	7
Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	Married women, aged 46-55. Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home	Keep fit/gym and swimming cycling, athletics or running, tennis, badminton and horse riding.	6.25

- 2.7.16 As cited in the 2015 Leisure Facilities Strategy¹¹, the overall segmentation data indicates a mixed population with differing needs. The profile includes a significant number of older people with specific needs and interests in lower impact forms of physical activity, and a younger profile who are interested in a variety of more active leisure pursuits. Each segment will have additional barriers to participation, such as cost and transport.
- 2.7.17 It also indicates groups that should complement each other in terms of use of facilities with the older users making use of facilities during the daytime while the younger demographic groups are more likely to use sports facilities outside of normal working hours, when leisure centres experience peak usage.
- 2.7.18 This mixed profile points towards the need to provide a range of flexible facilities to cater for a broad range of sporting interests. Transport accessibility, price and childcare provision are other considerations in encouraging participation by these groups.
- 2.7.19 The distribution of the most dominant market segments in Hastings Borough is shown overleaf in Map 6. This map shows that in Hastings, the majority segments across the district are Elsie and Arnold (focused areas across the District), Phillip (south east and south west of the District), Roger and Joy (areas across the District), Jamie (specifically in and around St Leonards), and Elaine (small areas in the south of the Borough).

¹¹ Hastings Leisure Facilities Strategy (2015: Hastings Borough Council)

Map 6: Dominant Market Segments in Hastings Borough



2.7.20 It should be noted that further detailed demographic assessments are undertaken throughout the PPS process and summarised in this report. The Sport England market segmentation explained in this section is just one tool that helps to illustrate the general context of the study area. The results should therefore be viewed alongside the PPS and the respective Leisure Facilities strategies to show the overall trends for sport and physical activity in Rother and Hastings.

3 FOOTBALL

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section of the report focusses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. At the end of this section there is also a summary of the supply and demand findings for third generation (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) that are becoming increasingly important to service the needs of football for both competitive play and training.
- 3.1.2 In August 2015, the FA released their National Game Strategy for Participation and Development (2015 – 2019)¹², which committed the organisation to invest £260 million into grassroots football over the next four years. The strategy has four key priorities;
- **Participation** – 'More players playing football more often'. The FA are aiming to boost female youth participation by 11% and retain the current level of male team affiliation
 - **Player Development** – 'Better quality players being developed and entering the talent pathways'. The FA will invest £16m into coach education and development programmes. There will also be 1,000 more top level grassroots coaches developed and on-going investment into the skills coaching programme for 5 – 11 year olds
 - **Better Training and Playing Facilities** – The FA has committed £48m to new and improved facilities through the Football Foundation. This includes the roll out of a new sustainable model for grassroots facilities in 30 cities through football hubs owned and operated by local communities. An ambition has also been stated to ensure that half of mini-soccer and youth matches are played on high-quality artificial grass pitches
 - **Football Workforce** – 'Recruiting and developing volunteers and paid staff who service the game'. This will grow the workforce, increase the number of qualified referees and ensure there is an advisory board for every County FA
- 3.1.3 The national strategy follows the FA's October 2014 announcements, stating its intentions to deliver 30 football hubs in cities across the country. The FA intends to increase the number of full size, publicly accessibility 3G AGP's to over 1,000 across England. It also intends to facilitate the delivery of more than 150 new club-owned and managed football hubs to support the delivery of FA, County FA and professional club youth development and coach education programmes. It also aims to ensure that at least 50% of all mini soccer and 9v9 matches are played on good quality 3G AGP's.

¹² FA National Game Strategy (<http://goo.gl/RHIZAT>: 2015)

- 3.1.4 A key trend for football across the country is the contraction of adult affiliated clubs and the growth of more casual and efficient forms of football, such as 5 and 7-a-side and organised evening 11-a-side, typically played on floodlit 3G pitches. This trend reflects the perceived reduction in free time across the UK and the reticence to commit to weekly football on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. This trend is less applicable for Rother and Hastings, due to the lack of commercial small-sided football available across the study area. There are exceptions to this, with 5-a-side leagues being run at Battle Sports Centre, Horntye and Hastings Academy.
- 3.1.5 The growth of demand and supply of 3G provision and the changing patterns of demand among grass roots footballers is key and will be addressed as an output of this study.
- 3.1.6 In addition to the focus on 3G facilities the FA has emphasised, throughout consultations, the commitment of the organisation to improving grass pitches, with the overall target being to improve 2,000 grass pitches and reduce the amount of cancellations, especially due to waterlogging.
- 3.1.7 The body that governs football in the study area is the Sussex County FA and all of the FA's community and development objectives are implemented through this local body

3.2 Consultation Overview

- 3.2.1 4 global consulted with Sussex County FA to provide an overview of club and facility needs and issues across the study area. This section covers the main points raised during the consultation.

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

- 3.2.2 Football participation in Sussex is relatively low compared to the rest of the country (Active People data is unavailable for the study area due to the size of the sample). In line with the recent National Strategy, the provision of 3G AGP's is seen as a priority for the FA as this improves the quality and sustainability of football facilities across the UK. Currently there are no full sized 3G AGP's in the study area, with the full sized sand-based pitches at Horntye and the Bexhill College Sports Centre being used for football use.
- 3.2.3 For grass-based pitches, facility provisions for football appear to meet demand sufficiently, however maintenance and general pitch quality are seen to require improvement. These views will be validated by the findings of this study and will provide the Councils and the FA with information that can be used to improve natural turf pitches, which is a key performance indicator for the FA in the National Game Strategy 2015-2019
- 3.2.4 The FA stated that a key priority is to provide facilities that are sustainable for the long-term future of football in the study area. There is currently a large reliance on education-owned pitches, with little or no mitigation for the risk of these schools closing or changing their community use policies.

- 3.2.5 The FA would like an output of the strategy to be a more collaborative and aligned maintenance programme, with a number of clubs contributing and managing a maintenance equipment bank and using this new machinery to improve the quality of the local pitches.

3.3 Supply

QUANTITY OVERVIEW

- 3.3.1 In order to gather a full understanding of the supply of football pitches in Rother and Hastings, Council site assessor's visited all football sites in the area and assessed the facilities using the FA's guidelines, as shown in Playing Pitch Strategy Appendix 2 - Football Association¹³. Where appropriate an Institute of Groundsmen (IOG) qualified pitch assessor also undertook an assessment of key sites to cross check the original scores and ensure the scoring is consistent with the rest of the country.
- 3.3.2 A detailed record of all the supply data can be found in Technical Appendix C – Football Analysis, however this section will summarise the key findings.
- 3.3.3 Table 16 summarises how the grass football pitches in the study area were assessed, in line with Sport England PPS methodology (non-technical assessments).

Table 16 – Supply of pitches in the study area. Source: RDC and HBC site assessments

Quality score	Adult football	Youth football		Mini soccer	
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Good (80-100%)	16	5	6	6	1
Standard (50-79.9%)	18	23	5	5	0
Poor (0-49.9%)	11	15	0	10	6

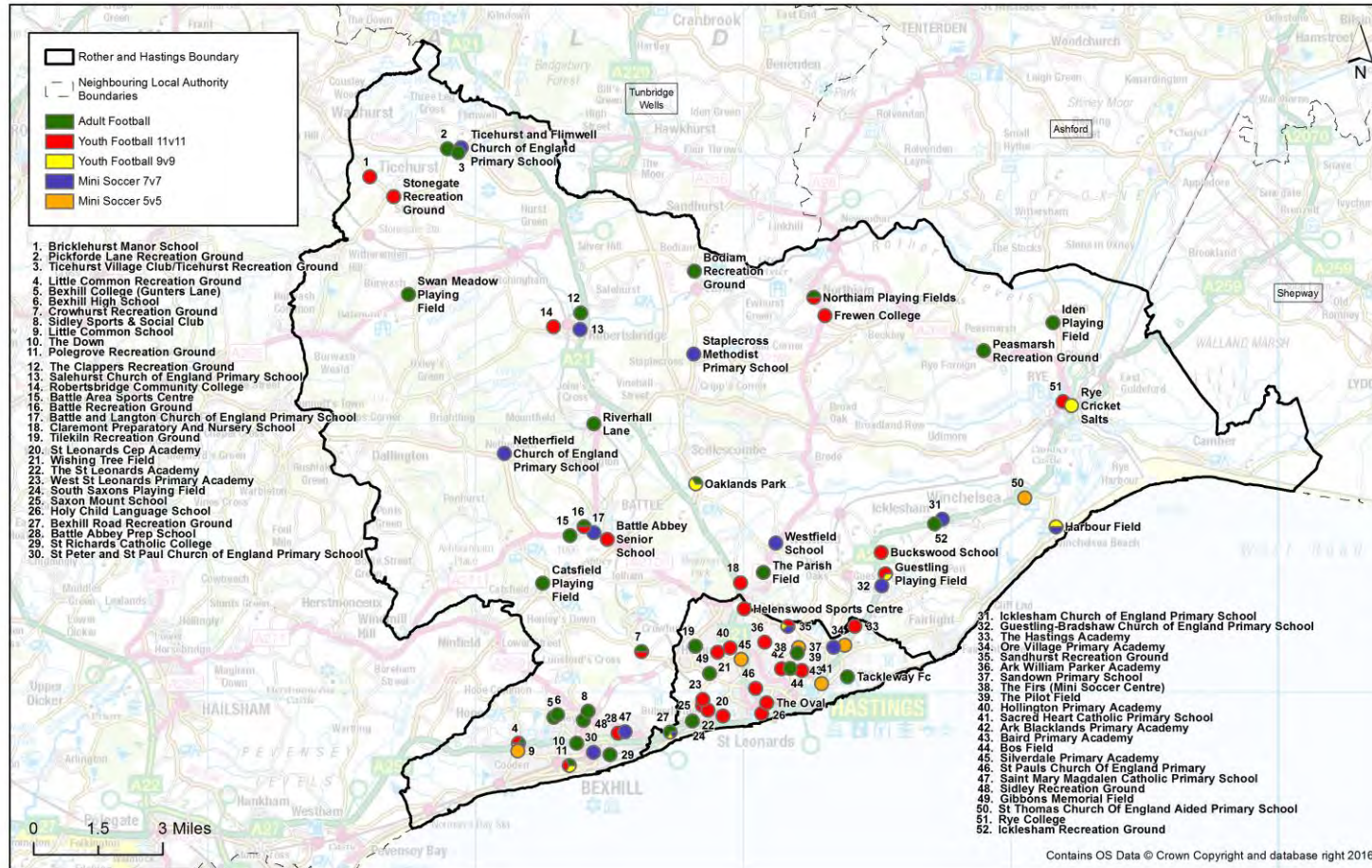
- 3.3.4 Table 16 shows that the majority of pitches across the district are rated as STANDARD, however there is an even spread between GOOD and POOR for the remaining pitches indicating that the overall quality is fairly low. This analysis has been benchmarked in Table 17 below, which compares the split of scoring between the three ratings for Rother and Hastings with 5 other local authorities in the Southern and Eastern regions of the UK. These Local Authorities have been kept anonymized as the associated strategies are still in progress at the time of issue.
- 3.3.5 Table 17 indicates that out of six local authorities, Rother and Hastings (R&H) has the second highest proportion of GOOD pitches. On the other hand, Table 17 also illustrates that Rother and Hastings has the largest proportion of POOR pitches, with the other five LA's having the majority of their pitches assessed as STANDARD.

Table 17 – Assessment benchmarking across the UK. Source: 4 global site assessments

Pitch Rating	Average Pitch Score					
	LA A	LA B	LA C	LA D	LA E	R&H
Good	3.5%	4.7%	4%	8%	32%	27%
Standard	94.3%	92.9%	90.6%	84%	67%	40%
Poor	2.2%	2.4%	4.4%	7%	1%	30%

¹³ Sport England PPS Guidance – Football Appendix (<http://goo.gl/em3wyj>; 2015)

Map 7 – Site audit for football pitches in Rother and Hastings



Football sites by pitch type in Rother and Hastings

Map 7 illustrates the geographical location of all football pitches across the study area. The colour of the dot for each site represents the type of pitches at each site. Further explanation and analysis of the community use arrangement can be seen in Technical Appendix C – Football Analysis

Map 7 shows the spread of football sites across the study area and shows the concentration of sites in Bexhill and Hastings. In the more rural areas in Rother, there is a very even spread of small village and parish council owned sites.

PITCH OWNERSHIP

- 3.3.8 As is common across the UK, a large proportion of sports provision in the study area is owned and operated by education and the two local authorities.
- 3.3.9 Table 18 below shows the spread of ownership, with the highest proportion owned by education establishments, Parish Councils and the Local Authorities. There is a very low level of private and club ownership, which leads to the majority of maintenance and operational management being undertaken by the respective Parish Council or Local Authority. There is an increasingly successful asset transfer 'model' being utilised across the UK by local authorities in order to reduce their maintenance expenditure and this is a strategy that could be explored by RDC and HBC. Further consultation is required between the Councils and the local clubs in order to facilitate this.
- 3.3.10 It should be noted, that consultations with Rother District Council throughout the PPS process have indicated that asset transfer is not a favoured approach due to the requirement to keep key open spaces under the control of RDC. Hastings Borough Council are open to explore these options as an output of this strategy.

Table 18 – Site ownership in Rother and Hastings. Source: 4 global site assessments

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Parish Council	12	15
Club	0	3
Education	40	33
Trust	6	6
Private	2	2
Local Authority	16	16

PITCH QUALITY

- 3.3.11 Each site and pitch was visited by the Council and assessed in accordance with the non-technical assessment guidance provided by the FA. The assessment scores take into account pitch and changing room quality. In addition to the site visits, club consultations were used to verify the quality ratings. Each pitch is rated as good, standard or poor, which is then linked to its carrying capacity (number of games/matches per week which this standard of pitch should be able to accommodate.)
- 3.3.12 The following major sites achieved the best scores from the site assessments undertaken by the Councils. Further detail of the site summaries is provided in the Technical Appendix C – Football Analysis.

Bexhill Road Recreation Ground¹⁴: This is the largest football site across the study area and accommodates the majority of adult football from Hastings. Six of the adult pitches on the site have enhanced drainage, which significantly improves playability in poor weather. It is key to note, however, that the entire site

¹⁴ Bexhill Road Recreation Ground is almost entirely located within Rother District's administrative boundary, but is owned and managed by Hastings Borough Council.

is located on a flood plain so the site suffers from loss of fixtures due to waterlogging. The site is served by two pavilions, one brick built and the other timber framed. The Timber framed pavilion has reached the end of its life and will require replacement or a full refurbishment in the near future. All pitches were assessed between November and mid-December, which means that the pitch scores do not fully reflect the pitch conditions at the wettest times of the year. This contributed significantly to the high score achieved by the site during assessment.

Tilekiln Recreation Ground (H): The site is operated by the local authority (Hastings) and accommodates 6 ESFL premier division teams. The football pitches at the site are generally of a good quality; however the site is prone to some waterlogging during the winter months. A recent IOG assessment concluded that the nature of the soil is slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. There is no enhancement to any of the drainage on site. The pavilion is fit for purpose however requires refurbishment to ensure it is an attractive facility to use.

Polegrove Recreation Ground (R): The site is operated by the local authority (Rother) and is situated in central Bexhill. This is the premier public sports ground in the town serving as the home ground for both Bexhill United and Glenco Football Clubs and accommodating a senior flood-lit pitch, junior pitches and a grass training area. Use of the site for closed-gate matches, public events and cricket creates management and maintenance challenges. The pitch, changing facilities and grandstand are standard and the grandstand in particular would benefit from upgrading. No land drainage system is in place and turf maintenance practices alone (as per the maintenance specification – see Appendix E) are insufficient to ensure that pitches are playable during prolonged spells of rainfall. The grass training area is intensively used which presents capacity and maintenance issues.

Little Common Recreation Ground (R): The site is operated by the local authority (Rother) and is a large site on the outskirts of Bexhill accommodating six pitches including one senior flood-lit pitch. The pitches are rated as standard and although there is drainage in place, ground conditions are still an issue during periods of persistent rain. This has implications on both fixtures and training as there is no all-weather surface available. The ancillary facilities managed jointly by the home football and cricket clubs are rated the best in the district.

3.3.13 The following sites (excluding primary education facilities) scored particularly poorly;

Swan Meadow Playing Field (R): The site is operated by a Trust and drainage issues and the slope of the pitch, together with a lack of good cultural practices due to scarce resources combine to give the pitch a poor quality rating. This is exacerbated by use of the pitch for training due to a current lack of alternative local provision. Whilst in good condition, the modern pavilion doesn't comply with

current FA recommendations.

Guestling Playing Field (R): The site is operated by Guestling Parish Council and the pitches receive minimal maintenance, are poorly drained and slope more than most others in the district, all of which contributes to their rating as poor. Pressure on the senior pitch, which is over-marked for U11s, will be relieved next season if the Parish Council's intention of bringing the redundant pitch, formerly used for senior football, back into use is realised. The Parish Council aspires to modernise the pavilion which has no showers and is extremely basic.

Ark William Parker (H): The site is in educational ownership and has significant formal and informal school use. This education use, combined with after-school community use, leads to heavy pitch wear. Evidence suggests that maintenance is not being carried out effectively however ground conditions are likely to be poor, regardless of the maintenance regime.

- 3.3.14 Overall, the assessment results indicate that the quality of pitches across the study area is adequate, with a number of large, high quality and fit for purpose sites which serve a large proportion of the local residents. It is key to note that although a number of the sites were given a GOOD or high STANDARD score as part of the assessments, further contextual information and detail from the IOG assessor illustrates that many of these sites, such as Bexhill Road, fall significantly in quality during periods of poor weather.
- 3.3.15 It is important that the site by site analysis considers this in order to provide a balanced and realistic set of recommendations for the strategic football sites in the study area.

3.4 Demand

- 3.4.1 Football is the most popular team participation sport across the study area, with a total of 210 teams recorded by the study, as shown in Table 19.

Table 19 – Team Profile for football in Rother and Hastings

Area	Adult Teams		Youth Teams				Mini Teams		Total
	Men's	Ladies	Boys		Girls		Mini Soccer		
			11v11	9v9	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	
Rother	39	1	38	31	1	0	24	18	152
Hastings	20	0	14	10	-	-	9	5	58

- 3.4.2 Using the above team data and the volume of 60 clubs that were surveyed, the club to team ratio in Rother and Hastings is 1:3.5, i.e. each club runs on average 3.5 teams. This compares to a national ratio of 1:3.3 and shows that there are marginally more teams within each club on average compared to national levels.

MAJOR CLUB DEMAND SUMMARY

- 3.4.3 The largest 4 clubs in terms of the number of teams are summarised below. A more detailed analysis of these clubs can be seen in Technical Appendix C – Football Analysis.
- Sedlescombe Rangers FC** – This is the biggest club in the area with a total of 4 senior and 17 junior teams. The club is currently satisfied with the quality of the pitches and facilities at Oaklands park, however more fit-for-purpose sized

pitches would be of benefit. Improved training facilities are also required, as well as facilities to satisfy the increasing demand for football in the area. The club has identified an urgent need for all weather training facilities.

Little Common FC – A large club of 4 adult and 13 junior teams. Although the club is generally satisfied with the quality of pitches and facilities at their home ground, they have identified serious drainage issues on some of their pitches, making parts of the site unplayable for 2 – 3 months per season. The club would like to fully enclose their 1st team pitch, which they currently maintain, in order to meet grading requirements for the FA Step¹⁵ that they currently play in. They are currently prohibited to do this as the site is on public land and if this continues to be the case then the club will consider relocation to allow future growth.

Hastings United (Youth and Adult) – The club is split into two distinct parts, with the 3 adult teams comprising of an U21 development squad, U19 AWPAA Academy team and the semi-professional 1st team who play in the Ryman South league (the town's most senior team). The senior club have highlighted significant demand for additional 3G training facilities. The teams train on grass at Ark William Parker Academy and 3G at Hastings Academy. The youth part of the club has 12 teams ranging from U9's to U18's, with all teams training and playing at the Sandhurst pitches. The Club is planning to increase the number of junior and mini teams and have stated the pitches are poor with severe slopes and lots of unofficial use.

Hastings Rangers Youth – The club has 4 youth teams, which has stayed consistent over past couple of years. The club have plans to increase the number of junior and mini teams and have states that they have unmet demand for 3G training facilities.

- 3.4.4 In addition to the demand identified above, a number of the clubs have highlighted issues with drainage and also a latent demand for 3G AGP facilities, primarily for training.

3.5 Future Demand

- 3.5.1 In order to calculate the future demand for football in the study area, a Team Generation Rate¹⁶ has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a football team.

- 3.5.2 This Team Generation Rate can now be applied to the population projections for the local authorities to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups.

15 For an explanation of the FA 'step' structure see here: <http://www.thefa.com/my-football/club-leagues/league-steps-1-7>

16 The Team Generation Rate calculation uses the current number of teams and the current population to calculate a proxy measure of the number of total residents per relevant sports team. This measure is therefore applied to the projected population (depending on the length of the strategy) to predict how many additional teams will be required in order to satisfy the demand from the 'new' population.

Table 20 - Team Generation Rates for Rother and Hastings.

Football age group	Current popn. Within age group	No. Of teams	TGR*	Future population (2028) within age group	Projected no. of teams	Projected new teams
Rother						
Snr Men (19-45yrs)	11,492	39.0	3.4	10,635	36.1	-2.9
Snr Women (19-45yrs)	11,968	1.0	0.1	11,213	1.1	0**
Youth Boys (12-18yrs)	2,717	69.0	25.4	2,846	72.3	3.3
Youth Girls (12-18yrs)	2,537	1.0	0.4	2,701	1.4	0**
Mini soccer mixed (6-11yrs)	3,657	42.0	11.5	3,578	41.1	-0.9
Hastings						
Snr Men (19-45yrs)	15,965	20	1.3	14,231	17.8	-2.2
Snr Women (19-45yrs)	16,485	1.0***	0.1	15,425	1.1	0**
Youth Boys (12-18yrs)	3,038	24.0	7.9	3,168	25.0	1.0
Youth Girls (12-18yrs)	2,871	0.0	N/A	3,087	0	0
Mini soccer mixed (6-11yrs)	4,326	14.0	3.2	4,124	13.3	-0.7

*Team Generation Rate; teams generated by 1000 people

**The additional projected demand is not sufficient to require new teams

***This includes a new women's team for the 16/17 season

- 3.5.3 Table 20 illustrates that when considering the projected population to 2028 across the various age groups in Rother and Hastings, the study is not projecting any growth in the demand for adult football, if current trends continue. In fact, if the ratio of teams to population projections stays consistent, both local authorities will face a reduction of 2 to 3 adult teams. Mini soccer also shows a small reduction, but on a smaller scale. In contrast, a growth in the requirement for youth (12-18) teams is projected, which is driven by the projected growth in population for the 10-14 age group to 2028.
- 3.5.4 The TGR calculations have illustrated that there is projected to be a small increase in demand for women and girls football across the study area, however there is unlikely to be enough demand to satisfy the need for further teams. If the local authority and the FA are successful in attracting more females (than projected) to play the game, then there is likely to be a need for further teams.
- 3.5.5 These reductions do not reflect the consultations held with the clubs, however it should be noted that these projections are for 2028 and it is highly unlikely that clubs will be able to project overall team numbers that far in the future.

- 3.5.6 When comparing these findings to national trends, the reduction in adult teams is consistent with the rest of the country, whereas a projected reduction in mini soccer is in contrast to an upward trend for the rest of the UK. This is likely to be driven by a variety of factors, such as the quality of facilities across the study area or the lack of a focussed and fit-for-purpose 'offer' for mini football.
- 3.5.7 It is important to note that this calculation assumes that clubs, the Councils and the local FA development officers do not improve their marketing or participation schemes over the period and are therefore no more successful than they are now in attracting new players to participate in football in the study area. In reality, it is expected that there will be improved channels of digital communication and improved maintenance technology, as well as higher quality ancillary provision. The output of this will be a higher quality and an improved ability to generate demand and convert it into participation.
- 3.5.8 In particular, the study area currently has a low level of formal sports participation for women and girls, which the Councils are looking to address with specific programmes and initiatives. If these are successful then it would be expected that greater pressure is placed on facilities, namely through the requirements for female specific changing facilities.
- 3.5.9 The team generation rates are also based on the current number of teams so where an age group or demographic has no teams, this will result in a low or non-existent team growth projection. The detailed analysis of Team Generation Rates can be seen in Technical Appendix D – Rother and Hastings PPS TGR Calculations.

3.6 Supply and Demand Balance

- 3.6.1 This section presents the supply and demand balance findings for grass football pitches (both for current and future scenarios) for the study area as a whole. Following consultation with the Councils and the FA, it was confirmed that although the FA PPS guidance recommends that all GOOD pitches have a capacity of 3 adult matches, 4 youth matches and 6 minis matches (all per week), this capacity is not realistic for Rother and Hastings. This is due primarily to the drainage issues caused by a high clay content in the soil, as well as the lack of a Sunday league, which means that 3 matches per week are never played on sites and including the full capacity will provide a distorted overall balance.
- 3.6.2 To this end, two scenarios have been used for the capacity analysis;
- Scenario 1: Using the FA standard recommended capacity of 3 adult matches, 4 youth matches and 6 mini matches per week on a GOOD standard pitch
- Scenario 2: Reducing the maximum carrying capacity of all GOOD pitches to 2 adult matches, 3 youth matches and 4 mini matches¹⁷.

¹⁷ The FA indicate scenario 2a (that the likelihood of sites in Rother and Hastings have a maximum carrying capacity of two games a week for adult matches, 3 youth matches and 4 mini matches) is the most accurate reflection of the supply and demand for football in the study area.

3.6.3 The pitch balance figures i.e. the relationship between supply and demand, have been calculated using the capacity and pitch quality ratings. Table 21 and 22 below show the capacity analysis for both Scenario 1 and 2 respectively and each of these scenarios are split into A and B to illustrate the impact on the overall balance when Bexhill Road Recreation Ground is considered as part of each local authority, given that this site straddles the geographical boundary between the two administrative areas.

Table 21 – Scenario 1a: Overall football balance figures for Rother and Hastings based on 3 match equivalent carrying capacity for GOOD sites – (Bexhill Road Recreation Ground included in Rother data)

Balance per Pitch Type	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
ROTHER						
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	51	17	24	28	0	120
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	29.5	29.5	16	12	9	96
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	+21.5	-12.5	+8	+16	-9	+24
HASTINGS						
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	16	8	6	12	0	42
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	11.5	12.5	7.5	7	1.5	40
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	+4.5	-4.5	-1.5	+5	-1.5	+2
TOTAL						
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	67	25	30	40	0	162
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	41	42	23.5	19	10.5	136
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	26.5	-17	6.5	21	-10.5	26.5

3.6.4 The results for scenario 1 in Table 21 indicate that at present, supply exceeds demand for football as a whole sport. It is clear, however that the current level of provision does not provide fit-for-purpose facilities for youths playing on 11-a-side pitches and mini's playing on 5v5 pitches. In practice, the lack of youth 11v11 is unlikely to be a significant issue as those youth teams requiring 11-a-side pitches will use the adult pitches (which show a significant surplus). Efforts should be made to ensure that youth 11 v 11 teams play on the appropriate pitch size as recommended by the FA.

Table 22 – Scenario 2a: Overall football balance figures for R&H based on 2 match carrying capacity for GOOD sites – (Bexhill Road Recreation Ground included in Rother data)

ROTHER						
Balance per Pitch Type	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	40	14	21	20	0	95
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	29.5	29.5	16	12	9	96
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	10.5	-15.5	5	8	-9	-1
HASTINGS						
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	12	6	5	8	0	31
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	11.5	12.5	7.5	7	1.5	40
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	0.5	-6.5	-2.5	1	-1.5	-9
TOTAL						
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	52	20	26	28	0	126
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	41	42	23.5	19	10.5	136
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	11.5	-22	2.5	9	-10.5	-9.5

- 3.6.5 In contrast to scenario 1, Table 22 illustrates that when the maximum capacity for GOOD sites is reduced in line with scenario 2, the study area has a deficit of football pitches. As above, in practice, the lack of youth 11v11 is unlikely to be a significant issue as those youth teams requiring 11-a-side pitches will use the adult pitches and these are very often an appropriate size for youth football.
- 3.6.6 Notwithstanding that, the overall balance for both local authorities is negative, illustrating that if youth 11v11 matches are transferred to adult pitches then there is likely to be a deficit of the adult pitches.
- 3.6.7 Furthermore, due to the location of the Bexhill Road Recreation Ground, which is situated on the border between the two local authorities, it is important that the strategy considers the site within the wider planning context for both of the Councils.
- 3.6.8 The previous tables show the supply and demand figures when the Bexhill Road Recreation Ground site is seen to fall within Rother, however for completeness these calculations have been re-configured to calculate the supply and demand for pitches if Bexhill Road is considered to fall within Hastings, as shown in Scenario 1b and 2b below.

Table 23– Scenario 1b: Overall football balance figures for R&H based on 3 match equivalent carrying capacity for GOOD sites – (Bexhill Road included in Hastings data)

ROTHER						
Balance per Pitch Type	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	27	17	16	16	0	76
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	25	26	14	11.5	8	84.5
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	2	-9	2	4.5	-8	-8.5
HASTINGS						
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	40	8	14	24	0	86
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	15.5	16	9.5	7.5	2.5	51
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	24.5	-8	4.5	16.5	-2.5	35
TOTAL						
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	67	25	30	40	0	162
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	41	42	23.5	19	10.5	136
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	26.5	-17	6.5	21	-10.5	26.5

Table 24 – Scenario 2b: Overall football balance figures for R&H based on 2 match equivalent carrying capacity for GOOD sites – (Bexhill Road included in Hastings data)

ROTHER						
Balance per Pitch Type	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	24	14	15	12	0	65
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	25	26	14	11.5	8	84.5
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	-1	-12	1	0.5	-8	-19.5
HASTINGS						
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	28	6	11	16	0	61
Demand – match equivalents for matches and training	15.5	16	9.5	7.5	2.5	51
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	12.5	-10	1.5	8.5	-2.5	10
TOTAL						
Supply – pitch capacity in match equivalents	52	20	26	28	0	126
Demand – match equivalents	41	42	23.5	19	10.5	136
Current Overall balance (matches per week)	11.5	-22	2.5	9	-10.5	-9.5

3.6.9 These additional tables show that when Bexhill Road is considered as part of Hastings' pitch stock, the overall balance for football is more positive. This is driven by the large amount of capacity at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground, which is reduced by Scenario 2, however still illustrates a surplus of football provision in Hastings.

MATCH CANCELLATIONS

3.6.10 In addition to the above findings, consultation with the Councils and the FA has indicated that there are currently a high number of cancellations occurring across both local authorities throughout the periods of poor weather in December, January and February. These cancellations have a significant impact on the overall capacity of sites, further increasing the deficit for football provision across the study area.

3.6.11 The table below shows the number of cancellations at each of the key council owned sites across the study area for football matches in the 2015/16 season. It should be noted that this is up to early April 2016 and may not include the final few weeks of the winter season.

Table 25 – Cancellations for football for Rother and Hastings council-owned sites

Site	Total Football Cancellations	% of all Football Bookings
Rother		
Little Common Recreation Ground	52	21%
Polegrove	41	23%
Rye Salts	12	32%
Sidley Recreation Ground	23	38%
The Downs	12	33%
Total	140	25%
Hastings		
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground ¹⁸	97	24%
Tilekiln	17	17%
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	40	24%
The Firs	11	38%
Total	165	24%

3.6.12 Table 25 illustrates the high levels of cancellations at sites owned and managed by the Councils and highlights a key issue that needs to be addressed as an output of the PPS.

3.6.13 As cancellation data is not available for all sites assessed within the study, the above figures will not be factored into the overall capacity analysis, however they will be referenced in the site by site analysis and final action plan.

3.6.14 It is vital that poor pitches are considered throughout the strategy and delivery of the action plan, in order to address the sites where sports facilities do not meet the needs of the local residents. The Action Plan and recommendations section of the document will provide site specific recommendations for each of the poor sites, however as a general guidance, stakeholders should look to work together to reduce the number of poor pitches across the study area.

¹⁸ The site is included in Hastings as it is owned and managed for Hastings Borough Council.

3.6.15 As demonstrated in the above section, using the FA recommended carrying capacity for good pitches in the study area is not appropriate, due to the volume of cancellations and the lack of an adult Sunday league. As such a maximum carrying capacity of two games a week for adult matches, 3 youth matches and 4 mini matches) is the most accurate reflection of the supply and demand for football in the study area.

CASUAL USE FOR FOOTBALL

3.6.16 In addition to the supply and demand calculations explained in this section, the recommendations and action plan will also include the fact that football is also played casually across a number of the locally owned, easily accessible football facilities in the study area. A number of the large, local authority owned sites such as Bexhill Road Recreation Ground and Little Common Recreation Ground are likely to be subject to informal play, especially during the summer months.

SHORT-TERM USE OF GROUNDS

3.6.17 In addition to the cancellation data above, there is also demand for football that is often moved from site to site, within the study area, to mitigate for issues such as drainage and pitch availability. For instance, Bexhill Road has been used 6 times by Little Common FC across the 2015/16 season, with Bexhill AAC also playing 9 fixtures. Battle Baptist, Beckley Youth and Hastings Athletic have all played a small number of additional games at Bexhill Road.

3.6.18 As these additional games do not represent a large proportion of overall demand at Bexhill Road, as well as the lack of similar data for other council sites, this data will not be included in the overall capacity analysis. The overall impact will, however, be considered as part of the qualitative site-by-site analysis.

SUNDAY LEAGUE FOOTBALL

3.6.19 There is currently no Sunday League competitive football played in either Rother and Hastings. It should be noted that if this type of football (affiliated but low standard adult football) was to increase in demand and there was sufficient demand for a competitive league, the demand for facilities and the resulting wear and tear of grass pitches would increase.

3.7 Strategic sites for Protection, Enhancement and Provision

- 3.7.1 Based on the evidence collated in the PPS for football pitch provision, it can be concluded that there are certain football facilities across the study area that are recorded as high value sites, for a number of reasons.
- 3.7.2 Table 26 provides a justification for how each of the sites, where football is currently available to the community, should be Protected, Enhanced or Provided for. Where it is recommended that a site is not required for community use football, this will also be explained in the table.
- 3.7.3 To confirm which sites have spare capacity or a deficit, the site-by-site analysis in this section will provide a total balance per site to illustrate the sites that need investment either to improve the quality of pitches (and therefore carrying capacity), as well as the sites that need a greater number of grass pitches in order to satisfy demand. This will be shown in the 'capacity for community use' column.

Table 26 – Site –by-site analysis for football sites in community use in Rother and Hastings

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
Ark William Parker Academy (H)	4	Education	53%	48%	+2.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields as part of the Local Plan. This is an education site that is used for matches and training by St Leonards FC and West Hill United.
						E	This site currently suffers from considerable educational use as the school site is an ex Sport's College with 900 male students. Further improvement to the maintenance programme is required in order to ensure that the heavy pitch wear does not lead to the site being unplayable in periods of poor weather.
						PV	Additional 11v11 football pitches would reduce the current levels of wear and tear on the pitch stock, however due to land restrictions this is unlikely to be viable, The development of a nearby 3G facility would reduce demand on the grass pitches and improve the quality of the overall provision.
Baird Primary Academy (H)	1	Education	51%	0%	+1.5	PR	This is a primary education site that is used sparingly by St Leonards FC for training purposes.
						E	This site has adequate pitch provision but no ancillary facilities, as the school building is used for educational sport but this is not available to those using the pitch for community use.
						PV	If this site was to open itself further to community use, a basic ancillary would be required in order to provide changing facilities and basic amenities to supporters and parents.
Battle Abbey Prep School (R)	2 (1 grass/1 AGP)	Education	47%	8%	0	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields as part of the Local Plan. This is an education site that is used for training by Little Common FC, as well as for education use.

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
						E	This site has a single 11v11 pitch, as well as a small sided sand-based AGP on site. The senior pitch requires an improved maintenance programme to ensure that it can be of an adequate standard throughout the year and can also increase the amount of community use on the grass pitch.
						PV	The ancillary has been identified as being very poor and if the school is looking to increase the amount of community use at the site then a new ancillary changing facility would be required.
Battle Area Sports Centre (R)	1	Education	76%	66%	0	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. The site currently provides match and training facilities to Battle Baptist FC and Style Soccer FC. There is also an AGP on site, which satisfies significant training demand from local clubs.
						E	Although the site scored well during the assessment, this pitch currently suffers from drainage issues, which limits availability of use. An improved maintenance programme is required in order to ensure the pitch is of an adequate quality throughout the season.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study. There is an ancillary facility within the school which is available but rarely used by teams.
Battle Recreation Ground (R)	2	Town Council	64%	62%	0.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is of adequate quality and is used by Battle Baptist FC for their adult match play
						E	The Town Council have identified drainage issues with the site however these were not seen as a significant issue during the site assessment. 2 drainage ditches have been dug, which are likely to

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)
						<p>improve the condition of the pitches considerably. The site would benefit from further maintenance advice and resources in order to increase the standard and attract further community use. In particular, levelling is needed to the upper part of the site, which accommodates the junior pitch. Battle Baptists have identified ambitious expansion plans and sometimes train outside of the district due to lack of training facilities.</p>
						<p>PV The club house is large and pleasant however does not have adequate access for disabled people. The Town Council is looking to address this.</p>
Bexhill College (Gunters Lane) (R)	2	Education	63%	60%	3.5	<p>PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. It is a two pitch site that is used heavily for education use, as well as by Bexhill Town Youth.</p>
						<p>E This pitch is adequate for the current levels of use, however would require improved maintenance if the college wished to increase the amount of community use if the site. The very small clubhouse also requires renovation, to provide showers and disabled access.</p>
						<p>PV No further required provision has been identified as part of this study. If renovation of the current ancillary facility is not possible the this should be replaced to enhance the attractiveness of the site for community use.</p>
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground (R)	12	Local Authority	86%	49%	+18.5 (not this does not include the	<p>PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. It is the major football site across both local authorities and sits on the geographical boundary between Rother and Hastings. The assessment identifies that this is a high quality football site, with greater detail provided previously in this report. Notwithstanding this, there are issues</p>

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
					short-term or ad hoc demand that the site is subjected to in periods of poor weather.		with drainage and ancillaries that need to be addressed as the site has had football matches cancelled on 22% of the match days that were scheduled for football in the 2015/16 season.
						E	The site has previously had drainage work undertaken on 6 of the 8 adult pitches and this investment should be extended to the remaining pitches, as the initial work has led to improvements in quality.
						PV	The timber ancillary on the Hastings side of the site has reached the end of its life and an alternative ancillary solution is required.
Bodiam Recreation Ground (R)	2	Parish Council	44%	60%	-1	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. It is used by Hurst Green FC and for extensive casual use by local residents.
						E	The Parish Council currently undertakes all of the maintenance and this is reflected in the overall pitch quality assessment. If additional use is sought by the Parish Council, then additional maintenance resources and expertise could reduce the current issues of drainage to some extent, but would not overcome the problem entirely due to the pitches being located on a floodplain. The site currently has a deficit of supply, however small improvements to the maintenance process would bring the site up to an acceptable quality.
						PV	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
Catsfield Playing Field (R)	2	Parish Council	53%	82%	-1	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields as part of the Local Plan. This is a village site that is the homeground of Catsfield FC, with further casual use from local residents
						E	The club or Parish Council have not identified any

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
							key issues with the quality of provision, however the site assessor scored the site poorly, especially with regards to the maintenance programme. Further support and resources for basic pitch maintenance would improve the overall quality of provision.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Claremont Preparatory and Nursery School (R)	6	Education	67%	8%	1	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. This site is an education site with an additional sand-based AGP on site.
						E	The site scored well, apart from the extensive drainage issues that were encountered by the site assessor. Basic maintenance ensures the pitch is kept well however further dressing and fertilisation of the pitch do not take place. There is an ancillary changing facility on site that is used primarily for cricket. The ancillary facilities would need to be developed further if the site is to be used for a greater level of community use.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Crowhurst Recreation Ground (R)	2	Parish Council	53%	52%	0	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields as part of the Local Plan. This is a two pitch site that is used by Crowhurst FC and Crowhurst Youth for matchplay and training.
						E	The pavilion is in a poor condition and would ideally be replaced with a new-build with additional storage, possible incorporating the adjacent Youth Club building. In the short term it is in need of major refurbishment, with the timber floor and verandah being the main priorities. There is a proposal to reduce the frequency of mowing due to resource constraints, however this will have a negative

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)
						<p>impact on the overall quality of the site.</p> <p>PV No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.</p>
Gibbons Memorial Field (H)	1	Parish Council	76%	100%	+1	<p>PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. Hollington Utd Senior and Junior teams use the pitch as their home ground.</p> <p>E No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The club has not stated that further pitch or facility investment is required.</p> <p>PV No further required provision has been identified as part of the study.</p>
Guestling Playing Field (R)	3	Parish Council	50%	40%	+2.5	<p>PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. The pitches receive minimal maintenance and are of poor overall quality.</p> <p>E The Parish Council has intentions to bring the redundant pitch, formerly used for senior football, back into use. Although the capacity analysis currently identifies a surplus, this project should be encouraged and supported in order to increase the overall capacity of the site. An improvement in overall maintenance is required in order to bring the quality of pitches to a required standard. The planned refurbishments of the pavilion should also be supported by the local authority and NGB's.</p> <p>PV The addition of a full sized adult pitch, as above, should be supported.</p>
Icklesham Recreation Ground (R)	1	Education	47%	52%	-0.5	<p>PR This site should be protected as playing fields as part of the Local Plan. This is a 1 pitch rural site that provides facilities for the needs of its local residents. The football club does not currently pay anything for the use of the facility however if a small charge was administered, this could raise funds for the enhancement recommendations below.</p>

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
						E	The pitch quality is poor and needs to be improved. Drainage was not seen to be an issue but wider maintenance and quality of turf scored poorly. Improving the standard and carrying capacity of the pitch will reduce the current deficit of supply.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study
Iden Playing Field (R)	1	Parish Council	44%	69%	-0.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a single pitch site used by Beckley Rangers FC. If the land at Rye Cricket Salts can be developed to include more pitches, then further analysis should be undertaken to determine if demand can be displaced to this higher quality facility.
						E	This pitch scored very poorly, with some of the worst drainage in the study area and severe sloping and wear. Basic maintenance would vastly improve the quality of the pitch and this should be sought if the pitch is going to continue to provide for formal football use.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study. The ancillary facility is currently fit for purpose.
Little Common Recreation Ground (R)	6	Council	86%	89%	+10.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a large site situated in Bexhill which is protected by Fields in Trust status and is the home ground of Little Common FC. Although the site shows there to be spare capacity, the majority of demand is for Saturday PM, which causes a bottleneck for bookings. This ensures that all 'spare' capacity occurs at times when there is no demand for the pitches, such as for Sunday league matches. It should also be noted that in the 2015/16 season,

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
							21% of all football bookings were cancelled due to the condition of the pitches.
						E	This site scored well during the site assessments, however the site has been identified by the club as having poor drainage, leading to match cancellations in the wettest times of the year. The site had a high quality ancillary facility that was lottery funded. This is used solely for sports purposes. Little Common FC require an enclosed pitch to meet the FA requirements for their level of competitive football, which will be covered in the 'provide' section below.
						PV	An enclosed pitch is required as part of the 1 st team's league requirements, however this is unlikely to be feasible at the current site as the site is owned by RDC and designated as public open space. There are therefore requirements for the pitches to be used for alternative uses, such as casual use and community activities.
Northiam Playing Fields (R)	2	Parish Council	47%	49%	+0.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields as part of the Local Plan. This is a rural two pitch site and it would be difficult to displace demand to a nearby facility.
						E	Only basic maintenance is carried out at this standard pitch which accommodates both senior and junior football. There is no drainage system and as a consequence the pitches are unplayable at times. This needs to be addressed to allow further community use.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
Oaklands Park (R)	3	Parish Council	79%	66%	-5.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a three pitch site of good quality, which is the home ground of Sedlescombe Rangers FC, who are satisfied with the quality of facilities.
						E	For the site to satisfy the level of demand from the club, further improvements are required to the pitch, in order to increase carrying capacity.
						PV	If space allows, further pitches should be cut and marked in order to provide more capacity at the site. The number of new pitches should be determined by the space available. However the current capacity analysis demonstrates a need for 3 extra pitches.
Peasmarsh Recreation Ground (R)	1	Local Authority	43%	66%	0	PR	This is a single pitch that is currently used by Peasmarsh United FC and Beckley Rangers FC. If there is further investment at Rye Cricket salts and further pitches are added, then demand for this facility could be displaced to a higher quality facility with better transport links.
						E	This is a low quality pitch that requires general maintenance to improve quality of the pitch. Peasmarsh FC were not contactable as part of the project, however the ancillary was assessed as being satisfactory.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Pickforde Lane Recreation Ground (R)	1	Parish Council	64%	57%	0.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields as part of the Local Plan. This is a single pitch, rural site that is the home ground for Ticehurst FC. The facilities were seen as fit for purpose and the goal of increasing the level of physical activity in the village through the provision of good quality sports facilities, as identified in the consultation, is very

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)
						positive.
						E No further required enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
						PV No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Polegrove Recreation Ground (R)	3	Local Authority	91%	79%	-10.5	PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is the home ground of Bexhill United FC, Glenco FC and Bexhill United Ladies FC. It is significantly over-capacity and the clubs have identified that the quality of pitches are poor and that maintenance is not of the required regularity. It should also be noted that in the 2015/16 season, 23% of all football bookings were cancelled due to the condition of the pitches.
						E This site would benefit from further a review and expert advice from the IOG through the FA Pitch Improvement Programme. Improved drainage should be investigated, however significant progress could be made by improving the maintenance programme.
						PV At least one further adult pitch is required in order to reduce the deficit of supply at the site, however this is unlikely to be feasible due to the spatial constraints.
Riverhall Lane (Solomons Lane) (R)	1	Private	41%	63%	0.5	PR This is a private site that Mountfield FC currently rent for a peppercorn rent. The pitch was not deemed to be of high quality and demand could be displaced to nearby supply in Robertsbridge or Battle. If demand is to be moved to Battle Recreation Ground, then the requirement for pitch quality improvements at the site is strengthened.

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
						E	If this pitch is to be maintained, it would benefit from an improved maintenance programme, as this is currently undertaken by the club in return for the peppercorn rent they pay.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Robertsbridge Community College (R)	2	Education	49%	77%	0	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is an education site that is used by three local clubs for matches but would like to encourage more community use.
						E	The pitches need more regular mowing and a basic maintenance programme. There is a high quality ancillary facility.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Rye Cricket Salts (R)	1	Local Authority	86%	82%	+1	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a high quality single pitch site that is currently used by Beckley Rangers. The site currently accommodates one 9v9 pitch but has the capacity to have more pitches. It should also be noted that in the 2015/16 season, 32% of all football bookings were cancelled due to the condition of the pitches.
						E	If this pitch is to cater for higher levels of demand, then the current level of maintenance must be kept, with a focus on regular grass cutting and ongoing work on the drainage.
						PV	If demand is to be displaced from nearby Iden and Peasmarsch, 2 further adult pitches are required in order to ensure that there is not a future deficit in supply.

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)
Sandhurst Recreation Ground (H)	5	Local Authority	80%	57%	-3.5	PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is operated by the local authority and accommodates the majority of the towns youth football.
						E The site suffers from poor drainage and poor levels and the site assessment does not represent the quality of the pitches in periods of poor weather. Expert guidance is required to provide assistance with the current waterlogging issue. It should also be noted that in the 2015/16 season, 24% of all football bookings were cancelled due to the condition of the pitches.
						PV There are currently two pavilions on site, both of which are nearing the end of their life. These should be rationalised and replaced by a single, fit-for-purpose ancillary facility for the entire site.
Sidley Recreation Ground (R)	1	Local Authority	86%	40%	+1.5	PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a one pitch site that is protected under Fields in Trust status. It should be noted that in the 2015/16 season, 38% of all football bookings were cancelled due to the condition of the pitches.
						E This is a relatively high quality site however maintenance often falls short due to the quality and performance of the contractor, leading to the high levels of cancellations cited previously. The pavilion is functional rather than attractive due to the threat of vandalism. However, there is an aspiration not only to improve it aesthetically, but to bring it up to a standard in-line with FA guidelines.
						PV No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Sidley Sports and Social Club (R)	0 (Site not currently in	Private	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site was repossessed in 2015 due

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
	use)						to financial issues, with all football demand being displaced to Hooe Rec in Wealden. This site was previously a step 5 football ground and provided a high quality of football provision for local residents. The site is not currently in use.
						E	If this site was to be brought back into use, investment would be required in order to ensure the pitch quality and ancillary is fit for purpose and has the required access. The pavilion facilities and stands have previously suffered from arson and vandalism.
						PV	A new pavilion and stand structure would be required if the site was to be used for football and if it was required for step 6 ¹⁵ and above.
Stonegate Recreation Ground (R)	1	Parish Council	76%	48%	+1	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a rural 1 pitch site that satisfies the demand of the local residents.
						E	A survey to determine the integrity of the pavilion's structure and electrics should be undertaken and provision made to address any identified issues both in the short term and the longer term.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Swan Meadow Playing Field (R)	1	Trust	44%	51%	-1.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. It is a trust-owned site that is used by Burwash Juniors FC and Burwash FC, with no further capacity for additional use.
						E	The site currently has issues with drainage and there is a lack of good maintenance practices due to scarce resources. An improved maintenance programme is required in order to reduce the deficit in capacity at the site.

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
						PV	This is a modern facility that does not comply with current FA regulations however this is not seen to be a significant issue.
Tackleway FC (H)	2	Charity	69%	42%	-1.5	PR	This site is not allocated as being available to community use and is held in charity ownership. The pitch and ancillary quality is of adequate quality
						E	Basic maintenance needs to be improved, such as regular grass cutting, however the pitch is in relatively good condition.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
The Clappers Recreation Ground (R)	1	Parish Council	50%	62%	0	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is currently used extensively by Robertsbridge United FC and for additional casual and formal use.
						E	The ground currently suffers from poor drainage and further support is required to confirm whether this is due to poor maintenance procedures. The ancillary facility is currently subject to flooding and requires renovation to address this.
						PV	An additional small sided junior pitch would provide greater capacity for the site and reduce the wear on the adult pitches.
The Down (R)	1	Local Authority	77%	25%	+1	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is currently used Bexhill Amateurs AC.
						E	The site achieved a standard score, but it should be noted that in the 2015/16 season, 33% of all football bookings were cancelled due to the condition of the pitches. The adult football club which uses this site does not use the ancillary and opts to use a facility across the road which it is affiliated with. The current ancillary is not fit for purpose and needs

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
							renovation or replacement, to bring it up to FA standards. ...
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
The Firs (Mini Soccer Centre) (H)	1	Local Authority	86%	23%	+3.5	PR	This site is a former football stadium. The derelict stands remain fenced off, restricting use of the site, they will eventually require disposal. Regarding the ancillary statement, the former stadium building (changing & bar etc.) has had a successful change if use – now leased to an education trust. However, there is no ancillary available to the community. The site also has a MUGA that has regular bookings and caters for informal play.
						E	No further enhancement is required at this site, as investment is unlikely to result in a high quality, due to the space constraints.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
The Parish Field, Westfield (R)	1	Trust	83%	71%	-0.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a one pitch site used by Westfield Youth FC. The club has indicated that when the Westfield Down project is completed, they would wish to continue utilising this site, in addition to the proposed facilities at the new development, subject to agreement by the Parish Council. .
						E	No further enhancement is required at this stage, as this is a high quality pitch and investment is unlikely to be sustainable given the current development position. Although the club had indicated that they would wish to continue using this facility, in addition to the new facility, after the Westfield Down project is completed
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
						part of this study.	
The Pilot Field (H)	1	Local Authority	100%	92%	+0.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. The site is under the management of Hastings United FC and the pitch is the best quality in the town. There is a long term aspiration to sell the site and relocate with enhanced facilities.
						E	If the ancillary is to be retained, significant repairs are required on the main stand.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Ticehurst Village Club/Ticehurst Recreation Ground (R)	1	Trust	60%	45%	+0.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This rural site is used by Wadhurst Junior FC, as well as for training by Ticehurst FC.
						E	Improve toilet provision which is currently provided in a separate building to the portacabin changing accommodation.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Tilekiln Recreation Ground (H)	3	Local Authority	89%	63%	+3.0	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. The football pitches at the site are generally of a good quality; however the site is prone to waterlogging during the winter months. A recent IOG assessment concluded that the nature of the soil is slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clay soils. It should also be noted that in the 2015/16 season, 17% of all football bookings were cancelled due to the condition of the pitches.
						E	There is currently no additional drainage infrastructure on site, with the site suffering from poor drainage during periods of wet weather. Further investigation into the optimum maintenance programme should be undertaken.

Site Name	Total No. of Pitches (all sizes)	Ownership	Pitch assessment score	Ancillary assessment score	Capacity for community use (match equivalents)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provide (PV)	
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.
Winchelsea Beach Recreation Ground (Harbour Field) (R)	2	Parish Council	53%	40%	+4	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. The site provides valuable small-sided pitches in the town.
						E	The pitches are currently a good standard however the scoring represents the lack of formal maintenance programme, which would need to be addressed if further demand for the site is to be satisfied.
						PV	No further required provision has been identified as part of this study.

3.8 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP’s) for Football

- 3.8.1 There are several surface types that fall into the category of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (3G), sand-based (filled or dressed) and water based.
- 3.8.2 The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as essential in promoting coach and player development. These pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training however they are increasingly used for competition, which the FA wholly supports providing the pitch has been appropriately tested and is on the FA 3G pitch register. The FA’s long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England with the opportunity to train once a week on a floodlit 3G surface together with priority access for Charter Standard Community Clubs through a partnership agreement.
- 3.8.3 The FA has adopted the use of 3G pitches across all of its competitions and incorporated this into the standard code of rules. This decision was taken due to the significant advances that have been made to the development of 3G Football Turf (FT), its adoption by professional leagues throughout Europe and by both UEFA and FIFA for major competitions.
- 3.8.4 Competitive affiliated football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been tested to FA standards and is on the FA 3G Football Turf Pitch Register. All football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but a 3G surface is preferred.

QUANTITY AND QUALITY OVERVIEW

- 3.8.5 Table 27 provides a list of all full size (approx. 100m x 60m or bigger) AGP’s that are used for football in Rother and Hastings, either for training or competitive play. These have been separated from the other AGP’s in the hockey section of this report as small sided AGP’s are not of strategic importance for Sport England or the FA.
- 3.8.6 The study area currently has two full sized AGP, none of which are 3G. Of the two small sided 3G AGP’s, both have floodlighting and therefore can be used by the community at peak times throughout the year.

Table 27 – Full size AGP provision in Rother and Hastings

Site Name	Pitch Type	Size	Community use category	Security of use	Pitch score	Flood-light Status	FA Pitch Register
Bexhill College Sports Centre	Sand based	101x 63m	Available for community use and used	Secured	61 - Standard	Yes	No
Hornbye Park Sports Complex	Sand based	100x 60m	Available	Secured	64 – Standard	Yes	No

3.8.7 In addition to these sites the Hastings Academy 3G, The Firs, Torfield, Alexandra Park, Grove School (St Leonards Academy MUGA) and St Leonards Academy, Battle Area Sports Centre, Bexhill High School, Claremont Prep School, Vinehall School and Buckswood School are all sites that are used for formal community football training however they are not included in the previous table as they are not suitable for match play.

DEMAND

3.8.8 Demand for AGP's for football is typically highest at peak times, on weekdays between 6pm and 10pm.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE – THE FA MODEL

3.8.9 The FA uses an indicative supply and demand model based on the latest Sport England research, AGP's State of the Nation (March 2012). This model assumes that 51% of usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch type per hours from 5pm – 10pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 5pm Saturday and Sundays. It is currently estimated that one full size AGP can service 42 teams.

3.8.10 On the basis that there are 210 teams playing across the study area, there is a recommended need for between 4.8 and 5 full size 3G pitches, to be used at peak times. Ideally, this new provision would be spread across the study area, but with a focus on providing for Bexhill and Hastings.

3.8.11 There are not currently any Fifa 1* 3G pitches in the study area that are suitable for competitive football. There is therefore a deficit of 3G AGP supply, with a recommended need for between 4.8 and 5 full size 3G pitches (3.6 in Rother and 1.4 in Hastings), based on FA calculations.

3.8.12 While the FA calculation identifies a need for 5 new pitches across the study area, following consultation with the FA and the Councils, this is not a realistic aspiration due to the rural nature of much of the study area, as well as the lack of funding opportunities. The output of this strategy is therefore a recommendation to develop 3 full size pitches across the study area (2 in Rother and 1 in Hastings)

3.8.13 It is recommended that these facilities are located within the 20-minute catchment areas of Bexhill and Hastings, as this level of supply would satisfy the demand for football within the two urban areas (for 42 teams within Hastings and 84 within Bexhill and the surrounding area), while acknowledging the likelihood that those in the rural areas would be required to travel further to use the facilities.

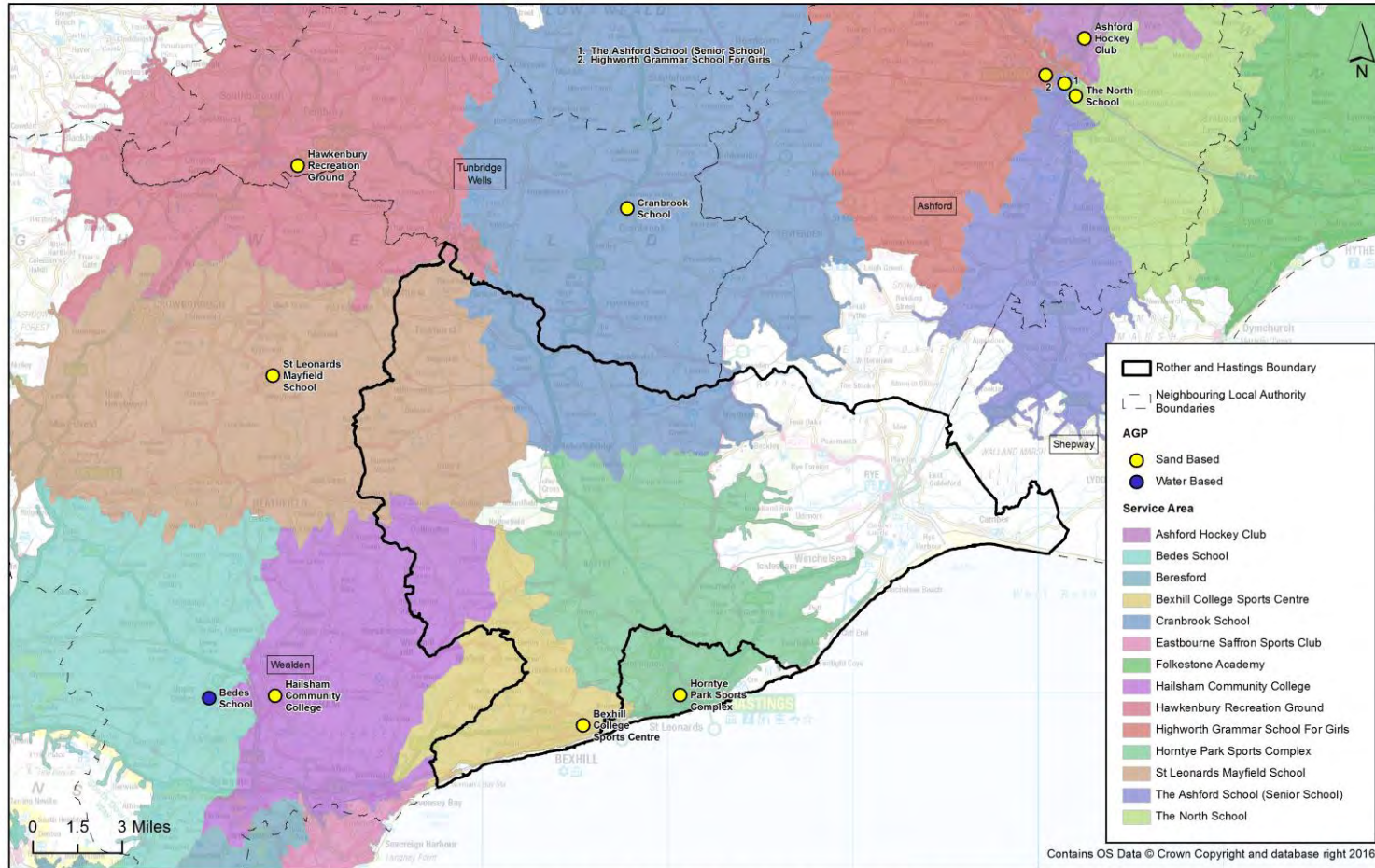
3.8.14 Where appropriate and football demand dictates, resurfacing existing sand based AGP's that are surplus to hockey requirements can be a cost effective method to increase 3G provision. However, often such pitches fall below the FA recommended pitch size for a full size pitch.

3.8.15 The recommendations section of this report will evaluate whether there is enough additional demand to satisfy the supply of this number of 3G AGP's and if so, where these should be located.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE – SPATIAL ANALYSIS

3.8.16 Map 8 and 9 overleaf provide a spatial analysis of full size sand based and 3G AGP's in the study area. These maps also include full size AGP's from neighbouring local authorities, as there is a significant potential export of demand if the facilities in neighbouring local authorities are an attractive offer for residents. The coloured areas show the unique catchment area of each of the AGP's, which indicates the closest AGP, within 20-minute drive time, for local residents.

Map 8 – Spatial analysis and cross –boundary demand for sand-based AGP’s in Rother and Hastings. Apart from R&H and Ashford, all AGP data from Active Places Power (Sport England)

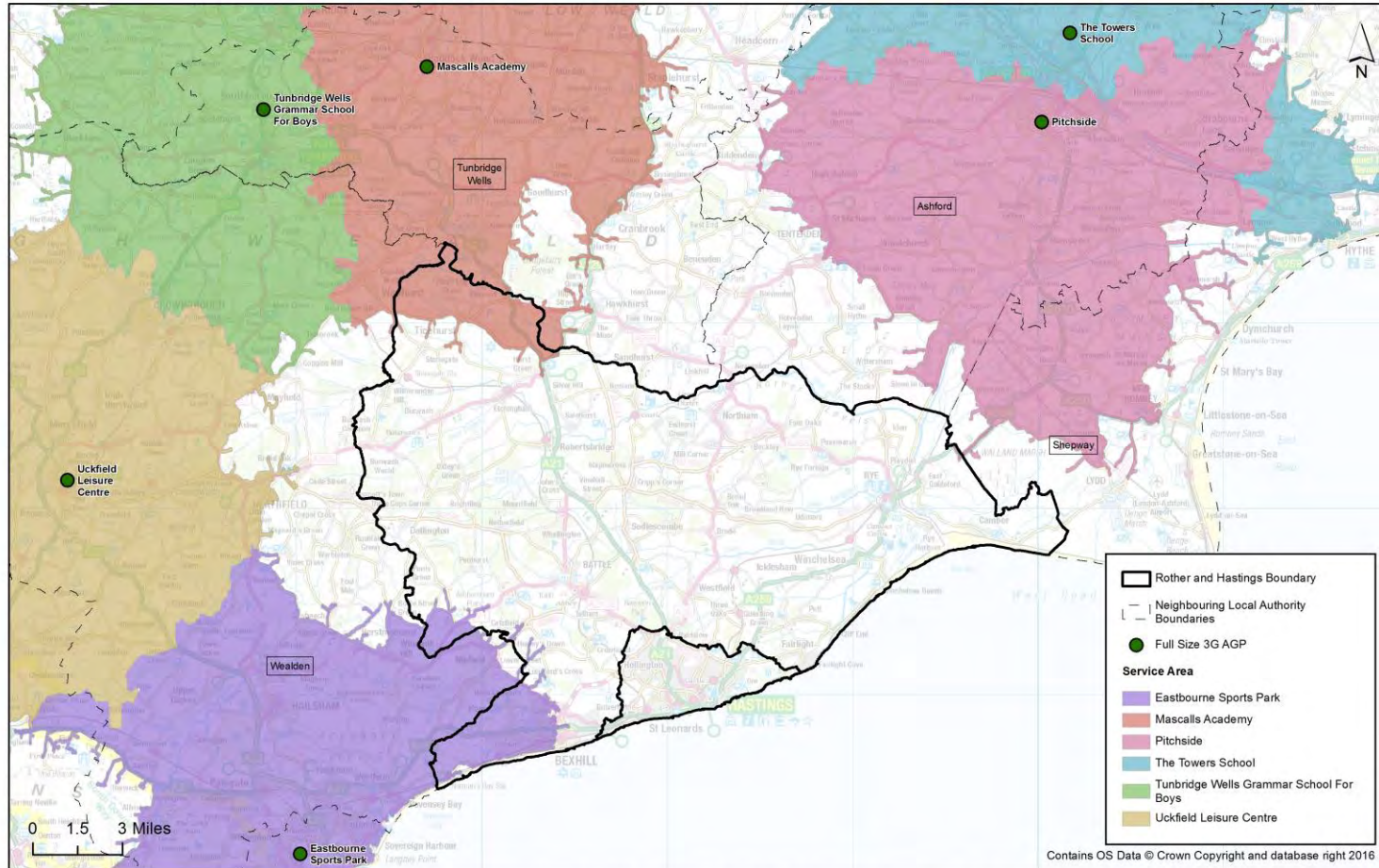


Map 8 illustrates that, due to the only full sized sand-based AGP facilities being located in Bexhill, Hastings or outside of the study area, a significant proportion of the local residents are either serviced by a facility outside of the study area, or not serviced at all within 20 minutes.

The map illustrates that the eastern side of the study area, including Rye, Iden and parts of Winchelsea, are not serviced (within off-peak 20-minute drive time) by a full sized sand-based AGP.

Full size sand and water based AGP sites service areas in Rother and Hastings and neighbouring local authorities (up to 20 minute rural drive time)

Map 9 – Spatial analysis and cross –boundary demand for 3G AGP’s in Rother and Hastings. Apart from R&H and Ashford, all AGP data from Active Places Power (Sport England)



Map 9 illustrates that the majority of the study area is not serviced by a full size 3G AGP. There is a small amount of potential exported demand to nearby Eastbourne, which is supported by the Facility Planning Model calculations. For Hastings, none of the local authority is serviced by a full sized 3G AGP.

Full size 3G AGP sites service areas in Rother and Hastings and neighbouring local authorities (up to 20 minute rural drive time)

SPORT ENGLAND FACILITY PLANNING MODEL (2015)

- 3.8.21 In order to evaluate the strategic need for artificial grass pitch provision across the study area, Sport England has undertaken a National Run of the Facility Planning Model (FPM)¹⁹. This is included in Technical Appendix B – Facility Planning Model.
- 3.8.22 The report provides a strategic assessment of the current level of provision for Artificial Grass Pitches in Hastings and Rother. The assessment uses Sport England's Facilities Planning Model and the data from National Facilities Audit run as of January 2015.
- 3.8.23 The report cites that although the population of Hastings is less than the population of Rother, the demand for AGP's in the peak period is higher in Hastings. This is a result of the younger demographic breakdown of the population in Hastings which will create greater demand for AGPs.
- 3.8.24 The FPM report identifies the following key additional findings;
- The % of the population without access to a car is much greater in Hastings than Rother and is also higher than the national average.
 - Many residents in Rother live outside the catchment area of their closest AGP.
 - Both local authorities have a relatively high levels of exported demand.
 - 494 visits per week in Hastings are unmet in the peak period. 541 visits per week in Rother are unmet in the peak period. The main reason for unmet demand in Hastings and Rother is the fact there is insufficient capacity at existing AGPs to cater for demand.
 - The joint unmet demand from both local authorities starts to justify the need for another AGP. This is a crude assumption with no spatial analysis. It assumes all unmet demand is in the same location. In reality the unmet demand is spread across both local authorities and a new AGP regardless of location could not be assumed to meet all unmet demand because some residents would remain outside its catchment.
 - The highest levels of unmet demand in Hastings is located in Broomgrove, Hollington and St Leonards. The levels of unmet demand are spread across Rother but the highest levels of unmet demand in Rother are in Bexhill and Rye. The level of unmet demand in both Hastings and Rother is similar to the level of unmet demand in Eastbourne, Wealden and Ashford.
 - The AGPs in Hastings do not attract many people from outside Hastings according to the model. The AGPs in Hastings satisfy 67 VPWPP (Visits per week in the peak period) from residents outside Hastings and 873 VPWPP from residents within Hastings.
 - The FPM shows there is demand for additional capacity at existing

¹⁹ Hastings and Rother AGP FPM (Sport England: 2015)

AGPs and begins to demonstrate demand for additional AGP provision to serve both Rother and Hastings.

- 3.8.25 The above analysis, supported by both the FA standard-based calculations and the spatial analysis explained in this section, indicates that additional AGP provision is required in order to serve the local residents of Rother and Hastings and provide fit-for-purpose facilities and reduce the demand for grass pitches throughout the study area.
- 3.8.26 3G football turf pitches that are on the FA register will also help to meet the affiliated match day demands and alleviate the pressure caused by match cancellations. Operational and management practices and policies are crucial in opening up such pitches at weekends. Equally affordable pricing policies are critical if teams are encouraged to use more 3G pitches.
- 3.8.27 The FA have indicated that all current and future 3G provision should be tested in accordance with the required performance criteria for the FA and registered on the FA Register for 3G Football Turf Pitches. This is to ensure that facilities are fit for purpose, safe for participants and consistent across the country.
- 3.8.28 In addition, it should be ensured that a sinking fund (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface replacement when required) are put in place to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term. The FA recommend £25k per annum in today's market, however further guidance should be sought from the FA for advice on detailed financial planning for new facilities.
- 3.8.29 It should be noted that affordable pricing policies for Hastings residents will be lower than the national average due to the high levels of deprivation and low standard of living in parts of the borough. This is also likely to be the case in parts of Rother, especially in areas of high deprivation such as Bexhill Sidley and the Central Wards.
- 3.8.30 Recommendations for future AGP developments and the criteria that new developments will need to meet in order to satisfy the demands of local residents are explored further in the summary box below.

3.9 Football Summary

3.9.1 A full set of football recommendations is provided in Section 11 but below is a short summary of the key findings from the football analysis

Table 28 – Summary of Football Findings for Rother and Hastings

Football Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The supply and demand analysis indicates there is a deficit of capacity across Rother and Hastings for grass football pitches, with deficiency being most severe for youth 11v11 pitches and mini soccer 5v5 pitches. Note: This analysis is undertaken using a reduced maximum carrying capacity for pitches of all sizes, based on widespread drainage issues as well as the lack of Sunday league football across the study area, as agreed with the FA as the most appropriate reflection of match play for the study area ➤ Although the data for the study area as a whole shows a deficit for grass pitches, when considered on its own, Hastings has a surplus of senior pitches but a deficit of youth and mini pitches ➤ Balance figures; adult football +11.5 pitches, youth football -19.5 pitches and mini soccer -1.5 pitches ➤ This balance shows that there is an overall deficit of football pitches across Rother and Hastings, with only adult football showing a surplus of supply. In reality, this surplus is undermined by youth and mini-soccer teams playing matches on adult sized pitches ➤ To address the negative balance across adult and youth 11v11 pitches, it is recommended that additional capacity of 8 match equivalents per week is developed across the study area. This can be achieved through the development of 3 11v11 good quality grass pitches, the improvement of existing standard and poor quality pitches, or a combination of the two ➤ The Councils should also explore the option of remarking adult and youth pitches as mini soccer pitches, to address the deficit and provide small children with fit-for-purpose football facilities ➤ A key FA priority for Rother and Hastings is to develop a collaborative pitch maintenance programme for the study area, with club officers, council officers and volunteers benefitting from a joint equipment bank and training by qualified FA pitch experts ➤ A significant proportion of football pitches are owned and managed by the respective local authority or local parish council's, with a general downward trend in pitch quality identified throughout club consultations ➤ The Councils are looking for more efficient ways to distribute their maintenance budgets and would like to work with the National Governing Bodies to prioritise and deliver pitch and facility maintenance projects ➤ A number of the key clubs in the area, such as Bexhill United and Little Common FC, play on sites owned by the local authority however these sites

Football Summary Box

are unable to meet the requirements of the FA for the level of competition played by each of the club's first teams. This also applies to Westfield FC however the arrangement at this site is leased from the Parish Council

- The report has highlighted instances of demand displacement from within the study area to neighbouring local authorities, caused by operational and financial issues at the original sites. RDC and HBC have an ambition, where possible, to bring these clubs (and associated demand) back into the study area, and will work with the club to ensure fit-for-purpose facilities area available.
- A number of locally owned authority site are currently protected as part of Hastings Borough Council Planning Policy, namely; Ark William Parker, Sandhurst Rec, The Pilot Field. Tilekiln Rec, Tackleway and the Firs. Gibbons field is not protected as a playing field but is protected as green space
- A common issue across the sites is the quality of ancillary facilities, which are in some cases unfit for purpose and urgently requiring re-development
- There is a deficit of 3G AGP supply, with a recommended need for between 4.8 and 5 full size 3G pitches (1.4 and 3.6 in Hastings and in Rother respectively), based on FA calculations. There are not currently any Fifa 1* 3G pitches in the study area that are suitable for competitive football. While the FA calculation identifies a need for 5 new pitches across the study area, following consultation with the FA and the Councils, this is not a realistic aspiration due to the rural nature of much of the study area, as well as the lack of funding opportunities. The output of this strategy is therefore a recommendation to develop 3 full size pitches across the study area (2 in Rother and 1 in Hastings), with a view to reviewing this model as and when this output is achieved
- The following requirements should be addressed for any new 3G facility across Rother and Hastings;
 - Able to serve areas of high relative population density, such as Bexhill and Hastings, in order to ensure that demand for the facilities is consistent and they are accessible to the greatest possible number of participants
 - Developed in line with a usage agreement that ensures community use at peak times (1700 – 2200 weekdays and all day throughout the weekend)
 - Utilises a consistent pricing policy for residents. Pricing policies should be affordable for grassroots clubs. This should include a match-rate at weekends that is equivalent to the LA national turf pitch prices

Football Summary Box

- Be able to satisfy the requirements for FA Step 5 and 6 grounds, to ensure that local football clubs can continue to move up the FA affiliated football ladder. Note: this is not required for all new facilities but appropriate availability should be provided to the competitive clubs who require these facilities. This includes 3G stadia Step 5 & 6 facilities where appropriate and where the operating model is financially sustainable
- Facilities are to be built to FIFA quality concept for Football Turf – FIFA quality (previously FIFA 1 star) accreditation. These should be tested and registered on the FA 3G pitch register.
- In order to secure the sites and develop the appropriate facilities to meet the needs of local residents, the Councils and the FA should look to explore the use of education sites, in order to maximise use during school time and also utilise on-site maintenance teams for general upkeep. School sites should be considered where the appropriate community development outcomes can be secured and a sinking fund for carpet replacement can be fully demonstrated
- It is key that when looking at 3G AGP development and the business cases that support these projects, stakeholders adhere to a consistent pricing matrix for users. The development of an appropriate matrix should be discussed with the FA, in order to ensure consistent pricing across the study area and to make sure that 'price wars' do not emerge between competing facilities
- There is currently no Sunday League competitive football played in either Rother and Hastings. It should be noted that if this type of football (affiliated but low standard adult football) was to increase in demand and there was sufficient demand for a competitive league, the demand for facilities and the resulting wear and tear of grass pitches would increase.

4 CRICKET

4.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

- 4.1.1 In order to understand the overall objectives and priorities of the ECB, an analysis of key recent strategies and documentation has been undertaken and summarised below.

GROUNDSTO PLAY – ENGLAND AND WALES CRICKET BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN (2010 – 2013)

- 4.1.2 The ECB published its strategic plan in 2010. One of the core aims of the strategy is to enhance facilities, environments and participation. The ECB is prioritising the expansion of indoor cricket facilities, better use of school facilities and establishing better school-club links in order to position cricket at the heart of the community. This strategy was followed by the National Club Strategy (2012).

NATIONAL CLUB STRATEGY (2012)

- 4.1.3 The ECB's National Club Strategy was developed from its Strategic Plan. It focuses on promoting the sustainability of clubs and their facilities. The ECB aims to develop accessible, high quality and innovative facilities which inspire the nation to choose cricket, and create a culture of sustainable development which will leave a legacy for generations to come.

4.2 Consultation Overview

KEY CLUBS

- 4.2.1 There are 32 clubs in the area, four of which have 8 or more teams in total (Bexhill CC, Rye CC, Crowhurst Park CC and Hastings & St Leonards Priory CC).
- 4.2.2 Bexhill Cricket Club is the major club in Rother and is the only club to play in the ECB Sussex Premier Cricket League, which is the biggest league system in this part of Sussex. The club has a thriving junior section and a colt's side however the club has stated that their facilities are not allowing the club to develop and grow. Hastings Priority is also a priority club for the ECB, with the club utilising an excellent purpose built facility at Horntye Park Sports Complex.
- 4.2.3 Further information on the other key clubs in the area can be seen in Technical Appendix C – Cricket Analysis.

PROGRAMMES, INITIATIVES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- 4.2.4 The ECB is looking to counteract a national decline in participation in cricket and reduce the impact of player export from rural areas to more urban and developed communities. The ECB has also identified an issue of maintaining regular players, in line with cross-sport trends that suggest players are looking for informal, flexible participation opportunities rather than regular, time consuming match play.

4.3 Supply

QUANTITY OVERVIEW

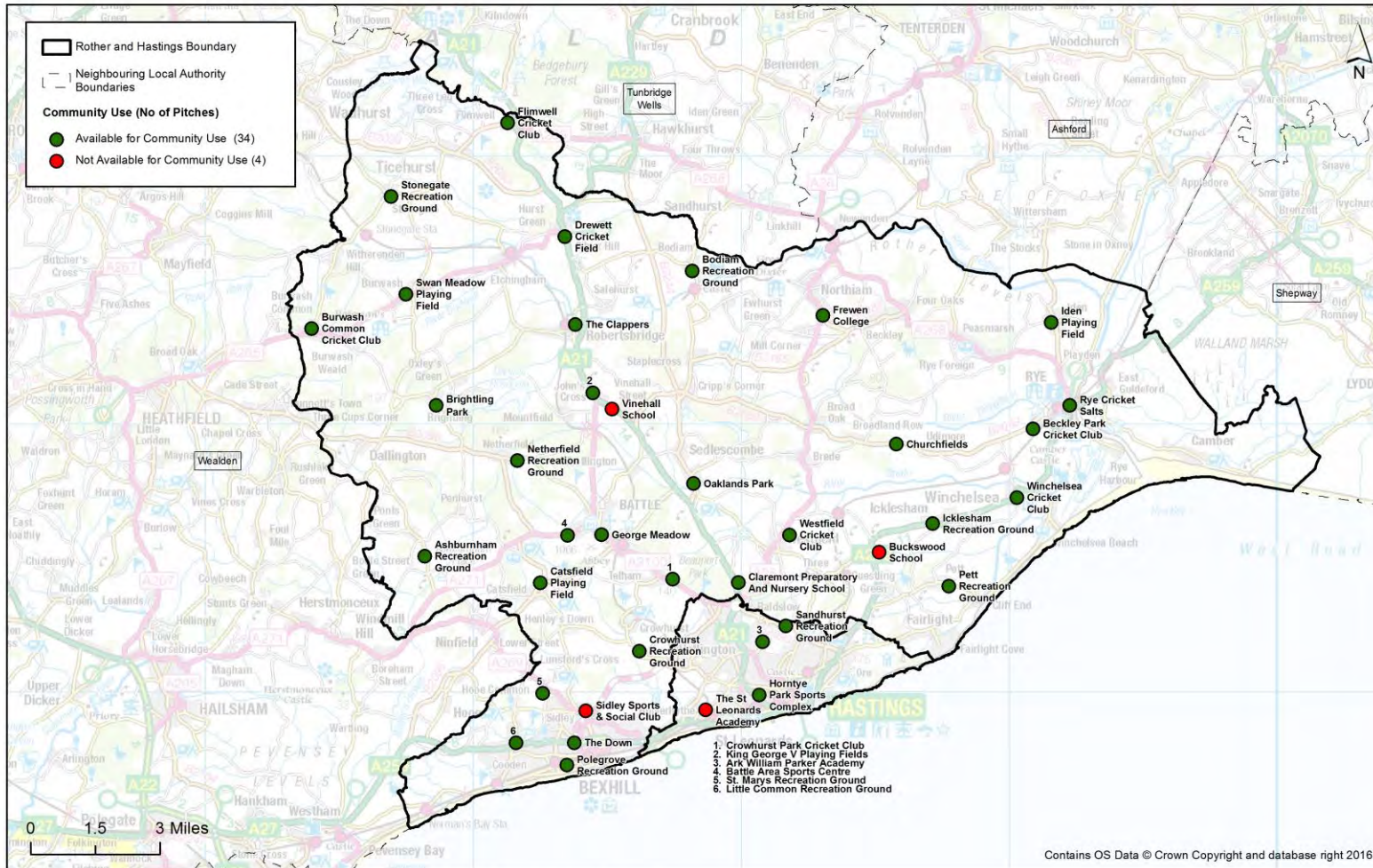
- 4.3.1 Table 29 below presents the data collected on cricket pitch supply in Rother and Hastings. Technical Appendix C – Cricket Analysis presents a detailed audit of all pitches across the study area including carrying capacity and supply and demand balance. Map 10 overleaf also shows the supply of cricket pitches across the study area.

Table 29 – Supply of cricket pitches in Rother and Hastings

Local Authority	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Rother	182	4
Hastings	35	0
Total Cricket Pitches	217	4

- 4.3.2 Map 10 illustrates that there is an even spread of cricket pitches across the study area, however when sites that are not available to the community are removed from Hastings, there is only a small amount of cricket supply. This is unlikely to led to a deficit, due to the quantity and quality of cricket provision at Horntye.

Map 10 – Cricket Sites in Rother and Hastings



Cricket pitch sites by community use availability in Rother and Hastings

TENURE AND MANAGEMENT

- 4.3.3 Table 30 illustrates that ownership of cricket sites is dominated by Parish Councils or trust organisations, which means that individual clubs have a reduced responsibility in the maintenance and management of facilities.

Table 30 – Ownership breakdown for Cricket in Rother and Hastings

Pitch ownership	Ownership of available cricket pitches	Ownership of unavailable cricket pitches
Club	0	5
Private	3	1
Trust	8	6
Parish Council	12	9
Local Authority	2	2
Education	5	4
Other	2	5

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

- 4.3.4 Each site (where access was possible) was visited and assessed by the Council's using a non-technical assessment framework provided by the ECB. The assessment takes into account the quality of playing surface, the quality of changing rooms and the score of their maintenance regime when compared to ECB recommendations. In addition to the site visits, the club consultation was used to validate the quality ratings. Each site is rated as GOOD, STANDARD or POOR.
- 4.3.5 Table 31 summarises the quality assessment results. Full details of the subsequent carrying capacity allocations of each site by pitch type can be found in Technical Appendix C – Cricket Analysis. Given the ratings, the overall standard of pitches across Rother and Hastings is adequate, with 95% of open and working pitches scoring standard or better.

Table 31 – Summary of cricket pitch scoring in Rother and Hastings

Rating	Good	Standard	Poor
Number of pitches	14	22	2

- 4.3.6 The top three scoring sites (not including education facilities) are summarised below;
- **Hornbye Park Sports Complex (95%) (H):** This the main source of cricket provision in Hastings and is the home ground of Hastings & St Leonards Priory CC.
 - **Oaklands Park (86%) (R):** Situated in Sedlescombe, the outfield, wickets and ancillary facilities at this site, including a modern pavilion, combine to make it the best cricket facility in the district
 - **Little Common Recreation Ground (85%) (R):** This facility on the outskirts of Bexhill benefits from a high standard of grass wickets, a good artificial wicket and excellent pavilion accommodation.

4.4 Demand

CLUB AND TEAM PROFILE

- 4.4.1 Through the demand consultations with clubs, 32 clubs have been identified as playing in Rother and Hastings. 28 of these clubs are shown in Table 32 below, with details on the team profiles where it was possible to contact them. The additional 4 clubs are included in Technical Appendix C – Cricket Analysis as these were not contactable as part of the demand consultation process.

Table 32 – Cricket club profiles for responding clubs. Source: PPS club consultations

Club	No. of competitive teams			Total
	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	
Rother				
Bexhill Cricket Club	5	0	7	12
Rye Cricket Club	3	0	5	8
Crowhurst Park CC	4	1	5	10
Battle CC	3	0	3	6
Bodiam CC	1	0	0	1
Robertsbridge CC	3	0	2	5
Little Common Ramblers CC	2	0	1	3
Pett CC	4	0	1	5
Catsfield CC	1	0	0	1
Crowhurst CC	1	0	0	1
Mountfield CC	1	0	0	1
Brightling Park CC	1	0	0	1
Ashburnham CC	1	0	0	1
Beckley CC	1	0	0	1
Westfield CC	1	0	0	1
Parkhurst CC	1	0	0	1
Netherfield CC	1	0	0	1
Brede Cricket Club	1	0	0	1
Burwash Weald CC	1	0	0	1
Burwash CC	1	0	0	1
Northiam CC	2	0	0	2
Winchelsea CC	1	0	0	1
Etchingham CC	1	0	0	1
Flimwell CC	2	0	3	5
Sidley Cricket Club*				
Rother Total	43	1	27	71
Hastings				
Clive Vale CC	1	0	0	1
Hastings & St Leonards Priory CC	4	1	6	11
Sidley Cricket Club*	1	0	0	1
Hastings Total	6	1	6	13
Total	50	2	33	85

* Club currently playing outside the Rother area due to the repossession of Sidley Sports & Social Club. The Club is currently displaced to Hastings.

- 4.4.2 To further understand the demand for cricket in the study area, the following detailed consultations provide further clarity on the priorities and issues of key clubs in the study area.

Table 33 – Major club cricket consultations in Rother and Hastings

Club	Consultation Summary
Bexhill CC	<p>12 teams in total, with 5 adult sides (2 of them playing in the Premier Leagues) and 7 juniors that are in constant growth due to well established school links.</p> <p>Although their pitch at Polegrove Rec has been marked in the top 20 of the county, the club stated that they are very much at the lower end of playing standards and facilities in Sussex and the lowest in the Sussex Premier League.</p> <p>The playing standard and quality of maintenance were said to have deteriorated in recent years, with the main problems identified being the length of the grass and evenness of the outfield.</p> <p>Facilities have been rated as unacceptable: no heating in the building, which makes it difficult to use out of season; no segregated toilets, showers or changing areas. “A new ground is vital to the success of our club. One which would enable the club to continue to compete at the highest level for not just 3-4 years, but the next 50. We would need a new pavilion that is fit for purpose. One which would attract players of all calibre to the sport and the town itself. One which could be used 12 months of the year in order to generate the necessary revenue to properly invest in the sport and maintenance. With this we could afford to progress the clubs own upkeep of the playing facilities to the highest standards.”</p>
Crowhurst CC	<p>A one-team club, entirely managed by volunteers who are responsible for all the ground works and maintenance of the clubhouse.</p> <p>They have rated the quality of their pitches as good and although the current facilities have been identified as acceptable, they were also described as slightly out-dated and in need of improvement. Currently developing plans for a new Pavilion (costing approximately £350k) in order to attract more members and allow further growth.</p>
Hastings and St Leonards Priory CC	<p>Priory is a well-established local club, with 4 men’s and 1 women’s team. The club has a strong youth section. The number of teams has remained static over the past 3 seasons with the exception of the re-introduction of a senior men’s team. The club rate the overall quality of the Horntye site as standard, however they have raised an issue with the quality of the Ark William Parker Academy site, caused by lack of maintenance over the winter. The club have therefore relocated the teams that were previously playing at the site to Sandhurst Recreation Ground.</p> <p>The club has stated that it would like to have access to another square, in order to have matches played simultaneously at the same site.</p>
Sidley CC	<p>The club hosts one adult team. The club were originally based in Sidley, Rother. However, after losing their home ground in 2012 they moved to Sandhurst in Hastings (approx. 8 miles away). As a result, their 1st and 2nd teams and youth section all folded. At the time of moving their youth section had 70+ members. The club are satisfied with the Sandhurst pitch but are keen to find a home ground closer to Sidley, where they have aspirations to develop</p>

CURRENT, FUTURE AND LATENT DEMAND

- 4.4.3 In order to calculate the future demand for cricket in the study area, a Team Generation Rate (TGR) has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a cricket team.

4.4.4 This TGR can now be applied to the population projections for the study area to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups. See footnote 12 for an explanation of the TGR calculation process.

Table 34: Impact of population projections on the need for cricket provision (Team Generation Rates).

Age group	Current popn. Within age group	TGR	Current no. Of teams	Future (2031) population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams required for increased popn.
Rother						
Adult (19-65) – males only	16,989	2.5	43.0	15,121	38.3	-4.7
Youth (8-18) – boys only	3,105	8.7	27.0	3,124	27.2	0.2
Hastings						
Adult (19-65) – males only	21,765	0.3	6.0	19,356	5.3	-0.7
Adult (19-65) – females only	22,284	1.0	0.0	19,907	0.9	-0.1
Youth (8-18) – boys only	3,540	1.7	6.0	3,637	6.2	0.2

4.4.5 Table 34 illustrates that in both Rother and Hastings, the projected number of adult teams required is lower for 2028 than it is currently. This is driven by the projected reduction in 45-65-year old males, as well a reduction in 15-29 year old males. The projected reduction in adult teams is higher in Rother as Hastings’s projections show a far smaller reduction in 19-65 year old males. Both local authorities are projecting a very small increase in the demand for youth teams. The detailed analysis of Team Generation Rates can be seen in Technical Appendix D - PPS TGR Calculations.

4.4.6 This analysis projects change in demand for the study area as a whole, however following consultation it is clear that while demand for organised sport is falling in the villages and rural areas of the study area, settlements such as Bexhill, Sidley and Hastings, are expecting an increase in demand for sports such as cricket, therefore it is not pragmatic to plan for sport in these areas using a projected deficit of demand.

4.4.7 It is important to note that this calculation also assumes that clubs, the Councils and the ECB do not improve their marketing or participation schemes over the period and are therefore no more successful than they are now in attracting new players to participate in cricket in Rother and Hastings. In reality, it is expected that there will be improved channels of digital communication and improved maintenance technology, as well as higher quality ancillary provision. The output of this will be a higher quality and an improved ability to generate demand and convert it into participation.

4.4.8 Furthermore, due to the current lack of girl's cricket in the study area, the TGR calculation does not project a growth in demand for girl's cricket teams. In reality, both the Councils and the ECB are actively looking to increase the amount of girl's cricket that is played in the study area, which is likely to lead to a small increase in demand in the medium to long term. This is unlikely to have a significant impact on the requirement for new facilities, however will increase the requirement for fit-for-purpose ancillary facilities, which will need to have separate changing facilities.

4.5 Capacity Analysis for Cricket in Rother and Hastings

4.5.1 Using the supply of the cricket sites and the current level of demand, the overall capacity of each of the sites has been calculated. 3 of the 16 cricket sites have been identified as having spare capacity for their grass wickets, namely Icklesham Recreation Ground, Pett Recreation Ground and Rye Cricket Salts.

4.5.2 Table 35 shows the total supply and demand balance for cricket pitches in Rother and Hastings, taking into consideration the use of artificial pitches for matches, which occurs in Rother. Table 35 also shows the balance when it is assumed that non-turf pitches are not used for matches at any age groups. It is likely that in reality, a small number of clubs such as those with larger junior sections, will use the non-turf pitches for a small proportion of their matches.

Table 35 – Overall Cricket balance figures for Rother and Hastings

Rother		
Including Non-turf Pitches in Analysis		
Supply and demand figures (matches)	Demand 528	Supply 1120
Overall balance (matches)		+592
Pitch balance figure (no. of grass or artificial wickets)		118grass wickets or 10 artificial wickets
Not Including Non-turf Pitches in Analysis		
Supply and demand figures (matches)	Demand 528	Supply 940
Overall balance (matches)		+412
Pitch balance figure (no. of grass or artificial wickets)		82 grass wickets or 7 artificial wickets
Hastings		
Not Including Non-turf Pitches in Analysis		
Supply and demand figures (matches)	Demand 104	Supply 175
Overall balance (matches)		+71
Pitch balance figure (no. of grass or artificial wickets)		14 grass wickets or 1 artificial wicket
Combined		
Including Non-turf Pitches in Analysis		
Supply and demand figures (matches)	Demand 632	Supply 1295
Overall balance (matches)		+663
Pitch balance figure (no. of grass or artificial wickets)		132 grass wickets or 11 artificial wickets
Not Including Non-turf Pitches in Analysis		
Supply and demand figures	Demand	Supply

(matches)	632	1115
Overall balance (matches)		+483
Pitch balance figure (no. of grass or artificial wickets)		97 grass wickets or 8 artificial wickets

- 4.5.3 This analysis indicates that there is a significant over-supply of cricket provision across the study area. This analysis should be considered with the significant caveat that in practice, it is difficult for local authority and parish council maintained facilities to create squares that can deliver five matches per pitch per season.
- 4.5.4 It is also important to note that following consultations with clubs across the study area, users are finding it increasingly difficult to secure matchplay facilities in the areas of Bexhill and Hastings. This identifies a geographical issue that while cricket is well supplied in the rural parts of the district, further capacity is required in the more urban areas.
- 4.5.5 Notwithstanding this capacity calculation, the demand consultations and further consultation with the Councils and the ECB have illustrated a number of key priorities for cricket in the study area, which will be addressed in the site-by-site analysis and action plan.

4.6 Strategic sites for Protection, Enhancement and Provision

4.6.1 Based on the evidence collated in the PPS for cricket pitch provision, it can be concluded that there are certain cricket facilities across Rother and Hastings that are recorded as high value sites, for a number of reasons.

4.6.2 Table 36 provides a justification for how each of the cricket sites should be Protected, Enhanced or Provided for.

Table 36 – Strategic cricket sites for protection and enhancement

Site Name	No. Of Pitches (Squares)	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Rating	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Ark William Parker (H)	1	Secured	Good	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan. This is an education site that has previously had Sports College status and has good quality cricket facilities. The cricket pitches are used by Priory CC, as well as the Civil Service Stoolball Team.
					E	The practice nets are currently unusable, and should be renovated if the site is to be used for greater levels of community use. Since the pitch assessments were carried out, the club has identified that the increase in rugby at the site has had a negative effect on the overall quality of the outfield.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Ashburnham Recreation Ground (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a rural cricket site used by the local cricket team for casual and competitive use. The site is also used for extensive community use and casual use by local residents, as well as by neighbouring clubs such as Bexhill CC and Hellingly.
					E	The club would like to repair their mobile net, in order to allow training to continue on the square in the summer.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Beckley Park Cricket Club (R)	1	Unsecured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. It is a rural site used by the local cricket club.
					E	No further need for enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The club currently pays for a local contractor to cut the outfield and undertakes all other maintenance themselves through volunteers.
					PV	Additional nets would provide the club with a summer practice facility

Site Name	No. Of Pitches (Squares)	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Rating	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Bodiam Recreation Ground (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	Although available for community use, this facility was little used in the 2015 season and consequently, maintenance is not sustained throughout the season. The pavilion is adequate, but does not meet modern standards. If demand can be allocated to nearby cricket clubs, such as Northiam CC, then this site could be re-designated as open space.
					E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current facilities are fit for purpose for their use. If additional use is sought by the Parish Council, then additional maintenance resources and expertise could reduce the current issues at the site to some extent, but would not overcome the problem entirely due to the pitch being located on a floodplain.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Brightling Park (R)	1	Unsecured	Good	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. It is a rural site used by the local cricket club.
					E	No further enhancement has been identified as being necessary at this time. The pitch is currently maintained to a high standard and although the pavilion is extremely basic and doesn't meet modern standards it is fit for purpose for the use of the club.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Buckwood School (R)	1	Unsecured	Good	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This is a private and high quality education site that is used only for education use. The school is looking to acquire more land in nearby Guestling but requests have previously been refused by the Parish Council. Spare capacity has been identified at Guestling Playing Field as part of this study.
					E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Burwash Common Cricket Club (R)	1	Secured	Good	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. The ground is run by a management committee and is rated as a good all-round facility. The pavilion and terrace is used for a variety of community functions as well as for cricket.
					E	If the club is to grow its junior section, then an artificial pitch on the square would be a useful addition, however it is not currently required.

Site Name	No. Of Pitches (Squares)	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Rating	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Catsfield Playing Field (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. It is a site owned by the Parish Council used by the local cricket club. The site is also used for stoolball and is available for further community use if fixtures don't clash with the current club's fixture list.
					E	Significant issues were identified with rabbit holes and damage to the surface, which was deemed to be partially unsafe on inspection.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Claremont Preparatory and Nursery School (R)	1	Unsecured	Under renovation	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This is an education site that was under renovation during the project site assessments.
					E	Not applicable – see above
					PV	Not applicable – see above
Crowhurst Park Cricket Club (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a privately owned site that is used by the local cricket club.
					E	The pavilion requires significant attention as the timber frame is currently rotting. The club is also looking to formalise the tenure of the site with Sport England and the ECB. The club should look to sign a long term community use agreement with the landowner to ensure long term security of tenure.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Crowhurst Recreation Ground (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site is owned by the Parish Council and used by the local cricket club and for community use by local residents. There is potentially an opportunity to share grounds with the nearby Crowhurst Park Cricket Club, if the common issues with ground identity and local competition can be avoided. If this occurred then the recreation ground could be re-designated as open space
					E	The current facilities are maintained to a relatively high standard and are fit for purpose for the use of the club. The pavilion is in a poor condition and would ideally be replaced with a new-build with additional storage, possibly incorporating the adjacent Youth Club building. In the short term it is in need of major refurbishment with the timber floor and verandah being the main priorities
					PV	If the ground is to continue as a cricket site, then additional practice facilities would improve the quality of the overall site and allow training throughout the summer.

Site Name	No. Of Pitches (Squares)	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Rating	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Drewett Cricket Field (R)	1	Secured	Good	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a rural site used by the local cricket club and scored well during the pitch assessment.
					E	The pavilion requires refurbishment and if completed, would ensure the site is an example of high quality rural cricket provision.
					PV	Additional practice nets would be of benefit, however these are not an urgent requirement.
Flimwell Cricket Club (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. It is a rural site used by the local cricket club.
					E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current facilities are not of a high quality however the cricket club has not identified any urgent improvements that require addressing.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Frewen College (R)	1	Unsecured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is an education site that is used by the community. The school is looking to increase community use, which is currently limited to Northiam CC.
					E	Northiam CC should look to sign a formal community use agreement with the school to ensure long-term security of tenure.
					PV	The pavilion is old but in reasonable repair. This will need replacing within the next 5 – 7 years.
George Meadow (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a high quality site with practice nets, an artificial pitch and a modern pavilion. This site is used by Battle CC, who have a long term lease on the site from Battle Town Council.
					E	The club has been affected significantly by vandalism, with attempts to reduce this using anti-climb paint resulting in the vandals smearing the paint over the new artificial wicket. Further support is required to reduce this threat.
					PV	Better net facilities are sought after by the club.
Hornty Park Sports Complex (H)	1	Secured	Good	Currently under capacity for grass	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a very high quality cricket site that is used by Hastings and St Leonards Priory CC. There is currently uncertainty over the long-term sustainability of the Hornty complex, however adequate provision for Hastings and St Leonards Priory CC should be

Site Name	No. Of Pitches (Squares)	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Rating	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)
				wickets	protected as part of any future development plans.
					E No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current facilities are maintained to a very high standard, which is not currently necessary given the standard of cricket that is played at the site.
					PV While this is a high quality site with a surplus of supply, there is often a bottleneck for the supply of facilities for Saturday PM matchplay, with a number of users highlighting the difficulty to secure regular match facilities.
Icklesham Recreation Ground (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently over capacity for grass wickets	PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is used as a second ground for Rye Cricket Club, who have stated that their preferred location would be in Rye, nearer to the club's home ground. The ground has also suffered from vandalism, forcing matches to be moved to Northiam CC.
					E The pavilion needs refurbishment following extensive vandalism. If Rye CC move away from the ground, it is unlikely to be feasible to maintain the grass square however to maintain the presence of cricket at the site it is recommended that the non-turf pitch is refurbished and used for casual used occasional matches.
					PV No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Iden Playing Field (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is an adequate site with long term security of tenure and protection via Fields in Trust Status.
					E The pavilion is old and basic with development and renovation being required if the club is looking to recruit further players. In practice the facilities are likely to be adequate for the current level of demand.
					PV As above, a new pavilion is likely to be required in 5 – 10 years.
King George V Playing Fields (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is owned by the Parish Council however all maintenance is undertaken by the cricket club, who keep the facilities to a good standard.
					E No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current facilities are maintained to a relatively high standard and are fit for purpose for the use of the club.
					PV No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Little Common	1	Secured	Good	Currently under	PR This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is owned by the Local Authority and is the home ground of Little Common Ramblers CC.

Site Name	No. Of Pitches (Squares)	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Rating	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Recreation Ground (R)				capacity for grass wickets		Given the location in Bexhill, this site could be used for further community use if the facilities allowed.
					E	The outfield scored poorly during the site assessment and this should be addressed through repair of damage to the outfield caused by rabbit holes. The grass on the outfield also requires more regular cutting.
					PV	The club have identified that new practice nets is a priority development. If vandalism could be guarded against, new nets could also be used by the community for recreational cricket practice, subject to the club's willingness to undertake this.
Netherfield Recreation Ground (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a small site used only for weekly Sunday friendly matches during the summer.
					E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current facilities fit for purpose given the playing standard and non-competitive nature of the cricket played at the site.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Oaklands Park (R)	1	Secured	Good	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. The outfield, wickets and ancillary facilities combine to make it the best cricket facility in Rother.
					E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current facilities are maintained to a high standard and are fit for purpose for the use of the club.
					PV	If the junior section of the club is to grow, then an artificial wicket would be beneficial. Unfortunately, Sedlescombe CC did not choose to be part of this study and therefore their priorities and aspirations have not been captured.
Pett Recreation Ground (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently over capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is owned by the Parish Council and used by the local cricket club, which has 4 teams.
					E	The club has not identified any major issues with the pitch quality on the site, however the site assessment identified issues with the length of grass and the damage to surface from mole hills and rabbit droppings. The current clubhouse development is likely to make the site a more attractive place to play cricket.
					PV	The club would like a roll-on net to aid their weekly practices. To address the under-supply of grass pitches, a non-turf pitch would also allow the club to play

Site Name	No. Of Pitches (Squares)	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Rating	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
						junior fixtures on the artificial surface and provide greater capacity on the grass wickets for the adult sides.
Polegrove Recreation Ground (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is the home ground of Bexhill CC, which has 12 teams in total and are looking to grow further. Although Polegrove has been marked in the top 20 of the county, the club has stated that they are at the lower end of playing standards in Sussex and the lowest in the Sussex Premier League. The club is looking for either major refurbishment or a new site.
					E	The club would like to develop St Mary's Lane Bexhill, in order to bring more of their matches back into Bexhill and regain more of the club identity. If this plan is to be progressed, then St Mary's Lane will require significant investment and funding.
					PV	The club would like to invest in non-turf practice wickets, to allow a greater proportion of the club to partake in high quality weekly training sessions.
Rye Cricket Salts (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently over capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields. This ground is currently the home ground of Rye CC and calculated as being over-capacity. Furthermore, part of the club also plays its home games in Icklesham due to lack of capacity at the site.
					E	The club is scheduled to start leasing the pavilion from RDC in the near future and this should be encouraged, to ensure the club has greater responsibility and autonomy associated with site maintenance. Similarly, the club has stated that the quality of the pitches has improved since they took more responsibility for maintenance.
					PV	The club has stated that a mobile cage and additional practice nets would provide more training capacity. Furthermore, the club have stated that the current non-turf wicket requires refurbishment, which would allow more teams to use this for matches, therefore reducing site capacity issues. If this is not feasible, then additional grass wickets are required, in order to address the deficit of supply at the site.
Sandhurst Recreation Ground (H)	1	Secured	Good	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a council owned and operated site that is currently used by Sidley Cricket Club following relocation from their home ground due to their previous facility being re-possessioned. If Sidley CC are successful in finding a ground closer to their home town, and there is no demand for formal cricket at this site, then it may be possible to re-designate

Site Name	No. Of Pitches (Squares)	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Rating	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
						the site as open space.
					E	The site is currently adequate for the requirements of Sidley CC. The site assessment identified that the ancillary facilities on the site are nearing end of life.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Sidley Sports and Social Club (R)	1	Unsecured	Not applicable	Not applicable	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a cricket site which has recently been re-possessed, due to the site falling into financial difficulties. All cricket use has been displaced to Hastings and the club has lost the majority of its junior teams as a result. The club has stated it's ambition to return to the old site in the future if ownership and management issues are resolved.
					E	If the site is to be used for cricket again, the square will require significant investment in order to get it to an appropriate playing standard.
					PV	A new ancillary is required as the previous building has been subject to arson and vandalism.
St Mary's Recreation Ground (R)	1	Secured	Good	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. This site is currently used by Bexhill CC and has been earmarked by the club for further development, in order to provide a more local second ground for lower senior teams and junior teams to play and train in the short term, with the possibility of the site becoming the club's main ground in the longer term.
					E	In the short term, enhancement by the club of the cricket square and outfield through cultural practices should continue to be a priority.
					PV	A shipping container is currently being used as an ancillary facility. A new ancillary would be required if the ground is to be used as a permanent ground for Bexhill CC.
Stonegate Recreation Ground (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is owned by the Parish Council however all maintenance is undertaken by the cricket club, who keep the facilities to a good standard.
					E	A survey to determine the integrity of the pavilion's structure and electrics should be undertaken and provision made to address any identified issues both in the short term and the longer term.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Swan Meadow	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is owned by a Trust, with a number of the club members sitting on the committee.

Site Name	No. Of Pitches (Squares)	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Rating	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Playing Field (R)				capacity for grass wickets	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current facilities are maintained to a relatively high standard and are fit for purpose for the use of the club.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
The Clappers (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. Robertsbridge Cricket Club undertake the management and maintenance of the site and may look to benefit from an asset transfer, if the key stakeholders at the club are willing to take on the responsibility for this and the owners of the site can be determined.
					E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. This is a high quality site with an adequate ancillary.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
The Down (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is owned by the council and maintained by RDC, but used by Parkhurst CC.
					E	The site scored well for the quality of the pitch, however the ancillary facility is in need of further improvement in order to make it a more attractive place to play cricket.
					PV	The site does not currently have non turf pitches to play on. Currently there does not appear to be the required level of demand to make this investment viable.
Vinehall School (R)	1	Unsecured	Good	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This is a high quality education site that is not currently used by the community. The school has applied to remove the restriction conditions to allow their facilities to be used more extensively by the community.
					E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current facility mix is fit for purpose for education needs.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Westfield Cricket Club (R)	1	Secured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a site that is privately owned, leased to Westfield Parish Council and sub-leased by the club, with the lease expiring in 2016.
					E	Although the grass wickets are good and the outfield standard, the ancillary facilities are poor, in particular the lack of parking and the changing accommodation which is very old and very basic.

Site Name	No. Of Pitches (Squares)	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Rating	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study. The site assessment identified a poor pavilion and Westfield CC are working with the Parish Council to develop a new pavilion facility.
Winchelsea Cricket Club (R)	1	Unsecured	Standard	Currently under capacity for grass wickets	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a small site used for village cricket and is adequate for the current level of competition.
					E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current facilities are maintained to a relatively high standard and are fit for purpose for the use of the club.
					PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.

4.7 Cricket Summary

4.7.1 A short summary of the key findings from the cricket analysis is shown below. A full set of cricket recommendations is also provided in Table 37.

Table 37 – Summary of Cricket Findings for Rother and Hastings

Cricket Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is an overall surplus of cricket wickets across the study area. ➤ There is a lower number of non-turf pitches than would normally be expected in an area with the demand for cricket that is present in Rother and Hastings. This leads to a small number of sites being over-capacity, with clubs unable to use non-turf pitches for youth cricket. In line with ECB guidance, the use of non-turf pitches should be limited to junior cricket and training, however the development of high quality non-turf pitches would reduce the wear and tear on the existing grass pitches and improve the overall quality of cricket in the study area. ➤ The shortfall is particularly apparent in Bexhill and Hastings, where users regularly report not being able to secure facilities for Saturday PM match slots during the summer ➤ Team generation rates, calculated using national population growth projections, suggest that there will be negative growth in demand for cricket ➤ Balance figures for 2016 (not including non-turf pitches) - +412 wickets (Rother) and +71 (Hastings) ➤ While the TGR does not identify any projected growth, the Councils have predicted an increase in the demand for women and girls cricket across the study area, with both the Councils and the ECB actively looking to increase the amount of ladies' cricket that is played. ➤ Key priorities for cricket in the area include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Confirming the long term strategy for Bexhill CC in terms of preferred pitch location. ○ Work with Sidley CC regarding their aspirations to return to playing cricket in Bexhill ○ Confirm the long term playing location for Hastings and St Leonards Priory CC, considering the uncertainty surrounding the Horntye Park Sports Complex ○ Providing further capacity at peak Saturday PM match times, to allow users to book facilities more easily, either through more efficient management of match timetables or the provision of additional pitches and squares in Bexhill and Hastings. ○ Assisting the rural clubs with continued development of both playing and ancillary facilities ➤ Users are finding it increasingly difficult to secure matchplay facilities in the areas of Bexhill and Hastings. While cricket is well supplied in the rural parts

of the district, further capacity is required in the more urban areas.

- Increasing the number of opportunities for women and girls to play cricket and improving the 'offer' in order to attract and retain new participants

5 Rugby Union

5.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

5.1.1 The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body responsible for grassroots and elite rugby in England, with the season operating from September to April.

5.1.2 The RFU published its Facility Strategy (2014) for the next four years²⁰. The strategy includes the following relevant objectives and priorities relevant to the PPS:

- The core aims of the RFU are to create effective and efficient facilities, management and governance along with community integration
- Facility priorities include improving changing provision, natural turf pitch quality, AGPs and floodlighting for both matches and training. These affect commercial opportunities within community clubs

5.2 Consultation Overview

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF PARTICIPATION

5.2.1 The demand for rugby in the study area is satisfied by three clubs; Rye Rugby Club, Hastings and Bexhill RFC and St Leonards Cinque Ports Rugby Club. The three clubs operate at differing competitive levels and provide a range of offering, from participation-based sociable rugby to more competitive rugby with higher quality facilities.

KEY ISSUES

5.2.2 Only Rye Rugby Club has a long term self-owned site that they have long term security of use on. Hastings & Bexhill and St Leonards play on education and local authority owned sites respectively and have issues with drainage and maintenance as a result of this.

5.3 Supply

QUANTITY OVERVIEW

5.3.1 There are only three clubs in the study area, however there is additional supply through private and state-owned education bodies and private trusts and charities. The ownership of rugby sites across the study area is shown in Table 38.

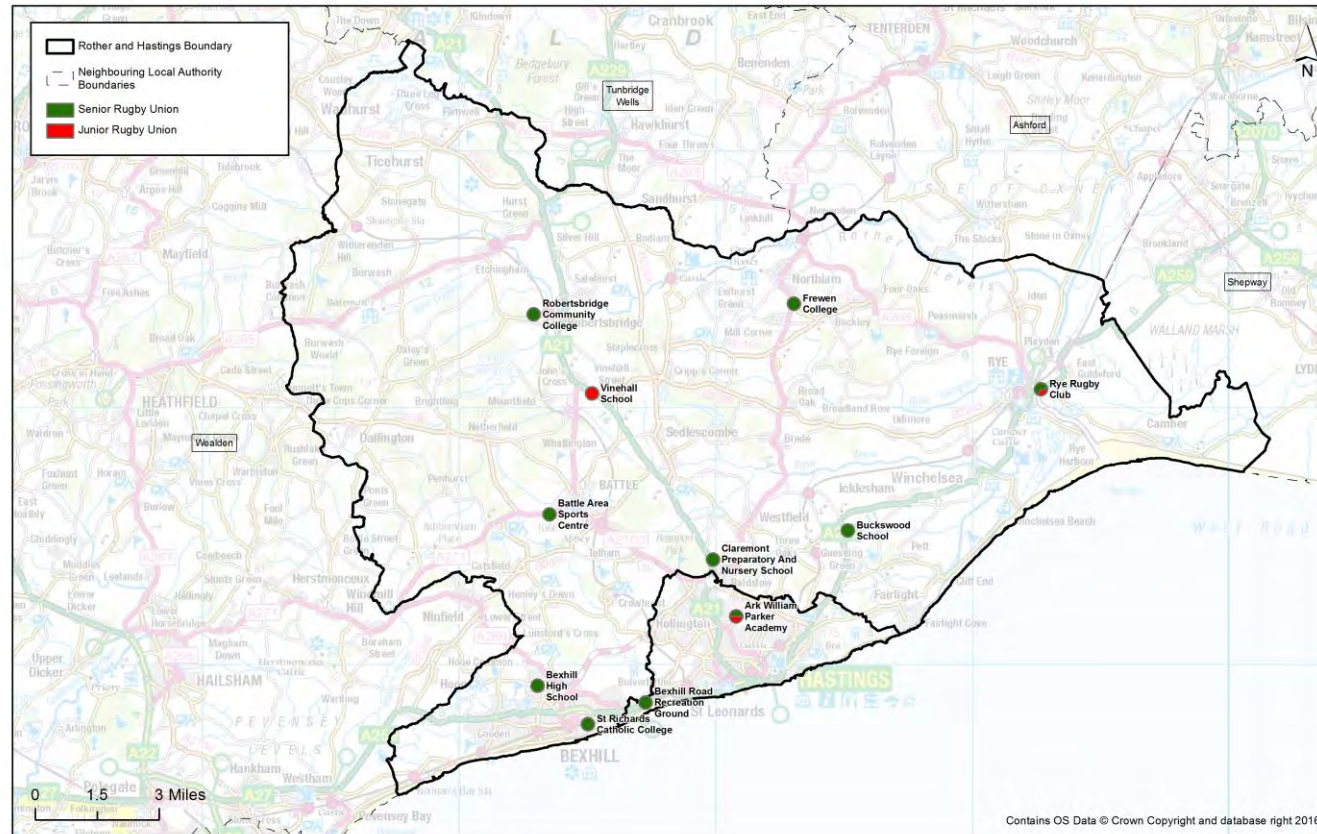
Table 38: Ownership of rugby pitches in Rother and Hastings

Ownership	Number of pitches	
	Senior	Junior / Minis
Education	13	11
Private	0	1
Club	3	3
Local Authority	2	2
Unknown	0	1

²⁰ RFU National Facility Strategy (<http://goo.gl/m6kqms>: 2014)

- 5.3.2 All rugby pitches have been assessed by the Councils using the RFU Site Assessment guidance. This provides pitches with an overall rating based on their maintenance and drainage processes, with the scores for those pitches used by the community summarised in the table below.
- 5.3.3 Further detail on this process can be seen in the Technical Appendix C – Rugby Union Analysis.
- 5.3.4 Map 11 shows the geographic location of the rugby pitches across the study area and illustrates that the current supply is spread across the two local authorities, with all local residents having access to a rugby facility within 20 minutes' drive time (as per early AGP analysis of drive time in the local authority).
- 5.3.5 It should be noted that although there is theoretically rugby supply that satisfies all residents, a number of the sites in the more rural part of the study area are education owned. If only rugby clubs are included in the analysis, the northern part of Rother is likely to be in deficit for rugby clubs, due to Rye Rugby Club and Hastings and Bexhill Rugby Club being located in Rye and Bexhill/Hastings respectively.

Map 11 – Rugby pitch audit in Rother and Hastings



Rugby Union sites by pitch type in Rother and Hastings

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

- 5.3.6 Each site was visited and assessed by the Councils using non-technical assessments as determined by the RFU. The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality analyses two key elements; the maintenance programme and level of drainage.
- 5.3.7 Each is scored and classified in one of three categories. These represent actions required to improve site quality. A breakdown for each of the two scoring elements and three respective categories is provided in the following two tables.

Table 39 – Rugby pitch maintenance quality assessment specifications. Source: RFU PPS Guidance

Category	Overall Quality Rating
MO	Action requires significant improvements to the maintenance programme
M1	Action requires minor improvements to the maintenance programme
M2	Action requires no improvements to the maintenance programme

Table 40 – Rugby pitch drainage quality assessment specifications. Source: RFU PPS Guidance

Category	Overall Quality Rating
DO	Action on pipe draining system is needed on pitch
D1	Action on silt drainage system is needed on pitch
D2	No action is needed on pitch drainage

- 5.3.8 These scores are then combined to provide a match equivalent capacity, as calculated in Table 41 below. Depending on the score of a site, a pitch is assigned a certain carrying capacity which can then be used to calculate the overall capacity of a site.

Table 41 – Match equivalent calculation for rugby pitches. Source: Appendices 4a to 4c – Rugby Football Union²¹

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
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

- 5.3.9 Table 42 summarises the quality assessment results for those sites currently used by the community. Full details of the subsequent carrying capacity allocations of each site by pitch type can be found in Technical Appendix C – Rugby Analysis.

Table 42 – Quality summary by pitch type

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	1	-	-
Natural Adequate (D1)	5	-	-
Pipe Drained (D2)	1	-	-
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	-	-	2

²¹ Sport England PPS Guidance – RFU Appendices (<http://goo.gl/em3wyj>; 2015)

5.3.10 Across all rugby pitches in the study area, the pitch at Bexhill Road Recreation ground was given the poorest rating, with the Ark William Parker academy being rated as the best rugby site across the study area.

5.4 Demand

CURRENT DEMAND

5.4.1 Each of the three main clubs in the area were consulted with as part of the demand gathering process, with the consultation providing the following findings;

Table 43: Summary of demand consultations from rugby clubs in Rother and Hastings

Club	Consultation Summary
Rye Rugby Club	<p>The club's current facility development plans include: new floodlights for training area, new rugby posts on senior pitches, spectator barriers and ground maintenance equipment.</p> <p>In the long term, the club would like a new purpose built club house and a floodlit 4G/3G world rugby approved pitch, to allow all teams to train all year round regardless of the weather, and also encourage women, men and children that dislike getting too muddy.</p> <p>The overall quality of the pitches at their home ground has been rated as standard, with some drainage and waterlogging problems; whilst the changing facilities and showers have been identified as good.</p> <p>"Our vision is to become a multisport venue centred around the rugby club. Our plan is to become the outdoor version of the sports centre, offering multiple sports and different types of rugby (non-contact and contact, competitive and social) for all ages and both genders."</p>
Hastings and Bexhill RFC	<p>The club is based at Ark William Parker which has a range of sporting facilities on site. The H&B Rugby facilities consist of a pavilion (changing, toilets and social area) and 2 pitches. Refurbishing the social area (Summer 2016), providing disability toilet access and lift access to the first floor, enhancing the changing/ shower facilities for Girls/Women's are all priorities within the pavilion. At present the club have to exclude male members from the changing rooms when females are playing at home. Ideally, the club would also like additional floodlights.</p> <p>Pitch enhancement is also a priority. The club state that drainage has deteriorated over the years, but are playable unless there has been very heavy rain. The club are talking to the RFU regarding pitch enhancements and utilising the pitch improvement programme to help develop the standard of the pitches further.</p>
St Leonards Cinque Ports Rugby Club	<p>The club has one adult team who play at Bexhill Road. The club shares a pitch with Hastings Conquerors American Football Club. The club state that the pitch is frequently water logged and drainage is 'a major issue'. The club often use Heathfield as an alternative pitch.</p>

5.4.2 Further detail on the demand consultations and data collection can be seen in Technical Appendix C – Rugby Analysis

FUTURE DEMAND

5.4.3 In order to calculate the future demand for rugby in Rother and Hastings, a Team Generation Rate (TGR) has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a rugby team.

5.4.4 This Team Generation Rate can now be applied to the population projections for the study area to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups. This population projection data has been provided by the Councils and aligns to their core strategy. See note 12 for a more detailed explanation of the process undertaken when calculating the TGR data.

Table 44 – Future demand projections for rugby teams in Rother and Hastings.

	Current popn. Within age group	Current no. Of teams	TGR	Future (2028) popn within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Rother						
Mini/Midi (6-12) - Mixed	4,473	0.7	3.0	4,661	3.1	0.1
Junior Rugby – Male (13-17)	2,188	0.5	1.0	2,140	1.0	0.0
Senior Rugby – Male (18-45)	10,645	0.3	3.0	9,865	2.8	-0.2
Junior Rugby – Female (13-17)	2,188	0	0	2,056	0	0
Senior Rugby – Female (18-45)	11,124	0	0	10,462	0	0
Hastings						
Mini/Midi (6-12) - Mixed	5,100	1.2	6.0	5,217	6.1	0.1
Junior Rugby – Male (13-17)	2,526	2.4	6.0	2,570	6.1	0.1
Senior Rugby – Male (18-45)	14,956	0.4	6.0	13,229	5.3	-0.7
Junior Rugby – Female (13-17)	2,473	0	0	2,525	0	0
Senior Rugby – Female (18-45)	15,466	0	0	14,433	0	0

5.4.5 Table 44 illustrates that the number of projected demand for rugby teams across the study area is likely to stay consistent between 2016 and 2028.

5.4.6 It is important to note that this calculation assumes that clubs, the Councils and the RFU do not improve their marketing or participation schemes over the period and are therefore no more successful than they are now in attracting new players to participate in rugby in the study area. In reality, it is expected that there will be improved channels of digital communication and improved maintenance technology, as well as higher quality ancillary provision. The output of this will be a higher quality and an improved ability to generate demand and convert it into participation.

5.5 Supply and Demand Balance

5.5.1 To calculate whether there is any spare capacity at rugby sites in Rother and Hastings, Table 45 shows the supply and demand figures across the three sites that have community rugby use.

Table 45 – Supply and Demand Balance by Club

Site Name	Pitch type	Quantity	Supply (Capacity)	Demand (matches + training in match equivalents)		Balance (Supply minus demand)
				SNR	JNR	
Ark William Parker Academy (H)	Senior	2	7	5.5	11	-9.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground (R)	Senior	1	0.5	0.5	0	0
Rye Rugby Club (R)	Senior	3	4.5	5	6	-6.5
Total	-	4	12	12	17	-16

5.5.2 As shown, all three sites are over-capacity for rugby, with the negative balance being particularly high for Ark William Parker and Rye Rugby Club. This is particularly significant for Ark William, as the site assessment identified this site as having two GOOD standard pitches, which carry a higher carrying capacity than the majority of amateur rugby pitches.

5.5.3 Both Rye Rugby Club and Bexhill Road Recreation ground suffer from having poorly maintained pitches, which leads to a low carrying capacity due to the amount of time these pitches need to recover from being played on. It should also be noted that in the 2015/16 season, 61% of rugby matches at Bexhill road were cancelled due to unfit pitches. This is a significant proportion of the season and severely limits the ability of the club to grow and develop, due to the uncertainty amongst players and supporters. As cancellation data is not available for the non-council owned pitches, this data is not included as part of the capacity analysis, however it is referenced in the site by site analysis and action plan.

- 5.5.4 Although there are a number of education sites in the study area that provide rugby pitches and facilities, these have not been taken into consideration for the overall balance of rugby in the study area. This is influenced by the RFU national strategy to focus on the provision at purpose built club sites. The RFU believe that this is more likely to assist in retaining players across all age groups.
- 5.5.5 The key output of the supply and demand analysis is that action is required to ensure that rugby can be provided in the study area and that the rugby clubs are able to satisfy the demand from both juniors and adult teams. The site-by-site action plan will define the key steps that should be undertaken to improve the overall picture of provision and pitch stock.

5.6 Strategic Sites for Protection, Enhancement and Provision

- 5.6.1 As shown above, it is recommended that all sites that currently provide rugby for the community area are protected as they have greater demand than supply and are all popular clubs that appeal to a range of player types.

5.6.2 With this recommendation of protection in mind, Table 46 provides further recommendations on potential areas of enhancement for each of the rugby sites that are available for community use.

Table 46 – Rugby sites for enhancement in Rother and Hastings

Site Name	No. Of Pitches	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Score	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Ark William Parker Academy (H)	1 Senior	Secured	2 x D3/M2 (GOOD)	-9.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. This is a high quality educational site that is secured for community use. The pitches are very well maintained by club and ground staff and the site is the home ground of Hastings and Bexhill RFC.
					E	Minor drainage issues were identified at the time of inspection, and this was also raised following consultation with the RFU. The club has worked with the RFU on a pitch improvement project and further investment on maintenance and drainage may be required to address these issues. There is also a need to enhance access and changing facilities at the site, particularly to provide dedicated facilities for female and disabled users.
					PV	Additional training facilities/ floodlit space would allow the club to manage the wear on the two main pitches and reduce drainage and capacity issues during periods of poor weather.
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground (R)	1 Senior	Secured	D1/MO (POOR)	0	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. The site has a single rugby pitch that is used by St Leonards Cinque Ports Rugby Club and Hastings Conquerors American Football Club.
					E	Both clubs have identified the pitch as being of poor quality and subject to drainage problems. The key issue with the rugby pitch is the lack of appropriate ancillary facilities. The timber clubhouse is at the end of its life and needs replacing. Alternative training grounds are also required for both of the clubs, to reduce the wear on the single grass pitch.
					PV	As above, the site requires a new ancillary facility that can be used by the rugby club and American football clubs and generate secondary revenue, as well as providing facilities for supporters.
Bexhill High School (R)	1 Senior	Unsecured	D1/M0 (POOR)	+1.5	PR	This is an education site that is available for community use outside of school hours however there is currently no demand and there is limited scope for community use in the winter due to the lack of floodlights.
					E	The school may look to make a small area available for rugby and American

Site Name	No. Of Pitches	Community Use category	Non-technical Assessment Score	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)
					<p>football training, throughout the weekend and during the week. If funding and planning permission could be agreed, floodlights at the site could allow the pitches to be used for training, providing a revenue for the school and increasing community use.</p>
					<p>PV As above, if planning consent is achievable, then floodlights could turn the school into a value asset for rugby and American football.</p>
Robertsbridge Community College (R)	1 Senior	Unsecured	D1/M0 (POOR)	+1.5	<p>PR This is a one pitch education site that is not currently used by the community. The college is keen to maximise community use of its sports facilities, but there is no demand for use of the rugby pitch by the community at present so it is only used by the students. There are very good changing facilities within the adjacent college building which are available to anyone hiring the pitch.</p>
					<p>E These pitches would require an improved maintenance programme if they were to be used for community rugby use. The college is keen to introduce a more comprehensive maintenance regime if resources allow.</p>
					<p>PV No further provision identified as part of this study.</p>
Rye Rugby Club (New Road) (R)	1 Senior 1 Junior	Secured	3 x D1/M0 (POOR)	-6.5	<p>PR This site should be protected as playing pitches in the local plan. This is the main hub for rugby in Rother, with two current pitches and plans to reinstate a third. but recognises that both its ancillary facilities and pitches will need improvement to accommodate greater use. At present, no sports turf maintenance is carried out other than grass cutting. The club hopes to secure a RFU grant to fund specialist advice in relation to improving the pitches through an enhanced maintenance regime, including tackling areas of compaction.</p>
					<p>E Further support is required to provide expert advice and allow the club to improve their maintenance procedures, as the current process is not sustainable.</p>
					<p>PV No further provision has been identified as part of this study.</p>

5.7 Rugby Summary

5.7.1 Table 47 below provides a short summary of the key findings from the rugby analysis

Table 47 – Summary of Rugby Findings for Rother and Hastings

Rugby Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are three main rugby clubs in Rother and Hastings; Rye RFC, Hastings and Bexhill RFC and St Leonards Cinque Ports RFC ➤ The three key sites that have community use all have deficiency of supply, with Ark William Parker Academy calculated as having the most significant deficit. It should be noted that while the balance for rugby at Bexhill Road is balanced, when American Football is taken into consideration then a deficit is created ➤ The RFU are looking to support all three clubs to improve their facilities and continue to attract new players and social members ➤ Both Rye Rugby Club and Bexhill Road Recreation ground suffer from having poorly maintained pitches, which leads to a low carrying capacity due to the amount of time these pitches need to recover following a match or training session ➤ 61% of rugby matches at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground were cancelled in 2015/16, which significantly limits the ability of St Leonards Cinque Ports RFC ➤ Team generation rates across the study area project a small growth in mini-rugby demand, however this is offset by a projected reduction in demand for senior rugby ➤ The RFU is looking to encourage clubs to be part of the Pitch Improvement Programme. This will provide detailed maintenance and facility development advice, as well as funding for equipment and materials. ➤ An urgent output of the study is the need to support Rye Rugby Club (-6.5) and Hastings and Bexhill RFC (-9.5) to reduce the deficit of pitches at their respective homegrounds. This can be achieved by increasing the quality of existing pitches, increasing the quantity of provision, or a combination of the two. Clubs across the study are would benefit significantly from having access to a 3G AGP facility for training purposes, therefore the secured use by rugby of any new 3G developments in the study area should be explored ➤ If land is available, the Council and the RFU should be looking to secure new pitches for Rugby in the area. New rugby sites should be well located within 15 minute drive time to Bexhill and/or Hastings. There should also be the option to transfer ownership of the asset to the rugby club if the club is willing. Any new site that is developed for rugby and maintained by the local authority will need to have a clear agreement stating the required level of maintenance and responsibilities of each party in order to maintain the

quality of the grass pitches and the ancillary facilities

- There has been no further requirement for new rugby provision in the rural areas of the local authority.

6 Hockey

6.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

- 6.1.1 In order to understand the overall objectives and priorities of the England Hockey Board (EHB), an analysis of key recent strategies and documentation has been undertaken and summarised below.

THE NATIONAL HOCKEY FACILITY STRATEGY – THE RIGHT FACILITIES IN THE RIGHT PLACES (2012).

Vision: For every hockey player 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

- 6.1.2 The club market for hockey is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result, only a few occasional teams lie outside of the EH affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.
- 6.1.3 The EHB has the ambition of growing participation by 10,000 adults and 32,500 children. To enable this the following three objectives have been highlighted;
- **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision.** EH currently has over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities). We 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 consolidation hockey provision in a local area where appropriate. Research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered at one site.

6.2 Consultation Overview

6.2.1 This section summarises the consultations with England Hockey and key facility providers for hockey

ENGLAND HOCKEY

6.2.2 Consultation with England Hockey (EH) has indicated that Rother and Hastings has one competitive hockey club; South Saxons Hockey Club, which is located at Horntye Park Sports Complex. There are no hockey clubs or hockey specific facilities located in the Rother district.

6.2.3 The key priority for England Hockey is to ensure that South Saxons HC has long term security over their home ground and a fit-for-purpose facility for the level of competitive hockey that is played throughout the club.

6.3 Supply

6.3.1 Table 48 shows the AGP facilities that are currently available for community use and are of a suitable size for competitive hockey to be played.

Table 48 – Quantity overview for sand-based AGP's in Rother and Hastings

Site name	AGP type	Weekday hours available	Saturday match slots available	Sunday match slots available
Horntye Park Sports Complex	Sand dressed	24.8	10	10

6.3.2 There are additional full sized sand-based AGP's at Bexhill College Sports Centre, Bexhill High School and Vinehall School however these are either not suitable for hockey or not of an adequate size for competitive hockey use.

TENURE AND MANAGEMENT

6.3.3 The Horntye complex is currently owned and managed by a trust. The trustees are currently looking at an alternative business model as the site is not financially sustainable for the long term.

6.4 Demand

CURRENT DEMAND

6.4.1 There is only one hockey club in Rother and Hastings, which plays a range of competitive hockey through junior and adult teams.

6.4.2 The team profile and demand for pitches in the district is summarised in Table 49 and 50 below.

Table 49 – Team profile for Hockey in Rother and Hastings

Club Name	Adult Teams			Juniors	Total
	Senior Men	Senior Women	Mixed		
South Saxons Hockey Club	4	2	0	3	9

Table 50 – Match demand for hockey in Rother and Hastings

	Number of teams	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
		Competitive Hours Required		
Senior teams (16-65)	6	0	7	0
Junior teams (11-15)	3	0	0	2
	Number of teams	Training Hours Required		
Senior teams (16-65)	6	5	0	0
Junior teams (11-15)	3	0	0	1.5

6.4.3 Table 49 and 50 indicate that with the current level of demand for hockey in Rother and Hastings, a single pitch AGP site is be able to satisfy the demand for all of the local residents that would like to play hockey.

FUTURE DEMAND

6.4.4 In order to calculate the future demand for Hockey in the study area, a Team Generation Rate (TGR) has been calculated using the current number of teams and the current population. This measure allows us to calculate what size of population (for various age groups) will typically cause enough demand for a hockey team.

6.4.5 This Team Generation Rate can now be applied to the population projections for the study area to confirm how population growth or reduction will affect the demand for teams in each of the key age groups. This population projection data has been provided by the Councils and aligns to their core strategy. Please see note 12 for an explanation of the process for calculating the Team Generation Rates in the table below.

Table 51 – Future demand projections for hockey teams in Rother and Hastings.

Age group	Current popn. Within age group	Current no. of teams	TGR	Estimated future population for Rother and Hastings	Predicted future number of teams	Additional provision needed to accommodate new teams
Adult – M (16-45)	15,965	4.0	0.3	14,231	3.6	-0.4
Adult – F (16-45)	16,485	2.0	0.1	15,425	1.9	-0.1
Jnr (B)	2,531	2.0	0.8	2,635	2.1	0.1
Jnr (G)	2,399	1.0	0.4	2,569	1.1	0.1

6.4.6 Table 51 illustrates that, in line with population projections for 2028, a small reduction in demand for adult hockey teams will be realised. This is driven by the projected reduction in population of the key 15-29 demographics, across both Local Authorities. For junior hockey, a minor increase is projected, however this is unlikely to be enough to generate demand for an entire team.

6.4.7 The detailed analysis of Team Generation Rates can be seen in Technical Appendix D - Rother and Hastings PPS TGR Calculations.

6.4.8 It is important to note that this calculation assumes that clubs, the Councils and England Hockey do not improve their marketing or participation schemes over the period and are therefore no more successful than they are now in attracting new players to participate in hockey in Rother and Hastings. In reality, it is expected that there will be improved channels of digital communication and improved maintenance technology, as well as higher quality ancillary provision. The output of this will be a higher quality and an improved ability to generate demand and convert it into participation.

6.4.9 It is also key to compare these findings with the South Saxons HC consultation. The Club has identified significant latent demand, which could be realised if facility capacity was increased. The Action Plan and future planning will take this projected demand into account, while as well as considering the TGR calculations for a longer term view.

6.5 Supply and Demand Balance

6.5.1 To calculate whether there is any spare capacity at hockey sites in the study area, Table 52 shows the supply and demand figures for the single site that is used for community use hockey

Table 52 – Supply and demand balance for hockey in Rother and Hastings

Site name	Supply (Hours)			Demand (Hours required – for training and matches)			Balance (Hours)		
	Weekday	Sat	Sun	Weekday	Sat	Sun	Weekday	Sat	Sun
Horntye Park Sports Complex	24.8	10	10	5 (+11 Football training)	7	1.5	+8.8	+3	+8.5

6.5.2 Table 52 illustrates that when hockey demand and supply is analysed alongside football training, there is a small surplus of supply for peak midweek times at the Horntye Park Sports Complex. At weekends, when the AGP is used primarily for hockey, there is a small surplus on a Saturday and a larger surplus on a Sunday, however this calculation is made using the assumption that there are 10 hours per day available for competitive hockey at weekends.

SPORT ENGLAND FACILITY PLANNING MODEL

6.5.3 In order to evaluate the strategic need for artificial grass pitch provision in Rother and Hastings, Sport England has undertaken a National Run of the Facility Planning Model²².

6.5.4 The report provides a strategic assessment of the current level of provision for Artificial Grass Pitches in Hastings and Rother. The assessment uses Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model and the data from National Facilities Audit run as of January 2015.

²² Hastings and Rother AGP FPM (Sport England: 2015)

6.5.5 The report cites that although the population of Hastings is less than the population of Rother, the demand for AGP's in the peak period is higher in Hastings. This is a result of the younger demographic breakdown of the population in Hastings which will create greater demand for AGPs.

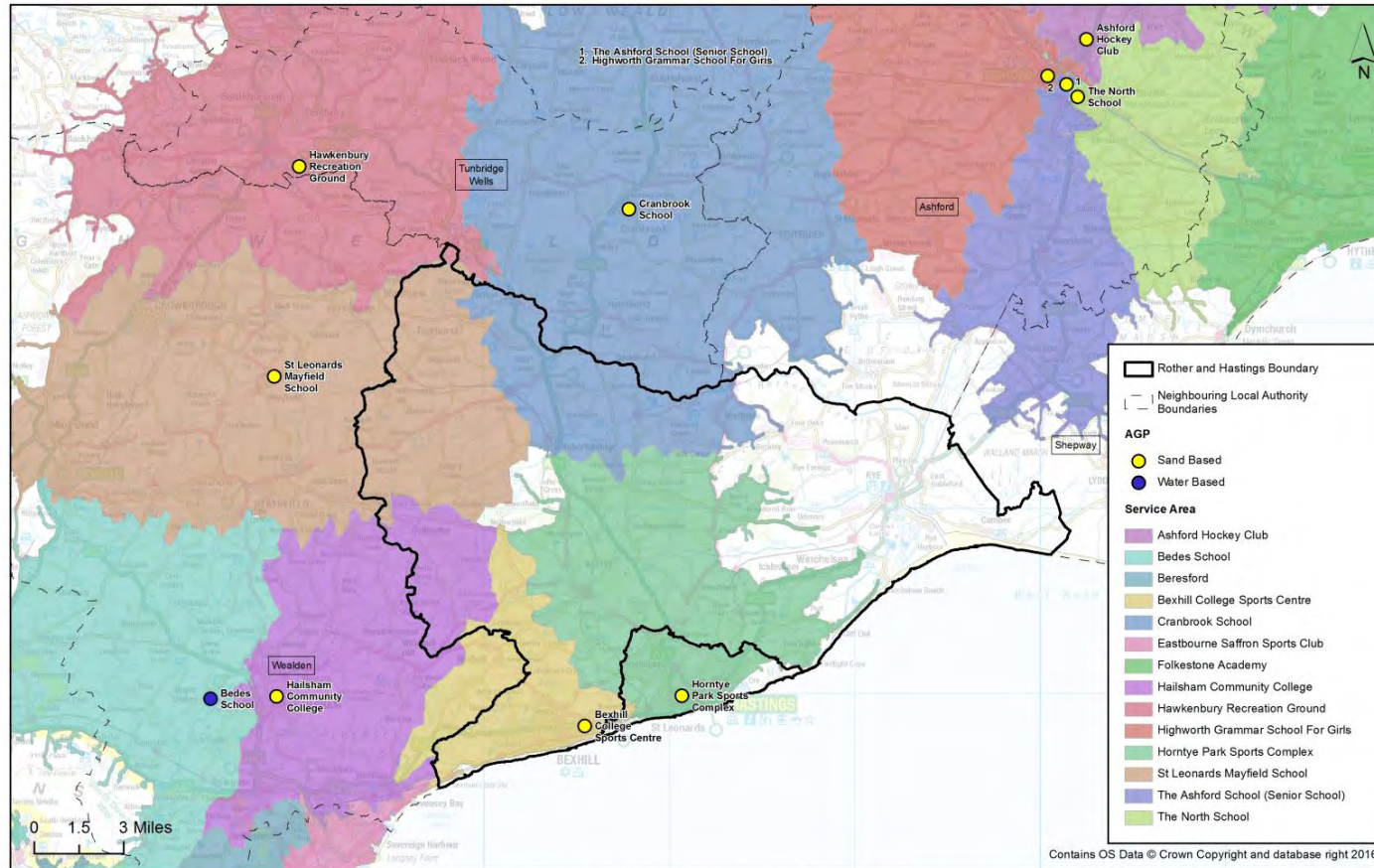
6.5.6 The FPM report identifies the following key additional findings;

- The % of the population without access to a car is much greater in Hastings than Rother and is also higher than the national average.
- Many residents in Rother live outside the catchment area of their closest AGP.
- Both districts have a relatively high levels of exported demand.
- 494 visits per week in Hastings are unmet in the peak period. 541 visits per week in Rother are unmet in the peak period. The main reason for unmet demand in Hastings and Rother is the fact there is insufficient capacity at existing AGPs to cater for demand.
- The joint unmet demand from both districts starts to justify the need for another AGP. This is a crude assumption with no spatial analysis. It assumes all unmet demand is in the same location. In reality the unmet demand is spread across both districts and a new AGP regardless of location could not be assumed to meet all unmet demand because some residents would remain outside its catchment.
- The highest levels of unmet demand in Hastings is located in Broomgrove, Hollington and St Leonards. The levels of unmet demand are spread across Rother but the highest levels of unmet demand in Rother are in Bexhill and Rye. The level of unmet demand in both Hastings and Rother is similar to the level of unmet demand in Eastbourne, Wealden and Ashford.
- The AGPs in Hastings do not attract many people from outside Hastings according to the model. The AGPs in Hastings satisfy 67 VPWPP (Visits per week in the peak period) from residents outside Hastings and 873 VPWPP from residents within Hastings.
- The FPM shows there is demand for additional capacity at existing AGPs and begins to demonstrate demand for additional AGP provision to serve both Rother and Hastings.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE – SPATIAL ANALYSIS

6.5.7 Map 12 overleaf provides a spatial analysis of full size sand based AGP's in the study area in order to assess whether the current provision of 'strategic' hockey facilities meet the needs of the local residents. These maps also include full size AGP's from neighbouring local authorities, as there is a significant potential export of demand if the facilities in neighbouring local authorities are an attractive offer for residents. The coloured areas show the unique catchment area of each of the AGP's, which indicates the closest AGP, within 20-minute drive time, for local residents.

Map 12 – Spatial analysis and cross –boundary demand for sand-based AGP’s in Rother and Hastings. Apart from R&H and Ashford, all AGP data from Active Places Power (Sport England)



Full size sand and water based AGP sites service areas in Rother and Hastings and neighbouring local authorities (up to 20 minute rural drive time)

Map 12 illustrates that, due to the only full sized sand-based AGP facilities being located in Hastings, a significant proportion of the local residents are not serviced with an AGP facility from within Rother and Hastings

The map illustrates that the eastern side of the study area, including Rye, Iden and parts of Winchelsea, are not serviced (within 20-minute drive time) by a full sized sand-based AGP.

6.6 Strategic sites for Protection, Enhancement and Provision

- 6.6.1 Based on the evidence collated in the PPS for hockey pitch provision, it can be concluded that Horntye Park Sports Complex is the only site where competitive hockey is played.
- 6.6.2 Table 53 provides a justification for how the single Hockey site should be Protected, Enhanced or Protected.

Table 53 – Site by Site Analysis for Hockey

Site Name	Pitch Type and Size	Pitch assessment score	Balance (Total Hrs)	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)
Horntye Park Sports Complex	Sand-dressed (100m x 60m)	64 - Standard	+8.8 for weekdays +11.5 for weekend	PR This site should be protected as an AGP in the Local Plan. This is the only site where competitive hockey is provided for in Rother and Hastings.
				E The carpet is nearing the end of its life and requires replacing within the next year.
				PV The club has stated that if additional capacity was available on a Saturday for more match play, the club would potentially host 5 additional teams.

- 6.6.3 The summary box below shows the key findings for hockey for the Rother and Hastings PPS

Table 54 – Hockey summary box for Rother and Hastings

Hockey Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ South Saxons Hockey Club is the only club in Rother and Hastings, running 9 teams across senior men, women and juniors ➤ Hockey is played at Horntye Park Sports Complex, where the sand-based surface was identified as poor and requiring replacement. ➤ With the on-going uncertainty over the future of Horntye Park Sports Complex, it is important that provision for hockey in the study area is protected and South Saxons are able to use a facility that is fit for purpose and continues to allow the club to grow the amount of hockey played in the study area ➤ South Saxons have identified latent demand for hockey, which could be addressed if there was further capacity for additional Saturday match play. This is likely to be addressed by the recommendation to build 3G facilities elsewhere in the study area, as casual use and small sided commercial football, played both at the weekend and during peak weekdays, could be displaced elsewhere, therefore providing greater capacity for hockey usage.

7 Tennis

7.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

7.1.1 Tennis in the UK is governed by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), which provides coaching and participation support to local authorities

7.1.2 The LTA has previously released a three year Strategic Plan for British Tennis (2015 – 2018)²³, which identified the following headlines

- **Mission:** Get more people playing tennis more often. Deliver great services to clubs
- **Purpose: To enrich lives through tennis.** Build partnerships in the community by developing strong local park and other community tennis venue partnerships, as well as targeted investment in ‘welcoming’ park facilities for people to socialise and play
- **Values: Teamwork, Integrity, Passion and Excellence.** Enhance the tennis offer in education by further strengthening the schools offer and maximising playing opportunities.

7.1.3 There is currently a stock of approximately 23,000 courts across the country, with 15,000 in traditional clubs and 8,000 in local authority sites. The objective of this strategy will primarily be to recommend the improvements to local authority sites, which can then be made accessible to local residents, with the overall objective of increasing participation.

7.2 LTA Consultation

7.2.1 In order to understand the priorities for the LTA in Rother and Hastings, as well as in the rest of the South East, a consultation was undertaken with Kate Wilson, LTA Regional Participation Manager for the South East, during which the following priorities were highlighted;

- There is latent demand for tennis across the UK and within this latent demand there is a number of people that want to play in an informal, non club-centric environment
- Floodlighting is a key facility development because it extends the playability of current courts without investing in new courts. Floodlighting also helps to bring in income throughout the year, which helps with financial sustainability
- The LTA has identified a deficit of indoor tennis across the study area
- The LTA has a ‘Growing the Game’ investment fund that is available for all venues to apply for. The LTA will prioritise funding towards schemes that demonstrate sustainable tennis growth via robust business plans and cashflow forecasting, that have a good level of partnership funding and have all the required legal elements ie security of tenure, planning

²³ British Tennis Strategic Plan - <https://goo.gl/Ex0cck> (LTA: March 2015)

permission. The LTA will fund up to 75% of projects which can take on loan funding and 50% for projects that are unable to take on loan funding

- The LTA has an Easy Access Loan fund that is available for all venues to apply for, with the aim of retaining existing participation rates as a minimum. The applicant must provide 50% of the total project cost and projects will be assessed on their ability to cover loan repayments in addition to the required sinking funds.

7.3 Supply

7.3.1 Table 55 summarises the tennis courts assessed as part of the project across Rother and Hastings. The letter in brackets notes in which local authority the courts are located.

Table 55 – Tennis site summary in Rother and Hastings

Tennis Sites in Rother and Hastings	No. of Tennis courts	Community Use On Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership
Alexandra Park (H)	6	Available	Secured	HBC
Amherst Tennis Club (H)	7	Not Available	Secured	Amherst LTC
The Green Tennis Club (H)	9	Not Available	Secured	The Green LTC
Falaise Road (H)	6	Not available (not used due to unsafe court condition)	Secured	HBC
Vinehall School (R)	6	Available	Secured	Vinehall School
Westfield Tennis Courts (R)	2	Available	Secured	Westfield Parish Council
Riverside Recreation Ground Tennis Court (R)	1	Available	Secured	Sedlescombe Parish Council
Sedlescombe Golf Club (R)	2	Available	Secured	Sedlescombe Golf Club
Beckley Recreation Ground (R)	2	Available	Secured	Beckley Parish Council
Egerton Park (R)	8	Available	Secured	Rother District Council
Little Common Rec (R)	2	Available	Unsecured	Rother District Council
Cooden Beach Tennis Club (R)	6	Available	Secured	Cooden Beach Tennis Club
Woodfield Rec Grd Tennis Court (R)	1	Available	Secured	Fairlight Parish Council
Pett Rec Tennis Court (R)	1	Available	Secured	Pett Parish Council
Buckwood School (R)	2	Not Available	Unsecured	Buckwood School
Swan Meadow Tennis Courts (R)	2	Available	Secured	Burwash Common PFA
Claremont School (R)	1	Not Available	Unsecured	Claremont School
Claverham College (R)	3	Not Available	Unsecured	Claverham College (ESCC)

Tennis Sites in Rother and Hastings	No. of Tennis courts	Community Use On Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership
Crowhurst Rec Grd (R)	1	Available	Secured	Crowhurst Parish Council
Bexhill College (R)	3	Not Available	Unsecured	Bexhill College
Bexhill High Academy (R)	1	Not Available	Unsecured	Bexhill High Academy (ESCC)
North Trade Road Recreation Ground (R)	2	Available	Secured	Battle Town Council
Robertsbridge Community College (R)	2	Not Available	Unsecured	Robertsbridge Community College (ESCC)
Rye Lawn Tennis Club (R)	11	Available	Secured	Rother Meads Tennis and Games Club
Frewen College (R)	1	Not Available	Unsecured	Frewen College
Bricklehurst School (R)	1	Not Available	Unsecured	Bricklehurst School

7.3.2 As part of the PPS project, all of the above courts were assessed by the Councils, using a quality assessment framework agreed with the LTA. Table 56 below provides a summary of these assessments and illustrates the quality of tennis provision across Rother and Hastings.

Table 56 – Tennis site summary in Rother and Hastings

Area	Number of Tennis Courts	Available for community use	Average Court Score	Average % Rating
Rother District	61	46	39.1	74%
Hastings Borough	28	12 (6*)	43	78%

*Number in bracket shows courts at Falaise Road, which are not currently in use due to an unsafe surface.

7.3.3 Table 56 illustrates that although there are a greater number of tennis courts across Rother, the average quality of courts is largely similar across the study area.

7.3.4 Further detail of the supply assessment can be seen in Technical Appendix C – Tennis Analysis.

7.4 Demand

7.4.1 In order to assess the demand for tennis across the study area, key tennis clubs across the study area have been consulted with. This will provide an idea of the trend for tennis in the study area, which can also be cross-checked with Sport England's active people data for the study area.

7.4.2 Table 57 below provides a summary of tennis clubs that have responded to the PPS survey and a summary of their comments. The letter in brackets notes which local authority the clubs are located in.

Table 57 – Key comments from clubs across Rother and Hastings

Club	Members	Consultation Summary
The Green Tennis Club (H)	150+	<p>Majority of adult members, but also some children, youth and seniors – coming mainly from the immediate vicinity, as well as Hastings and St Leonards.</p> <p>Their Junior Coach leaving caused a major decrease in junior membership over recent years, but the club are now reinstating their junior section and expecting a growth of 40-50 members within the next 3 years.</p> <p>Fairly satisfied with their facilities, but have identified the following 4 priority areas for investment in order to allow further use: Floodlights, more all-weather courts, maintenance of playing surfaces, finish on-going works to improve car park</p>
Amherst Tennis Club (H)	175+	<p>Biggest tennis club in the area with approximately 175 members accessing the courts and facilities at Amherst Tennis Club for more than 12 hours per week. Most members travel to this facility by car and come from the Hastings and Rother areas.</p> <p>Club has seen an increase in their number of members over the last three years due to the quality of their facilities and expect further growth (of at least 20%) in the near future too.</p> <p>In order to be able to accommodate this planned growth, club will need 10 more hours of court time per week, which could be provided by increasing the number of floodlit courts.</p> <p>Club are very happy with the quality of their facility and would definitely recommend it to other clubs, but identified that cost of rent charged by council as substantial when compared to similar ones in surrounding areas.</p>
Bexhill Tennis Club (R)	100+	<p>The club uses Egerton Park as their preferred facility for training and competition. About 75% of active members fall into the 'Senior (60+)' category. They are happy with the facilities and accessibility, but not satisfied with cleanliness, toilet conditions and general maintenance; water not draining out and accumulating in some of the court surfaces. A third court available to the club throughout the summer would be advantageous.</p>
Burwash Tennis Club (R)	85+	<p>The club uses Swan Meadow Tennis Centre and has an age diverse membership group, with almost 24% children, 24% youth, 35% adult and 17% senior. Club is quite satisfied with the facility with the exception of disabled access which appears to need a lot of improvement. Court surfaces need to be maintained for enjoyment and safety and new nets would be good too.</p>
Cooden Beach Tennis Club (R)	290+	<p>The club uses their own private courts and have membership mostly in the 'Adult' and 'Senior' categories with no increase in membership in the past 3 years. Club ratings reflect satisfaction with the facility overall. There might be a bit of room for improvement when it comes to the childcare facility. Maintenance is their investment priority, since keeping up the playing facilities in good conditions is expensive and requires them to prepare early and budget in advance. Might not need support to achieve their aspirations.</p>

7.4.3 The level of demand for tennis in Rother and Hastings can also be assessed using Sport England's Active People Tool²⁴ to identify trends in participation.

²⁴ Sport England Active People Tool - <http://activepeople.sportengland.org> (Sport England (2016))

- 7.4.4 Table 58 below shows the trend for Tennis over the past 4 Active People periods (APS5 to APS10), both for Sussex and nationally. Due to the sample size available, it is not possible to include the figures from Rother and Hastings as the assessment would not be statistically robust.

Table 58 – Trends for tennis demand, measured by participation (1x30min)

Geographical Area	Time Period (1x30min session per week)				
	2011/12 (APS6)	2012/13 (APS7)	2013/14 (APS8)	2014/15 (APS9)	2015/16 (APS10)
Sussex	1.61%	1.28%	1.24%	1.82%	1.69%
England	1.03%	0.94%	0.89%	1.02%	0.98%

- 7.4.5 Table 58 illustrates that compared to the national average, tennis participation in Sussex is high, with a growth in popularity indicated by the APS10 results.
- 7.4.6 Table 59 below analysis the latent demand for Tennis in the same geographical areas. This table shows the proportion of the population that would like to play more tennis if the opportunity was available.

Table 59 – Trends for tennis latent demand

Geographical Area	Time Period (Total Latent Demand)				
	2011/12 (APS6)	2012/13 (APS7)	2013/14 (APS8)	2014/15 (APS9)	2015/16 (APS10)
Sussex	1.69%	1.94%	1.68%	*	*
England	1.56%	1.96%	1.61%	1.32%	1.26%

*Data unavailable; question not asked or insufficient sample size

- 7.4.7 Table 59 shows that latent demand for tennis is relatively consistent across Sussex and England, indicating that if the offer is appropriate for new participants, overall participation in tennis has the potential to rise significantly.
- 7.4.8 The supply and demand analysis will assess whether the study area currently has the facility provision available to satisfy this latent demand and if not, which facilities need to be improved in order to increase capacity.

7.5 Supply and Demand Analysis

- 7.5.1 Following consultation with the LTA and an analysis of the amount of capacity for tennis in Rother, there appears to be sufficient capacity in the study area to satisfy the demand for tennis.
- 7.5.2 To verify this analysis, Sport England's Active People Tool has been used to assess the level of latent demand for tennis in the study area. As shown in Table 60 below, the level of projected latent demand for tennis in Sussex has been applied to the population of the study area to show the total amount of estimated latent demand in each of the local authorities. It should be noted that the latent demand figure from APS8 has been used as data is not available for APS9 or APS10. Population figures have been used for all ages between 15 and 69 as these are likely to be the age groups that are able to play tennis.

Table 60 – Estimated latent demand for Tennis in Rother and Hastings

District	Latent Demand (APS8)	Population ²⁵ (15 – 69)	Projected latent demand (hours per week)	No. of courts (available to community)	Additional demand per court (hours per week)
Rother	1.68%	57,744	970	46	23
Hastings	1.68%	63,081	1,060	12	81

- 7.5.3 Table 60 illustrates that there is a significant level of projected latent demand for tennis in Rother, however it should be noted that this assessment uses an extensive age range, including residents up to age 69. The population also only considers residents older than age 15 as the Active Places figures are based on age 16+ so this is the closest possible data set to make the comparison consistent.
- 7.5.4 It is also key to understand that this analysis assumes that all those residents who have indicated latent demand for tennis would actually participate if the offer was attractive. There are number of other barriers to entry, including cost of participation and ease of transport, which should be considered before accurately projecting the number of potential tennis participants.
- 7.5.5 Notwithstanding the above, this analysis indicates that although the projected level of demand for tennis in Rother is likely to be able to be absorbed by the extensive network of clubs and courts in the District, the level supply in Hastings is unlikely to be sufficient for the projected demand.
- 7.5.6 This conclusion will be reflected in the Action Plan and is likely to lead to the recommendation to increase the capacity of publicly accessible courts, especially in Hastings, through further investment and development of new facilities.

SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS AND SUMMARY

- 7.5.7 In order to work with the LTA to continue the development of tennis in Rother and Hastings, continued development of facilities and access is required. The detailed recommendations on how the Councils and the NGB's should look to support this will be included in the Action Plan section of this report.
- 7.5.8 The site by site analysis shown in Table 61 below provides more detail on the justification for facility improvement for tennis facilities in the study area. It should be noted that only sites owned by the local authority or parish councils will be assessed in this analysis as these are the sites that the local authority has the greatest ability to influence and develop. Where different courts on the same site have been rated differently, the highest score has been used in the site rating column.

²⁵ Rother and Hastings Population Projections for 2016 - (Rother District Council: 2016)

Table 61 – Site by site analysis for council owned tennis sites Rother and Hastings

Site Name	Site Rating	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Alexandra Park (H)	67%	PR	This site should be protected as tennis courts in the Local Plan. This is the largest local authority owned site in the study area (Falaise Road has more courts but is not currently operational) and is a potential development site for the LTA.
		E	This site would benefit from floodlights and a refurbishment of nets, fencing and court surfaces.
		PV	As above, the site would benefit from new floodlights on a proportion of the courts, to increase the playability of the facility, especially during the winter.
Beckley Recreation Ground (R)	42%	PR	This site should be protected as tennis courts in the Local Plan. This is a 2 court site that was scored poorly on inspection.
		E	The site needs significant work, including court resurfacing and new nets.
		PV	As above, this site requires new nets.
Crowhurst Rec Ground (R)	71%	PR	This site should be protected as tennis courts in the Local Plan. This is a single court site that is of adequate quality.
		E	No further enhancement of the courts has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Egerton Park (R)	75%	PR	This site should be protected as tennis courts in the Local Plan. This is a large local authority owned site that scored well during site assessments.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Falaise Road (R)	45%	PR	This site should be protected as tennis courts in the Local Plan. This is a large local authority owned site however it is not currently in use due to the poor quality of the playing facilities.
		E	The site requires refurbishment, particularly for the court surface, fencing and the nets, before it can be used by the public.
		PV	The courts would benefit from floodlighting, however this is unlikely to be prioritised unless the basic refurbishment can be undertaken and demand for the courts can be demonstrated.
Little Common Rec (R)	45%	PR	This is a two court site that scored poorly during assessment due to condition and location. The significant expenditure needed to improve and maintain both courts cannot be justified given the low level of usage. It is recommended that only one of these courts be retained for tennis in the short term and the other be re-designated as open space or alternative sporting provision.

Site Name	Site Rating	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
North Trade Road Rec Ground (R)	75%	PR	This site should be protected as tennis courts in the Local Plan. This is a two court site that scored well during assessment.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Pett Rec Tennis Court (R)	78%	PR	This site should be protected as tennis courts in the Local Plan. This is a single court site that scored well during assessment.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Swan Meadow Tennis Courts (R)	93%	PR	This site should be protected as tennis courts in the Local Plan. This is a two court site that scored well during assessment.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Westfield Tennis Courts (R)	82%	PR	This site should be protected as tennis courts in the Local Plan. This is a two court site that scored well during assessment.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.

7.5.9 The summary box below shows the key findings for tennis for the Rother and Hastings PPS

Table 53 – Tennis summary box for Rother and Hastings

Tennis Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tennis is played across Rother and Hastings, with supply provided by a combination of membership-based clubs and local authority owned public courts ➤ The general quality of tennis supply was deemed to be marginally higher in Hastings (78% compared to 74%), however there is significantly more supply in Rother due to the difference in size and large amount of rural areas serviced by their own courts ➤ The Councils own and manage a number of key facilities, such as Alexandra Park, Falaise Road and Egerton Park ➤ Following consultation, the LTA has stated that it is looking to partner with

local authorities in park court redevelopment projects, and would like to work with the Councils to identify sites where this would lead to the greatest growth in participation.

- Although latent demand is identified when using the Sport England Active People Tool, following consultations it can be concluded that additional courts are not required to meet capacity. The Councils and the LTA should instead prioritise the improvement of quality for existing sites.
- The LTA have identified a deficit of indoor tennis facilities in the study area

8 Stoolball

8.1.1 Stoolball in England is governed by Stoolball England, which provides participation support to local authorities and stoolball clubs across the UK but primarily in the South-east of the country.

8.1.2 Stoolball England last released a national strategy in 2012, with the following vision identified as part of the strategy;

‘We want to see stoolball played to a high standard with a consistent interpretation of the rules, increasing in strength in south-east England and expanding its reach to other regions of the country’

8.1.3 In Sussex, which has the highest proportion of Stoolball participants, there are seven competitive ladies’ leagues, with mixed stoolball largely centred in the Hailsham, Eastbourne and Lewes areas of Sussex.

8.1.4 Stoolball is now moving forward, with new clubs emerging in Sussex, Kent and Surrey and matches being played not only during weekday evenings but also at the weekends when clubs organise fundraising tournaments.²⁶

8.1.5 Stoolball in Rother and Hastings is played at cricket facilities, with clubs utilising the high quality outfield and ancillary facilities. On occasion the boundary markers are also used, as these are required as part of the standard stoolball pitch.

8.2 Supply

8.2.1 Table 62 summarises the stoolball facilities assessed as part of the project across the study area. The letter in brackets notes which local authority the facilities are located in.

Table 62 – Stoolball site summary in Rother and Hastings

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for stoolball	Community Use On Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Outfield Score	Overall Rating
Ark William Parker Academy (H)	Available	Secured	Education	100.00%	Good
Ashburnham	Available	Secured	Trust	86.67%	Standard

²⁶ The history and future of stoolball (Sport and Recreation Alliance: 2015)

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for stoolball	Community Use On Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Outfield Score	Overall Rating
Recreation Ground (R)					
Battle Area Sports Centre (R)	Available	Secured	Education	100.00%	Good
Burwash Common Cricket Club (R)	Available	Secured	Trust	80.00%	Good
Catsfield Playing Field (R)	Available	Secured	Parish Council	63.33%	Good
Crowhurst Recreation Ground (R)	Available	Secured	Parish Council	70.00%	Standard
Icklesham Recreation Ground (R)	Available	Secured	Parish Council	63.33%	Standard
King George V Playing Fields(R)	Available	Secured	Parish Council	86.67%	Standard
Little Common Recreation Ground (R)	Available	Secured	Local Authority	53.33%	Good
Pett Recreation Ground (R)	Available	Secured	Parish Council	56.67%	Standard
Staplecross Recreation Ground (R)	Available	Secured	Parish Council	86.70%	Standard
Swan Meadow Playing Field (R)	Available	Secured	Trust	73.33%	Standard
The Clappers (R)	Available	Secured	Unknown	100.00%	Standard

8.3 Demand

8.3.1 In order to assess the demand for stoolball across the study area, stoolball clubs across the study area have been consulted with. Stoolball data is not currently collected as part of Sport England’s Active People Survey and therefore it is not possible to use data from this source, as has been done in other parts of this study. It is therefore key to understand the priorities for local clubs, as well as Stoolball England, who have had a representative on the PPS Steering Group throughout the project.

8.3.2 Table 63 below provides a summary of the top 6 largest stoolball clubs that have responded to the PPS survey and a summary of their comments. The letter in brackets notes which local authority the clubs are located in. Further detail in relation to these consultations can be seen in Technical Appendix C – Stoolball Analysis

Table 63 – Key comments from clubs across Rother and Hastings

Club	Members	Consultation Summary
The Original Civil Service Stoolball Team (H)	25+	4 youth, 16 adult and 5 senior members coming from the areas of Hastings St Leonards, Bexhill and Rye. Very happy with the facilities at Ark William Parker Academy (which they access from 1 to 4 hours per week).
Scorpion Stoolball Team (R)	25+	Currently using the cricket pitches at Battle Area Sports Centre, which they access from 1 to 4 hours per week and they are very unlikely to recommend. Projected growth in membership of approximately 25% for the next 3 years (driven by the sociability of club and

Club	Members	Consultation Summary
		an increased awareness), which will generate a need for increased parking, improved facilities for spectators, improved ground and more and better equipment
Catsfield Stoolball Club (and mixed) (R)	30+	31 members in total, with a recent increase as a consequence of trends in demand for sport (increased interest in this village sport).
Icklesham Stoolball Club – Ladies and mixed (R)	30+	A current total of 31 members (25 adults, 3 youth, 2 children and 1 senior) coming from the Hastings and Icklesham areas. The club have seen a decrease in their membership due a lack of participant’s available leisure time and are not expecting any increase for the near future.
Pett Stoolball Club (R)	30+	Currently using the cricket pitches at Pett Recreation Ground, where most of their 29 members travel to by car from the Hastings and Pett areas.
Robertsbridge Stoolball Club (R)	25+	26 current members, accessing the facilities at The Clappers from 5 to 8 hours per week, where they are generally satisfied, but have identified a need for improvement in maintenance, cleanliness, value for money and ease of booking.
United Friends Stoolball Club	20+	Over 20 members playing at Catsfield Playing Field, with plans to grow the club and improve facilities.

8.4 Supply and Demand Analysis

- 8.4.1 Following consultation with Stoolball England and an analysis of the amount of capacity for stoolball in the study area, there appears to be sufficient capacity in the study area to satisfy the demand for stoolball.
- 8.4.2 To illustrate this point further, a detailed analysis of the consultation responses shows that of the 14 clubs that were consulted, only 2 clubs projected a growth in membership over the next 2-3 years, with 3 clubs projecting a decrease in members (United Friends, Burwash and Robertsbridge) and 6 clubs stating that they projected membership to stay consistent²⁷.
- 8.4.3 These results illustrate that it is unlikely that new stoolball facilities will be required in the next 5 years and that investment should be focused on improving the quality of the current facilities.
- 8.4.4 Stoolball has increased steadily in popularity over the past 5 years and is forecast to continue its growth. Following consultation with Stoolball England, the NGB would like to develop the game outside of the South East, while continuing to help the game grow in its traditional south-eastern region. Unfortunately, due to the lack of APS data and Team Generation Rate calculations, it’s not possible to quantify this growth.

²⁷ Note: The remaining clubs did not provide a projection of membership numbers

SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS AND SUMMARY

- 8.4.5 In order to provide Stoolball England with the requisite facilities to continue to grow as a sport and encourage participants from Rother, Hastings and further afield, continued development of facilities and access is required. The detailed recommendations on how the Councils and the NGB's should look to support this will be included in the Action Plan section of this report.
- 8.4.6 The site by site analysis shown in Table 64 below provides more detail on the justification for facility improvement for Stoolball facilities in Rother and Hastings.

Table 64 – Site by site analysis for stoolball clubs across Rother and Hastings

Site Name	Outfield Rating	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Ark William Parker (H)	100%	PR	This site should be protected as a playing pitch site in the Local Plan. This is an education site that has previously had Sports College status and has good quality cricket and stoolball facilities. The cricket pitches are used by the Civil Service Stoolball Team. There is a risk that if prices for hire are increased by the academy, then the stoolball club will not be able to use the facility.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Ashburnham Recreation Ground (R)	87%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a rural cricket site used by the local stoolball team.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Battle Area Sports Ground (R)	100%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a good quality cricket site which is well-used for Stoolball.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Burwash Common Cricket Club (R)	80%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. The ground is run by a management committee and is rated as a good all-round facility. The pavilion and terrace is used for a variety of community functions as well as for cricket.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Catsfield Playing Field (R)	63%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. It is a site owned by the Parish Council used by 2 local stoolball clubs (3 teams).
		E	The club has stated that dog fouling is an issue and the outfield would benefit from periodic rolling to ensure it maintains evenness.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part

Site Name	Outfield Rating	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
			of this study.
Crowhurst Recreation Ground (R)	70%	PR	This site is owned by the Parish Council and used by the local cricket club, stoolball club and for community use by local residents.
		E	No further enhancement of the grass pitch has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Icklesham Recreation Ground (R)	63%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the local plan. The site has a cricket pitch that is used for stoolball and although the cricket demand is reducing, the pitch is still used by Icklesham Stoolball club.
		E	The facilities at the club are very poor and the site requires a new pavilion to allow mixed changing. The playing surface is also deemed to be poor by the club, however both of these issues will be difficult to address if the amount of cricket played at the site is reduced and clubs.
		PV	A new pavilion is required to allow mixed changing and easier access.
King George V Playing Fields (R)	87%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is owned by the Parish Council however all maintenance is undertaken by the cricket club, who keep the facilities to a good standard.
		E	The stoolball club have identified the toilets and disabled access as their development priorities.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Little Common Recreation Ground (R)	53%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is owned by the Local Authority and is used by the Little Common Stoolball club.
		E	The outfield scored poorly during the site assessment and this should be addressed through repair of damage to the outfield caused by rabbit holes. The grass on the outfield also requires more regular cutting.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Pett Recreation Ground (R)	57%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is owned by the Parish Council and used by the local cricket and stoolball teams.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current clubhouse development is likely to make the site a more attractive place to play stoolball in the future.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Staplecross Playing Field (R)	87%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This site is owned by the Parish Council and is used by stoolball players from the local village and surrounding areas.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Swan	73%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the

Site Name	Outfield Rating	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Meadow Playing Field (R)			Local Plan. This site is owned by a Trust, with a number of the club members sitting on the committee.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. The current facilities are maintained to a relatively high standard and are fit for purpose for the use of the club.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
The Clappers (R)	100%	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan and used by Robertsbridge stoolball and cricket clubs.
		E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study. This is a high quality site with an adequate ancillary.
		PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.

8.4.7 The summary box below shows the key findings for stoolball for the Rother and Hastings PPS

Table 65 – Stoolball summary box for Rother and Hastings

Stoolball Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stoolball is played across Sussex, which has the highest proportion of stoolball participants for any county across the UK ➤ Stoolball is growing, with new clubs emerging in Sussex, Kent and Surrey and matches being played not only during weekday evenings but also at the weekends ➤ Stoolball in Rother and Hastings is played at cricket facilities with clubs utilising playing and ancillary facility normally used by the local cricket club. ➤ Of all cricket sites used for Stoolball in the study area, the following sites scored the highest on assessment; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ark William Park Academy, Battle Area Sports Centre, The Clappers, Staplecross Recreation Ground, King George V Playing Fields and Ashburnham Recreation Ground ➤ Following consultation with Stoolball England, the key priorities for the area are to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on the continued growth of the sport through the general improvement in facilities and marketing ○ Work with the cricket clubs to develop ancillary facilities and improve social areas ○ Work with Ark William Parker to fix facility hire fees and maintain stoolball at the site

9 Outdoor Bowls

9.1 Introduction and Strategic Context

9.1.1 Bowls in the UK is governed by Bowls England which provides participation support to local authorities and bowls clubs across the UK.

9.1.2 Bowls England has previously released a three year Strategic Plan for Bowls in England (2014 – 2017)²⁸, which identified the following headlines

- **Vision: PROMOTE** the sport of outdoor flat green bowls, **RECRUIT** new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls and **RETAIN** current and future participants within the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- **Mission:** Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations
- The key themes of Promote, Recruit, Retain will underline all of Bowls England's work during the course of this strategic plan

9.1.3 Bowls England also identified the following strategic priorities for the period, up until 31st March 2017

- To support participation in the sport of outdoor flat green bowls
- To support county associations and clubs
- To provide strong leadership and direction

9.1.4 Bowls England identified the following key performance targets that will underpin their work up to 31st March 2017

Table 66 – Bowls England Key Performance Indicators 2014 - 2017

SP Reference	Strategic Priorities
SP 1.1	115,000 Individual Affiliated Members
SP 1.2	1,500 Coach Bowls Registered Members
SP 1.3	Increase total National Championship individual entries by 10 per cent during period
SP 1.4	Increase total National Competition individual entries by 10 per cent during period
SP 1.5	Medal places achieved in 50 per cent of events at the 2016 World Championships
SP 2.1	35 County Development Plans in place and operational
SP 2.2	County Development Officer appointed by each Unified County Association
SP 3.1	National membership scheme implemented with 100 per cent take up by County Associations
SP 3.2	Administrative base for 1st April 2017 secured
SP 3.3	Commercial income to increase by 20 per cent during period

²⁸ Bowls England Strategic Plan - https://www.bowlsengland.com/uploads/strategic_plan_2013_2017_FINAL_251113.pdf (Bowls England: November 2013)

9.2 Supply

9.2.1 Table 67 summarises the Bowls facilities assessed as part of the project across the study area. The letter in brackets notes which local authority the facilities are located in.

Table 67 – Bowls site summary in Rother and Hastings

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for bowls	No. of greens	Number of Rinks	Community Use On Site	Ownership
Alexandra Park (H)	1	6	Available	Local Authority
West Marina (H)	1	6	Available	Local Authority
White Rock (H)	4	24	Available	Local Authority
Westfield Bowls Green (R)	1	4	Available	Westfield PC
Northiam Bowls Green (R)	1	4	Available	Northiam PC
Beckley Bowls Green (R)	1	4	Available	Beckley PC
Battle Bowls Green (R)	1	6	Available	Unknown
Staplecross Bowls Green (R)	1	7	Available	Staplecross PC
Fairlight Bowls Green (R)	1	6	Available	Fairlight PC
Winchelsea Bowls Green (R)	1	4	Available	Icklesham PC
Guestling Bowls Green (R)	2	4	Available	Guestling PC
Polegrove Bowls Green (R)	4	24	Available	Rother DC
Egerton Park Bowls Green (R)	1	6	Available	Rother DC
Gullivers Bowls Green (R)	2 (only 1 currently used)	6	Available	Private Club
Sidley Bowls Green (R)	1	4	Available	Rother DC
Iden Bowls Green (R)	1	4	Available	Iden PC
Peasmarsh Bowls Green (R)	1	4	Available	Peasmarsh PC
Rye Bowls Green (R)	1	4	Available	Rother DC
Pett Bowls Green (R)	1	4	Available	Pett PC

9.3 Demand

9.3.1 In order to assess the demand for bowls across the study area, key bowls clubs across the study area have been consulted with. This will provide an idea of the trend for bowls in the study area, which can also be cross-checked with Sport England's active people data for the study area.

9.3.2 Table 68 below provides a summary of bowls clubs that have responded to the PPS survey and a summary of their comments. The letter in brackets notes which local authority the clubs are located in. Further detail in relation to these consultations can be seen in Technical Appendix C – Bowls Analysis

Table 68 – Key comments from clubs across Rother and Hastings

Club	Members	Consultation Summary
Clive Vale Lawn Bowls Club (H)	70+	40 adult and 30 senior members, all coming from the Hastings and St Leonards areas. No recent changes in the number of members and no plans of further growth in coming years.
Hastings Visually Handicapped Bowlers Club (H)	10+	12 members access the facilities at White Rock for 5-8 hours per week, and they have identified the grounds and maintenance of the site as very good, but very short in toilets for casual bowlers and general public.

Club	Members	Consultation Summary
Alexandra Bowls Club (H)	45+	40 senior members and 5 adults, accessing Alexandra Park bowls green for over 12 hours per week. No aspirations of further growth in coming years.
Hastings Bowls Club (H)	50+	Currently 50 senior members. Club has seen a decrease in their membership in the last three years as a consequence of the cost of accessing the sport.
Observer Bowls Club (H)	40+	Majority of senior members, primarily coming from the Hastings & St Leonards and accessing the facilities at West Marina from 5 to 8 hours per week. Generally satisfied with their facilities, but have identified a need for improvement on the playing surfaces, changing facilities and toilets.
White Rock Bowls Club (H)	100+	65 adults and 35 senior members accessing the facilities at White Rock for over 12 hours per week.
Spartan's Bowls Club (R)	45+	Currently 49 members, mainly from Bexhill and surrounding areas. Increase in their membership over the last 3 years due to more availability from players.
Northiam Bowls Club (R)	45+	47 active members with the vast majority being seniors. Very happy at Northiam Playing Fields, where the only issue identified was the lack of disabled access to the club house.
Guestling Bowls Club (R)	35+	Suffering a decrease in their membership (currently 35) due to player's old age. Currently seeking financial support from Sport England to achieve club aspirations to incorporate a club house at Guestling Playing Fields.
Lakeside Women's Bowls Club (R)	25+	25 active members playing at Egerton Park, where they rated the playing surface as good but described the clubhouse as too small and the toilets (only one on site) are not enough to accommodate home and away teams.
Gullivers Bowls Club (R)	75+	Over 75 members accessing the facilities at Gullivers Bowls Green for over 12 hours per week. Member numbers have not seen any changes in recent years, due to a lack of volunteer availability.
Staplecross Bowls Club (R)	60+	10 adult and 52 senior members primarily from the Ewhurst Parish, Sedlescombe and Hastings areas. The club continue to actively recruit for players which has translated into a constant increase in the number of members in recent years.
Sidley Martlets Bowls Club (R)	65+	68 current members using bowling greens at Sidley Recreation Ground for over 12 hours per week. The club has seen an increase in their membership over the last few years as a consequence of word of mouth and recommendation from members.
Battle Bowls Club (R)	70+	Recent increase in their number of members (currently 71) but expecting a loss of around 5% within the next 3 years.
Polegrove Bowls Club (R)	75+	Majority of senior members, with some adult and youth as well using the bowling greens at Polegrove Recreation Ground for over 12 hours per week.
Peasmarsh Bowls Club (R)	20+	Small club with majority of senior members playing at Peasmarsh Recreation Ground, where they are in charge of the up keeping of the green and facilities.
Beckley Bowls Club (R)	40+	10 adult and 30 senior members, with no aspirations for further growth in the near future. Facilities at Beckley Bowls Green were described as fairly good (maintained by club members) but with room for improvement, especially for the clubhouse and the

Club	Members	Consultation Summary
		playing surface.
Rye Bowls Club (R)	35+	35 members from the Rye and surrounding areas. Generally satisfied with facilities at Rye Bowls Green, they have identified a need for improved maintenance at the clubhouse and for additional storage facility.
Bexhill Bowls Club (R)	140	140 senior members from the Bexhill and Hastings areas, accessing the greens at Polegrove Recreation Ground for over 12 hours per week,

9.3.3 The level of demand for bowls in the study area can also be assessed using Sport England's Active People Tool²⁹ to identify trends in participation.

9.3.4 Table 69 below shows the trend for bowls over the past 4 Active People periods (APS5 to APS10, both for Sussex and nationally). Due to the sample size available, it is not possible to include the figures for the study area as the assessment would not be statistically robust.

Table 69 – Trends for bowls demand, measured by participation (1x30min)

Geographical Area	Time Period (1x30min session per week)				
	2011/12 (APS6)	2012/13 (APS7)	2013/14 (APS8)	2014/15 (APS9)	2015/16 (APS10)
Sussex	0.90%	1.07%	0.92%	0.63%	0.98%
England	0.61%	0.65%	0.62%	0.50%	0.51%

9.3.5 Table 69 illustrates that compared to the national average, bowls participation in Sussex is relatively high, with the APS10 indicating a growth in popularity in the past year, back to the level seen from 2011 to 2014.

9.3.6 Table 70 below analysis the latent demand for bowls in the same geographical areas. This table shows the proportion of the population that would like to play more bowls if the opportunity was available.

Table 70 – Trends for bowls latent demand

Geographical Area	Time Period (Total Latent Demand)				
	2011/12 (APS6)	2012/13 (APS7)	2013/14 (APS8)	2014/15 (APS9)	2015/16 (APS10)
Sussex	0.35%	0.40%	*	*	*
England	0.18%	0.29%	0.20%	0.16%	0.19%

*Data unavailable; question not asked or insufficient sample size

9.3.7 Table 70 shows that in the periods of time that latent demand data was available for bowls, there was a higher amount of people who were interested in taking up bowls, compared to the national average. The figures for England and whole illustrate a declining popularity of bowls across the country, which is supported by the consultations undertaken as part of this project.

²⁹ Sport England Active People Tool - <http://activepeople.sportengland.org> (Sport England (2016))

9.3.8 The supply and demand analysis will assess whether the study area currently has the facility provision available to satisfy the current and future level of latent demand and if not, which facilities need to be improved in order to increase capacity.

9.4 Supply and Demand Analysis

9.4.1 Following consultation with the Bowls England and an analysis of the amount of capacity for bowls in the study area, there appears to be sufficient capacity in the study area to satisfy the demand for bowls.

9.4.2 It has not been possible to utilise the team calculation for Bowls club as the detailed team information is not available, however in order to understand the trends for current and future demands, Sport England's Active People Tool has been used to assess the level of latent demand for bowls in the study area. As shown in Table 71 below, the level of projected latent demand for bowls in England has been applied to the population of the study area to show the total amount of estimated latent demand in each of the local authorities. It should be noted that the latent demand figure for England as a whole has been used as data is not available for APS10 Population figures have been used for all ages between 30 and 79 as these are likely to be the age groups that are likely to participate in bowls.

Table 71 – Estimated latent demand for bowls in Rother and Hastings

	Latent Demand (APS10)	Population ³⁰ (30 – 79)	Projected latent demand	Number of courts (available to community)	Additional demand per court (participants)
Rother	0.19%	58,487	111	13	9
Hastings	0.19%	54,529	103	6	17

9.4.3 Table 71 illustrates that there is a small amount of projected latent demand for bowls in the study area, with a potential additional 9 and 17 participants per club for Rother and Hastings respectively. It should be noted, however, that this number assumes a full conversion of latent demand to actual participation and in practice this is not possible due to the additional barriers to entry, such as cost and time availability.

9.4.4 Furthermore, this analysis considers all Rother and Hastings residents between the age of 30 and 79, in order to capture the vast majority of potential participants. In contrast to this, when the dominant market segments for Bowls participants in Sussex are analysed, using the Sport England Market Segmentation tool³¹, the following dominant segments are provided;

- Roger and Joy: Early retirement couples, aged 56-65
- Ralph and Phyllis: Comfortable retired couples, aged 66+
- Frank: Twilight years gents, aged 66+
- Elsie and Arnold: Retirement home singles, aged 66+

³⁰ Rother and Hastings Population Projections for 2016 - (Rother District Council: 2016)

³¹ Market Segmentation Tool (2010: Sport England)

9.4.5 This illustrates that the vast majority of bowls participants are aged 50+, which can be attributed to factors such as the low impact nature of the sport and the current scheduling of the sport to take place during the working day. When considering these demographics, the analysis can be re-run to focus on participants between 50 and 80 in Rother and Hastings, which provides the following results.

Table 72 – Estimated latent demand for bowls in Rother and Hastings

	Latent Demand (APS10)	Population ³² (50 – 79)	Projected latent demand	Number of courts (available to community)	Additional demand per court
Rother	0.19%	40,737	77	13	6
Hastings	0.19%	31,438	71	6	12

9.4.6 Table 72 illustrates that when a more realistic segment of potential bowls participants is taken into consideration, if there was 100% conversion from latent demand to actual participants then there would be an additional 6 and 12 participants per club in Rother and Hastings respectively. Taking into consideration the previous comments on the potential conversion rates and given that none of the clubs have stated that they are at maximum capacity during the demand consultation, it can therefore be concluded that no additional bowls facilities are required in the study area to satisfy the current demand for bowls.

Table 73 – Site by site analysis for council owned bowls sites Rother and Hastings

Site Name	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Alexandra Park	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is a well maintained facility with approximately 45 members.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Battle Bowls Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan which is well maintained and home to a club that has recently enjoyed a growth in membership numbers.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Beckley Bowls Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Egerton Park Bowls Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	Roof tiles on the pavilion would benefit from additional work, however the club has stated that the current provision is fit for purpose.
	PV	Disabled access to the facility is poor and should be improved.
Fairlight Bowls Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.

³² Rother and Hastings Population Projections for 2016 - (Rother District Council: 2016)

Site Name	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Guestling Bows Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	Ancillary facilities would benefit from modernisation throughout.
	PV	The club are currently looking for support to achieve club aspirations to incorporate a club house as Guestling Playing Fields.
Gullivers Bows Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	The recent development proposal results in the loss of one of the two greens (one green has been disused for circa 10 years). The proposal sees the ancillary facility being demolished and rebuilt as part of the scheme, along with the replacement of a two rink indoor bowls facility. The remaining bowling green will also be restored. .
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Iden Bows Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Northiam Bows Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	Disabled access to the facility is poor and should be improved.
Peasmarsh Bows Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Pett Bows Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Polegrove Bows Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan. This is the home site of Bexhill Bows Club and is one of the largest in the study area.
	E	The facility was identified as poor on inspection and would benefit from refurbishment. There is an on-going issue with a leaking roof
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Rye Bows Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Sidley Bows Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Staplecross Bows Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
West Marina	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this

Site Name	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
		study.
Westfield Bowls Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
White Rock	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	Enhancement of the ditch channels at the site has been identified as a short term development which will improve the quality of the overall facility.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.
Winchelsea Bowls Green	PR	This site should be protected as playing fields in the Local Plan.
	E	No further enhancement has been identified as part of this study.
	PV	No further potential provision has been identified as part of this study.

9.4.7 The summary box below shows the key findings for bowls for the Rother and Hastings PPS

Table 74 – Bowls summary box for Rother and Hastings

Bowls Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bowls is played across 19 sites in Rother and Hastings at bowls greens owned by the Local Authority, Parish Councils and private bowls clubs ➤ The general trend for bowls demand in the study area is consistent, with the majority of clubs stating that membership numbers had stayed at a similar level across previous years and was not projected to grow in the future. This is consistent with national trends, which indicate a falling demand for bowls across the country but a consistency of demand in rural areas with ageing populations ➤ This is consistent with the calculations for latent demand, which do not identify future demand for new facilities as the small amount of projected increase can be satisfied by the current supply of bowls clubs. It is not possible to utilise the team generation calculation for Bowls club as the detailed team information is not available ➤ The proportion of bowls participant’s in the study area is higher than the national average, however the national trends indicate a downward trend for bowls ➤ The largest clubs in the area (no. of members) are Clive Vale Lawn Bowls Club, White Rock Bowls Club, Gullivers Bowls Club and Polegrove Bowls Club ➤ The key priorities for bowls in the study area are focussed on ancillary facility development and improve disabled access to clubhouses and pavilions, as well as improving the ditch channels at White Rock (Falaise Road)

10 American Football

10.1.1 American Football in the UK governed by British American Football, which provides participation support to local authorities and American Football clubs across the UK.

10.1.2 British American Football released their national strategy for Great Britain in 2013. 'From School Yard to Super Bowl' cited that British American Football is currently in a period of unprecedented opportunity, with new funding opportunities, a medium term commitment to the UK market by the National Football League and continuously enhanced media coverage of the NFL, NCAA and US sports in general providing a tremendous platform³³

10.1.3 The strategy also identified the following vision to act as the centre point of a communication strategy;

"To develop an infrastructure which is capable of developing and sustaining the wider possible participation and interest in the game of football; facilitating the development of talent to the highest competitive levels; and is recognised both in Great Britain and internationally as being defined by endeavour and excellence in all areas"

10.1.4 Rother and Hastings has one American Football team, the Hastings Conquerors, who are a growing club and one of the largest in the area. Their priorities will be covered throughout the demand and supply sections detailed below.

10.2 Supply

10.2.1 The main site used by Hastings Conquerors is Bexhill Road Recreation Ground, which they use primarily for matches. The club also uses Tilekiln, Battle Sports Centre and Buckswood school, depending on availability.

10.2.2 Table 75 below provides details of their home ground only.

Table 75 – American Football site summary in Rother and Hastings

Site Name	Community use on site	Security of Use	Owners	Adult Pitches	Junior/Minis
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	0

10.3 Demand

10.3.1 In order to assess the demand for American Football across the study area, Hastings Conquerors have been consulted with. This will provide an idea of the trend for American Football in the study area, however this cannot be cross-checked with Active People due to the lack of data on American Football within the tool.

10.3.2 Table 76 below provides a summary of the consultation undertaken with Hastings Conquerors and identifies the key trends for American Football in Sussex.

³³ 'From School Yard to Super Bowl' - <http://goo.gl/7uTncV> (British American Football: 2013)

Table 76 – Key comments from American Football clubs across Rother and Hastings

Club	Consultation Summary
Hastings Conquerors	<p>The club is based at Bexhill Road recreation ground and has over 70 members (adults and junior). The club has identified that AF is one of the fastest growing sports in the UK. They have not carried out much recruitment locally and are still not known by the majority of residents. The club expects a high increase in participants (+30) in the next three years. This is driven by the lack of supply for American Football, with the club being the only AF club within 1 hour's drive.</p> <p>The club is looking for assistance in recruitment and education of coaching staff, as well as an improved standard of playing facilities. The club would ideally like to have use of a 3G pitch, which would allow contact and reduce the amount of training and games called off by poor weather. The lack of appropriate club house at Bexhill Road is also an issue as there is nowhere currently for the 100 players and coaches to congregate after a game.</p>

10.3.3 This consultation illustrates the growing popularity of American Football in the study area and emphasises the need for the Playing Pitch Strategy to support this and provide actions and recommendations that allow the club to continue growing and getting more local residents active.

10.4 Supply and Demand Analysis

10.4.1 Following consultation with Hastings Conquerors and an analysis of the amount of capacity for American Football in the study area, there appears to be a deficit of capacity in the study area to satisfy the demand for American Football.

10.4.2 The capacity analysis below illustrates the balance of supply and demand at Bexhill Road Recreation ground, which includes the demand and supply for rugby union at the same site. It is key to include both sports in the analysis as they use the same pitches for competitive matches.

10.4.3 Due to the absence of Sport England data for American Football, it is not possible to quantify the latent demand for the sport. It is therefore key to take the views of the club into considerations, which indicate that there is significant latent demand both nationally and within the south-east.

Table 75 – Capacity analysis for American Football in Rother and Hastings

Site Name	Pitch type	Quantity	Supply (Capacity)	Demand (matches + training in match equivalents)		Balance (Supply minus demand)
				SNR	JNR	
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Senior	1	0.5	1.5*	0.5	-1.5*

SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS AND SUMMARY

10.4.4 In order to allow American Football to grow in the study area, access to improved training and match pitches is required. The detailed recommendations on how the Councils and the NGB's should look to support this will be included in the Action Plan section of this report.

10.4.5 The site by site analysis shown in Table 76 below provides more detail on the justification for facility improvement for American Football facilities in the study area.

Table 76 – Site by site analysis for American Football in Rother and Hastings

Site Name	No. Of Pitches	Non-technical Assessment Score	Balance – Capacity for community use	Justification for Protection (PR), Enhancement (E) or Provision (PV)	
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1 Senior	D1/MO (POOR)	-1.5	PR	This site should be protected as playing pitches in the Local Plan. The site has a single rugby pitch that is used by St Leonards Cinque Ports Rugby Club and Hastings Conquerors American Football Club.
				E	Both clubs have identified the pitch as being of poor quality and subject to drainage problems. The key issue with the rugby pitch is the lack of appropriate ancillary facilities. The timber clubhouse at the end of its life and needs replacing. HC in particular have stated that they currently have approx. 100 people coming to watch their games and there are currently no amenities for supporters to use. There is also no disabled access, which means some spectators are not able to access the pitches to watch the games. Alternative training grounds are also required for both of the clubs, to reduce the wear on the single grass pitch.
				PV	As above, the site requires an enhanced ancillary facility that can be used by the rugby club and American football clubs and generate secondary revenue, as well as providing facilities for supporters.

10.4.6 The summary box below shows the key findings for American Football for the Rother and Hastings PPS

Table 77 – American Football summary box for Rother and Hastings

American Football Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ American Football in Rother and Hastings is played by Hastings Conquerors, who attract demand from across the study area and neighbouring local authorities ➤ The club is growing and is one of the largest in the south east of England ➤ The club is based at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground and has over 70 members (adults and juniors) ➤ The club expects a high increase in participants (30+) in the next three years. This is influenced by the lack of competing supply, with Hastings Conquerors being the only AF club within 1 hours' drive. The club also believes there is significant latent demand for American Football in the UK, however Active People data is not available to quantify the amount of latent demand ➤ Priorities for American Football in the study area are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing assistance to the club in the recruitment and education of coaching staff ○ Improve the overall standard of playing facilities, with the ideal outcome being the use of a 3G AGP that can be used for full contact sports ➤ An improvement or replacement of the ancillary clubhouse at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground, to provide facilities for the 100+ players and coaches to congregate and socialise after a game.

11 Scenario Testing

11.1 Horntye Park and Pilot Field Scenario

INTRODUCTION

- 11.1.1 Horntye Park Sports Complex is a privately owned facility (owned by the Horntye Trust) that provides a sand-based AGP, a cricket pitch and pavilion, as well as indoor sports and conference facilities
- 11.1.2 Due to issues with the financial sustainability of the site, the Trust is currently looking at alternative options to deliver sports within the study area, using a more commercially viable business model³⁴.
- 11.1.3 In line with the 2013 Sport England guidance, the PPS is required to look at study area specific scenarios in order to explore key issues and evaluate the viability of possible recommendations and actions.
- 11.1.4 With this in mind, the Steering Group for the project has decided that it is pragmatic to test a scenario that includes the closure of all sport provision on Horntye. This will enable the Steering Group to analyse the full amount of displaced demand that would be created if the Trust was successful with its plans to relocate the Horntye Park Sports Complex. The scenario will also explore the potential relocation of the facilities at the Pilot field, as Hastings United Football Club have also expressed plans to relocate to an alternative site in the future. The potential relocation of the pitch at the Pilot Field may be considered in conjunction with the relocation of facilities at Horntye Park
- 11.1.5 This analysis can then be used to inform the facility mix for any new facilities built as a result of either or both of these proposals.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND ANALYSIS

- 11.1.6 The table below shows all current demand that would be displaced should either one or both scenarios (relocation of the Horntye Park Sports Complex and/or relocation of the Pilot Field) be realised. This table shows demand in a mixture of hours per week and match equivalents, depending on the core measure used in the main PPS report.

³⁴ It should be noted that the testing of this scenario does not in any presuppose the relocation of such facilities, it simply considers the balance of facilities (in terms of demand) that would need to be re-provided elsewhere.

Table 78 – Horntye Park and Pilot Field Scenario Test

AGP				
Site	Club	Match Demand (Hours Per Week)	Training Demand (Hours Per Week)	Total Demand (Hours Per Week)
Horntye Park Sports Complex	Hastings Town United 2000	1	12	13
	Icklesham Casuals FC (Rother)	-	2	2
	South Saxons Hockey Club	7	6.5	13.5
Cricket				
Site	Club	Match Demand (Matches Per Season)	Training Demand (Hours per week)	Total Demand (Matches Per Season/Hours per week)
Horntye Park Sports Complex	Hastings & St Leonards Priory CC	94	7	94/7
Football				
Site	Site	Site	Site	Site
The Pilot Field	Hastings United FC	1.5	-	1.5

DISPLACED DEMAND

- 11.1.7 With regards to the Horntye Park Sports Complex, the table above illustrates that with the projected level of displaced demand, a full-sized sand-based AGP, capable of providing facilities for competitive hockey, would be required in order to meet the need of South Saxons Hockey Club.
- 11.1.8 There is also demand for AGP use by football clubs, which is currently provided by the sand-based facility at Horntye. In line the FA's long term strategic objectives, as well as recent FA survey results, it would be preferable for this demand to be satisfied by a 3G AGP facility. It is key to note however, that hockey cannot be played on a 3G surface, therefore if this facility was to be replaced with a 3G AGP, then an additional sand-based facility will need to be re-provided for the hockey club.
- 11.1.9 Relating to cricket demand, the current Horntye Park facility satisfies demand for 94 matches (58 senior and 36 junior), with a maximum capacity of 115 matches for the season. The Horntye Park site does not currently have any non-turf pitches.
- 11.1.10 In terms of the Pilot Field site, the table above illustrates that there is a demand of 1.5 match equivalents per week for grass football pitches. This is significant in the case of the Pilot Field as the current facility caters for Hastings United Senior Club, who play at Step 4 of the FA participation ladder. As a result of this, any replacement provision would need to either maintain or improve the overall quality of provision and adhere to, at least, all of the current FA ground requirements that the Pilot Field does.

ADDITIONAL POINTS OF NOTE

- 11.1.11 Due to the location of the sites in question, both sites have a key role to play within their local neighbourhoods, representing a significant proportion of sports provision for residents in the study area. Any replacement site would need to be suitably accessible for local residents in Hastings, in order to serve the needs of hard to reach residents in the most deprived areas of the borough.
- 11.1.12 It should also be noted that the Horntye Park Sports Complex also includes a number of indoor facilities (sports hall, indoor cricket nets, conference facilities/function rooms, board room, bar and catering facilities). The replacement of these facilities would also need to be considered but this is outside of the scope of this scenario test as these do not fall within the PPS requirements. Further information and data on the supply and demand for these facilities can be seen in Hastings' 2015 Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy.

12 Summary of Key Findings

12.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the key findings for each of the sports analysed in the previous sections.

12.2 Football

Table 79: Key findings for Football

Football Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The supply and demand analysis indicates there is a deficit of capacity across Rother and Hastings for grass football pitches, with deficiency being most severe for youth 11v11 pitches and mini soccer 5v5 pitches. Note: This analysis is undertaken using a reduced maximum carrying capacity for pitches of all sizes, based on widespread drainage issues as well as the lack of Sunday league football across the study area, as agreed with the FA as the most appropriate reflection of match play for the study area ➤ Although the data for the study area as a whole shows a deficit for grass pitches, when considered on its own, Hastings has a surplus of senior pitches but a deficit of youth and mini pitches ➤ Balance figures; adult football +11.5 pitches, youth football -19.5 pitches and mini soccer -1.5 pitches ➤ This balance shows that there is an overall deficit of football pitches across Rother and Hastings, with only adult football showing a surplus of supply. In reality, this surplus is undermined by youth and mini-soccer teams playing matches on adult sized pitches ➤ To address the negative balance across adult and youth 11v11 pitches, it is recommended that additional capacity of 8 match equivalents per week is developed across the study area. This can be achieved through the development of 3 11v11 good quality grass pitches, the improvement of existing standard and poor quality pitches, or a combination of the two ➤ The Councils should also explore the option of remarking adult and youth pitches as mini soccer pitches, to address the deficit and provide small children with fit-for-purpose football facilities ➤ A key FA priority for Rother and Hastings is to develop a collaborative pitch maintenance programme for the study area, with club officers, council officers and volunteers benefitting from a joint equipment bank and training by qualified FA pitch experts ➤ A significant proportion of football pitches are owned and managed by the respective local authority or local parish council's, with a general downward trend in pitch quality identified throughout club consultations ➤ The Councils are looking for more efficient ways to distribute their maintenance budgets and would like to work with the National Governing Bodies to prioritise and deliver pitch and facility maintenance projects

Football Summary Box

- A number of the key clubs in the area, such as Bexhill United and Little Common FC, play on sites owned by the local authority however these sites are unable to meet the requirements of the FA for the level of competition played by each of the club's first teams. This also applies to Westfield FC however the arrangement at this site is leased from the Parish Council
- The report has highlighted instances of demand displacement from within the study area to neighbouring local authorities, caused by operational and financial issues at the original sites. RDC and HBC have an ambition, where possible, to bring these clubs (and associated demand) back into the study area, and will work with the club to ensure fit-for-purpose facilities area available.
- A number of locally owned authority site are currently protected as part of Hastings Borough Council Planning Policy, namely; Ark William Parker, Sandhurst Rec, The Pilot Field. Tilekiln Rec, Tackleway and the Firs. Gibbons field is not protected as a playing field but is protected as green space
- A common issue across the sites is the quality of ancillary facilities, which are in some cases unfit for purpose and urgently requiring re-development
- There is a deficit of 3G AGP supply, with a recommended need for between 4.8 and 5 full size 3G pitches (1.4 and 3.6 in Hastings and in Rother respectively), based on FA calculations. There are not currently any Fifa 1* 3G pitches in the study area that are suitable for competitive football. While the FA calculation identifies a need for 5 new pitches across the study area, following consultation with the FA and the Councils, this is not a realistic aspiration due to the rural nature of much of the study area, as well as the lack of funding opportunities. The output of this strategy is therefore a recommendation to develop 3 full size pitches across the study area (2 in Rother and 1 in Hastings), with a view to reviewing this model as and when this output is achieved
- The following requirements should be addressed for any new 3G facility across Rother and Hastings;
 - Able to serve areas of high relative population density, such as Bexhill and Hastings, in order to ensure that demand for the facilities is consistent and they are accessible to the greatest possible number of participants
 - Developed in line with a usage agreement that ensures community use at peak times (1700 – 2200 weekdays and all day throughout the weekend)
 - Utilises a consistent pricing policy for residents. Pricing policies should be affordable for grassroots clubs. This should include a

Football Summary Box	
	<p>match-rate at weekends that is equivalent to the LA national turf pitch prices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be able to satisfy the requirements for FA Step 5 and 6 grounds, to ensure that local football clubs can continue to move up the FA affiliated football ladder. Note: this is not required for all new facilities but appropriate availability should be provided to the competitive clubs who require these facilities. This includes 3G stadia Step 5 & 6 facilities where appropriate and where the operating model is financially sustainable ○ Facilities are to be built to FIFA quality concept for Football Turf – FIFA quality (previously FIFA 1 star) accreditation. These should be tested and registered on the FA 3G pitch register. <p>➤ In order to secure the sites and develop the appropriate facilities to meet the needs of local residents, the Councils and the FA should look to explore the use of education sites, in order to maximise use during school time and also utilise on-site maintenance teams for general upkeep. School sites should be considered where the appropriate community development outcomes can be secured and a sinking fund for carpet replacement can be full demonstrated</p> <p>➤ It is key that when looking at 3G AGP development and the business cases that support these projects, stakeholders adhere to a consistent pricing matrix for users. The development of an appropriate matrix should be discussed with the FA, in order to ensure consistent pricing across the study area and to make sure that ‘price wars’ do not emerge between competing facilities</p> <p>➤ There is currently no Sunday League competitive football played in either Rother and Hastings. It should be noted that if this type of football (affiliated but low standard adult football) was to increase in demand and there was sufficient demand for a competitive league, the demand for facilities and the resulting wear and tear of grass pitches would increase.</p>

12.3 Cricket

Table 80: Key findings for Cricket

Cricket Summary Box	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is an overall surplus of cricket wickets across the study area. ➤ There is a lower number of non-turf pitches than would normally be expected in an area with the demand for cricket that is present in Rother and Hastings. This leads to a small number of sites being over-capacity, with clubs unable to use non-turf pitches for youth cricket. In line with ECB

guidance, the use of non-turf pitches should be limited to junior cricket and training, however the development of high quality non-turf pitches would reduce the wear and tear on the existing grass pitches and improve the overall quality of cricket in the study area.

- The shortfall is particularly apparent in Bexhill and Hastings, where users regularly report not being able to secure facilities for Saturday PM match slots during the summer
- Team generation rates, calculated using national population growth projections, suggest that there will be negative growth in demand for cricket
- Balance figures for 2016 (not including non-turf pitches) - +412 wickets (Rother) and +71 (Hastings)
- While the TGR does not identify any projected growth, the Councils have predicted an increase in the demand for women and girls cricket across the study area, with both the Councils and the ECB actively looking to increase the amount of ladies' cricket that is played.
- Key priorities for cricket in the area include;
 - Confirming the long term strategy for Bexhill CC in terms of preferred pitch location.
 - Work with Sidley CC regarding their aspirations to return to playing cricket in Bexhill
 - Confirm the long term playing location for Hastings and St Leonards Priory CC, considering the uncertainty surrounding the Horntye Park Sports Complex
 - Providing further capacity at peak Saturday PM match times, to allow users to book facilities more easily, either through more efficient management of match timetables or the provision of additional pitches and squares in Bexhill and Hastings.
 - Assisting the rural clubs with continued development of both playing and ancillary facilities
- Users are finding it increasingly difficult to secure matchplay facilities in the areas of Bexhill and Hastings. While cricket is well supplied in the rural parts of the district, further capacity is required in the more urban areas.
- Increasing the number of opportunities for women and girls to play cricket and improving the 'offer' in order to attract and retain new participants

12.4 Rugby

Table 81 – Key findings for Rugby

Rugby Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are three main rugby clubs in Rother and Hastings; Rye RFC, Hastings and Bexhill RFC and St Leonards Cinque Ports RFC ➤ The three key sites that have community use all have deficiency of supply, with Ark William Parker Academy calculated as having the most significant

deficit. It should be noted that while the balance for rugby at Bexhill Road is balanced, when American Football is taken into consideration then a deficit is created

- The RFU are looking to support all three clubs to improve their facilities and continue to attract new players and social members
- Both Rye Rugby Club and Bexhill Road Recreation ground suffer from having poorly maintained pitches, which leads to a low carrying capacity due to the amount of time these pitches need to recover following a match or training session
- 61% of rugby matches at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground were cancelled in 2015/16, which significantly limits the ability of St Leonards Cinque Ports RFC
- Team generation rates across the study area project a small growth in mini-rugby demand, however this is offset by a projected reduction in demand for senior rugby
- The RFU is looking to encourage clubs to be part of the Pitch Improvement Programme. This will provide detailed maintenance and facility development advice, as well as funding for equipment and materials.
- An urgent output of the study is the need to support Rye Rugby Club (-6) and Hastings and Bexhill RFC (-9.5) to reduce the deficit of pitches at their respective homegrounds. This can be achieved by increasing the quality of existing pitches, increasing the quantity of provision, or a combination of the two. Clubs across the study are would benefit significantly from having access to a 3G AGP facility for training purposes, therefore the secured use by rugby of any new 3G developments in the study area should be explored
- If land is available, the Council and the RFU should be looking to secure new pitches for Rugby in the area. New rugby sites should be well located within 15 minute drive time to Bexhill and/or Hastings. There should also be the option to transfer ownership of the asset to the rugby club if the club is willing. Any new site that is developed for rugby and maintained by the local authority will need to have a clear agreement stating the required level of maintenance and responsibilities of each party in order to maintain the quality of the grass pitches and the ancillary facilities
- There has been no further requirement for new rugby provision in the rural areas of the local authority.

12.5 Hockey

Table 82 – Key findings for Hockey

Hockey Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ South Saxons Hockey Club is the only club in Rother and Hastings, running 9 teams across senior men, women and juniors ➤ Hockey is played at Horntye Park Sports Complex, where the sand-based surface was identified as poor and requiring replacement. ➤ With the on-going uncertainty over the future of Horntye Park Sports Complex, it is important that provision for hockey in the study area is protected and South Saxons are able to use a facility that is fit for purpose and continues to allow the club to grow the amount of hockey played in the study area ➤ South Saxons have identified latent demand for hockey, which could be addressed if there was further capacity for additional Saturday match play. This is likely to be addressed by the recommendation to build 3G facilities elsewhere in the study area, as casual use and small sided commercial football, played both at the weekend and during peak weekdays, could be displaced elsewhere, therefore providing greater capacity for hockey usage.

12.6 Tennis

Table 83 – Key findings for Tennis

Tennis Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tennis is played across Rother and Hastings, with supply provided by a combination of membership-based clubs and local authority owned public courts ➤ The general quality of tennis supply was deemed to be marginally higher in Hastings (78% compared to 74%), however there is significantly more supply in Rother due to the difference in size and large amount of rural areas serviced by their own courts ➤ The Councils own and manage a number of key facilities, such as Alexandra Park, Falaise Road and Egerton Park ➤ Following consultation, the LTA has stated that it is looking to partner with local authorities in park court redevelopment projects, and would like to work with the Councils to identify sites where this would lead to the greatest growth in participation. ➤ Although latent demand is identified when using the Sport England Active People Tool, following consultations it can be concluded that additional courts are not required to meet capacity. The Councils and the LTA should instead prioritise the improvement of quality for existing sites. ➤ The LTA have identified a deficit of indoor tennis facilities in the study area

12.7 Stoolball

Table 84 – Key findings for Stoolball

Stoolball Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stoolball is played across Sussex, which has the highest proportion of stoolball participants for any country across the UK ➤ Stoolball is growing, with new clubs emerging in Sussex, Kent and Surrey and matches being played not only during weekday evenings but also at the weekends ➤ Stoolball in Rother and Hastings is played at cricket facilities with clubs utilising playing and ancillary facility normally used by the local cricket club. ➤ Of all cricket sites used for Stoolball in the study area, the following sites scored the highest on assessment; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ark William Park Academy, Battle Area Sports Centre, The Clappers, Staplecross Recreation Ground, King George V Playing Fields and Ashburnham Recreation Ground ➤ Following consultation with Stoolball England, the key priorities for the area are to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on the continued growth of the sport through the general improvement in facilities and marketing ○ Work with the cricket clubs to develop ancillary facilities and improve social areas ➤ Work with Ark William Parker to fix facility hire fees and maintain stoolball at the site

12.8 Bowls

Table 85 – Key findings for Bowls

Bowls Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bowls is played across 19 sites in Rother and Hastings at bowls greens owned by the Local Authority, Parish Councils and private bowls clubs ➤ The general trend for bowls demand in the study area is consistent, with the majority of clubs stating that membership numbers had stayed at a similar level across previous years and was not projected to grow in the future. This is consistent with national trends, which indicate a falling demand for bowls across the country but a consistency of demand in rural areas with ageing populations ➤ This is consistent with the calculations for latent demand, which do not identify future demand for new facilities as the small amount of projected increase can be satisfied by the current supply of bowls clubs. It is not possible to utilise the team generation calculation for Bowls club as the detailed team information is not available

- The proportion of bowls participant's in the study area is higher than the national average, however the national trends indicate a downward trend for bowls
- The largest clubs in the area (no. of members) are Clive Vale Lawn Bowls Club, White Rock Bowls Club, Gullivers Bowls Club and Polegrove Bowls Club
- The key priorities for bowls in the study area are focussed on ancillary facility development and improve disabled access to clubhouses and pavilions, as well as improving the ditch channels at White Rock (Falaise Road)

12.9 American Football

Table 86 – Key findings for American Football

American Football Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ American Football in Rother and Hastings is played by Hastings Conquerors, who attract demand from across the study area and neighbouring local authorities ➤ The club is growing and is one of the largest in the south east of England ➤ The club is based at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground and has over 70 members (adults and juniors) ➤ The club expects a high increase in participants (30+) in the next three years. This is influenced by the lack of competing supply, with Hastings Conquerors being the only AF club within 1 hours' drive. The club also believes there is significant latent demand for American Football in the UK, however Active People data is not available to quantify the amount of latent demand ➤ Priorities for American Football in the study area are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing assistance to the club in the recruitment and education of coaching staff ○ Improve the overall standard of playing facilities, with the ideal outcome being the use of a 3G AGP that can be used for full contact sports ➤ An improvement or replacement of the ancillary clubhouse at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground, to provide facilities for the 100+ players and coaches to congregate and socialise after a game.

13 Summary and Action Plan

13.1 Overview

- 13.1.1 In order to continue the development of sport and physical activity across Rother and Hastings, it is expected that the Steering Group, set up as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy project, continues to work together to deliver the recommendations defined as part of the strategy.
- 13.1.2 Through a detailed supply and demand analysis of the 8 sports included in the scope of the strategy, as well as stakeholder consultations across the study area, an action plan has been created, which will guide the steering group in their delivery of sports provision and facility decisions over the next 10 years.
- 13.1.3 This section provides a detailed action plan, broken down by site with clear owners, timescales and expected resources. This is shown overleaf in Table 87.
- 13.1.4 The table identifies potential sources of external funding (not provided by Rother District Council or Hastings Borough Council). It should be noted that funding for the actions below could come from one, or a combination, of funding sources. This is not an extensive list and could be extended to other sources, depending on availability.
- CIL Monies
 - Section 106 funding
 - Community Grants Schemes
- 13.1.5 The Action Plan does not identify all those clubs that may be partners or provide resources in relation to its delivery. It is assumed that where clubs have a long-standing interest in a specific site that they will be a partner in delivering the actions and contribute financially or in-kind where appropriate.
- 13.1.6 The Action Plan does not identify Rother District Council or Hastings Borough Council as a key resource either in terms of officer time or finance, except for those sites owned and/or managed by the Council. However, the Councils have an interest in all those projects delivered within each local authority area and may contribute towards them either financially or in-kind, as appropriate and subject to available resources.
- 13.1.7 In addition to this, the following high level recommendations for the study area are summarised below;
- Increase the provision of 3G AGP provision across the study area, with the development of 2 full size pitches in Rother and 1 full size pitch in Hastings, all in line with the requirements and criteria set out in the main report
 - Continue to invest in the grass pitches across the study area, to improve the quality and reduce the amount of cancelled games during periods of poor weather.
 - Seek additional capacity of 8 match equivalents per week is developed across the study area for football. This can be achieved through the

development of 3 11v11 good quality grass pitches, the improvement of existing standard and poor quality pitches, or a combination of the two.

- With regards to cricket, providing further capacity at peak Saturday PM match times, to allow users to book facilities more easily, either through more efficient management of match timetables or the provision of additional pitches and squares in Bexhill and Hastings.
- Reduce the deficit of rugby pitches in Rye and Bexhill/Hastings. This can be achieved by increasing the quality of existing pitches, increasing the quantity of provision, or a combination of the two. Town and Parish Councils should look to collaborate with the National Governing Bodies in order to enhance current maintenance practices.
- Explore opportunities to develop the basic maintenance capabilities of volunteers and local residents through sharing knowledge and expertise, providing training and setting up equipment banks where practical
- Use the existing Institute of Groundsmen (IOG) reports to inform the re-prioritisation of maintenance work across local authority owned pitches, in order to address sites with significant pitch quality issues
- Collaborate with the ECB and the FA to address issues with 'bottlenecks' on Saturday PM match slots (lack of facilities available at peak time). In terms of cricket, this could be through more efficient management of match timetables or the provision of additional pitches and squares in Bexhill and Hastings.
- Utilise CIL Monies, Section 106 and other sources of sports related funding where available to fund the development of local sports facilities

Table 87 – Rother and Hastings PPS Action Plan

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead= Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
Alexandra Park (H)	Tenn-1	This is the largest active local authority owned site in Hastings and benefits from access to public toilet facilities due to its location in the park	1. Work with the LTA to explore the potential of the LTA Investment Fund, which can then lead to investment at Alexandra Park 2. Explore utilising LTA funding to develop floodlights and improve overall court quality, as well as running LTA programmes at the courts throughout summer evening and weekends	HBC LTA	HBC officer time to bid for funding HBC match funding LTA facility grant	Short	Medium
Ark William Parker Academy (H)	Crick-1	The practice nets are currently unusable and require renovation if the site is to be used for community use.	Work with the ECB to renovate the practice nets to allow training and match day use.	Ark William Parker Academy ECB HBC	ECB grant funding HBC officer time	Medium	Low
	Rug-1	Drainage issues have been identified at the site, following an initial pitch improvement project at the site. The changing facilities are also not fit for purpose for female and disabled users	1. Work with the RFU to confirm ongoing maintenance and investment programme, to build on the progress made during the pitch improvement programme. 2. Invest in moveable floodlights, to allow training to take place off the pitches and for training space to be moved around the ground depending on the state of the grass.	Hastings and Bexhill RFC HBC RFU AWP Academy	RFU support HBC officer time	Short	Medium
	Stool-1	There is a risk that prices for hire are increased by the academy, leading to the club not being able to afford to use the facility	Seek to agree a formal agreement with the academy with a commitment to fixing prices over an agreed term, to provide the club with medium to long term security of tenure.	Stoolball England HBC AWP Academy	HBC officer time	Short	Medium

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
Ashburnham Recreation Ground (R)	Crick-2	The mobile net that has been previously used for training on the square is broken and not fit for purpose.	Work with the ECB to access the small grants scheme and apply for a new/repared roll-on net.	Ashburnham and Penhurst PC RDC ECB	ECB grant funding	Medium	Low
Beckley Recreation Ground (R)	Tenn-2	The site needs significant refurbishment as it is not currently fit for purpose or an attractive place to play tennis	Ascertain if there is local demand for tennis provision and if so, work with the LTA to apply for funding for new or refurbished facilities..	Beckley PC RDC LTA	LTA grant funding	Medium	Low
Battle Area Sports Centre (R)	Foot-2	Although the site scored well during the assessment, this pitch currently suffers from drainage issues, which limits availability of community use.	Work with the FA and the IOG to confirm the cause of the drainage issues.	Battle Area Sports Centre RDC IOG Battle TC Claverham College FA	FA Pitch Improvement Programme Battle Sports Centre Officer Time FA maintenance grants/funding	1. Short 2. Medium	1. Low 2. High
Battle Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-3	Site users have identified drainage issues at the site, however drainage ditches have recently been dug, which are likely to have a positive impact on the quality of the pitches during periods of wet weather. Levelling work is also needed to bring the junior pitch up to the required standard.	1. Undertake a new assessment of the pitches during the 2016/17 season to confirm the impact of new drainage ditches. 2. Carry out levelling work to the junior pitch	Battle TC IOG RDC FA	FA Pitch Improvement Programme Battle TC	Medium	Low
Bexhill	Rug-2	The school has stated that	1. Work with RDC planning team to	Bexhill	Bexhill	Short	Low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
Academy (R)		they would be prepared to discuss the use of grass pitches for rugby training, however floodlights would be required in order to make this feasible during the winter.	confirm whether it is possible to obtain planning consent for new floodlights 2. If point 1. Is successful, work with the RFU to confirm whether the installation of floodlights at the academy would be beneficial, practical and financially viable and if so, support the school in applications for funding.	Academy RDC RFU	Academy Resources		
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground (Located in RDC LA area but owned and managed by HBC)	Foot-6	The football pitches at the site suffer from drainage issues, with a high number of cancelled matches occurring from November to February.	1. Re-prioritise the maintenance effort, especially during periods of wet weather, to address drainage issues and reduce cancellation. Utilise the outputs of the 2015 IOG reports to provide greater detail and instruction on maintenance requirements 2. Introduce strict use policy, with no casual use on the marked pitches, in order to allow recovery time for high use areas. 3. Review pitch layout to ensure most efficient way to meet demand	HBC RDC FA	HBC officer time RDC officer time FA Pitch Improvement Programme Re-prioritisation of HBC maintenance scope	1. Medium 2. Short 3. Short	1. High 2. Medium 3. Medium
	Foot-7	The timber ancillary facility on the Hastings side of the site has reached its end of life and needs replacing. The 2 nd ancillary is also in a poor state.	1. Rationalise the current ancillary facilities and invest in the existing western pavilion to ensure the facility is fit for purpose. Work with the FA and the RFU to refine the design of the facility and engage with the Hastings Conquerors on their needs and ambition to develop the social side of the club using a bar area. 2. Work with the Community Interest Company who manage the adjacent Hub and wider Combe Valley Park area to	HBC RDC FA Sport England	HBC officer time FA Football Foundation	Medium	High

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
			explore potential joint developments to serve the need of local residents.				
	Rug-3	There is a lack of appropriate ancillary facilities for rugby. The timber clubhouse it at the end of its life and needs replacing.	1. Rationalise the current ancillary facilities and invest in the existing western pavilion to ensure the facility is fit for purpose. Work with the FA and the RFU to refine the design of the facility. 2. Work with the new Visitor HUB Community Café facilities next door to explore the potential for both the Rugby Club and the American Football Club making use of the Hub facilities.	HBC RDC RFU Sport England	HBC officer time RFU facility funding	Medium	High
	AF-1	There is a lack of appropriate ancillary facilities for American football. The timber clubhouse it at the end of its life and needs replacing.	1. Rationalise the current ancillary facilities and invest in the existing western pavilion to ensure the facility is fit for purpose. Work with the Hastings Conquerors on their needs and ambition to develop the social side of the club using a bar area. 2. Work with the Community Interest Company who manage the adjacent Hub and wider Combe Valley Park area to explore potential joint developments to serve the need of local residents.	HBC RDC BAF Sport England	HBC officer time BAF facility funding	Medium	High
Bodiam Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-8	The pitch quality score has identified issues with the pitch, particularly drainage, which is supported by user consultations.	Work the FA to determine whether investment in improved drainage and maintenance would represent value for money with consideration of demand and the site's location on a flood plain.	Bodiam PC IOG RDC FA	FA Pitch Improvement Programme	Medium	Low
Brightling Park (R)	Crick-3	The pavilion is in poor condition and is not fit for	Replace the clubhouse with a basic modern structure that can be used by the	Brightling CC Brightling	Brightling Park Trust	Medium	Low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
		purpose.	cricket club and for local community use and leisure events.	Park Trust Brightling PC RDC	ECB grant funding		
Burwash Common Cricket Club (R)	Crick-4	The square does not currently have an artificial pitch on the square, which limits the amount of junior cricket that can be played during the season.	Work with the ECB to apply for small grants funding for a new non-turf pitch on the edge of the square.	Burwash Common Cricket Club ECB Burwash PC RDC	ECB grant funding	Medium	Low
Catsfield Playing Field (R)	Foot-9	The site scored poorly on assessment, with particular focus on the maintenance programme. The Parish Council currently undertake the maintenance and further support and resources for basic pitch maintenance would improve the overall quality of provision.	Work with the FA to provide the Parish Council with advice on best practice maintenance techniques and if required, use an Institute of Groundsmanship assessment to identify key issues at the site.	Catsfield PC FA RDC IOG	FA pitch Improvement Programme Catsfield PC	Short	Low
	Crick-5	On inspection, significant issues were identified with rabbit holes and damage to the surface, which was deemed to be partially unsafe on inspection.	1. Work with the Parish Council to improve security against animal damage 2. Work with the ECB to provide guidance on pest control for publicly owned pitches.	Catsfield PC ECB RDC	Catsfield PC officer time	Short	Low
	Stool-2	The club has stated that dog fouling is an issue and the outfield would benefit from periodic rolling to ensure it maintains evenness.	1. Work with the Parish Council to improve signage at the site, in order to reduce dog fouling. 2. Collaborate with the cricket club to organise for volunteers to use the cricket club maintenance equipment to roll the outfield.	Catsfield PC	Catsfield PC	Short	Low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
Crowhurst Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-10	The pavilion is in need of major refurbishment, with the timber floor and verandah being the main priorities. There is a proposal to reduce the frequency of mowing due to resource constraints.	Ensure that the current level of maintenance is at least maintained, in order to reduce the risk of the site quality degrading further.	Crowhurst PC FA	Crowhurst PC	Short	Medium
Crowhurst Park Cricket Club (R)	Crick-6	The pavilion requires significant attention as the timber frame is currently rotting. The club is also looking to formalise the tenure of the site with Sport England and the ECB.	1. The club should look to sign a long term community use agreement with the landowner to ensure long term security of tenure. 2. Work with the ECB to confirm the best approach for the pavilion (renovation or replacement) and support the club in this development	Crowhurst Park CC Battle TC ECB	Crowhurst Park CC volunteer time Claremont School ECB facility funding	1. Short 2. Long	1. Low 2. Medium
Drewett Cricket Field (R)	Crick-7	The pavilion requires refurbishment and if completed, would ensure the site is an example of high quality rural cricket provision.	Refurbish the ancillary facility to ensure the facilities meet the need of the club and local residents	Hurst Green CC ECB	ECB grant funding Hurst Green CC volunteer time	Long	Low
Egerton Park Bowls Green (R)	Bowls-1	Disabled access is poor and should be improved	Work with Bowls England to apply for funding to plan for and implement improved accessibility at the site.	Egerton Park BC RDC Bowls England	RDC Bowls England facility funding SE facility funding	Medium	Low
Falaise Road (H)	Tenn-4	This site is currently out of service due to the poor quality of facilities.	Confirm with the LTA whether it is realistic for funding to be assigned to the site. If this is not feasible, look to re-designate the courts as open space or an alternative sports facility.	HBC LTA	HBC officer time LTA funding (if required)	Short	High
Frewen College (R)	Crick-8	The school is looking to increase community use at	1. Northiam CC should look to sign a formal community use agreement with	Frewen College	Frewen	Medium	low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
		the site, however there is not a formal security use agreement in place between Northiam CC and Frewen College.	the school to ensure a long-term security of tenure 2. Begin planning for a replacement pavilion and identifying how that will be funded.	Northiam CC RDC	College Sport England RDC		
George Meadow (R)	Crick-9	The club has been affected significantly by vandalism, with attempts to reduce this using anti-climb paint resulting in the vandals smearing the paint over the new artificial wicket.	1. ECB to support the club in improving the measures to reduce vandalism 2. Apply to ECB small grants fund, in order to install improved net facilities at the club	Battle CC Battle TC ECB RDC	Battle TC ECB advice and support ECB small grants fund	Short	Medium
Guestling Bowls Green (R)	Bowls-2	The ancillary facilities are dated and require refurbishment	Work with Guestling Parish Council to refurbish the clubhouse.	Guestling Bowls Club Guestling PC RDC	Bowls England facility funding	Long	Low
Guestling Playing Field (R)	Foot-11	The pitches are maintained by the Parish Council and currently receive minimal maintenance and are of poor overall quality. The pavilion falls short of modern standards	1. Support the Parish Council with their ambitions of bringing the previously used senior football pitch back into use. 2. Work with Sport England to develop a business plan for redeveloping the pavilion	Guestling PC FA RDC	FA facility funding	Medium	Medium
Hornbye Park Sports Complex (H)	Hock-1	The sand-based carpet is nearing the end of its life and requires replacing within the next year.	If this site is to be continued to be used as hockey provision, replace the sand-based carpet.	England Hockey South Saxons HC Hornbye Trust HBC Sport England	England Hockey facilities funding Hornbye Trust funding HBC officer time	Short	High

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	Crick-10	This is a very high quality cricket site however there is uncertainty over the future of the site.	1. Ensure that if any displacement of demand occurs, the cricket club are provided with facilities that are equally as good or better than the current facilities. 2. Explore the possibility of a second pitch nearby, to increase the capacity for cricket matches at peak time on a Saturday afternoon.	ECB HBC	None	Short	High
Icklesham Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-12	The football club do not currently pay anything for the use of the site.	Review operational model and consider a small charge, which can be used to contribute to a sinking fund for ongoing maintenance and facility improvements .	Icklesham PC RDC	Icklesham PC	Short	Low
	Foot-13	The maintenance of the site is poor and needs to be addressed by basic, improved maintenance procedures.	Incorporate additional turf management tasks into the current grounds maintenance arrangement	Icklesham PC RDC FA	Icklesham PC	Short	Medium
	Crick-11	The pavilion has recently been refurbished following vandalism and now needs further modernisation.	If Rye CC continue to use the site for formal cricket, then work with the ECB to relocate or refurbish the pavilion and seek support in improving the measures to reduce vandalism.	Rye CC ECB RDC	ECB facility grants and Rye CC funding Icklesham PC	Medium	Low
	Stool-3	The facilities at the cricket club that are used by the stoolball club are very poor and the site requires a new pavilion to allow mixed changing.	Pending a decision on the future of cricket at the site, the Stoolball Club should look to work with the cricket club and football club to source funding for a new ancillary facility, including basic changing rooms and a social area,	Stoolball England Icklesham PC RDC	Stoolball England and Icklesham Stoolball club funding Icklesham PC	Medium	Medium
Iden Playing Field (R)	Foot-14	This pitch scored very poorly on assessment, with some of the worst drainage in the study area and severe sloping and wear.	If the site is to be retained as playing pitches, identify how additional maintenance could improve the pitch and how this could be financed.	Iden PC RDC FA	Iden PC	Short	Medium

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King George V Playing Field (R)	Stool-4	The Stoolball Club has identified that the toilets and disabled access are not currently fit for purpose.	Work with the Parish Council, the ECB and the cricket club to improve disabled access to the ancillary facility.	Stoolball England Mountfield PC ECB RDC	Stoolball England funding Mountfield PC	Medium	Low
Little Common Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-15	This site scored well during the site assessments, however the site has been identified by the club as having poor drainage, leading to match cancellations in the wettest times of the year.	If stakeholders are prepared to pursue, then look at passing greater responsibility for maintenance to Little Common FC. This will include the training of volunteers on maintenance procedures, including any new machinery.	RDC FA Little Common FC	RDC FA maintenance funding	Medium	Medium
	Foot-16	Little Common FC require an enclosed pitch to meet the FA requirements for their level of competitive football, however this is not feasible at the current site due to the wider requirements of the Council.	On the assumption that Little Common Recreation Ground cannot support the requirements for Step 6, ensure LCFC is earmarked to have sole use or a share of any new or redeveloped football site within the study area that satisfied Step 6 requirements.	RDC Little Common FC FA	RDC FA Little Common FC	Short	High
	Crick-12	On inspection, significant issues were identified with rabbit holes and damage to the surface, which was deemed to be partially unsafe.	1. Work with the ECB to provide guidance on pest control for publicly owned pitches. 2. Monitor the performance of the current grounds contractor to ensure all requisite maintenance is being undertaken at site.	LCR CC ECB RDC	RDC	Medium	Low
	Crick-13	The club has identified that new practice nets are a priority development.	Work with the ECB to access the small grants scheme and apply for new static practice nets	LCR CC ECB RDC	ECB small grants funding RDC	Medium	Low
Northiam Playing Fields (R)	Foot-17	There is no drainage system at the site and as a consequence the pitches are unplayable during the wettest periods of the season. The	Work with the FA and the Institute of Groundsmanship, to confirm the cause of the drainage issues. Refurbish the ancillary in line with league and club requirements.	Northiam PC RDC	RDC officer time FA Pitch Improvement Programme	1. Short 2. Medium	Medium

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		ancillary is also not fit-for-purpose and needs refurbishing			IOG study resources		
Oaklands Park (R)	Foot-18	The current site cannot satisfy the level of demand for junior and adult football and there is no further space at the site to increase the number of pitches.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that Sedlescombe Rangers FC is provided with consistent training and match slots on any new 3G AGP development sites that are accessible to club members. 2. If stakeholders are prepared to pursue, then look at passing greater responsibility for maintenance to Sedlescombe Rangers FC, which will include the training of volunteers on maintenance procedures, including any new machinery. 	Sedlescombe PC Sedlescombe Sports Association SR FC FA RDC	RDC Sedlecombe PC officer time FA Pitch Improvement Programme SRFC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short 2. Medium 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Medium
Pett Recreation Ground (R)	Crick-14	The club has identified that a roll-on net would allow practice to occur on the square. The site is currently over-capacity for cricket.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the ECB to access the small grants scheme and apply for a new roll-on practice net. 2. Work with the ECB to install a non-turf pitch on the square, in order to reduce the demand for grass pitches by junior teams. 	Pett CC Pett PC ECB	ECB grant funding Pett CC volunteer time	Medium	Low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
Polegrove Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-19	The site is significantly over-capacity and the users have identified that the quality of pitches are poor and that maintenance is not undertaken at the required regularity. At least one further pitch is required in order to reduce the deficit of supply at the site, however this is unlikely to be feasible due to the spatial constraints at the site.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the FA and the Institute of Groundsmanship, to confirm the cause of the drainage issues. Prepare a specification to address this and seek funding for implementation 2. Monitor the performance of the current grounds contractor more closely to ensure all requisite maintenance is being undertaken at site. 3. If stakeholders are prepared to pursue, then look at passing greater responsibility for maintenance to Bexhill United FC, which will include the training of volunteers on maintenance procedures, including any new machinery. 	RDC Bexhill United FC Glenco FC FA	RDC FA Pitch Improvement Programme IOG study resources	1. Short 2. Medium 3. Medium	Medium
	Crick-15	The club has stated that the site is not of a requisite quality for the standard that the 1st team currently plays at, primarily because of the pavilion. The club is looking for either a major refurbishment or a new site.	Continue to work with the ECB to test whether further development of the new facilities at St Mary's Lane in Bexhill is viable.	Bexhill CC ECB	ECB support CIL/S106	Short	High
	Crick-16	The club has stated that it currently does not have fit-for-purpose practice facilities.	Work with the club to apply for ECB small grants funding, to be used for non-turf practice wickets to be used throughout the week for training purposes.	Bexhill CC ECB RDC	ECB small grants funding	Short	Medium
	Bowls-3	The pavilion was identified as poor on inspection and would benefit from refurbishment. There is an ongoing issue	Refurbish the ancillary facility, working with Bowls England to define the ideal design for a clubhouse.	RDC Bowls England Bexhill Bowls	RDC Bowls England facility funding	Long	Medium

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
		with a leaking roof		Club Fields in Trust			
Riverhall Lane (Mountfield) (R)	Foot-20	The playing pitch suffers from poor maintenance and has issues with drainage	Work with the FA and Mountfield FC to improve the maintenance programme at the site and provide support and advice to the club, who currently maintain the site.	Mountfield FC FA RDC	Mountfield FC volunteer time FA officer time	Medium	Low
Rye Cricket Salts (R)	Foot-21	The site currently suffers from poor drainage, with 32% of all football cancelled due to an unfit pitch during the 2015/16 season.	Invest in the maintenance of the new 11v11 adult pitch and look to transfer demand from poor pitches in neighbouring villages, such as Peasmarsch or Beckley	RDC FA Beckley Rangers	RDC FA Pitch Improvement Programme	1. Short 2. Medium	Medium
	Crick-17	The current non-turf pitch requires refurbishment as it is not currently fit-for-purpose.	Work with the club to apply for ECB small grants funding, to be used to refurbish or replace the non-turf wicket on the square, which can then address the demand issues by reducing the demand for grass wickets by the junior teams.	ECB Rye CC RDC	ECB small grants funding RDC	Medium	Low
Sandhurst Recreation Ground (H)	Foot-22	The site suffers from poor drainage, with 24% of all football bookings being cancelled due to the condition of the pitches. The ancillary is also not fit-for-purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the FA and the Institute of Groundsmanship, to confirm the cause of the drainage issues and provide recommendations on future maintenance requirements for the contractor. 2. Work with the maintenance contractor to ensure that maintenance is being carried out as per specified in the contract. 3. Use the 2015 IOG report to inform the re-prioritisation of the maintenance schedule to reflect the needs of the particular site. 4. Undertake a feasibility study for the 	HBC IOG FA	IOG study costs Update of HBC maintenance contract	Short	High

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
			refurbishment of the ancillary facility and work with the FA to refine the spec for any new developments.				
Sidley Sports and Social Club (R)	Foot-23	This site was repossessed in 2015 due to financial mismanagement. The site was previously a Step 5 football ground and provided a high quality of football provision for local residents. The site is not currently in use.	1. Ensure that this site is protected and that any development on the site leads to replacement of facilities to at least the same or improved level of quality and facility mix. 2. If possible, look to bring the site back into use and work with relevant clubs to confirm operational arrangements for ground-shares or for using the site as a home ground.	RDC FA	RDC Heart of Sidley Group	Medium	High
	Foot-24	If this site is to be used for competitive football, the current ancillary is not fit for purpose.	If the site is to be used for football, work with the FA to develop a new ancillary facility including changing rooms and a social area.	RDC FA	RDC FA Pitch Improvement Programme Heart of Sidley Group	Long	Medium
	Crick-18	The square is not currently used for cricket and will require significant investment in order to get it to an appropriate playing standard.	Work with the ECB to estimate the amount of work and funding that would be required to bring the quality of the facilities back to the level they were at before the site was re-possessed.	RDC ECB	RDC Heart of Sidley ECB facility funding	Long	Medium
Sidley Recreation Ground (R)	Foot 25	Shortfalls in maintenance are thought to be contributing to the level of cancellations. The pavilion needs to be modernised so as to conform to FA standards and not to detract from the aesthetics of the area.	Monitor the performance of the grounds maintenance contractor more closely to ensure that the sports pitch maintenance tasks are carried out as per the contracted specification. Investigate opportunities to fund a design feasibility study for a refurbished pavilion.	RDC Heart of Sidley	RDC Heart of Sidley	Medium	Long

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
St Mary's Recreation Ground (R)	Crick-19	This site is being used on occasion by Bexhill CC as a second ground for lower senior and junior teams to play and train and consideration is being given to relocating the first team to this location.	Work with the ECB to estimate the total funding that would be required to bring the site up to a requisite quality for competitive cricket.	Bexhill CC RDC ECB Fields in Trust	Bexhill CC RDC	Short	Low
	Crick-20	A shipping container is currently being used as an ancillary facility. A new ancillary would be required if the ground is to be used as a permanent ground for Bexhill CC.	Continue to improve the quality of the square and outfield in order to establish more regular use of the facility by the lower senior and junior teams.	Bexhill CC ECB RDC Fields in Trust	Bexhill CC volunteer time ECB facility funding	Short	Medium
Stonegate Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-26	The structure of the pavilion is not fit for purpose and may be unsafe.	Undertake a survey to determine the integrity of the pavilion's structure and electrics and provision made to address any identified issues both in the short term and the longer term,	RDC FA Ticehurst PC	Survey costs Structural and electrical remediation cost	Short	Low
Swan Meadow Playing Field (R)	Foot-27	The site is over-capacity and the users have identified that the quality of pitches are poor and that maintenance is not undertaken at the required regularity. At least one further pitch is required in order to reduce the deficit of supply at the site, however this is unlikely to be feasible due to the spatial constraints at the site.	Undertake an independent agronomist study, through the Institute of Groundsmanship, to confirm the cause of the drainage issues.	Burwash Playing Fields Association RDC FA IOG Burwash FC	IOG study costs Burwash PC FA Pitch Improvement Programme	Short	Medium
Tackleway FC	Foot-28	Basic maintenance needs to	1. Audit current grounds contractor to	Tackleway	HBC officer	Short	Low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead= Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
(H)		be improved, such as regular grass cutting, however the pitch is in relatively good condition.	ensure all requisite maintenance is being undertaken at site. 2. If a new maintenance contractor is required, or if the scope of the maintenance contract is required to change, work with the FA to refine the requirement and key deliverables for a pitch maintenance contract.	FC HBC FA	time FA support		
The Down (R)	Foot-29	The pavilion is in need of modernisation and further investigation is needed to ascertain the best approach to improving drainage.	1. Investigate opportunities to fund a design feasibility study for a refurbished pavilion. 2. Work with the FA and IOG to determine the most cost effective approach to improving drainage.	RDC	RDC FA IOG	Long	Low
Ticehurst Village Club/Ticehurst Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-30	Players must use the toilets at the back of the village hall which are in a poor condition and are vulnerable to vandalism. There is only 1 gents urinal and 1 ladies toilet. The changing accommodation is provided in a separate portacabin.	Improve the toilet provision and provide fit-for-purpose facilities.	Ticehurst PC Wadhurst Junior FC Ticehurst Village FC RDC FA Beatrice Drewe Trust	FA Beatrice Drewe Trust Ticehurst PC	Medium	Medium
Tilekiln Recreation Ground (H)	Foot-31	There is currently no additional drainage infrastructure on site, with the site suffering from poor drainage during periods of wet weather.	Work with the FA and the IOG to confirm the cause of the drainage issues.	HBC FA IOG	HBC officer time IOG study costs FA Pitch Improvement Programme	Medium	High

END

ROTHER AND HASTINGS PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Rother District Council & Hastings Borough Council

October 2016 – Final Report

Photo: Dr Sarah Jacques

Prepared by



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4 global Consulting Terms of Reference

It is not possible to guarantee the fulfillment of any estimates or forecasts contained within this report, although they have been conscientiously prepared on the basis of our research and information made available to us at the time of the study.

The author(s) will not be held liable to any party for any direct or indirect losses, financial or otherwise, associated with any contents of this report. We have relied on a number of areas of information provided by the client, and have not undertaken additional independent verification of this data.

1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Rother District Council and Hastings Borough Council have jointly commissioned 4 global Consulting and Strategic Leisure Ltd to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the two local authorities as a single area. Rother and Hastings Councils will be hereafter referred to as ‘the Councils’ and the overall geographical area will be referred to as the ‘study area’.

1.1.2 Rother District Council (RDC) and Hastings Borough Council (HBC) have close sporting links with a number of clubs and sites serving the local residents of both local authorities. It is therefore considered pragmatic to consider the two local authorities as a single study area, while realising the planning and development constraints faced by the two individual authorities.

1.1.3 A PPS is a strategic assessment that provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) in the local authority. Given the breadth of sports played in the study area, as well as the intention of the Councils to incorporate as much grass-roots participation as possible within the study, the assessment will focus on the following sports;

- Football
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Stoolball
- Outdoor Bowls
- American Football

1.1.4 The Councils are committed to providing sports provision that meets the needs of its residents and local clubs. The Councils also have an obligation to assess planning applications with a complete evidence base and make decisions that benefit the local residents of Rother and Hastings. The Councils have adopted development plans in place (Rother Core Strategy, 2014 and Hastings Planning Strategy, 2014) and these must be assessed in line with the future demand for playing pitches and how any loss of playing fields would impact the local residents.

1.1.5 The objectives of the Rother and Hastings PPS are;

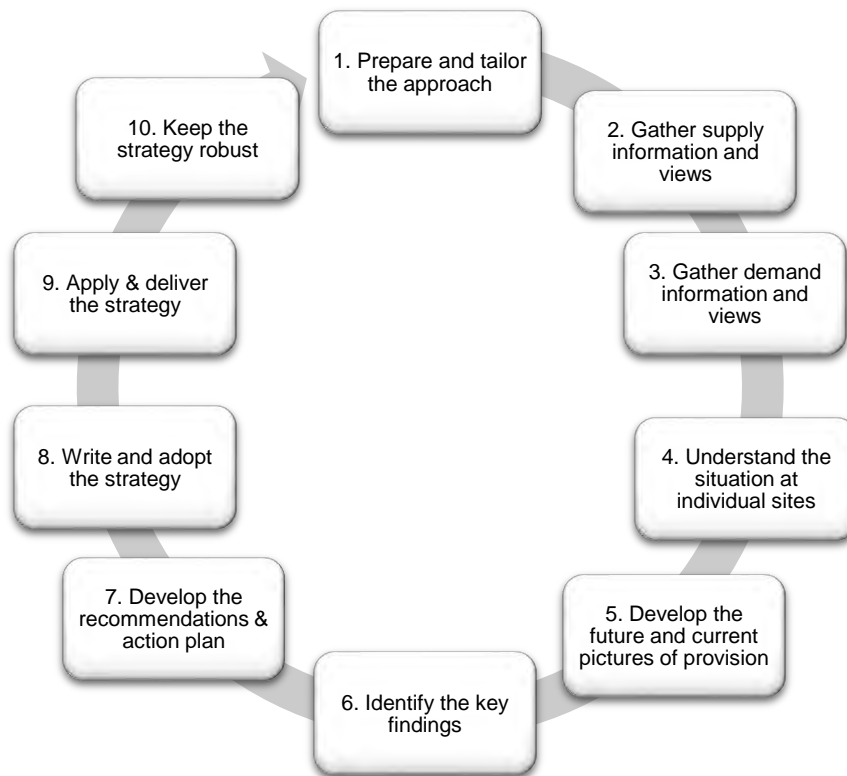
- Engage with Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies (NGB’s) for sport and use the national PPS methodology to provide the project with a structure proven across the rest of England.
- Provide a robust evidence base that can be used by multiple Council units and other stakeholders for a wide range of future projects

- Gather a representative evidence base, by achieving a high response rate from the surveys sent to clubs, schools and parish councils/community organisations
- Identify cross boundary NGB issues, the nature and location of any overuse, unmet demand and spare capacity for play across all pitch types and sports including all elements of current and future demand
- Establish clear, prioritised, specific and achievable recommendations and actions to address the key issues around pitch provision and participation

1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 The assessment methodology adopted for the PPS follows the published guidance from Sport England. The guidance used is the 2013 version, *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy*. Figure 1 summarises the approach proposed in this guidance and is broken down into 10 steps.

Figure 1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach (Sport England, 2013)



1.2.2 To facilitate information gathering and help ensure PPS reports are based on a robust evidence base, 4 global has developed an online data entry and assessment platform (see images below), which contains all pitch provider and club information. This will enable the Council to keep supply and demand information and the strategy up to date through to the end of the strategy and beyond.

Figure 2 - 4 global's Online Playing Pitch Platform



- 1.2.3 A Project Steering Group comprising representation from the Councils, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) has guided the study from its commencement. At critical milestones, the Steering Group members have reviewed and verified the data and information collected to allow the work to proceed efficiently through each stage, reducing the margin of error. Details of the steering board and the organisations they represent are included in Appendix C – Steering Board Members.

1.3 The Structure of the Executive Summary

- 1.3.1 The structure of the Executive Summary report is as follows

- Section 1 - Introductory
- Section 2 – Strategic Context
- Section 3 – Summary of Key Findings
- Section 4 - Recommendations and Action Plan.

- 1.3.2 In addition to the Executive Summary, a detailed report has also been produced, which provides a full evidence base for the analysis and a clear methodology for the project.

2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1.1 This section summarises the most important policies and context that impact upon the strategy and its interpretation. It also gives an overview of the demographics of the study area, which provides contextual background to sport participation and the need for provision now and in the future.

2.1.2 Sport specific strategies and policy documents published by NGBs are included within each sport's section to provide more relevant context to each sport.

2.2 National Context

2.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England. This provides the framework, which must be taken into account in the preparation of local plans and is a material consideration in determining planning decisions. The NPPF highlights the purpose of the planning system in terms of contributing to the achievement of "sustainable development", and defines the three dimensions of this – economic, social and environmental. Gains in these should be sought simultaneously.

2.2.2 A 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' is central to the NPPF. Paragraph 14 states that, for plan-making, this means:

- Local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area;
- Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:
- Any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or
- Specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.

2.2.3 The NPPF sets out the requirement of local authorities to establish and provide adequate and proper leisure facilities to meet local needs. Paragraphs 73 and 74 outline the planning policies for the provision and protection of sport and recreation facilities.

- "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required".
- 'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including

playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

2.2.4 Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications that affect sports pitches and it has a long established policy of playing pitch retention, even prior to the NPPF guidance. It looks to improve the quality, access and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand. Sport England requires local authorities to have an up-to date assessment of playing pitch needs and an associated strategy including a recommendation that the evidence base is reviewed every three years. The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide playing pitches, as follows:

- Protect: To provide evidence to inform policy and specifically to support Site Allocations and Development Management Policies which will protect playing fields and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership
- Enhance: To ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that best uses are made of existing resources - whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on local authority budgets
- Provide: To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements through grant aid and also through the Community Infrastructure Levy¹ (CIL) and Section 106 agreements

2.2.5 Sport England and local authorities can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding sports pitches and facility developments in the area and to support or protect against planning applications brought forward by developers.

¹ The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. It came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010. Development may be liable for a charge under the Community Infrastructure Levy. Source: Planning Portal <https://www.planningportal.co.uk> (Department for Communities and Local Government: 2016)

2.3 Local Context – Rother

- 2.3.1 Rother is located in the eastern part of East Sussex and shares a border with the County of Kent. The District derives its name from the River Rother which traverses the northern part of the area from Ticehurst through rural villages to reach the English Channel at Rye. The District covers approximately 200 square miles and with the exception of Bexhill and the historic towns of Battle and Rye, the area is mainly rural. Rother is a district that includes pockets of severe and enduring deprivation, within a district of relative affluence.
- 2.3.2 Approximately 92,325 people currently live in Rother (ESiF 2014 estimates), many dispersed across the rural area, but with nearly half being in Bexhill. There is a high proportion of elderly people, especially in Bexhill.
- 2.3.3 Based on planned housing growth, Rother's population is projected to increase by approximately 9,200 people between 2011 and 2028. ONS population projections also show that older age cohorts that are forecast to increase most.
- 2.3.4 The main settlement in Rother is Bexhill, with the key demographic trends summarised in the below points;
- Bexhill is the largest settlement in Rother district. It has a population of 43,714 people, equivalent to 48% of the district as a whole.
 - The town's age structure reflects a combination of the town's history, seaside location, and quiet character, with relatively low house prices compared to the wider South East.
 - There is a high proportion of older people, with 34.3% of the population aged over 65 years, which compares with 24.7% for East Sussex and 18.6% for the South East.
 - Migration information confirms a trend in older couples (aged 45+) and retirees moving to the town.
 - The proportion of children, younger adults and people aged 30-44 are all correspondingly lower than county and regional averages.

2.4 Local Context – Hastings

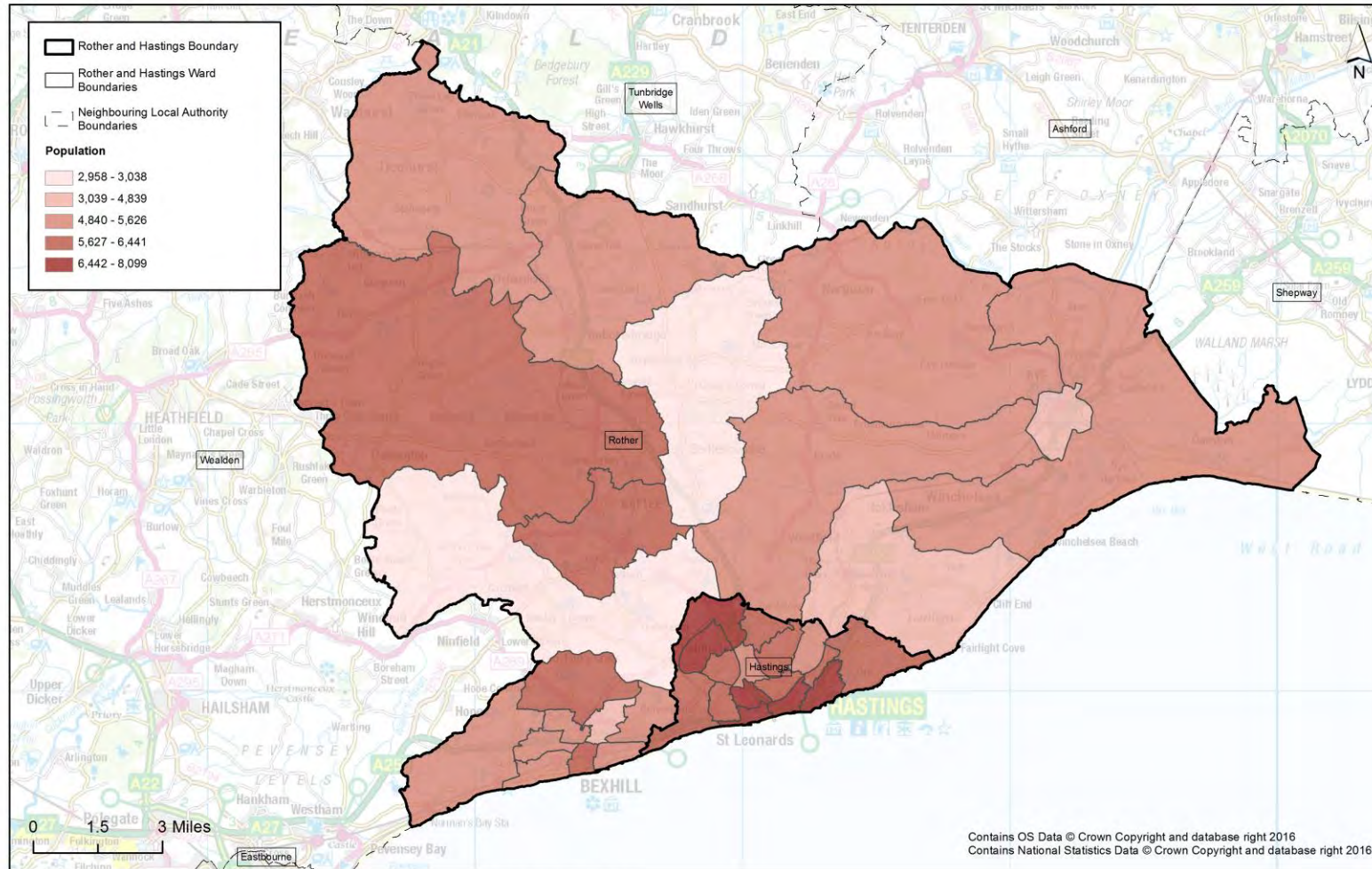
- 2.4.1 Hastings is a community of approximately 90,000 people located with the English Channel to the south, Combe Haven Valley to the west, Fairlight to the east and the High Weald to the north. Together with Bexhill the town of Hastings sits in an urban area with a population around 135,000. Its history is shaped partly by its relationship to the sea, but also by its distance (60 miles) from London. The town has 8 miles of coastline and is surrounded by the mainly rural district of Rother. The population of Hastings is typically younger than the rest of East Sussex, with a current age profile similar to the national picture. Based on the housing growth proposed between 2011 and 2028, the population is forecast to grow by 3.2%. At the same time a growth in the number of households is expected to increase from 41,100 in 2011 to 44,500 in 2028 (an increase of 8.2%).

- 2.4.2 By 2028 there will be a greater proportion of older people, with particular growth in the post retirement age group (30% in 2028, compared to 24% in 2011).
- 2.4.3 Ensuring that the PPS action plan and recommendations are in line with the priorities of the most recent sport and physical activity strategy is key, in order to allow HBC to continue improving the provision and accessibility of sports provision in its most deprived areas.

POPULATION PROFILES AND PROJECTIONS FOR THE STUDY AREA

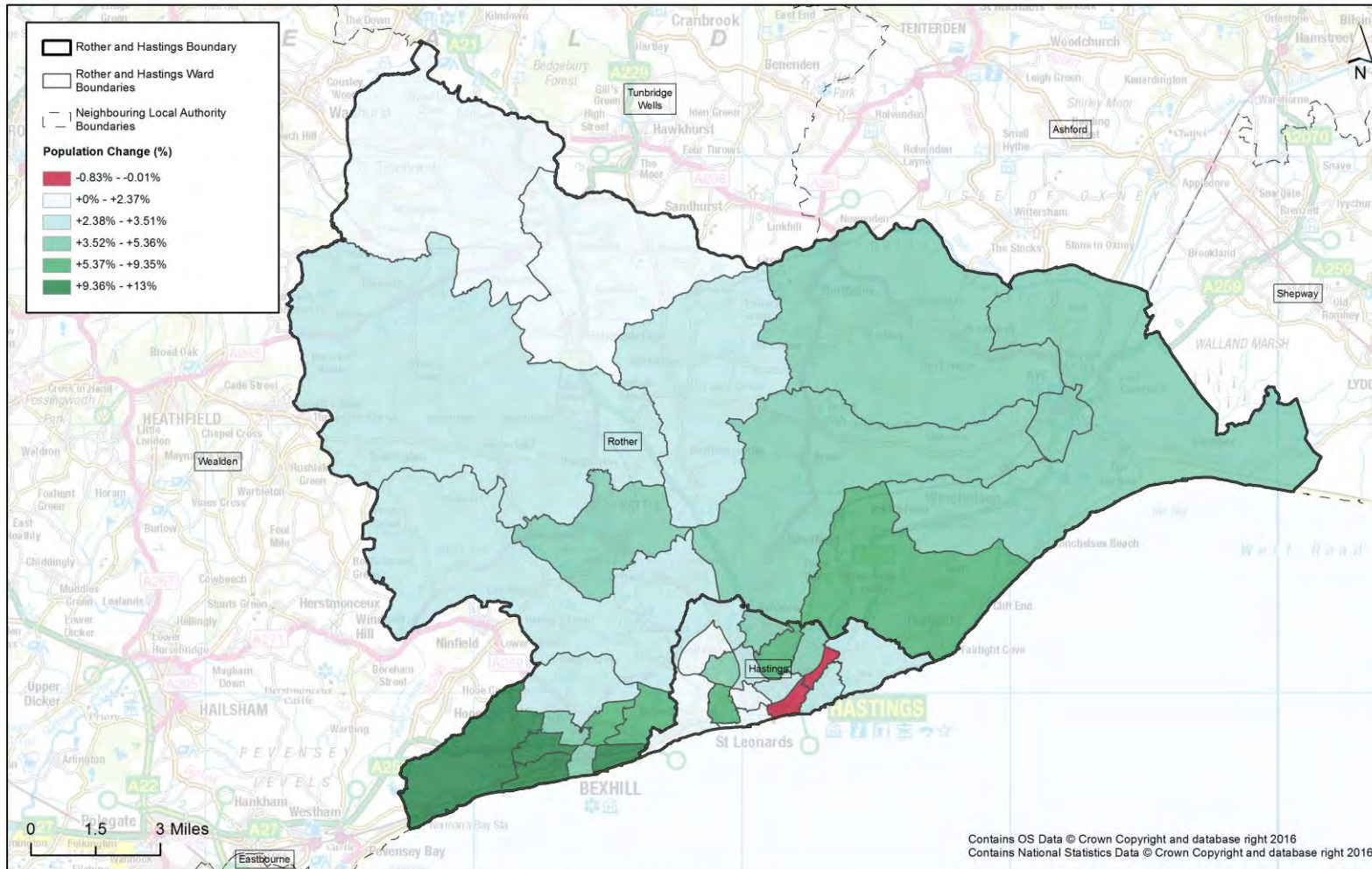
- 2.4.4 Understanding the population and future growth projections are important in planning the future provision of sports facilities.
- 2.4.5 The Councils have provided housing projections in line with the Core Strategy housing growth figures, with both the current and projected populations shown spatially overleaf. Map 2 illustrates the relatively high density of population in Hastings and the sparser distribution of population across Rother.
- 2.4.6 The overall population in Rother and Hastings is projected to grow between 2016 and 2028 by 4%, from 182,941 to 191,094 with the highest growth centred around Bexhill and Hastings.
- 2.4.7 In terms of demographics, a number of age groups are projected to reduce in population over the study period, with a projected reduction of 5,108 45-54 year olds. In contrast, the older age groups are projected to grow, with an overall projected increase of 17,409 for the 55+ age group.

Map 1 – Rother and Hastings Population (2016 Projected – source: Office of National Statistics 2014 population projections)



Usual resident population by ward in Rother and Hastings (2016)

Map 2 – Rother and Hastings Population Change. Source: Office of National Statistics 2014 population projections



Map 2 shows the future projected population change across Rother and Hastings, and how the population will increase around the urban areas, and particularly in western Bexhill and central Hastings. The darker the green shade, the higher the population growth in that specific area. The red shading indicates a projected reduction in population within the given ward.

Percentage change in population by ward in Rother and Hastings (2016 -2028)

DEPRIVATION

- 2.4.9 Deprivation in the study area is a severe issue, but in Hastings in particular. The health of people in Hastings is generally worse than the England average. Deprivation is higher than average and about 27.7% (4700)² of children live in poverty. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average, with the difference between life expectancy for the most and least deprived areas being 10.4 years for men².
- 2.4.10 The health of people in Rother is generally better than the England average. Deprivation is lower than average, however about 17.8% (2,400)² children live in poverty. Life expectancy for women is higher than the England average, however it is 8.5 years lower in the most deprived areas of Rother than in the least deprived areas³
- 2.4.11 Hastings is the 20th most deprived local authority area in England out of 326 authorities (lower ranking = more deprived). 16 of the 53 Super Output Areas (SOAs)⁴ in Hastings are in the most deprived 10% in England, compared with 15 in 2010. These are all of Central St Leonards and Castle wards, and parts of Hollington, Gensing, Ore, Wishing Tree, Tressell and Baird.
- 2.4.12 Rother has six (10%) of SOAs amongst the most deprived 20% in England, four in Bexhill (Sidley and Central wards), one in Rye and one in Eastern Rother.
- 2.4.13 Hastings remains the most deprived in the South East, and in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) area based on both average score and proportion of SOAs in most deprived 10%.
- 2.4.14 The two most deprived neighbourhoods in Hastings are Broomgrove and Farley Bank / Halton, are among the most deprived 1% in England. The “7 Streets” area of St Leonards are among the most 2% deprived in England.
- 2.4.15 According to the IMD 2015 extent measure 40.3% of Hastings’ population experiences a degree of deprivation.
- 2.4.16 Hastings remains the 2nd most deprived seaside town in England after Blackpool according to both the rank of average score and the proportion of SOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally⁵.
- 2.4.17 Map 3 overleaf shows the high deprivation in central Hastings, as well as in eastern Rother, around Rye and Iden. Lowering levels of deprivation in Sidley and Bexhill Central wards have also been identified as priorities for Rother District Council.

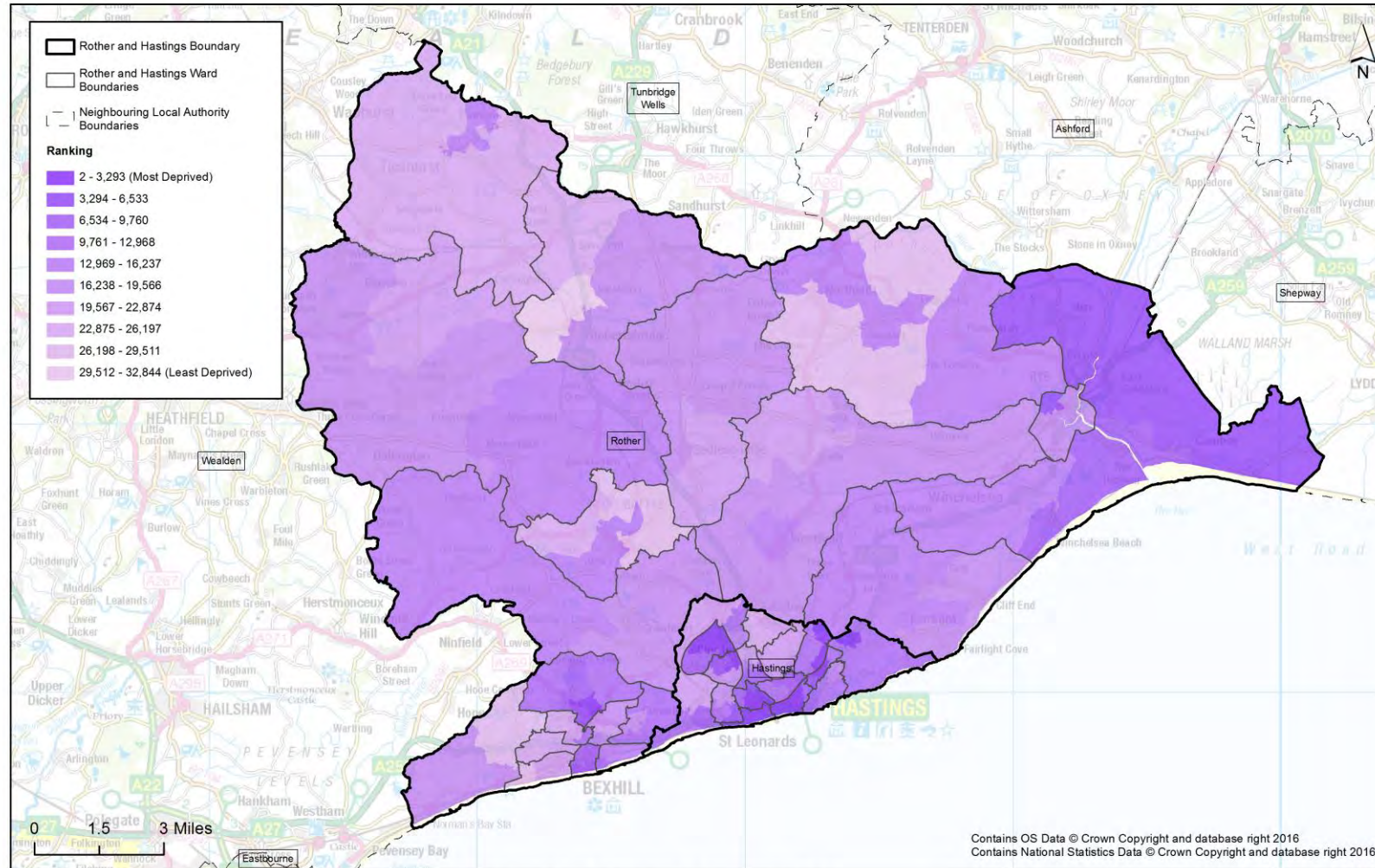
² Hastings Health Profile (Public Health England: 2015)

³ Rother Health Profile (2015: Public Health England)

⁴ Super Output Areas are a geography for the collection and publication of small area statistics. They are used on the Neighbourhood Statistics site and across National Statistics.

⁵ English Index of Multiple Deprivation (Office of National Statistics: 2015)

Map 3 – Areas of Deprivation in Rother and Hastings



Index of Multiple Deprivation by lower super output area in Rother and Hastings (2015)

2.4.18 Table 1 summarises the overall demographics in the study area

Table 1 – Summary of Rother and Hastings Demographic Profile

Key Factors	Rother and Hastings
Population 2016 (estimated - all ages) (2014-based Population Projections; R&H)	91,802 (Rother) 91,139 (Hastings) 182,941 (TOTAL)
Population 2028 (all ages)	97,353 (Rother) 93,741 (Hastings) 191,094 (TOTAL)
Population Increases Planned	Rother: At least 5,700 dwellings Hastings: At least 3,600 dwellings. Total: At least 9,347 dwellings
Population characteristics	Predominantly white; the population is ageing – the largest growth in the population will be in the 76-84 age group.
Rural Areas	Rother is predominantly rural, with the largest settlement being the coastal town of Bexhill, with smaller market towns of Battle and Rye and a number of smaller villages and rural settlements across the rest of the District. Hastings is a far smaller local authority and is made up largely of the Hastings town. It is therefore an entirely urban local authority.
Car Ownership	As Rother is more rural, a far higher percentage have access to a car, with only 17.8% not having access. This is lower than both the East Sussex and National averages 30.8% of the population in Hastings do not have access to a car, which is 10% more than the East Sussex average and almost 6% higher than the national average. This has a significant impact on the ability of residents to get to sports facilities and should therefore be considered.
Deprivation	Rother has far lower levels of deprivation, with 8.7% living in the 20% most deprived areas of England. Deprivation is a significant issue, especially in Hastings where 44.9% of the population living in the 20% most deprived areas of England.
Obesity	Rother: 21.1% of the adult population are categorised as obese, although 65.8% are classified as overweight 20.6% of reception children and 32% of Year 6 children were classed as overweight (including obese). Hastings: 22.5% of the adult population are categorised as obese, although 64.2 ⁶ % are classified as overweight (including those categorised as obese). 25.1% of reception children and 34.3% of Year 6 children were classed as overweight (including obese).
Health Issues	The health of people in Rother is generally better than the England average, with local priorities including cancers, circulatory diseases. In contrast, the health of people in Hastings is generally worse than the England average, however the same local priorities for health are highlighted

⁶ Rother Public Health Outcomes Framework - <http://www.phoutcomes.info/Hastings> (2016: Public Health England)

2.5 Local Sports Context for Rother and Hastings

2.5.1 This section summarises the key sports specific strategies and plans for Rother and Hastings, as well as the local participation trends in order to understand the key priorities for sports and leisure in the local and surrounding areas.

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF SPORT

2.5.2 Sport has a valuable role to play in benefitting the health and social economy of the nation and at local level. It is estimated that sport makes an £11.3 billion contribution to the health economy of England⁷. In 2010, sport contributed gross value-add of £20.3 billion to the economy in England.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND PARTICIPATION

2.5.3 This section summarises the key trends for physical activity, utilising Sport England sources such as the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation.

The Value of Participation

2.5.4 The value of participation in sport and physical activity is significant, and its contribution to individual and community quality of life should not be underestimated. This is true for both younger and older people; participation in sport and physical activity delivers:

- Opportunities for physical activity, and therefore more 'active living'
- Health benefits – cardiovascular, stronger bones, mobility
- Physical health benefits – prevents and manages 20 chronic disease including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer, obesity, musculoskeletal conditions
- Mental health benefits – prevents mental health problems and improves the quality of life of those experiencing mental health problems and illnesses
- Social benefits – socialisation, communication, inter-action, regular contact, stimulation

2.5.5 In addition, participation in sport and physical activity can facilitate the learning of new skills, development of individual and team ability / performance, and provide a 'disciplined' environment in which participants can 'grow' and develop.

2.5.6 The benefits of regular and active participation in sport and physical activity will be important to promote in relation to future sport, leisure and physical activity in Rother and Hastings. There is an existing audience in the study area, which already recognise the advantages of participation, and a latent community who are ready to take part. The sport, physical activity and leisure offer in the study area can support the delivery of the desired outcomes across a number of strategic priorities and objectives.

Current Participation Rates

⁷ Local Sport Profile 2015 and the Economic value of sport (Sport England: 2015)

2.5.7 The participation levels evidenced below⁸ suggest that the study area has less of a sporting and physically active population compared to national and regional figures.

- The Active People Survey (APS) 10 (2015/16 Q2) highlights that of those aged 14+ in Rother, 35.1% participates once a week in sport; this is lower than the South East of England (39.5%) and England average (37.0%).
- However, levels of participation (16+ males and females) population in sport have increased over the period the APS Survey has been undertaken. Overall, participation rates are higher for males than females in Rother
- The Active People Survey (APS) 10 (2015/16 Q2) highlights that of those aged 14+ in Hastings, 31.2% participates once a week in sport; this is lower than the South East (39.5%) and England average (37.0%).
- Levels of participation (16+ males) population in sport have increased over the period the APS Survey has been undertaken, but those for females have decreased. Overall, participation has remained relatively constant over the period of the Active People survey.

2.5.8 All relevant Active People (APS 10) participation data for the study area is summarised overleaf in Table 13.

⁸ Active People Survey: Sport England (2016)

Table 2: Adult (16+) Participation in Sport – Rother and Hastings

Aps 9 Measurement	Year	Rother t	Hastings	South East of England	England	Comment
16+ participation in sport at least once a week	2005/06	29.1%	28.9%	37.10%	34.6 %	Rates in the two districts are lower than South East of England and England averages.
	2015/16	33.4%	29.2%	38.7%	36.1%	
16+ 1-2 x 30 minutes of moderate sports participation per week	2015/16	25.7%	21.6%	27.4%	25.5%	While Rother’s rate of participation is above the national average, Hasting’s rate is considerably lower. Rother’s rate of participation has increased from AP1 2005/06 23.4% to 25.7%, whilst that in Hastings has fallen from AP1 2005/06 24.1% to 21.6%.
16+ 30 minutes moderate intensity activity 3 or more times a week	2014/2015	15.0%	14.7%	19.0%	17.7%	The proportion of people in Rother taking part in 30 minutes’ moderate intensity activity 3 times or more times a week has increased since APS1 2005/06 (11.0%), however it has steadily decreased from APS7 2012/13 (16.8%) The proportion of people (14.5%) in Hastings taking part in 30 minutes’ moderate intensity activity 3 or more times a week has increased since APS1 2005/06 (13.0%), however it has steadily decreased from APS7 2012/13 (16.8%)

2.5.9 APS 10 Q2 also identifies that:

- In terms of Latent Demand, 44.8% of all adults in Rother, and 57.2% of all adults in Hastings want to do more sport
- 33.5% of adults in Rother, and 28.2% of adults in Hastings, who are already physically active, want to do more sport (APS 8 2013/14 – data for APS 9 and APS10 are not available due to the insufficient sample size)
- 30.9% of those who are physically inactive in Rother (APS 8 2013/14), and 28% of those who are physically inactive in Hastings want to do more sport
- Satisfaction with existing sports facilities has decreased from 55.6% to 53.1% in Rother, and decreased significantly in Hastings from 61.2% to 54.1% over the last 3 years.

3 Summary of Key Findings

- 3.1.1 A detailed supply and demand analysis has been undertaken for all sports across the study area. The full outputs of this are included in the main PPS Analysis Report.
- 3.1.2 The following section provides a summary of the key findings for each of the sports analysed within the main report.

3.2 Football

Table 3: Key findings for Football

Football Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The supply and demand analysis indicates there is a deficit of capacity across Rother and Hastings for grass football pitches, with deficiency being most severe for youth 11v11 pitches and mini soccer 5v5 pitches. Note: This analysis is undertaken using a reduced maximum carrying capacity for pitches of all sizes, based on widespread drainage issues as well as the lack of Sunday league football across the study area, as agreed with the FA as the most appropriate reflection of match play for the study area ➤ Although the data for the study area as a whole shows a deficit for grass pitches, when considered on its own, Hastings has a surplus of senior pitches but a deficit of youth and mini pitches ➤ Balance figures; adult football +11.5 pitches, youth football -19.5 pitches and mini soccer -1.5 pitches ➤ This balance shows that there is an overall deficit of football pitches across Rother and Hastings, with only adult football showing a surplus of supply. In reality, this surplus is undermined by youth and mini-soccer teams playing matches on adult sized pitches ➤ To address the negative balance across adult and youth 11v11 pitches, it is recommended that additional capacity of 8 match equivalents per week is developed across the study area. This can be achieved through the development of 3 11v11 good quality grass pitches, the improvement of existing standard and poor quality pitches, or a combination of the two ➤ The Councils should also explore the option of remarking adult and youth pitches as mini soccer pitches, to address the deficit and provide small children with fit-for-purpose football facilities ➤ A key FA priority for Rother and Hastings is to develop a collaborative pitch maintenance programme for the study area, with club officers, council officers and volunteers benefitting from a joint equipment bank and training by qualified FA pitch experts ➤ A significant proportion of football pitches are owned and managed by the respective local authority or local parish council's, with a general downward trend in pitch quality identified throughout club consultations

Football Summary Box

- The Councils are looking for more efficient ways to distribute their maintenance budgets and would like to work with the National Governing Bodies to prioritise and deliver pitch and facility maintenance projects
- A number of the key clubs in the area, such as Bexhill United and Little Common FC, play on sites owned by the local authority however these sites are unable to meet the requirements of the FA for the level of competition played by each of the club's first teams. This also applies to Westfield FC however the arrangement at this site is different as it is leased from the Parish Council
- The report has highlighted instances of demand displacement from within the study area to neighbouring local authorities, caused by operational and financial issues at the original sites. RDC and HBC have an ambition, where possible, to bring these clubs (and associated demand) back into the study area, and will work with the club to ensure fit-for-purpose facilities are available.
- A number of locally owned authority sites are currently protected as part of Hastings Borough Council Planning Policy, namely; Ark William Parker, Sandhurst Rec, The Pilot Field, Tilekiln Rec, Tackleway and the Firs. Gibbons field is not protected as a playing field but is protected as green space
- A common issue across the sites is the quality of ancillary facilities, which are in some cases unfit for purpose and urgently requiring re-development
- There is a deficit of 3G AGP supply, with a recommended need for between 4.8 and 5 full size 3G pitches (1.4 and 3.6 in Hastings and in Rother respectively), based on FA calculations. There are not currently any Fifa 1* 3G pitches in the study area that are suitable for competitive football. While the FA calculation identifies a need for 5 new pitches across the study area, following consultation with the FA and the Councils, this is not a realistic aspiration due to the rural nature of much of the study area, as well as the lack of funding opportunities. The output of this strategy is therefore a recommendation to develop 3 full size pitches across the study area (2 in Rother and 1 in Hastings), with a view to reviewing this model as and when this output is achieved
- The following requirements should be addressed for any new 3G facility across Rother and Hastings;
 - Able to serve areas of high relative population density, such as Bexhill and Hastings, in order to ensure that demand for the facilities is consistent and they are accessible to the greatest possible number of participants
 - Developed in line with a usage agreement that ensures community use at peak times (1700 – 2200 weekdays and all

Football Summary Box	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> day throughout the weekend) ○ Utilises a consistent pricing policy for residents. Pricing policies should be affordable for grassroots clubs. This should include a match-rate at weekends that is equivalent to the LA national turf pitch prices ○ Be able to satisfy the requirements for FA Step 5 and 6 grounds, to ensure that local football clubs can continue to move up the FA affiliated football ladder. Note: this is not required for all new facilities but appropriate availability should be provided to the competitive clubs who require these facilities. This includes 3G stadia Step 5 & 6 facilities where appropriate and where the operating model is financially sustainable ○ Facilities are to be built to FIFA quality concept for Football Turf – FIFA quality (previously FIFA 1 star) accreditation. These should be tested and registered on the FA 3G pitch register. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In order to secure the sites and develop the appropriate facilities to meet the needs of local residents, the Councils and the FA should look to explore the use of education sites, in order to maximise use during school time and also utilise on-site maintenance teams for general upkeep. School sites should be considered where the appropriate community development outcomes can be secured and a sinking fund for carpet replacement can be full demonstrated ➤ It is key that when looking at 3G AGP development and the business cases that support these projects, stakeholders adhere to a consistent pricing matrix for users. The development of an appropriate matrix should be discussed with the FA, in order to ensure consistent pricing across the study area and to make sure that ‘price wars’ do not emerge between competing facilities ➤ There is currently no Sunday League competitive football played in either Rother and Hastings. It should be noted that if this type of football (affiliated but low standard adult football) was to increase in demand and there was sufficient demand for a competitive league, the demand for facilities and the resulting wear and tear of grass pitches would increase.

3.3 Cricket

Table 4: Key findings for Cricket

Cricket Summary Box	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is an overall surplus of cricket wickets across the study area. ➤ There is a lower number of non-turf pitches than would normally be expected in an area with the demand for cricket that is present in Rother and Hastings. This leads 	

to a small number of sites being over-capacity, with clubs unable to use non-turf pitches for youth cricket. In line with ECB guidance, the use of non-turf pitches should be limited to junior cricket and training, however the development of high quality non-turf pitches would reduce the wear and tear on the existing grass pitches and improve the overall quality of cricket in the study area.

- The shortfall is particularly apparent in Bexhill and Hastings, where users regularly report not being able to secure facilities for Saturday PM match slots during the summer
- Team generation rates, calculated using national population growth projections, suggest that there will be negative growth in demand for cricket
- Balance figures for 2016 (not including non-turf pitches) - +412 wickets (Rother) and +71 (Hastings)
- While the TGR does not identify any projected growth, the Councils have predicted an increase in the demand for women and girls cricket across the study area, with both the Councils and the ECB actively looking to increase the amount of ladies' cricket that is played.
- Key priorities for cricket in the area include;
 - Confirming the long term strategy for Bexhill CC in terms of preferred pitch location.
 - Work with Sidley CC regarding their aspirations to return to playing cricket in Bexhill
 - Confirm the long term playing location for Hastings and St Leonards Priory CC, considering the uncertainty surrounding the Hornty Park Sports Complex
 - Providing further capacity at peak Saturday PM match times, to allow users to book facilities more easily, either through more efficient management of match timetables or the provision of additional pitches and squares in Bexhill and Hastings.
 - Assisting the rural clubs with continued development of both playing and ancillary facilities
- Users are finding it increasingly difficult to secure matchplay facilities in the areas of Bexhill and Hastings. While cricket is well supplied in the rural parts of the district, further capacity is required in the more urban areas.
- Increasing the number of opportunities for women and girls to play cricket and improving the 'offer' in order to attract and retain new participants

3.4 Rugby

Table 5 – Key findings for Rugby

Rugby Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are three main rugby clubs in Rother and Hastings; Rye RFC, Hastings and Bexhill RFC and St Leonards Cinque Ports RFC ➤ The three key sites that have community use all have deficiency of supply, with Ark William Parker Academy calculated as having the most significant deficit. It should be noted that while the balance for rugby at Bexhill Road is balanced, when American Football is taken into consideration then a deficit is created ➤ The RFU are looking to support all three clubs to improve their facilities and

- continue to attract new players and social members
- Both Rye Rugby Club and Bexhill Road Recreation ground suffer from having poorly maintained pitches, which leads to a low carrying capacity due to the amount of time these pitches need to recover following a match or training session
 - 61% of rugby matches at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground were cancelled in 2015/16, which significantly limits the ability of St Leonards Cinque Ports RFC
 - Team generation rates across the study area project a small growth in mini-rugby demand, however this is offset by a projected reduction in demand for senior rugby
 - The RFU is looking to encourage clubs to be part of the Pitch Improvement Programme. This will provide detailed maintenance and facility development advice, as well as funding for equipment and materials.
 - An urgent output of the study is the need to support Rye Rugby Club (-6) and Hastings and Bexhill RFC (-9.5) to reduce the deficit of pitches at their respective homegrounds. This can be achieved by increasing the quality of existing pitches, increasing the quantity of provision, or a combination of the two. Clubs across the study are would benefit significantly from having access to a 3G AGP facility for training purposes, therefore the secured use by rugby of any new 3G developments in the study area should be explored
 - If land is available, the Council and the RFU should be looking to secure new pitches for Rugby in the area. New rugby sites should be well located within 15 minute drive time to Bexhill and/or Hastings. There should also be the option to transfer ownership of the asset to the rugby club if the club is willing. Any new site that is developed for rugby and maintained by the local authority will need to have a clear agreement stating the required level of maintenance and responsibilities of each party in order to maintain the quality of the grass pitches and the ancillary facilities
 - There has been no further requirement for new rugby provision in the rural areas of the local authority.

3.5 Hockey

Table 6 – Key findings for Hockey

Hockey Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ South Saxons Hockey Club is the only club in Rother and Hastings, running 9 teams across senior men, women and juniors ➤ Hockey is played at Horntye Park Sports Complex, where the sand-based surface was identified as poor and requiring replacement. ➤ With the on-going uncertainty over the future of Horntye Park Sports Complex, it is important that provision for hockey in the study area is protected and South Saxons are able to use a facility that is fit for purpose and continues to allow the club to grow the amount of hockey played in the study area ➤ South Saxons have identified latent demand for hockey, which could be addressed if there was further capacity for additional Saturday match play. This is likely to be addressed by the recommendation to build 3G facilities elsewhere in the study area, as casual use and small sided commercial football, played both at the weekend and during peak weekdays, could be displaced elsewhere, therefore providing greater

capacity for hockey usage.

3.6 Tennis

Table 7 – Key findings for Tennis

Tennis Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tennis is played across Rother and Hastings, with supply provided by a combination of membership-based clubs and local authority owned public courts ➤ The general quality of tennis supply was deemed to be marginally higher in Hastings (78% compared to 74%), however there is significantly more supply in Rother due to the difference in size and large amount of rural areas serviced by their own courts ➤ The Councils own and manage a number of key facilities, such as Alexandra Park, Falaise Road and Egerton Park ➤ Following consultation, the LTA has stated that it is looking to partner with local authorities in park court redevelopment projects, and would like to work with the Councils to identify sites where this would lead to the greatest growth in participation. ➤ Although latent demand is identified when using the Sport England Active People Tool, following consultations it can be concluded that additional courts are not required to meet capacity. The Councils and the LTA should instead prioritise the improvement of quality for existing sites. ➤ The LTA have identified a deficit of indoor tennis facilities in the study area

3.7 Stoolball

Table 8 – Key findings for Stoolball

Stoolball Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stoolball is played across Sussex, which has the highest proportion of stoolball participants for any county across the UK ➤ Stoolball is growing, with new clubs emerging in Sussex, Kent and Surrey and matches being played not only during weekday evenings but also at the weekends ➤ Stoolball in Rother and Hastings is played at cricket facilities with clubs utilising playing and ancillary facility normally used by the local cricket club. ➤ Of all cricket sites used for Stoolball in the study area, the following sites scored the highest on assessment; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ark William Park Academy, Battle Area Sports Centre, The Clappers, Staplecross Recreation Ground, King George V Playing Fields and Ashburnham Recreation Ground ➤ Following consultation with Stoolball England, the key priorities for the area are to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on the continued growth of the sport through the general improvement in facilities and marketing ○ Work with the cricket clubs to develop ancillary facilities and improve social areas ➤ Work with Ark William Parker to fix facility hire fees and maintain stoolball at the site

3.8 Bowls

Table 9 – Key findings for Bowls

Bowls Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bowls is played across 19 sites in Rother and Hastings at bowls greens owned by the Local Authority, Parish Councils and private bowls clubs ➤ The general trend for bowls demand in the study area is consistent, with the majority of clubs stating that membership numbers had stayed at a similar level across previous years and was not projected to grow in the future. This is consistent with national trends, which indicate a falling demand for bowls across the country but a consistency of demand in rural areas with ageing populations ➤ This is consistent with the calculations for latent demand, which do not identify future demand for new facilities as the small amount of projected increase can be satisfied by the current supply of bowls clubs. It is not possible to utilise the team generation calculation for Bowls club as the detailed team information is not available ➤ The proportion of bowls participant's in the study area is higher than the national average, however the national trends indicate a downward trend for bowls ➤ The largest clubs in the area (no. of members) are Clive Vale Lawn Bowls Club, White Rock Bowls Club, Gullivers Bowls Club and Polegrove Bowls Club ➤ The key priorities for bowls in the study area are focussed on ancillary facility development and improve disabled access to clubhouses and pavilions, as well as improving the ditch channels at White Rock (Falaise Road)

3.9 American Football

Table 10 – Key findings for American Football

American Football Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ American Football in Rother and Hastings is played by Hastings Conquerors, who attract demand from across the study area and neighbouring local authorities ➤ The club is growing and is one of the largest in the south east of England ➤ The club is based at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground and has over 70 members (adults and juniors) ➤ The club expects a high increase in participants (30+) in the next three years. This is influenced by the lack of competing supply, with Hastings Conquerors being the only AF club within 1 hours' drive. The club also believes there is significant latent demand for American Football in the UK, however Active People data is not available to quantify the amount of latent demand ➤ Priorities for American Football in the study area are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing assistance to the club in the recruitment and education of coaching staff ○ Improve the overall standard of playing facilities, with the ideal outcome being the use of a 3G AGP that can be used for full contact sports ➤ An improvement or replacement of the ancillary clubhouse at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground, to provide facilities for the 100+ players and coaches to congregate and socialise after a game.

4 Summary and Action Plan

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 In order to continue the development of sport and physical activity across Rother and Hastings, it is expected that the Steering Group, set up as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy project, continues to work together to deliver the recommendations defined as part of the strategy.
- 4.1.2 Through a detailed supply and demand analysis of the 8 sports included in the scope of the strategy, as well as stakeholder consultations across the study area, an action plan has been created, which will guide the steering group in their delivery of sports provision and facility decisions over the next 10 years.
- 4.1.3 This section provides a detailed action plan, broken down by site with clear owners, timescales and expected resources. This is shown overleaf in Table 87.
- 4.1.4 The table identifies potential sources of external funding (not provided by Rother District Council or Hastings Borough Council). It should be noted that funding for the actions below could come from one, or a combination, of funding sources. This is not an extensive list and could be extended to other sources, depending on availability.
- CIL Monies
 - Section 106 funding
 - Community Grants Schemes
- 4.1.5 The Action Plan does not identify all those clubs that may be partners or provide resources in relation to its delivery. It is assumed that where clubs have a long-standing interest in a specific site that they will be a partner in delivering the actions and contribute financially or in-kind where appropriate.
- 4.1.6 The Action Plan does not identify Rother District Council or Hastings Borough Council as a key resource either in terms of officer time or finance, except for those sites owned and/or managed by the Council. However, the Councils have an interest in all those projects delivered within each local authority area and may contribute towards them either financially or in-kind, as appropriate and subject to available resources.
- 4.1.7 In addition to this, the following high level recommendations for the study area are summarised below;
- Increase the provision of 3G AGP provision across the study area, with the development of 2 full size pitches in Rother and 1 full size pitch in Hastings, all in line with the requirements and criteria set out in the main report
 - Continue to invest in the grass pitches across the study area, to improve the quality and reduce the amount of cancelled games during periods of poor weather.
 - Seek additional capacity of 8 match equivalents per week is developed across the study area for football. This can be achieved through the

development of 3 11v11 good quality grass pitches, the improvement of existing standard and poor quality pitches, or a combination of the two

- With regards to cricket, providing further capacity at peak Saturday PM match times, to allow users to book facilities more easily, either through more efficient management of match timetables or the provision of additional pitches and squares in Bexhill and Hastings.
- Reduce the deficit of rugby pitches in Rye and Bexhill/Hastings. This can be achieved by increasing the quality of existing pitches, increasing the quantity of provision, or a combination of the two. Town and Parish Councils should look to collaborate with the National Governing Bodies in order to enhance current maintenance practices.
- Explore opportunities to develop the basic maintenance capabilities of volunteers and local residents through sharing knowledge and expertise, providing training and setting up equipment banks where practical
- Use the existing Institute of Groundsmen (IOG) reports to inform the re-prioritisation of maintenance work across local authority owned pitches, in order to address sites with significant pitch quality issues
- Collaborate with the ECB and the FA to address issues with 'bottlenecks' on Saturday PM match slots (lack of facilities available at peak time). In terms of cricket, this could be through more efficient management of match timetables or the provision of additional pitches and squares in Bexhill and Hastings.
- Utilise CIL Monies, Section 106 and other sources of sports related funding where available to fund the development of local sports facilities

Table 11 – Rother and Hastings PPS Action Plan

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead= Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
Alexandra Park (H)	Tenn-1	This is the largest active local authority owned site in Hastings and benefits from access to public toilet facilities due to its location in the park	1. Work with the LTA to explore the potential of the LTA Investment Fund, which can then lead to investment at Alexandra Park 2. Explore utilising LTA funding to develop floodlights and improve overall court quality, as well as running LTA programmes at the courts throughout summer evening and weekends	HBC LTA	HBC officer time to bid for funding HBC match funding LTA facility grant	Short	Medium
Ark William Parker Academy (H)	Crick-1	The practice nets are currently unusable and require renovation if the site is to be used for community use.	Work with the ECB to renovate the practice nets to allow training and match day use.	Ark William Parker Academy ECB HBC	ECB grant funding HBC officer time	Medium	Low
	Rug-1	Drainage issues have been identified at the site, following an initial pitch improvement project at the site. The changing facilities are also not fit for purpose for female and disabled users	1. Work with the RFU to confirm ongoing maintenance and investment programme, to build on the progress made during the pitch improvement programme. 2. Invest in moveable floodlights, to allow training to take place off the pitches and for training space to be moved around the ground depending on the state of the grass.	Hastings and Bexhill RFC HBC RFU AWP Academy	RFU support HBC officer time	Short	Medium
	Stool-1	There is a risk that prices for hire are increased by the academy, leading to the club not being able to afford to use the facility	Seek to agree a formal agreement with the academy with a commitment to fixing prices over an agreed term, to provide the club with medium to long term security of tenure.	Stoolball England HBC AWP Academy	HBC officer time	Short	Medium

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
Ashburnham Recreation Ground (R)	Crick-2	The mobile net that has been previously used for training on the square is broken and not fit for purpose.	Work with the ECB to access the small grants scheme and apply for a new/repared roll-on net.	Ashburnham and Penhurst PC RDC ECB	ECB grant funding	Medium	Low
Beckley Recreation Ground (R)	Tenn-2	The site needs significant refurbishment as it is not currently fit for purpose or an attractive place to play tennis	Ascertain if there is local demand for tennis provision and if so, work with the LTA to apply for funding for new or refurbished facilities..	Beckley PC RDC LTA	LTA grant funding	Medium	Low
Battle Area Sports Centre (R)	Foot-2	Although the site scored well during the assessment, this pitch currently suffers from drainage issues, which limits availability of community use.	Work with the FA and the IOG to confirm the cause of the drainage issues.	Battle Area Sports Centre RDC IOG Battle TC Claverham College FA	FA Pitch Improvement Programme Battle Sports Centre Officer Time FA maintenance grants/funding	1. Short 2. Medium	1. Low 2. High
Battle Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-3	Site users have identified drainage issues at the site, however drainage ditches have recently been dug, which are likely to have a positive impact on the quality of the pitches during periods of wet weather. Levelling work is also needed to bring the junior pitch up to the required standard.	1. Undertake a new assessment of the pitches during the 2016/17 season to confirm the impact of new drainage ditches. 2. Carry out levelling work to the junior pitch	Battle TC IOG RDC FA	FA Pitch Improvement Programme Battle TC	Medium	Low
Bexhill	Rug-2	The school has stated that	1. Work with RDC planning team to	Bexhill	Bexhill	Short	Low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
Academy (R)		they would be prepared to discuss the use of grass pitches for rugby training, however floodlights would be required in order to make this feasible during the winter.	confirm whether it is possible to obtain planning consent for new floodlights 2. If point 1. Is successful, work with the RFU to confirm whether the installation of floodlights at the academy would be beneficial, practical and financially viable and if so, support the school in applications for funding.	Academy RDC RFU	Academy Resources		
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground (Located in RDC LA area but owned and managed by HBC)	Foot-6	The football pitches at the site suffer from drainage issues, with a high number of cancelled matches occurring from November to February.	1. Re-prioritise the maintenance effort, especially during periods of wet weather, to address drainage issues and reduce cancellation. Utilise the outputs of the 2015 IOG reports to provide greater detail and instruction on maintenance requirements 2. Introduce strict use policy, with no casual use on the marked pitches, in order to allow recovery time for high use areas. 3. Review pitch layout to ensure most efficient way to meet demand	HBC RDC FA	HBC officer time RDC officer time FA Pitch Improvement Programme Re-prioritisation of HBC maintenance scope	1. Medium 2. Short 3. Short	1. High 2. Medium 3. Medium
	Foot-7	The timber ancillary facility on the Hastings side of the site has reached its end of life and needs replacing. The 2 nd ancillary is also in a poor state.	1. Rationalise the current ancillary facilities and invest in the existing western pavilion to ensure the facility is fit for purpose. Work with the FA and the RFU to refine the design of the facility and engage with the Hastings Conquerors on their needs and ambition to develop the social side of the club using a bar area. 2. Work with the Community Interest Company who manage the adjacent Hub and wider Combe Valley Park area to	HBC RDC FA Sport England	HBC officer time FA Football Foundation	Medium	High

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
			explore potential joint developments to serve the need of local residents.				
	Rug-3	There is a lack of appropriate ancillary facilities for rugby. The timber clubhouse it at the end of its life and needs replacing.	1. Rationalise the current ancillary facilities and invest in the existing western pavilion to ensure the facility is fit for purpose. Work with the FA and the RFU to refine the design of the facility. 2. Work with the new Visitor HUB Community Café facilities next door to explore the potential for both the Rugby Club and the American Football Club making use of the Hub facilities.	HBC RDC RFU Sport England	HBC officer time RFU facility funding	Medium	High
	AF-1	There is a lack of appropriate ancillary facilities for American football. The timber clubhouse it at the end of its life and needs replacing.	1. Rationalise the current ancillary facilities and invest in the existing western pavilion to ensure the facility is fit for purpose. Work with the Hastings Conquerors on their needs and ambition to develop the social side of the club using a bar area. 2. Work with the Community Interest Company who manage the adjacent Hub and wider Combe Valley Park area to explore potential joint developments to serve the need of local residents.	HBC RDC BAF Sport England	HBC officer time BAF facility funding	Medium	High
Bodiam Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-8	The pitch quality score has identified issues with the pitch, particularly drainage, which is supported by user consultations.	Work the FA to determine whether investment in improved drainage and maintenance would represent value for money with consideration of demand and the site's location on a flood plain.	Bodiam PC IOG RDC FA	FA Pitch Improvement Programme	Medium	Low
Brightling Park (R)	Crick-3	The pavilion is in poor condition and is not fit for	Replace the clubhouse with a basic modern structure that can be used by the	Brightling CC Brightling	Brightling Park Trust	Medium	Low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
		purpose.	cricket club and for local community use and leisure events.	Park Trust Brightling PC RDC	ECB grant funding		
Burwash Common Cricket Club (R)	Crick-4	The square does not currently have an artificial pitch on the square, which limits the amount of junior cricket that can be played during the season.	Work with the ECB to apply for small grants funding for a new non-turf pitch on the edge of the square.	Burwash Common Cricket Club ECB Burwash PC RDC	ECB grant funding	Medium	Low
Catsfield Playing Field (R)	Foot-9	The site scored poorly on assessment, with particular focus on the maintenance programme. The Parish Council currently undertake the maintenance and further support and resources for basic pitch maintenance would improve the overall quality of provision.	Work with the FA to provide the Parish Council with advice on best practice maintenance techniques and if required, use an Institute of Groundsmanship assessment to identify key issues at the site.	Catsfield PC FA RDC IOG	FA pitch Improvement Programme Catsfield PC	Short	Low
	Crick-5	On inspection, significant issues were identified with rabbit holes and damage to the surface, which was deemed to be partially unsafe on inspection.	1. Work with the Parish Council to improve security against animal damage 2. Work with the ECB to provide guidance on pest control for publicly owned pitches.	Catsfield PC ECB RDC	Catsfield PC officer time	Short	Low
	Stool-2	The club has stated that dog fouling is an issue and the outfield would benefit from periodic rolling to ensure it maintains evenness.	1. Work with the Parish Council to improve signage at the site, in order to reduce dog fouling. 2. Collaborate with the cricket club to organise for volunteers to use the cricket club maintenance equipment to roll the outfield.	Catsfield PC	Catsfield PC	Short	Low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
Crowhurst Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-10	The pavilion is in need of major refurbishment, with the timber floor and verandah being the main priorities. There is a proposal to reduce the frequency of mowing due to resource constraints.	Ensure that the current level of maintenance is at least maintained, in order to reduce the risk of the site quality degrading further.	Crowhurst PC FA	Crowhurst PC	Short	Medium
Crowhurst Park Cricket Club (R)	Crick-6	The pavilion requires significant attention as the timber frame is currently rotting. The club is also looking to formalise the tenure of the site with Sport England and the ECB.	1. The club should look to sign a long term community use agreement with the landowner to ensure long term security of tenure. 2. Work with the ECB to confirm the best approach for the pavilion (renovation or replacement) and support the club in this development	Crowhurst Park CC Battle TC ECB	Crowhurst Park CC volunteer time Claremont School ECB facility funding	1. Short 2. Long	1. Low 2. Medium
Drewett Cricket Field (R)	Crick-7	The pavilion requires refurbishment and if completed, would ensure the site is an example of high quality rural cricket provision.	Refurbish the ancillary facility to ensure the facilities meet the need of the club and local residents	Hurst Green CC ECB	ECB grant funding Hurst Green CC volunteer time	Long	Low
Egerton Park Bowls Green (R)	Bowls-1	Disabled access is poor and should be improved	Work with Bowls England to apply for funding to plan for and implement improved accessibility at the site.	Egerton Park BC RDC Bowls England	RDC Bowls England facility funding SE facility funding	Medium	Low
Falaise Road (H)	Tenn-4	This site is currently out of service due to the poor quality of facilities.	Confirm with the LTA whether it is realistic for funding to be assigned to the site. If this is not feasible, look to re-designate the courts as open space or an alternative sports facility.	HBC LTA	HBC officer time LTA funding (if required)	Short	High
Frewen College (R)	Crick-8	The school is looking to increase community use at	1. Northiam CC should look to sign a formal community use agreement with	Frewen College	Frewen	Medium	low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
		the site, however there is not a formal security use agreement in place between Northiam CC and Frewen College.	the school to ensure a long-term security of tenure 2. Begin planning for a replacement pavilion and identifying how that will be funded.	Northiam CC RDC	College Sport England RDC		
George Meadow (R)	Crick-9	The club has been affected significantly by vandalism, with attempts to reduce this using anti-climb paint resulting in the vandals smearing the paint over the new artificial wicket.	1. ECB to support the club in improving the measures to reduce vandalism 2. Apply to ECB small grants fund, in order to install improved net facilities at the club	Battle CC Battle TC ECB RDC	Battle TC ECB advice and support ECB small grants fund	Short	Medium
Guestling Bowls Green (R)	Bowls-2	The ancillary facilities are dated and require refurbishment	Work with Guestling Parish Council to refurbish the clubhouse.	Guestling Bowls Club Guestling PC RDC	Bowls England facility funding	Long	Low
Guestling Playing Field (R)	Foot-11	The pitches are maintained by the Parish Council and currently receive minimal maintenance and are of poor overall quality. The pavilion falls short of modern standards	1. Support the Parish Council with their ambitions of bringing the previously used senior football pitch back into use. 2. Work with Sport England to develop a business plan for redeveloping the pavilion	Guestling PC FA RDC	FA facility funding	Medium	Medium
Hornbye Park Sports Complex (H)	Hock-1	The sand-based carpet is nearing the end of its life and requires replacing within the next year.	If this site is to be continued to be used as hockey provision, replace the sand-based carpet.	England Hockey South Saxons HC Hornbye Trust HBC Sport England	England Hockey facilities funding Hornbye Trust funding HBC officer time	Short	High

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
	Crick-10	This is a very high quality cricket site however there is uncertainty over the future of the site.	1. Ensure that if any displacement of demand occurs, the cricket club are provided with facilities that are equally as good or better than the current facilities. 2. Explore the possibility of a second pitch nearby, to increase the capacity for cricket matches at peak time on a Saturday afternoon.	ECB HBC	None	Short	High
Icklesham Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-12	The football club do not currently pay anything for the use of the site.	Review operational model and consider a small charge, which can be used to contribute to a sinking fund for ongoing maintenance and facility improvements .	Icklesham PC RDC	Icklesham PC	Short	Low
	Foot-13	The maintenance of the site is poor and needs to be addressed by basic, improved maintenance procedures.	Incorporate additional turf management tasks into the current grounds maintenance arrangement	Icklesham PC RDC FA	Icklesham PC	Short	Medium
	Crick-11	The pavilion has recently been refurbished following vandalism and now needs further modernisation.	If Rye CC continue to use the site for formal cricket, then work with the ECB to relocate or refurbish the pavilion and seek support in improving the measures to reduce vandalism.	Rye CC ECB RDC	ECB facility grants and Rye CC funding Icklesham PC	Medium	Low
	Stool-3	The facilities at the cricket club that are used by the stoolball club are very poor and the site requires a new pavilion to allow mixed changing.	Pending a decision on the future of cricket at the site, the Stoolball Club should look to work with the cricket club and football club to source funding for a new ancillary facility, including basic changing rooms and a social area,	Stoolball England Icklesham PC RDC	Stoolball England and Icklesham Stoolball club funding Icklesham PC	Medium	Medium
Iden Playing Field (R)	Foot-14	This pitch scored very poorly on assessment, with some of the worst drainage in the study area and severe sloping and wear.	If the site is to be retained as playing pitches, identify how additional maintenance could improve the pitch and how this could be financed.	Iden PC RDC FA	Iden PC	Short	Medium

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
King George V Playing Field (R)	Stool-4	The Stoolball Club has identified that the toilets and disabled access are not currently fit for purpose.	Work with the Parish Council, the ECB and the cricket club to improve disabled access to the ancillary facility.	Stoolball England Mountfield PC ECB RDC	Stoolball England funding Mountfield PC	Medium	Low
Little Common Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-15	This site scored well during the site assessments, however the site has been identified by the club as having poor drainage, leading to match cancellations in the wettest times of the year.	If stakeholders are prepared to pursue, then look at passing greater responsibility for maintenance to Little Common FC. This will include the training of volunteers on maintenance procedures, including any new machinery.	RDC FA Little Common FC	RDC FA maintenance funding	Medium	Medium
	Foot-16	Little Common FC require an enclosed pitch to meet the FA requirements for their level of competitive football, however this is not feasible at the current site due to the wider requirements of the Council.	On the assumption that Little Common Recreation Ground cannot support the requirements for Step 6, ensure LCFC is earmarked to have sole use or a share of any new or redeveloped football site within the study area that satisfied Step 6 requirements.	RDC Little Common FC FA	RDC FA Little Common FC	Short	High
	Crick-12	On inspection, significant issues were identified with rabbit holes and damage to the surface, which was deemed to be partially unsafe.	1. Work with the ECB to provide guidance on pest control for publicly owned pitches. 2. Monitor the performance of the current grounds contractor to ensure all requisite maintenance is being undertaken at site.	LCR CC ECB RDC	RDC	Medium	Low
	Crick-13	The club has identified that new practice nets are a priority development.	Work with the ECB to access the small grants scheme and apply for new static practice nets	LCR CC ECB RDC	ECB small grants funding RDC	Medium	Low
Northiam Playing Fields (R)	Foot-17	There is no drainage system at the site and as a consequence the pitches are unplayable during the wettest periods of the season. The	Work with the FA and the Institute of Groundsmanship, to confirm the cause of the drainage issues. Refurbish the ancillary in line with league and club requirements.	Northiam PC RDC	RDC officer time FA Pitch Improvement Programme	1. Short 2. Medium	Medium

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
		ancillary is also not fit-for-purpose and needs refurbishing			IOG study resources		
Oaklands Park (R)	Foot-18	The current site cannot satisfy the level of demand for junior and adult football and there is no further space at the site to increase the number of pitches.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that Sedlescombe Rangers FC is provided with consistent training and match slots on any new 3G AGP development sites that are accessible to club members. 2. If stakeholders are prepared to pursue, then look at passing greater responsibility for maintenance to Sedlescombe Rangers FC, which will include the training of volunteers on maintenance procedures, including any new machinery. 	Sedlescombe PC Sedlescombe Sports Association SR FC FA RDC	RDC Sedlecombe PC officer time FA Pitch Improvement Programme SRFC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short 2. Medium 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Medium
Pett Recreation Ground (R)	Crick-14	The club has identified that a roll-on net would allow practice to occur on the square. The site is currently over-capacity for cricket.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the ECB to access the small grants scheme and apply for a new roll-on practice net. 2. Work with the ECB to install a non-turf pitch on the square, in order to reduce the demand for grass pitches by junior teams. 	Pett CC Pett PC ECB	ECB grant funding Pett CC volunteer time	Medium	Low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
Polegrove Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-19	The site is significantly over-capacity and the users have identified that the quality of pitches are poor and that maintenance is not undertaken at the required regularity. At least one further pitch is required in order to reduce the deficit of supply at the site, however this is unlikely to be feasible due to the spatial constraints at the site.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the FA and the Institute of Groundsmanship, to confirm the cause of the drainage issues. Prepare a specification to address this and seek funding for implementation 2. Monitor the performance of the current grounds contractor more closely to ensure all requisite maintenance is being undertaken at site. 3. If stakeholders are prepared to pursue, then look at passing greater responsibility for maintenance to Bexhill United FC, which will include the training of volunteers on maintenance procedures, including any new machinery. 	RDC Bexhill United FC Glenco FC FA	RDC FA Pitch Improvement Programme IOG study resources	1. Short 2. Medium 3. Medium	Medium
	Crick-15	The club has stated that the site is not of a requisite quality for the standard that the 1st team currently plays at, primarily because of the pavilion. The club is looking for either a major refurbishment or a new site.	Continue to work with the ECB to test whether further development of the new facilities at St Mary's Lane in Bexhill is viable.	Bexhill CC ECB	ECB support CIL/S106	Short	High
	Crick-16	The club has stated that it currently does not have fit-for-purpose practice facilities.	Work with the club to apply for ECB small grants funding, to be used for non-turf practice wickets to be used throughout the week for training purposes.	Bexhill CC ECB RDC	ECB small grants funding	Short	Medium
	Bowls-3	The pavilion was identified as poor on inspection and would benefit from refurbishment. There is an ongoing issue	Refurbish the ancillary facility, working with Bowls England to define the ideal design for a clubhouse.	RDC Bowls England Bexhill Bowls	RDC Bowls England facility funding	Long	Medium

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
		with a leaking roof		Club Fields in Trust			
Riverhall Lane (Mountfield) (R)	Foot-20	The playing pitch suffers from poor maintenance and has issues with drainage	Work with the FA and Mountfield FC to improve the maintenance programme at the site and provide support and advice to the club, who currently maintain the site.	Mountfield FC FA RDC	Mountfield FC volunteer time FA officer time	Medium	Low
Rye Cricket Salts (R)	Foot-21	The site currently suffers from poor drainage, with 32% of all football cancelled due to an unfit pitch during the 2015/16 season.	Invest in the maintenance of the new 11v11 adult pitch and look to transfer demand from poor pitches in neighbouring villages, such as Peasmarsch or Beckley	RDC FA Beckley Rangers	RDC FA Pitch Improvement Programme	1. Short 2. Medium	Medium
	Crick-17	The current non-turf pitch requires refurbishment as it is not currently fit-for-purpose.	Work with the club to apply for ECB small grants funding, to be used to refurbish or replace the non-turf wicket on the square, which can then address the demand issues by reducing the demand for grass wickets by the junior teams.	ECB Rye CC RDC	ECB small grants funding RDC	Medium	Low
Sandhurst Recreation Ground (H)	Foot-22	The site suffers from poor drainage, with 24% of all football bookings being cancelled due to the condition of the pitches. The ancillary is also not fit-for-purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the FA and the Institute of Groundsmanship, to confirm the cause of the drainage issues and provide recommendations on future maintenance requirements for the contractor. 2. Work with the maintenance contractor to ensure that maintenance is being carried out as per specified in the contract. 3. Use the 2015 IOG report to inform the re-prioritisation of the maintenance schedule to reflect the needs of the particular site. 4. Undertake a feasibility study for the 	HBC IOG FA	IOG study costs Update of HBC maintenance contract	Short	High

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
			refurbishment of the ancillary facility and work with the FA to refine the spec for any new developments.				
Sidley Sports and Social Club (R)	Foot-23	This site was repossessed in 2015 due to financial mismanagement. The site was previously a Step 5 football ground and provided a high quality of football provision for local residents. The site is not currently in use.	1. Ensure that this site is protected and that any development on the site leads to replacement of facilities to at least the same or improved level of quality and facility mix. 2. If possible, look to bring the site back into use and work with relevant clubs to confirm operational arrangements for ground-shares or for using the site as a home ground.	RDC FA	RDC Heart of Sidley Group	Medium	High
	Foot-24	If this site is to be used for competitive football, the current ancillary is not fit for purpose.	If the site is to be used for football, work with the FA to develop a new ancillary facility including changing rooms and a social area.	RDC FA	RDC FA Pitch Improvement Programme Heart of Sidley Group	Long	Medium
	Crick-18	The square is not currently used for cricket and will require significant investment in order to get it to an appropriate playing standard.	Work with the ECB to estimate the amount of work and funding that would be required to bring the quality of the facilities back to the level they were at before the site was re-possessed.	RDC ECB	RDC Heart of Sidley ECB facility funding	Long	Medium
Sidley Recreation Ground (R)	Foot 25	Shortfalls in maintenance are thought to be contributing to the level of cancellations. The pavilion needs to be modernised so as to conform to FA standards and not to detract from the aesthetics of the area.	Monitor the performance of the grounds maintenance contractor more closely to ensure that the sports pitch maintenance tasks are carried out as per the contracted specification. Investigate opportunities to fund a design feasibility study for a refurbished pavilion.	RDC Heart of Sidley	RDC Heart of Sidley	Medium	Long

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
St Mary's Recreation Ground (R)	Crick-19	This site is being used on occasion by Bexhill CC as a second ground for lower senior and junior teams to play and train and consideration is being given to relocating the first team to this location.	Work with the ECB to estimate the total funding that would be required to bring the site up to a requisite quality for competitive cricket.	Bexhill CC RDC ECB Fields in Trust	Bexhill CC RDC	Short	Low
	Crick-20	A shipping container is currently being used as an ancillary facility. A new ancillary would be required if the ground is to be used as a permanent ground for Bexhill CC.	Continue to improve the quality of the square and outfield in order to establish more regular use of the facility by the lower senior and junior teams.	Bexhill CC ECB RDC Fields in Trust	Bexhill CC volunteer time ECB facility funding	Short	Medium
Stonegate Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-26	The structure of the pavilion is not fit for purpose and may be unsafe.	Undertake a survey to determine the integrity of the pavilion's structure and electrics and provision made to address any identified issues both in the short term and the longer term,	RDC FA Ticehurst PC	Survey costs Structural and electrical remediation cost	Short	Low
Swan Meadow Playing Field (R)	Foot-27	The site is over-capacity and the users have identified that the quality of pitches are poor and that maintenance is not undertaken at the required regularity. At least one further pitch is required in order to reduce the deficit of supply at the site, however this is unlikely to be feasible due to the spatial constraints at the site.	Undertake an independent agronomist study, through the Institute of Groundsmanship, to confirm the cause of the drainage issues.	Burwash Playing Fields Association RDC FA IOG Burwash FC	IOG study costs Burwash PC FA Pitch Improvement Programme	Short	Medium
Tackleway FC	Foot-28	Basic maintenance needs to	1. Audit current grounds contractor to	Tackleway	HBC officer	Short	Low

Site	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Partners (Lead=Bold) Supporting partners	Key external resource implications	Timescale – Sh: 0–2 yrs Med: 2-5 yrs Lng 5-10 yrs	Priority - depending on overall impact
(H)		be improved, such as regular grass cutting, however the pitch is in relatively good condition.	ensure all requisite maintenance is being undertaken at site. 2. If a new maintenance contractor is required, or if the scope of the maintenance contract is required to change, work with the FA to refine the requirement and key deliverables for a pitch maintenance contract.	FC HBC FA	time FA support		
The Down (R)	Foot-29	The pavilion is in need of modernisation and further investigation is needed to ascertain the best approach to improving drainage.	1. Investigate opportunities to fund a design feasibility study for a refurbished pavilion. 2. Work with the FA and IOG to determine the most cost effective approach to improving drainage.	RDC	RDC FA IOG	Long	Low
Ticehurst Village Club/Ticehurst Recreation Ground (R)	Foot-30	Players must use the toilets at the back of the village hall which are in a poor condition and are vulnerable to vandalism. There is only 1 gents urinal and 1 ladies toilet. The changing accommodation is provided in a separate portacabin.	Improve the toilet provision and provide fit-for-purpose facilities.	Ticehurst PC Wadhurst Junior FC Ticehurst Village FC RDC FA Beatrice Drewe Trust	FA Beatrice Drewe Trust Ticehurst PC	Medium	Medium
Tilekiln Recreation Ground (H)	Foot-31	There is currently no additional drainage infrastructure on site, with the site suffering from poor drainage during periods of wet weather.	Work with the FA and the IOG to confirm the cause of the drainage issues.	HBC FA IOG	HBC officer time IOG study costs FA Pitch Improvement Programme	Medium	High

END



ROTHER AND HASTINGS PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDICES

October 2016
Final Report



DR

Prepared by



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4 global Consulting Terms of Reference

It is not possible to guarantee the fulfillment of any estimates or forecasts contained within this report, although they have been conscientiously prepared on the basis of our research and information made available to us at the time of the study.

The author(s) will not be held liable to any party for any direct or indirect losses, financial or otherwise, associated with any contents of this report. We have relied on a number of areas of information provided by the client, and have not undertaken additional independent verification of this data.

DRAFT

1 Appendix A – Steering Group Details

1.1.1 The table below provides the details of the Playing Pitch Steering Group, who guided the project from inception to final sign off. The steering group had representation from Rother District Council, Hastings Borough Council, the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport, Sport England and 4 global Consulting

Steering Board Member	Organisation
David Marlow	Rother District Council
Nichola Watters	Rother District Council
Adrian Gaylon	Rother District Council
Scott Lavocah	Rother District Council
Rebecca Owen	Rother District Council
Keith Duly	Hastings Borough Council
Aaron Woods	Hastings Borough Council
Anna Card	East Sussex County Council
Heidi Clarke/Katy Walker	Sport England
Dylan Evans	Football Association
Paul Saunders	Sussex Football Association
Keveena Mosen	Sussex Football Association
Rick Bruin	Rugby Football Union
Chris Whitaker	England & Wales Cricket Board
Natalie Beckett	England Hockey
Anita Broad	Stoolball England
Kate Wilson	Lawn Tennis Association
The following representatives chose not to be part of the steering group but reviewed data and project outputs throughout the process	
Alistair Hollis	Bowls England
Jim Briggs	British American Football Association

2 Appendix B – Reference Documents

ROTHER AND HASTINGS FACILITY PLANNING MODEL (2015)

2.1.1 Please see the attached Facility Planning Model for Rother and Hastings.

ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY (2012 – 2018)

2.1.2 This section summarises the output of the previous PPS for Rother.

2.1.3 The following recommendations are based on the assessment of the current quantity and quality of provision together with local needs and aspirations. The assessment draws upon ward data, pitch visits, national governing body comments, club responses and temporal demand

Bexhill	
General	➤ Increase opportunities for community use of existing and future facilities at educational establishments.

Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve existing pitches to accommodate the needs of clubs seeking to play to a high standard. ➤ Pursue opportunities to develop an accessible, high quality cricket facility at a new site in order to relocate Bexhill Cricket Club from the Polegrove and to address the shortfall in provision for juniors and seniors. If unsuccessful, consider improving accommodation at the Polegrove. ➤ Support initiatives to bring accommodation at St. Mary's Recreation Ground up to NGB standards if the demand arises. ➤ Pursue opportunities to develop training areas to alleviate pressure on pitches. These could be indoor facilities as part of
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve pitch quality across Bexhill when opportunities arise, prioritising those pitches used for higher standards of play in order to facilitate club progression. ➤ Support initiatives to improve accommodation at the Downs, Sidley, St. Mary's Recreation Ground and the Polegrove. Consider combined accommodation with other sports where possible. ➤ Through the Planning process, ensure that additional provision is made, including indoor provision for 5-a-side and/or that accommodation at existing sites is upgraded to encourage increased use where capacity exists. ➤ Pursue opportunities to develop training areas to alleviate
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No further provision needed at current time.
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consider pitch opportunities as part of the North Bexhill development as a possible alternative to Bulverhythe.
Battle	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure initiatives for new or improved provision are inclusive i.e. suitable for all abilities and genders.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support Battle Cricket Club where possible to develop junior teams and related training facilities. ➤ Focus resources on improving existing provision.
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seek to provide an additional senior pitch, particularly if new residential areas are developed and additional junior provision if demand increases. ➤ Improve drainage at North Trade Road Recreation Ground.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No action is recommended at the current time.

Rugby	➤ No action is recommended at the current time.
Brede Valley	
General	➤ Ensure that there is at least one high quality football facility and also a good quality cricket facility in the area (possibly joint use) with associated training provision.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pursue the opportunity for a new pavilion in Westfield, shared with the football club. ➤ Support club/community initiatives in Udimore to improve facilities and develop the club as they arise.
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support Westfield Football Club's aspiration for higher quality facilities at a new local site to be shared with the cricket club ➤ Support the Brede community in setting up a club and developing facilities if aspirations emerge
Hockey	➤ No action is recommended at present
Rugby	➤ No action is recommended at present.
Crowhurst	
General	➤ Support initiatives to increase the quality of existing facilities, particularly for training.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support the junior developments at clubs such as Crowhurst Park. ➤ Support initiatives to increase the quality of existing facilities, particularly for training.
Football	➤ Support Clubs in increasing the quality of existing facilities, particularly for training including artificial surfaces or MUGAs.
Hockey	➤ No action is recommended at present.
Rugby	➤ No action is recommended at present.
Darwell	
General	➤ Improve existing provision rather than creating new facilities.
Cricket	➤ Improvements to changing accommodation needed at Brightling.
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support improvements to pitches, particularly at Solomon's Lane. ➤ Support improvements to changing accommodation, particularly

	at Solomon's Lane.
Hockey	➤ No action is recommended at present.
Rugby	➤ No action is recommended at present.
Eastern Rother	
General	➤ See detailed recommendations below.
Cricket	➤ Support improvements to pavilions at Icklesham, Iden and Winchelsea.
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve existing pavilions. ➤ Support initiatives to set up junior and senior teams in Camber and Rye Harbour which are isolated communities. ➤ Consider the changing needs of Rye Bay FC based at Winchelsea Beach as small-sided football changes e.g. the introduction of 9 v 9. ➤ Support clubs wishing to improve the quality of existing pitches and in providing training facilities including MUGAs.
Hockey	➤ Improve pavilions and greens when opportunities arise.
Rugby	➤ No action recommended at present.
Ewhurst & Sedlescombe	
General	➤ Improve existing provision rather than creating new facilities.
Cricket	➤ Provide local all-weather training facilities in Sedlescombe.
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New accommodation needed at Ewhurst Green. ➤ Provide local training facilities (artificial surfacing / MUGAs) in Sedlescombe. ➤ Support clubs in improving existing pitches.
Hockey	➤ No action is recommended at present
Rugby	➤ No action is recommended at present.
Marsham	
General	➤ Explore options to link with educational establishments or youth clubs for coaching and training across all sports.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide better changing accommodation across the ward. ➤ Support clubs in upgrading pitch provision and support/training

	facilities such as nets at Pett.
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve the quality of existing pitches. ➤ Provide better changing accommodation and support facilities. ➤ Pursue opportunities to bring Panel Lane facilities back into public use. ➤ Explore opportunities for mutually beneficial arrangements with Buckswood School. ➤ Identify additional sites for pitch provision in the ward.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support clubs in maintaining and improving the quality of existing provision.
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No action is recommended at present.
Rother Levels	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ See general recommendations below.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Renew/replace cricket pavilion at Beckley
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consider providing a pitch and pavilion in Beckley, possibly at the existing recreation ground. ➤ Support improvements to changing accommodation at Peasmarsh and Northiam. ➤ Support clubs in upgrading pitches at Peasmarsh and Northiam. ➤ Provide outdoor training facilities in the area and develop opportunities for junior play.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No action is recommended at present.
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No action is recommended at present.
Rye	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consider how the former Freda Gardham School site could address quantitative issues for all sports in Rye. ➤ Build on relationships with Rye College and Rye Leisure Centre. Work in partnership to further aid the growth of junior and adult sport.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support the provision of additional training facilities on the Cricket Salts or elsewhere locally.
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consider creating pitch and training facilities on the neighbouring Town Salts if resources permit.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pursue options for additional provision on old school sites if the opportunity arises.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No action is recommended at present
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to support Rye Rugby Club which serves as the main club in the district. ➤ Look at options to develop facilities on the neighbouring former Freda Gardham school site.
Salehurst	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ See detailed recommendations below.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with Robertsbridge Community College on facility provision for community use. ➤ Improve existing pitch provision including training facilities at Bodiam. ➤ Support improvements to pavilion facilities, particularly at Bodiam. Work with Robertsbridge Community College on facility provision for community use. ➤ Improve existing pitch provision including training facilities at Bodiam. ➤ Support improvements to pavilion facilities, particularly at Bodiam.
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investigate options for Robertsbridge juniors to utilise facilities at the Community College and/or support drainage improvements at The Clappers. ➤ Support improvements to pitches across the area. ➤ Improve pavilion facilities, particularly at Bodiam and Hurst Green.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No action is recommended at present
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support Robertsbridge Community College in working with the community if the need for provision arises in the future.
Ticehurst & Etchingham	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve the quality of existing provision.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investigate opportunities to meet the demand for cricket provision within or close to Etchingham. ➤ Improve changing accommodation and pitch provision where possible, prioritising Stonegate and Ticehurst subject to demand.

Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support the upgrade of existing changing accommodation at Stonegate and Bell Field (Ticehurst). ➤ Support improvement to existing pitches
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No action is recommended at present.
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No action is recommended at present.

3 Appendix C – Technical Data

3.1.1 Please see separate documents for detailed supply and demand data across all relevant PPS sports

4 Appendix D – Team Generation Rate Calculations

4.1.1 Please see the attached excel model for the detailed Team Generation Rate calculations, referenced throughout the core report.

5 Appendix E – Team Generation Rate Calculations

5.1.1 Please see the attached word document for the detailed maintenance specification for Rother District Council playing pitches.

Strategic Assessment of Need for Artificial Grass Pitch Provision in Hastings and Rother

Facility Planning Model

National Run Report 2015

24 November 2015

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report and the accompanying maps provide a strategic assessment of the current level of provision for Artificial Grass Pitches in Hastings and Rother. This assessment uses Sport England's Facilities Planning Model and the data from National Facilities Audit run as of January 2015.
- 1.2. The information contained within the report should be read alongside the two appendices. Appendix 1 sets out the facilities that have been included within this analysis together with those that have been excluded. Appendix 2 provides background to the Facilities Planning Model (FPM), facility inclusion criteria and the model parameters.
- 1.3. The FPM modelling and dataset builds in a number of assumptions as set out in Appendix 2 regarding the supply and demand of provision. This report should not be considered in isolation and it is recommended that this analysis should form part of a wider assessment of provision at the local level, using other available information and knowledge.
- 1.4. The FPM outputs should be used in conjunction with other data and information provided by the LA/NGB/local users. This is particularly so for AGP analysis, as the FPM should be seen as providing an estimation of potential latent demand/ propensity within any given population to demand to use an AGP.

2. Supply of Artificial Grass Pitches

Table 1 - Supply	Hastings	Rother	East Sussex	England
Number of pitches	2	3	17	1974
Number of pitch sites	2	3	17	1783
Supply of total pitches in pitches	2	3	17	1974
Supply of publicly available pitch space in pitches (scaled with hrs avail in pp)	1.3	1.5	11.7	1578.6
Supply of total pitch space in VPWPP	940	1140	8665	1168160
Pitches per 10,000	0.22	0.32	0.31	0.36

- 2.1. According to the FPM, Hastings is currently served by two Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs). Other Artificial Grass pitches do exist but they are not included for various reasons eg. The AGP is not full size or it is not publically available. A full list of included/excluded AGPs is set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2. Hornty Park Sports Complex is located in the centre of Hastings. The second AGP in Hastings is located at The Hastings Academy which is on the eastern boundary of the district.
- 2.3. Rother is served by three AGPs, Bexhill College Sports Centre which is in the eastern area of Bexhill, Battle Area Sports Centre in Battle and Vinehall School which is 6km north of Battle.
- 2.4. The following list provides brief details of the AGPs included in Hastings and Rother.

AGP	Surface	Sports
Hornty Park Sports Complex	Sand filled floodlit	Hockey and Football
The Hastings Academy	Rubber crumb 3G floodlit	Football
Battle Area Sports Centre	Rubber crumb 3G	Football
Bexhill College Sports Centre	Sand filled floodlit	Hockey and Football
Vinehall School	Sand filled floodlit	Hockey

- 2.5. Map 1 identifies the location of AGPs across both districts.
- 2.6. The model assumes Bexhill College Sports Centre and Horntye Park Sports Complex both offer 34 hours of use per week in the peak period. The model assumes Vinehall School and The Hastings Academy would offer 16 hours of use in the peak period per week which is a reflection of the fact the AGPs serve either hockey or football (not both), are located on school sites and would be only available for hire on Saturdays and Sundays.
- 2.7. With those available hours of use, the model calculates that Battle Area Sport Centre, Hastings Academy and Vinehall School would each have an annual throughput of 11,765 visits. The model also calculates that Bexhill College Sport Centre and Horntye Park Sport Complex could each have an annual throughput of 43,529 visits.
- 2.8. Horntye Park Sports Complex is the oldest of the facilities, built in 2000, Bexhill College Sports Centre in 2004, Vinehall School in 2008, Battle Area Sports Centre in 2010 and The Hastings Academy in 2013. The model does not account for any refurbishments that may have taken place.
- 2.9. The number of pitches per 1000 is higher in Rother than Hastings, which is a result of the additional AGP in Rother. However in comparison to England both Local Authorities have less AGPs per 1000 persons.

3. Demand for Artificial Grass Pitches

Table 2 - Demand	Hastings	Rother	East Sussex County	England
Population	91726	92434	540640	54669203
Visits demanded –vpwpp	2009	1567	10478	1258717
Equivalent in pitches	2.71	2.12	14.16	1700.97
% of population without access to a car	30.8	17.8	20.3	24.9

- 3.1. It is interesting to note from Table 2 that whilst the population of Hastings is less than the population of Rother, the demand for AGPs in the peak period is higher in Hastings. This is a result of the demographic breakdown of the population (younger) in Hastings which will create greater demand for AGPs.
- 3.2. By reason of the urban nature of Hastings and the age and gender profile population in Rother, the % of the population without access to a car is much greater in Hastings. It is also higher than the national average.
- 3.3. In theory the population of Hastings is less mobile by car, albeit the availability of different modes of transport is greater in Hastings. Furthermore it is a compact district and as such Hornsby Park Sports Complex in the centre is accessible to most of the population in Hastings.
- 3.4. The population of Hastings and Rother both generate a demand for three AGPs in each Local Authority area but together would generate a total demand for five AGPs.
- 3.5. When looking at a very simplistic picture of the overall supply and demand for football, it is estimated that the population of Rother would generate a demand for two football AGPs and the population of Hastings would generate a demand for two football AGPs. This compares to a current provision of one football AGP in each district giving a supply/demand balance of -1 football AGPs in each district.

Table 3 Football - Supply/Demand Balance	Rother	Hastings
Supply - Pitch provision (pitches) scaled to take account of hours available for community use	1	1
Demand - Pitch provision (pitches)	2	2
Supply / Demand balance	-1	-1

- 3.6. When looking at a very simplistic picture of the overall supply and demand for hockey, it is estimated that the population of Rother would generate a demand for 0.47 hockey AGPs and the population of Hastings would generate a demand for 0.59 hockey AGPs. According to the assumptions of the model (not taking into account any spatial element of demand), each district generates

demand for one hockey AGP. This compare to a current provision of one hockey AGP (scaled to take account of hours available for community use) in each district gives a surplus of 0.07 pitches in Rother and a deficit of 0.32 pitches in Hastings.

3.7. For assumptions made on football/hockey hours please refer to Appendix 2.

Table 4 Hockey- Supply/Demand Balance	Rother	Hastings
Supply - Pitch provision (pitches) scaled to take account of hours available for community use	0.54	0.27
Demand - Pitch provision (pitches)	0.47	0.59
Supply / Demand balance	0.07	-0.32

Note. This only provides a 'global' view of provision and does not take account of the location, nature and quality of facilities in relation to demand; how accessible facilities are to the resident population (by car and on foot); not does it take account of facilities in adjoining districts. These are covered in the more detailed modelling in the following section (satisfied demand, unmet demand and relative share).

4. Satisfied Demand- demand from Hastings and Rother residents currently being met by supply

Table 3 - Satisfied Demand	Hastings	Rother	East Sussex County	England
Total number of visits which are met	1515	1026	7796	1056016
% of total demand satisfied	75.4	65.5	74.4	83.9
% of demand satisfied who travelled by car	89.5	94.9	92.7	86.7
% of demand satisfied who travelled by foot	9.5	4.5	6.5	11
% of demand satisfied who travelled by public transport	1	0.5	0.8	2.3
Demand Retained	873	482	7269	1054905
Demand Retained -as a % of Satisfied Demand	57.6	46.9	93.2	99.9
Demand Exported	642	545	528	1111
Demand Exported -as a % of Satisfied Demand	42.4	53.1	6.8	0.1

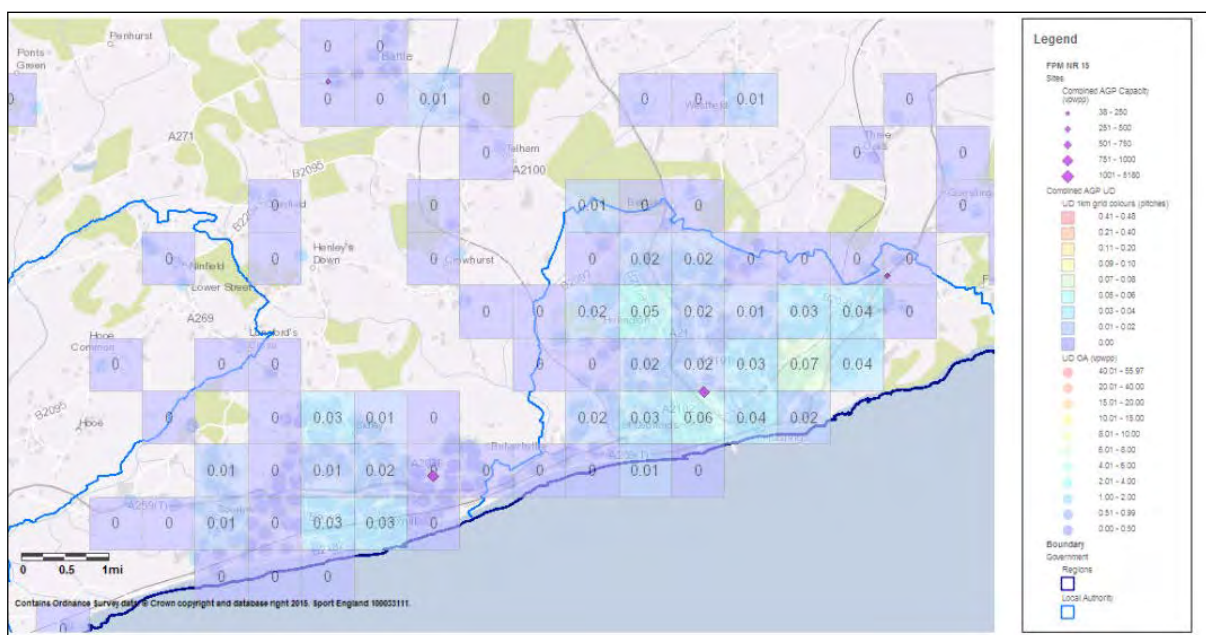
- 4.1. Table 3 advises that AGPs in Hastings can currently satisfy 1515 VPWPP and AGPs in Rother can currently satisfy 1026 VPWPP.
- 4.2. Two of the three AGPs in Rother are situated in rural locations (Battle Area Sports Centre and Vinehall School) which means that much of the population in Rother live outside the catchment area of these AGPs. Although Hastings has one less AGP, the supply is capable of satisfying a greater deal of demand because of the location of AGPs.
- 4.3. More than half of the satisfied demand in Rother is satisfied by AGPs outside Rother (53% of demand is exported).
- 4.4. Whilst over half of Rother demand is satisfied outside Rother, the number of visits exported is actually higher in Hastings. Hastings exports 642 VPWPP and Rother exports 545 VPWPP.
- 4.5. Both districts have a relatively high levels of exported demand. It would be interesting to have this further broke down to understand where the exported demand is being satisfied which could only be done through a local FPM run.
- 4.6. Whilst the population of Rother is greater than Hastings, the demand generated for AGPs is less because of the age/gender make up.
- 4.7. More than double the amount of walkers are satisfied in Hastings in comparison to Rother. This is due to the lower car levels of car ownership in Hastings and the accessibility of facilities.

5. Unmet Demand - demand from Hastings and Rother residents not currently being met

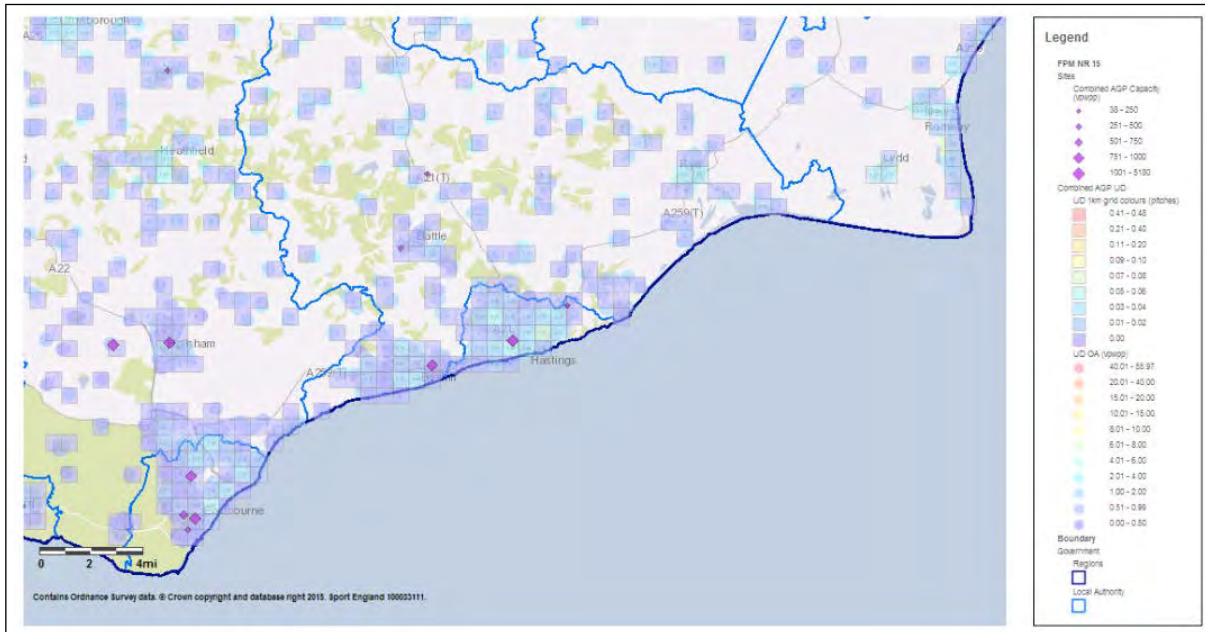
Table 5 - Unmet Demand	Hastings	Rother	East Sussex	England
Total Number Of Visits In The Peak, Not Currently Being Met	494	541	2682	202701
Unmet Demand As A % Of Total Demand	24.6	34.5	25.6	16.1
Equivalent In Pitches	0.67	0.73	3.62	273.92
% Of Unmet Demand Due To ;				
Lack Of Capacity -	86.4	79.9	82.1	80.0
Outside Catchment -	13.6	20.1	17.9	20.0
Outside Catchment;	13.6	20.1	17.9	20.0
<i>% Unmet Demand Who Do Not Have Access To A Car</i>	12.1	11.4	12.9	15.2
<i>% Of Unmet Demand Who Have Access To A Car</i>	1.5	8.6	5	4.8
Lack Of Capacity;	86.4	79.9	82.1	80.0
<i>% Unmet Demand Who Do Not Have Access To A Car</i>	35.2	11.1	18.7	33.9
<i>% Of Unmet Demand Who Have Access To A Car</i>	51.2	68.8	63.4	46.2

- 5.1. Table 5 advises 494 visits per week in Hastings are unmet in the peak period. It advises that 541 visits per week in Rother are unmet in the peak period.
- 5.2. In comparison to Eastbourne (329) and Tunbridge Wells (424) and Ashford (317) the level of unmet visits in Hastings and Rother appears high. However it is considerably lower than Wealdon (788) and Shepway (712).
- 5.3. The model provides two reasons as to why demand is not being satisfied: 1) there is a lack of capacity at existing facilities to satisfy demand 2) the population is located outside the catchment of their closest AGP.
- 5.4. Out of 494 unmet VPWPP in Hastings, the model advises 435 are unmet because there is a lack of capacity at the existing AGPs to cater for the demand. This implies the main reason for unmet demand in Hastings is the fact there is insufficient capacity at existing AGPs to cater for demand. Of the 494 unmet VPWPPP, 253 are people with access to a car and 172 are people with no access to a car. This further emphasises the issue of capacity.

- 5.5. In Rother, out of 541 unmet VPWPP, the model advises 433 are unmet because there is a lack of capacity at the existing AGPs to cater for the demand. 372 of these VPWPP are people who have access to a car and 60 VPWPP are people who do not have access to a car. Again, the main reason for demand not being met in Rother is because existing AGPs do not have capacity to accommodate all demand.
- 5.6. A facility's capacity varies depending on its size (i.e. size of pool, hall, pitch number), and how many hours the facility is available for use by the community.
- 5.7. Appendix 2 sets out how many visits can be satisfied at an AGP if it were to operate at capacity. It advises that one AGP operating at capacity could satisfy 740 visits per week in the peak period. The joint unmet demand from both districts (1035 VPWPP) is greater than the amount of visits satisfied by one AGP operating at capacity, which could start to justify the need for another AGP. This is a crude assumption with no spatial analysis. It assumes all unmet demand is in the same location. In reality the unmet demand is spread across both districts and a new AGP regardless of location could not be assumed to meet all unmet demand because some residents would remain outside its catchment.
- 5.8. Whilst the majority of unmet demand is derived from a lack of capacity at AGPs, it is worth noting that 69 VPWPP are unmet in Hastings because residents live outside the catchment of the closest AGP. Of these unmet visits 60 are people who have no access to a car and live outside the catchment of the closest AGP.
- 5.9. In Rother 108 VPWPP are unmet by residents who live outside the catchment of their closest AGP and of those 62 have no access to a car.
- 5.10. In terms of where the unmet demand is located in Hastings, the following map shows the highest levels in Broomgrove, Hollington and St Leonards.



5.11. It also shows the highest levels of unmet demand in Rother are located in Bexhill and Rye.



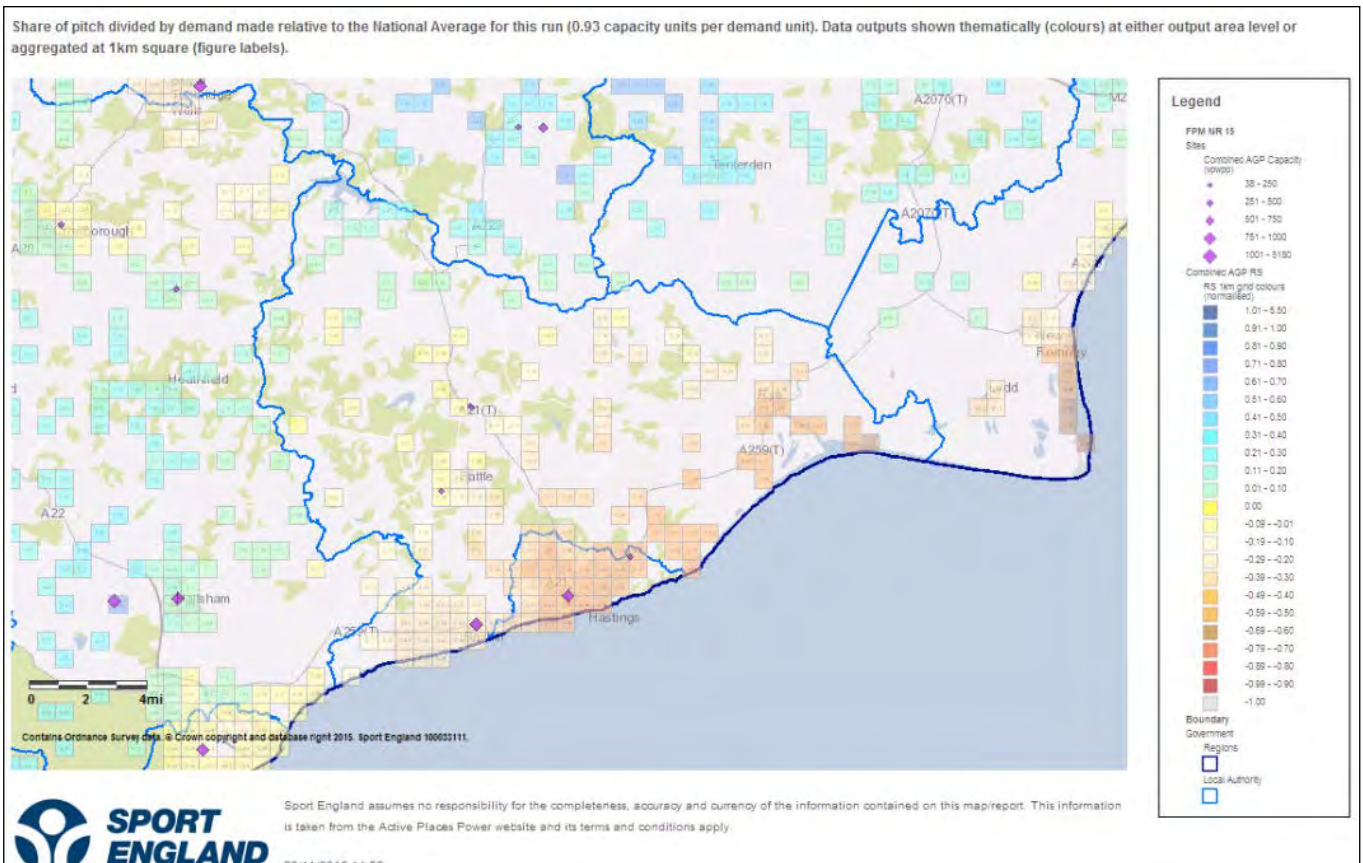
5.12. The map above shows unmet demand at a larger scale and it demonstrates that whilst there is unmet demand in both Hastings and Rother it is similar to the level of unmet demand in Eastbourne, Wealdon and Ashford.

6. Used Capacity - How well used are the facilities?

Table 6 - Used Capacity	Hastings	Rother	East Sussex County	England
Total Number Of Visits Used Of Current Capacity	940	1140	8600	1056291
% Of Overall Capacity Of Pitches Used	100	100	99.2	90.4
% Of Visits Made To Pitches By Walkers	15.1	4.3	6.4	11
% Of Visits Made To Pitches By Road	84.9	95.7	93.6	89
Visits Imported;				
Number Of Visits Imported	67	658	1331	1386
As A % Of Used Capacity	7.1	57.8	15.5	0.1
Visits Retained:				
Number Of Visits Retained	873	482	7269	1054905
As A % Of Used Capacity	92.9	42.2	84.5	99.9

- 6.1. The model advises that all AGPs in Hastings and Rother are operating at 100% capacity in the peak period.
- 6.2. The AGPs in Rother contribute greatly to satisfying needs of residents outside Rother (658 VPWPP) yet they only satisfy 482 VPWPP from residents within Rother. This imported demand is likely to come from Hastings and Wealdon.
- 6.3. The AGPs in Hastings do not attract many people from outside Hastings according to the model. The AGPs in Hastings satisfy 67 VPWPP from residents outside Hastings and 873 VPWPP from residents within Hastings.
- 6.4. It is important to note that the model does not take account of the AGPs which are excluded. They may make significant contributions to meeting demand for AGPs in Hastings and Rother.

7. Personal/Relative Share - equity share of facilities



- 7.1. Relative share is useful at looking at 'equity' of provision at a strategic level. It takes into account the size and availability of facilities as well as travel modes. It helps to establish whether residents within a particular area have less or more share of provision than other areas when compared against a national average figure which is set at 100.
- 7.2. The map above shows the share of AGPs in Hastings is similar to the share of AGPs in Romney and Rye.
- 7.3. Compared to England the areas of Rother with less relative share are found in Rye and areas by the coast, immediately north east of Hastings.
- 7.4. The level of relative share is better in the north of Rother than the south because of the AGPs located outside Rother.

8. Summary and Conclusions

- 8.1. Hastings is currently supplied with two Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) and Rother is served by three AGPs, two of which are in rural locations.
- 8.2. Whilst the population of Hastings is less than the population of Rother, the demand for AGPs in the peak period is higher in Hastings. This is a result of the demographic breakdown of the population (younger) of Hastings which will create greater demand for AGPs.
- 8.3. The % of the population without access to a car is much greater in Hastings than Rother and is also higher than the national average.
- 8.4. Many residents in Rother live outside the catchment area of their closest AGP.
- 8.5. Although Hastings has one less AGP than Rother, the existing two AGPs are capable of satisfying a greater deal of demand because they are more centrally located.
- 8.6. Both districts have a relatively high levels of exported demand.
- 8.7. 494 visits per week in Hastings are unmet in the peak period. 541 visits per week in Rother are unmet in the peak period.
- 8.8. The main reason for unmet demand in Hastings and Rother is the fact there is insufficient capacity at existing AGPs to cater for demand.
- 8.9. The joint unmet demand from both districts (1035) is greater than the amount of visits satisfied by one AGP operating at capacity, which could start to justify the need for another AGP. This is a crude assumption with no spatial analysis. It assumes all unmet demand is in the same location. In reality the unmet demand is spread across both districts and a new AGP regardless of location could not be assumed to meet all unmet demand because some residents would remain outside its catchment.
- 8.10. Whilst the majority of unmet demand is derived from the lack of capacity it is worth noting that 69 VPWPP are unmet in Hastings because residents live outside the catchment of the closest AGP. In Rother 108 VPWPP are unmet because they live outside the catchment of their closest AGP.
- 8.11. The highest levels of unmet demand in Hastings is located in Broomgrove, Hollington and St Leonards.
- 8.12. The levels of unmet demand are spread across Rother but the highest levels of unmet demand in Rother are in Bexhill and Rye.
- 8.13. Whilst there is unmet demand in both Hastings and Rother it is similar to the level of unmet demand in Eastbourne, Wealdon and Ashford.
- 8.14. The three AGPs in Rother satisfy 658 visits from people who live outside Rother. In comparison the AGPs in Hastings only satisfy 67 visits from people outside Hastings.

- 8.15. Whilst the AGPs Rother contribute greatly to satisfying needs of residents outside Rother, they only satisfy 482 VPWPP from residents within Rother. More people from outside Rother are satisfied by AGPs in Rother, than residents of Rother are satisfied by AGPs within Rother. This imported demand is likely to come from Hastings but also Wealdon.
- 8.16. The AGPs in Hastings do not attract many people from outside Hastings according to the model. The AGPs in Hastings satisfy 67 VPWPP from residents outside Hastings and 873 VPWPP from residents within Hastings.
- 8.17. The FPM shows there is demand for additional capacity at existing AGPs and begins to demonstrate demand for additional AGP provision to serve both Rother and Hastings. This must be supported by local intelligence.

9. Maps

Map 1

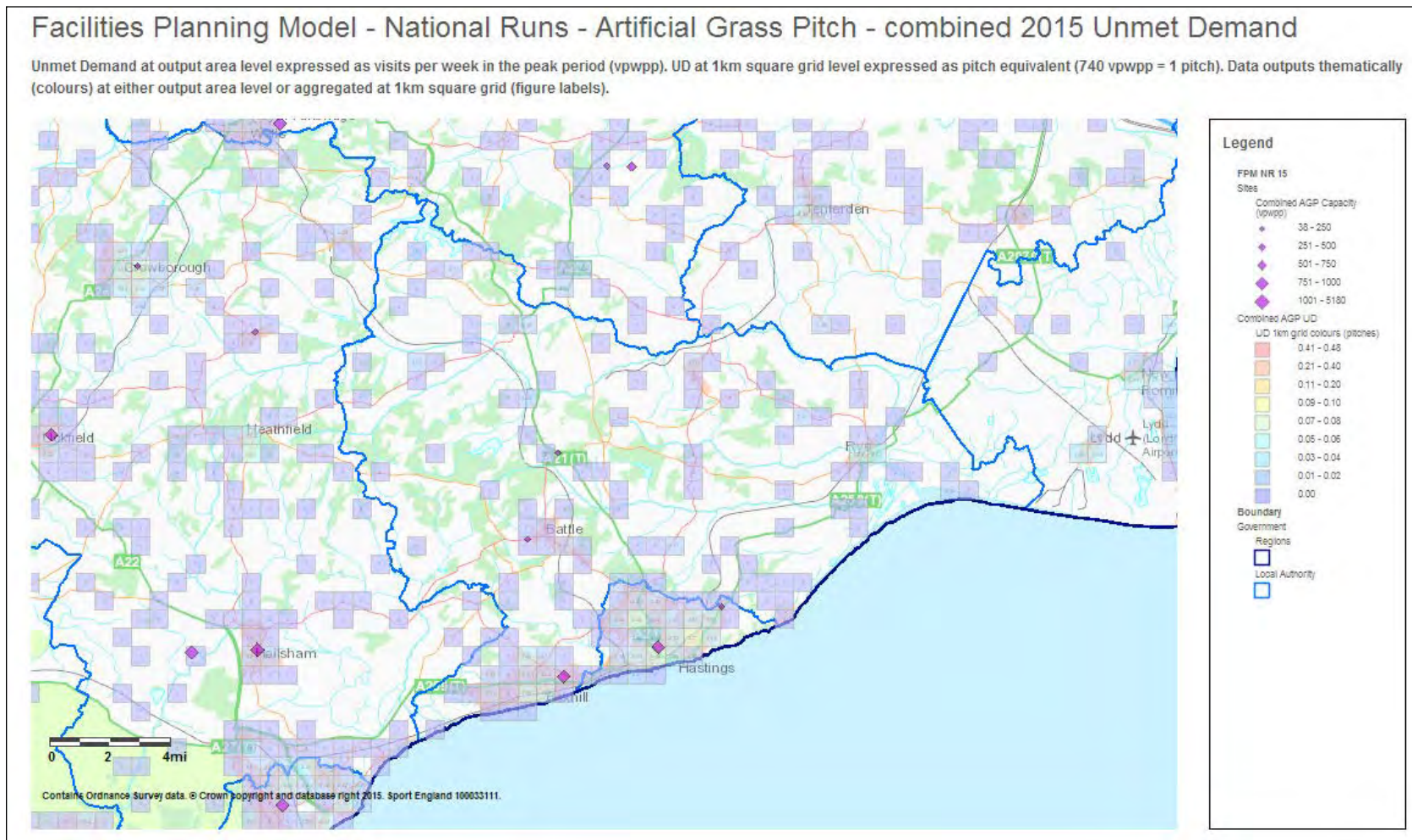




Location of Artificial Grass Pitch

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Map 2 – Unmet Demand



Appendix 1: Artificial Grass Pitches Included/Excluded

Facilities Included:

Name Of Facility	Type	Dimensions	Area	Year Built	Public/ Commercial	Hrs In Pp	Facility Capacity - Vpwp	% Of Capacity Used	% Of Capacity Not Used	Facility Capacity Used In The Peak	Demand Redistributed After Initial Allocation	Annual Thro'put
Hastings												
Hornbye Park Sports Complex	F sand floodlit	100 X 60	6000	2000	P	34	740	100%	0%	740	-761	43,529
The Hastings Academy	Rubber Crumb Pile (3g)		0e	2013	P	16	200	100%	0%	200	-210	11,765
Rother												
Battle Area Sports Centre	3g non floodlit	100 X 60	6000	2010	P	16	200	100%	0%	200	-48	11,765
Bexhill College Sports Centre	F sand floodlit	100 X 60	6000	2004	P	34	740	100%	0%	740	-258	43,529
Vinehall School	F sand floodlit	80 X 50	4000	2008	P	16	200	100%	0%	200	52	11,765

Facilities Excluded

The audit excludes facilities that are deemed to be either for private use, too small or there is a lack of information, particularly relating to hours of use. The following facilities were deemed to fall under one or more of these categories and therefore excluded from the modelling:

Site Name	Post Town	Fac Subtype	Length	Width	Pitches	Floodlit	Yr Built	Footbl Week Pphrs	Footbl Weekend Pphrs	Hockey Week Pphrs
Hastings										
Alexandra Park	Hastings	Sand Filled	38	18	1	1	2005	18	0	0
Combe Haven Holiday Park	St. Leonards-On-Sea	Sand Filled	30	13	1	0	2002	0	0	0
St Leonard's Academy	St. Leonards-On-Sea	Sand Filled	36	19	1	1	2006	18	0	0
The Firs (Mini Soccer Centre)	Hastings	Sand Filled	40	21	1	1	2005	18	0	0
The St Leonards Academy	St. Leonards-On-Sea		60	33	1	1		0	0	0
Torfield Stp	Hastings	Sand Filled	38	18	1	1	2005	18	0	0
Rother										
Battle Abbey Prep School	Bexhill-On-Sea	Sand Filled	46	34	1	0		0	0	0
Battle Abbey Senior School	Battle	Sand Filled	44	35	1	1	2001	0	0	0
Bexhill College Sports Hall (Closed)	Bexhill-On-Sea	Sand Filled			1	1		0	0	0



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Bexhill High School	Bexhill-On-Sea	Sand Filled			1	1	2010	13	0	0
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	St. Leonards-On-Sea	Sand Filled	68	36	1	1		13	0	0
Battle Abbey Prep School	Bexhill-On-Sea	Sand Filled	46	34	1	0		0	0	0

Appendix 2 – Model description, Inclusion Criteria and Model Parameters

Included within this appendix are the following:

- Model description
- Facility Inclusion Criteria
- Model Parameters

Model Description

1. Background

1.1. The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) is a computer-based supply/demand model, which has been developed by Edinburgh University in conjunction with sportscotland and Sport England since the 1980s.

1.2. The model is a tool to help to assess the strategic provision of community sports facilities in an area. It is currently applicable for use in assessing the provision of sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls centres and artificial grass pitches.

2. Use of FPM

2.1. Sport England uses the FPM as one of its principal tools in helping to assess the strategic need for certain community sports facilities. The FPM has been developed as a means of:

- assessing requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a local, regional or national scale;
- helping local authorities to determine an adequate level of sports facility provision to meet their local needs;
- helping to identify strategic gaps in the provision of sports facilities; and

- comparing alternative options for planned provision, taking account of changes in demand and supply. This includes testing the impact of opening, relocating and closing facilities, and the likely impact of population changes on the needs for sports facilities.
- 2.2. Its current use is limited to those sports facility types for which Sport England holds substantial demand data, i.e. swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls and artificial grass pitches.
- 2.3. The FPM has been used in the assessment of Lottery funding bids for community facilities, and as a principal planning tool to assist local authorities in planning for the provision of community sports facilities. For example, the FPM was used to help assess the impact of a 50m swimming pool development in the London Borough of Hillingdon. The Council invested £22 million in the sports and leisure complex around this pool and received funding of £2,025,000 from the London Development Agency and £1,500,000 from Sport England¹.

3. How the model works

- 3.1. In its simplest form, the model seeks to assess whether the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport is capable of meeting local demand for that sport, taking into account how far people are prepared to travel to such a facility.
- 3.2. In order to do this, the model compares the number of facilities (supply) within an area, against the demand for that facility (demand) that the local population will produce, similar to other social gravity models.
- 3.3. To do this, the FPM works by converting both demand (in terms of people), and supply (facilities), into a single comparable unit. This unit is 'visits per week in the peak period' (VPWPP). Once converted, demand and supply can be compared.
- 3.4. The FPM uses a set of parameters to define how facilities are used and by whom. These parameters are primarily derived from a combination of data including actual user surveys from a range of sites across the country in areas of good supply, together with participation survey data. These surveys provide core information on the profile of users, such as, the age and gender of users, how often they visit, the distance travelled, duration of stay, and on the facilities themselves, such as, programming, peak times of use, and capacity of facilities.

¹ Award made in 2007/08 year.

- 3.5. This survey information is combined with other sources of data to provide a set of model parameters for each facility type. The original core user data for halls and pools comes from the National Halls and Pools survey undertaken in 1996. This data formed the basis for the National Benchmarking Service (NBS). For AGPs, the core data used comes from the user survey of AGPs carried out in 2005/6 jointly with Sportscotland.
- 3.6. User survey data from the NBS and other appropriate sources are used to update the models parameters on a regular basis. The parameters are set out at the end of the document, and the range of the main source data used by the model includes:
- National Halls & Pools survey data –Sport England
 - Benchmarking Service User Survey data –Sport England
 - UK 2000 Time Use Survey – ONS
 - General Household Survey – ONS
 - Scottish Omnibus Surveys – Sport Scotland
 - Active People Survey - Sport England
 - STP User Survey - Sport England & Sportscotland
 - Football participation - The FA
 - Young People & Sport in England – Sport England
 - Hockey Fixture data - Fixtures Live
 - Taking Part Survey - DCMS

4. Calculating Demand

- 4.1. This is calculated by applying the user information from the parameters, as referred to above, to the population². This produces the number of visits for that facility that will be demanded by the population.
- 4.2. Depending on the age and gender make-up of the population, this will affect the number of visits an area will generate. In order to reflect the different population make-up of the country, the FPM calculates demand based on the smallest census groupings. These are Output Areas (OA)³.

² For example, it is estimated that 7.72% of 16-24 year old males will demand to use an AGP, 1.67 times a week. This calculation is done separately for the 12 age/gender groupings.

- 4.3. The use of OAs in the calculation of demand ensures that the FPM is able to reflect and portray differences in demand in areas at the most sensitive level based on available census information. Each OA used is given a demand value in VPWPP by the FPM.

5. Calculating Supply Capacity

- 5.1. A facility's capacity varies depending on its size (i.e. size of pool, hall, pitch number), and how many hours the facility is available for use by the community.
- 5.2. The FPM calculates a facility's capacity by applying each of the capacity factors taken from the model parameters, such as the assumptions made as to how many 'visits' can be accommodated by the particular facility at any one time. Each facility is then given a capacity figure in VPWPP. (See parameters in Section C).
- 5.3. Based on travel time information⁴ taken from the user survey, the FPM then calculates how much demand would be met by the particular facility having regard to its capacity and how much demand is within the facility's catchment. The FPM includes an important feature of spatial interaction. This feature takes account of the location and capacity of all the facilities, having regard to their location and the size of demand and assesses whether the facilities are in the right place to meet the demand.
- 5.4. It is important to note that the FPM does not simply add up the total demand within an area, and compare that to the total supply within the same area. This approach would not take account of the spatial aspect of supply against demand in a particular area. For example, if an area had a total demand for 5 facilities, and there were currently 6 facilities within the area, it would be too simplistic to conclude that there was an oversupply of 1 facility, as this approach would not take account of whether the 5 facilities are in the correct location for local people to use them within that area. It might be that all the facilities were in one part of the borough, leaving other areas under provided. An assessment of this kind would not reflect the true picture of provision. The FPM is able to assess supply and demand within an area based on the needs of the population within that area.

³ Census Output Areas (OA) are the smallest grouping of census population data, and provides the population information on which the FPM's demand parameters are applied. A demand figure can then be calculated for each OA based on the population profile. There are over 171,300 OAs in England. An OA has a target value of 125 households per OA.

⁴ To reflect the fact that as distance to a facility increases, fewer visits are made, the FPM uses a travel time distance decay curve, where the majority of users travel up to 20 minutes. The FPM also takes account of the road network when calculating travel times. Car ownership levels, taken from Census data, are also taken into account when calculating how people will travel to facilities.

5.5. In making calculations as to supply and demand, visits made to sports facilities are not artificially restricted or calculated by reference to administrative boundaries, such as local authority areas. Users are generally expected to use their closest facility. The FPM reflects this through analysing the location of demand against the location of facilities, allowing for cross boundary movement of visits. For example, if a facility is on the boundary of a local authority, users will generally be expected to come from the population living close to the facility, but who may be in an adjoining authority.

6. Utilised Capacity (used capacity)

6.1. Utilised capacity refers to how much of facilities theoretical capacity is being used. This can, at first, appear to be unrealistically low, with area figures being in the 50-60% region. Without any further explanation, it would appear that facilities are half empty. The key point is not to see a facilities theoretical maximum capacity (100%) as being an optimum position. This, in practise, would mean that a facility would need to be completely full every hour it was open in the peak period. This would be both unrealistic from an operational perspective and undesirable from a user's perspective, as the facility would completely full.

6.2. For examples:

A 25m, 4 lane pool has Theoretical capacity of 2260 per week, during 52 hour peak period.

	4-5pm	5-6pm	6-7pm	7-8pm	8-9pm	9-10pm	Total Visits for the evening
Theoretical max capacity	44	44	44	44	44	44	264
Actual Usage	8	30	35	50	15	5	143

6.3. Usage of a pool will vary throughout the evening, with some sessions being busier than others though programming, such as, an aqua-aerobics session between 7-8pm, lane swimming between 8-9pm. Other sessions will be quieter, such as between 9-10pm. This pattern of use would give a total of 143 swims taking place. However, the pool's maximum capacity is 264 visits throughout the evening. In this instance the pools utilised capacity for the evening would be 54%.

6.4. As a guide, 70% utilised capacity is used to indicate that pools are becoming busy, and 80% for sports halls. This should be seen only as a guide to help flag up when facilities are becoming busier, rather than a 'hard threshold'.

7. Travel times Catchments

- 7.1. The model uses travel times to define facility catchments in terms of driving and walking.
- 7.2. The Ordnance Survey (OS) Integrated Transport Network (ITN) for roads has been used to calculate the off-peak drive times between facilities and the population, observing one-way and turn restrictions which apply, and taking into account delays at junctions and car parking. Each street in the network is assigned a speed for car travel based on the attributes of the road, such as the width of the road, and geographical location of the road, for example the density of properties along the street. These travel times have been derived through national survey work, and so are based on actual travel patterns of users. The road speeds used for Inner & Outer London Boroughs have been further enhanced by data from the Department of Transport.
- 7.3. The walking catchment uses the OS Urban Path Network to calculate travel times along paths and roads, excluding motorways and trunk roads. A standard walking speed of 3 mph is used for all journeys
- 7.4. The model includes three different modes of travel, by car, public transport & walking. Car access is also taken into account, in areas of lower access to a car, the model reduces the number of visits made by car, and increases those made on foot.
- 7.5. Overall, surveys have shown that the majority of visits made to swimming pools, sports halls and AGPs are made by car, with a significant minority of visits to pools and sports halls being made on foot.

Facility	Car	Walking	Public transport
Swimming Pool	76%	15%	9%
Sports Hall	77%	15%	8%
AGP			
Combined	83%	14%	3%
Football	79%	17%	3%
Hockey	96%	2%	2%

- 7.6. The model includes a distance decay function; where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. The set out below is the survey data with the % of visits made within each of the travel times, which shows that almost 90% of all visits, both car borne or walking, are made within 20 minutes. Hence, 20 minutes is often used as a rule of thumb for catchments for sports halls and pools.

	Sport halls		Swimming Pools	
Minutes	Car	Walk	Car	Walk
0-10	62%	61%	58%	57%
10-20	29%	26%	32%	31%
20 -40	8%	11%	9%	11%

7.7. For AGPs, there is a similar pattern to halls and pools, with Hockey users observed as travelling slightly further (89% travel up to 30 minutes). Therefore, a 20 minute travel time can also be used for 'combined' and 'football', and 30 minutes for hockey.

Artificial Grass Pitches						
	Combined		Football		Hockey	
Minutes	Car	Walk	Car	Walk	Car	Walk
0-10	28%	38%	30%	32%	21%	60%
10-20	57%	48%	61%	50%	42%	40%
20 -40	14%	12%	9%	15%	31%	0%

NOTE: These are approximate figures, and should only be used as a guide.

Inclusion Criteria used within analysis

Artificial Grass Pitch

The following inclusion criteria were used for this analysis:

- Include all outdoor, full size AGPs with a surface type of sand based, sand dressed, water based or rubber crumb – varied by sport specific runs.
- Include all Operational Pitches available for community use i.e. pay and play, membership, Sports Club/Community Association
- Exclude all Pitches not available for community use i.e. private use
- Include all 'planned', 'under construction, and 'temporarily closed' facilities only where all data is available for inclusion.
- Minimum pitch dimension taken from Active Places – 75m x45m.
- Non floodlit pitches exclude from all runs after 1700 on any day.
- Excludes all indoor pitches.
- Excludes 5-a-side commercial football centres and small sided 'pens'.
- Excludes MUGA's, redgra, ash, marked out tarmac areas, etc.
- Carpet types included:
 - Combined Run – all carpet types, using the sport run criteria below.
 - Hockey Run – all water based weekend/weekday, all sand based/sand dresses weekend only.
 - Football Run – all rubber crumb weekend/weekday, sand based/sand dressed weekday.

Facilities in Wales and the Scottish Borders included, as supplied by **sportscotland** and Sports Council for Wales.

Model Parameters used in the Analysis

AGP Parameters -Combined

<p>At one Time Capacity</p>	<p>30 players per slot Mon to Fri: 30x18 slots = 540 visits 25 players per slot Sat & Sun: 25x8 slots = 200 visits</p> <p>Total = 740 visits per week in the peak period (Saturday and Sunday capacity to reflect dominance of formal 11-side matches i.e. lower capacity)</p>																																																																																																		
<p>Catchment Maps</p>	<p>Car 20 minutes Walking: 1.6 km Public transport: 20 minutes at about half the speed of a car</p> <p>NOTE: Catchment times are indicative, within the context of a distance decay function of the model.</p>																																																																																																		
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Monday - Friday = 1 hr Saturday & Sunday = 2 hrs</p>																																																																																																		
<p>Participation Percentage</p> <p>Frequency per week</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Age</th> <th style="text-align: center;">0-15</th> <th style="text-align: center;">16-24</th> <th style="text-align: center;">25-34</th> <th style="text-align: center;">35-44</th> <th style="text-align: center;">45-54</th> <th style="text-align: center;">55-64</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL & RUGBY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4.73</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.53</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.80</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.52</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.09</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">HOCKEY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.72</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.74</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.59</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.41</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.09</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.02</td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Age</th> <th style="text-align: center;">0-15</th> <th style="text-align: center;">16-24</th> <th style="text-align: center;">25-34</th> <th style="text-align: center;">35-44</th> <th style="text-align: center;">45-54</th> <th style="text-align: center;">55-64</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL & RUGBY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.65</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.05</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.04</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.86</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.47</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.43</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.35</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">HOCKEY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.97</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.86</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.50</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.63</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.44</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.45</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.07</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.03</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>{Usage split: Football = 75.2%, Hockey = 22.7%, Rugby = 2.1%}</p>	Age	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	FOOTBALL & RUGBY							Male	2.25	7.00	4.73	2.53	1.13	0.13	Female	0.80	1.11	0.52	0.22	0.09	0.05	HOCKEY							Male	1.11	0.72	0.20	0.18	0.13	0.04	Female	2.74	1.59	0.41	0.24	0.09	0.02	Age	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	FOOTBALL & RUGBY							Male	2.23	1.65	1.26	1.05	1.04	1.00	Female	1.86	1.47	1.26	1.43	1.35	1.43	HOCKEY							Male	0.97	1.86	1.50	1.16	1.27	0.87	Female	0.63	1.44	1.45	1.20	1.07	1.03
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Creating a sporting habit for life



ROTHER AND HASTINGS PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX C

October 2016
Final Report



PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Rother District Council
LEAD CONTACT	Nichola Watters
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	23/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	BOWLS ENGLAND DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY AND SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All bowls sites assessed.
- Received responses from 13 bowls clubs
- Information gathered through online survey and consultations taken by RDC
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed



STAGE A DATA

Pitch Supply

The following table provides an overview of all bowls greens in the area.

Table 1: Bowls site breakdown

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for bowls	Number greens	Number of rinks	Community Use On Site	Ownership
Westfield Bowls Green	1	4	Available	Westfield Parish Council
Northiam Bowls Green	1	4	Available	Northiam Parish Council
Beckley Bowls Green	1	4	Available	Beckley Parish Council
Battle Bowls Green	1	6	Available	TBC
Staplecross Bowls Green	1	7	Available	Staplecross Parish Council
Fairlight Bowls Green	1	TBC	Available	Fairlight Parish Council
Winchelsea Bowls Green	1	4	Available	Icklesham Parish Council
Guestling Bowls Green	2	4 (total)	Available	Guestling Parish Council
Polegrove Bowls Green	4	24 (total)	Available	Rother District Council
Egerton Park Bowls Green	1	6	Available	Rother District Council
Gullivers Bowls Green	2 (only 1 in use at present)	TBC	Available	Private Club
Sidley Bowls Green	1	4	Available	Rother District Council
Iden Bowls Green	1	4	Available	Iden Parish Council
Peasmarsh Bowls Green	1	4	Available	Peasmarsh Parish Council
Rye Bowls Green	1	4	Available	Rother District Council
Pett Bowls Green	1	4	Available	Pett Parish Council

Tenure/ management breakdown

The following table provides a breakdown of bowls sites in the area by ownership and management.



Table 2: Ownership of bowls sites

Type of ownership	Ownership
Private	1
Parish Council	10
Local Authority	4
Club	1

Quality Assessment

RDC has visited and assessed all bowls sites in the area. Full details on the quality assessments are presented on the accompanying excel file.

Pitch Demand

This section provides an overview of the clubs in the area. Table 3 provides breakdown of clubs that have responded to 4 Global's survey and a summary of their comments. Table 4 provides a breakdown of clubs that have yet to respond, along with action already undertaken and suggested further action required.

Table 3: Responding bowls clubs

Club	Members	Facility most frequently used	Consultation Summary
Spartan's Bowls Club	45+	Egerton Park	Currently 49 members, mainly from Bexhill and surrounding areas. Increase in their membership over the last 3 years due to more availability from players. Generally satisfied with facilities at Egerton Park, but an improvement in the changing facilities would be required if they became a mixed club. No current disabled access and additional fencing and gates are needed to prevent vandalism.
Northiam Bowls Club	45+	Northiam Playing Fields	47 active members with the vast majority being seniors. Very happy at Northiam Playing Fields, where the only issue identified was the lack of disabled access to the club house. Expecting a growth in their membership of approximately 25% as the club has always aimed to reach a maximum of 60 members.
Guestling Bowls Club	35+	Guestling Playing Fields	Suffering a decrease in their membership (currently 35) due to player's old age. Currently seeking financial support from Sport England to achieve club aspirations to incorporate a club house at Guestling Playing Fields. This would allow a more sociable side to the club
Lakeside	25+	Egerton Park	25 active members playing at Egerton Park, where they rated the playing surface as good but

Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Women's Bowls Club			described the clubhouse as too small and the toilets (only one on site) are not enough to accommodate home and away teams. In order to allow any further growth, the club have stated that lower fees and possible grants for equipment and promoting the sport are needed.
Gullivers Bowls Club	75+	Gullivers Bowls Green	Over 75 members accessing the facilities at Gullivers Bowls Green for over 12 hours per week. Member numbers haven't seen any changes in recent years, due to a lack of volunteer availability. The club are very happy with the bowling green itself, but stated that all club & indoor facilities are out of date and in need of replacement.
Staplecross Bowls Club	60+	Staplecross Bowls Green	10 adult and 52 senior members primarily from the Ewhurst Parish, Sedlescombe and Hastings areas. The club continue to actively recruit for players which has translated into a constant increase in the number of members in recent years. They are very happy at Staplecross Bowls Green and would definitely recommend this facility. No specific issues or problems were identified in regards to the green or the facility as a whole.
Sidley Martlets Bowls Club	65+	Sidley Recreation Ground	68 current members using bowling greens at Sidley Recreation Ground for over 12 hours per week. The club has seen an increase in their membership over the last few years as a consequence of word of mouth and recommendation from members. They have identified a need for lighting between the club facilities and the road (used for parking), which could also do with an improvement in cleanliness. Parking could be a problem when club's use coincides with football matches/practice.
Battle Bowls Club	70+	Battle Lawn Bowls club	Recent increase in their number of members (currently 71) but expecting a loss of around 5% within the next 3 years. Not satisfied with the facilities at Battle Lawn Bowls club, where they have stated that the clubhouse and associated outbuildings are in urgent need of redevelopment. The lack of parking availability presents a major problem for members and visiting teams.
Polegrove Bowls Club	75+	Polegrove Recreation Ground	Majority of senior members, with some adult and youth as well using the bowling greens at Polegrove Recreation Ground for over 12 hours per week. Very unlikely to recommend this site, due to a lack of suitable facilities. Application already tendered for a new pavilion, which they are in desperate need for.
Peasmarsh Bowls Club	20+	Peasmarsh Recreation Ground	Small club with majority of senior members playing at Peasmarsh Recreation Ground, where they are in charge of the upkeep of the green and facilities. Main priority areas for investment are disabled access and changing facilities.
Beckley Bowls Club	40+	Beckley Bowls Green	10 adult and 30 senior members, with no aspirations for further growth in the near future. Facilities at Beckley Bowls Green were described as fairly good (maintained by club members) but with room for improvement, specially for the clubhouse and the playing surface. "We have a good small clubhouse which consists of a changing area, Wc's M & F .The Female WC being suitable for disabled use. And a secure mower/ Plant room. However, it is not big enough to provide

Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy

			refreshments to 32 to 40 people. So, we have an old porto cabin which currently provides us with the kitchen facilities & a very tight seating area to entertain our guests."
Rye Bowls Club	35+	Rye Bowls Green	35 members from the Rye and surrounding areas. Generally satisfied with facilities at Rye Bowls Green, they have identified a need for improved maintenance at the clubhouse and for additional storage facility. Aspirations to increase their number of members by approximately a quarter in coming years, as a consequence of the club's committee encouraging participation and recruiting new players.
Bexhill Bowls Club	140	Polegrove Recreation Ground	140 senior members from the Bexhill and Hastings areas, accessing the greens at Polegrove Recreation Ground for over 12 hours per week, The club have seen an increase in their membership over the last three years (through club's recruitment), but are not expecting any further growth. They have identified the need for a new pavilion as their main and urgent priority and have already submitted plans to the council. -

Table 4: Non responding bowls clubs

Club	RDC contact	RDC contact 2	Reason for no contact
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Rother District Council
LEAD CONTACT	Nichola Watters
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	12/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	ENGLAND AND WALES CRICKET BOARD DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY AND SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All cricket sites assessed.
- Received responses from 24 out of 27 cricket clubs (88%)
- Information gathered in 4 global online platform www.playingpitch.com
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

Sign-off Process:

This datasheet is split into two sections;

- **Stage B Data** – Supply and demand data captured through site assessments and club consultations, to be signed off before Stage B is complete. Target sign off date for Stage B is Friday 19th February.
- **Stage C Data and site by site analysis** – This is the analysis undertaken per site showing capacity, key issues and club requirements. For the February 2016 issue of the data sheet, this version will include a basic capacity analysis of all football sites, with further detail to be added prior to stage C sign-off.



STAGE A DATA

Pitch Supply

The following table provides a full overview of all cricket pitches in the area.

The supply for grass and artificial is calculated by assuming that grass pitches can accommodate 5 matches per season and artificial pitches can accommodate 60 matches per season

Table 1: Cricket site breakdown

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Community Use On Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Squares	Wickets (grass)	Wickets (artificial)	Supply: grass - artificial
Ashburnham Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Trust	1	9	0	45-0
Battle Area Sports Centre	Available	Secure	Education	1	0	1	0-60
Beckley Park Cricket Club	Available	Unsecured	Private	1	7	0	35-0
Bodiam Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	3	0	15-0
Brightling Park	Available	Unsecured	Trust	1	7	0	35-0
Buckswood School	Not Available	Unsecured	Private	1	0	1	0-60
Burwash Common Cricket Club	Available	Secured	Trust	1	5	0	25-0
Catsfield Playing Field	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	4	0	20-0
Churchfields	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	7	0	35-0
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	Available	Unsecured	Education	1	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
Crowhurst Park Cricket Club	Available	Secured	Private	1	11	0	55-0
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	7	0	35-0
Drewett Cricket Field	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	6	0	30-0
Flimwell Cricket Club	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	11	0	55-0
Frewen College	Available	Unsecured	Education	1	6	0	30-0

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George Meadow	Available	Secured	Town Council	1	8	1	40-60
Icklesham Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	0	1	0 60
Iden Playing Field	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	10	0	50-0
King George V Playing Fields	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	8	0	40-0
Little Common Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	15	1	75-60
Netherfield Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Trust	1	8	0	40-0
Oaklands Park	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	3	0	15-0
Pett Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	4	0	20-0
Polegrove Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	17	0	85-0
Rye Cricket Salts	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	13	0	65-0
St. Marys Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	9	0	45-0
Stonegate Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	7	0	35-0
Swan Meadow Playing Field	Available	Secured	Trust	1	4	0	20-0
The Clappers	Available	Secured	Unknown	1	10	1	50-60
The Down	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	10	0	50-0
Vinehall School	Available	Unsecured	Education	1	9	0	45
Westfield Cricket Club	Available	Secured	Trust	1	12	0	60-0
Winchelsea Cricket Club	Available	Unsecured	Trust	1	7	0	35-0

* Information not available – Under renovation works at time of assessment

Tenure/ management breakdown

The following table provides a breakdown of the cricket pitches in the area by ownership and management (please note that this table refers to pitches and not sites).



Table 2: Ownership of cricket sites

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Club	0	5
Private	3	1
Trust	7	5
Parish Council	12	9
Local Authority	0	0
Education	4	3
Other	2	5

Quality Assessment

RDC has visited and assessed all cricket sites in the area. Each site (and pitch) has been provided with quality ratings for 5 areas (as per Sport England guidance) that can be seen in the table below.

Table 3: Pitch quality scores

Site	Outfield	Artificial Wickets	Grass Wickets	Changing /Pavilion	Non Turf Practice	Overall Score	Rating
Ashburnham Recreation Ground	86.67%	0.00%	66.67%	60.00%	25.00%	71.11%	Standard
Battle Area Sports Centre	100.00%	57.10%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	85.70%	Good
Beckley Park Cricket Club	93.33%	0.00%	66.67%	60.00%	0.00%	73.33%	Standard

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Bodiam Recreation Ground	76.67%	0.00%	50.00%	52.00%	0.00%	59.56%	Standard
Brightling Park	80.00%	0.00%	83.33%	40.00%	0.00%	67.78%	Good
Buckwood School	86.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	86.67%	Good
Burwash Common Cricket Club	80.00%	0.00%	83.33%	80.00%	0.00%	81.11%	Good
Catsfield Playing Field	63.33%	0.00%	83.33%	80.00%	0.00%	75.56%	Good
Churchfields	43.33%	0.00%	66.67%	20.00%	0.00%	43.33%	Poor
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%	80.00%	33.33%	78.33%	Good
Crowhurst Park Cricket Club	80.00%	0.00%	100.00%	40.00%	75.00%	73.75%	Standard
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	70.00%	0.00%	100.00%	52.00%	0.00%	74.00%	Standard
Drewett Cricket Field	100.00%	0.00%	83.33%	52.00%	0.00%	78.44%	Good
Flimwell Cricket Club	66.67%	0.00%	83.33%	60.00%	50.00%	65.00%	Standard
Frewen College	100.00%	0.00%	66.67%	52.00%	41.67%	65.08%	Standard
George Meadow	76.67%	71.43%	100.00%	80.00%	33.33%	72.29%	Standard
Icklesham Recreation Ground	63.33%	85.71%	0.00%	40.00%	0.00%	63.02%	Standard
Iden Playing Field	93.33%	0.00%	66.67%	52.00%	41.67%	63.42%	Standard



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King George V Playing Fields	86.67%	0.00%	66.67%	60.00%	0.00%	71.11%	Standard
Little Common Recreation Ground	53.33%	85.71%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	84.76%	Good
Netherfield Recreation Ground	63.33%	0.00%	66.67%	80.00%	0.00%	70.00%	Standard
Oaklands Park	93.33%	0.00%	83.33%	80.00%	0.00%	85.56%	Good
Pett Recreation Ground	56.67%	0.00%	66.67%	60.00%	0.00%	61.11%	Standard
Polegrove Recreation Ground	53.33%	0.00%	100.00%	60.00%	58.33%	67.92%	Standard
Rye Cricket Salts	80.00%	42.86%	83.33%	100.00%	33.33%	67.90%	Standard
St. Marys Recreation Ground	76.67%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	0.00%	58.33%	Standard
Stonegate Recreation Ground	73.33%	0.00%	66.67%	40.00%	0.00%	60.00%	Standard
Swan Meadow Playing Field	73.33%	0.00%	50.00%	60.00%	0.00%	61.11%	Standard
The Clappers	100.00%	57.14%	83.33%	52.00%	25.00%	63.50%	Standard
The Down	83.33%	0.00%	100.00%	40.00%	0.00%	74.44%	Standard
Vinehall School	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	Good
Westfield Cricket Club	70.00%	0.00%	83.33%	20.00%	0.00%	57.78%	Standard
Winchelsea Cricket Club	70.00%	0.00%	100.00%	20.00%	0.00%	63.3%	Standard



Sidley Sports & Social Club*	86.7%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	0.00%	63.3%	Standard
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* This site has been repossessed and is not currently used for formal sports provision. Demand has been displaced to outside the study area. This site has been included in the assessments at the request of Rother District Council.

Pitch Summaries

Top 5 Cricket Facilities (combination of built facility and pitch assessment)

Oaklands Park: Situated in Sedlescombe, the outfield, wickets and ancillary facilities at this site, including a modern pavilion, combine to make it the best cricket facility in the district. Despite this there are concerns that interest in cricket is dwindling. The square benefits from regular maintenance. The addition of practice nets could further enhance the facility.

Little Common Recreation Ground: This facility on the outskirts of Bexhill benefits from a high standard of grass wickets, a good artificial wicket and excellent pavilion accommodation. As with many cricket facilities, rabbit damage occurs on the outfield. Greater consistency in the undertaking of maintenance could further improve the outfield.

Burwash Common Cricket Club: Home to the Burwash Weald and Common Cricket Club, the ground is run by a management committee registered as a charity and is rated as a good all-round facility. The pavilion with its undercover terrace overlooking the cricket square opened in 2009 and is used for a variety of community functions as well as for cricket. There are significant changes of levels across the site; there is a slight slope across the square and parts of the outfield slope quite steeply. The wicket is amongst the hardest in the district. A mobile practice net is available, but there is no artificial practice wicket.

Drewett Cricket Field: Although the pavilion is standard at best and would benefit from modernisation, the outfield is amongst the best in the district. Improved maintenance and renovation would further improve the grass wickets. There is scope to accommodate practice nets if needed. The field is located down a narrow track so access is not ideal.

Claremont Preparatory and Nursery School: This private school has very good cricket facilities which are used by nearby Crowhurst Park Cricket Club, effectively as a nursery ground, as well as the school's pupils. The facility receives year-round attention and benefits from the advice and practical input of members of the Crowhurst Park Cricket Club as well as maintenance from the school's in-house estate management team. The cricket field is located at the bottom of a large hard-surfaced slope and surface water runoff can sometimes saturate the ground, inhibiting grass growth. Practice nets are available, but could be improved.

Bottom 4 Cricket Facilities (combination of built facility and pitch assessment)

Sidley Sports and Social Club (Gullivers): Located in the heart of Sidley, this previously good facility is currently has fallen into disuse and is in a very poor condition. Until recently, the ground was home to both Sidley Cricket Club and Sidley Football Club, but financial mismanagement resulted in its sale forcing both clubs to source alternative facilities outside of Rother. The pavilion facilities and stands have suffered from arson and vandalism.

Churchfields: Situated in Udimore, this facility is one of the poorest in the district in terms of both the pitch and ancillary facilities. It was little used in the 2015 season and the home team, Udimore Cricket Club has recently folded. The pavilion is old, has poor facilities and is in a poor state of repair externally. There are no nets and no formal parking provision.

Westfield Cricket Club: Although the grass wickets are good and the outfield standard, the ancillary facilities are poor, in particular the lack of parking and the changing accommodation which is very old and very basic. The site suffers from mole and rabbit damage. This site is in private ownership and although the cricket club hopes to improve facilities in the future, community use is not secure.

Bodiam Recreation Ground: Although available for community use, the cricket facility was little used in the 2015 season and consequently, a high level of maintenance is not sustained throughout the season. The pavilion is adequate, but does not meet modern standards. Parking is poor and there are no practice facilities.

Pitch Demand

This section provides an overview of the clubs in the area. Table 5 provides a summary breakdown of clubs that have responded to RDC. Table 6 provides a breakdown of clubs that have yet to respond, along with action already undertaken and suggested further action required.



Table 4: Responding cricket clubs

Club	No. of competitive teams			Total
	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	
Bexhill Cricket Club	5	0	7	12
Rye Cricket Club	3	0	5	8
Crowhurst Park CC	4	1	5	10
Battle CC	3	0	3	6
Bodiam CC	1	0	0	1
Robertsbridge CC	3	0	2	5
Little Common Ramblers CC	2	0	1	3
Pett CC	4	0	1	5
Catsfield CC	1	0	0	1
Crowhurst CC	1	0	0	1
Mountfield CC	1	0	0	1
Brightling Park CC	1	0	0	1
Ashburnham CC	1	0	0	1
Beckley CC	1	0	0	1
Westfield CC	1	0	0	1
Parkhurst CC	1	0	0	1
Netherfield CC	1	0	0	1
Brede Cricket Club	1	0	0	1
Burwash Weald CC	1	0	0	1
Burwash CC	1	0	0	1
Northiam CC	2	0	0	2
Winchelsea CC	1	0	0	1
Etchingham CC	1	0	0	1
Sidley CC*	1	0	0	1
Flimwell CC	2	0	3	5
Total	44	1	27	72

* Club currently playing outside the study area due to the repossession of Sidley Sports & Social Club

Table 5: Non responding cricket clubs

Club	RDC contact	RDC contact 2	Reason for no contact
Iden CC	Follow up email sent and phone call made 12/01/16	Follow up email sent and phone call made 18/01/16	Emails and phone calls were not responded to by the club.
Sedlescombe CC	Follow up email sent and phone call made 12/01/16	Follow up email sent and phone call made 18/01/16	Emails and phone calls were not responded to by the club.
Strikers 11 CC	Follow up email sent and phone call made 12/30/16	Follow up email sent and phone call made 18/01/16	Emails and phone calls were not responded to by the club.

Key Club Consultation Summaries

The following is a summary of the consultations undertaken with 5 key clubs, focussing on their key issues and future plans. All pitch-rating comments are the opinions of the club and may differ from the impartial rating given by the site assessor.

Table 6: Summary of demand consultations from cricket clubs in Rother

Club	Consultation Summary
Bexhill CC	<p>12 teams in total, with 5 adult sides (2 of them playing in the Premier Leagues) and 7 juniors that are in constant growth due to well established school links.</p> <p>Although their pitch at Polegrove Rec has been marked in the top 20 of the county, the club stated that they are very much at the lower end of playing standards and facilities in Sussex and the lowest in the Sussex Premier League.</p> <p>The playing standard and quality of maintenance were said to have deteriorated in recent years, with the main problems identified being the length of the grass and evenness of the outfield.</p> <p>Facilities have been rated as unacceptable: no heating in the building, which makes it difficult to use out of season; no segregated toilets, showers or changing areas. "A new ground is vital to the success of our club. One which would enable the club to continue to compete at the highest level for not just 3-4 years, but the next 50. We would need a new pavilion that is fit for purpose. One which would attract players of all calibre to the sport and the town itself. One which could be used 12 months of the year in order to generate the necessary revenue to properly invest in the sport and maintenance. With this we could afford to progress the clubs own upkeep of the playing facilities to the highest standards."</p>

Crowhurst Park CC	A one-team club, entirely managed by volunteers who are responsible for all the ground works and maintenance of the clubhouse. They have rated the quality of their pitches as good and although the current facilities have been identified as acceptable, they were also described as slightly out-dated and in need of improvement. Currently developing plans for a new Pavilion (costing approximately £350k) in order to attract more members and allow further growth.
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STAGE C SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS

3. SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE – CAPACITY ANALYSIS

Table 7 below presents the supply and demand capacity analysis for cricket in the area.

Table 7: Capacity Analysis

Site Name	No of Pitches	No of wickets	No of Non-Turf wickets	Games Per Season		Site Comments
				Games played (Adult – Junior)	Capacity	
Ashburnham Recreation Ground	1	9	0	15-0	45-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Beckley Park Cricket Club	1	7	0	12-0	35-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Bodiam Recreation Ground	1	3	0	6	15-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Brightling Park	1	7	0	15-0	35-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Burwash Common Cricket Club	1	5	0	13-0	25-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Catsfield Playing Field	1	4	0	12-0	20-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	1	Not available	Not available	16-0	Not available	Pitch under renovation works at time of assessment

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Crowhurst Park Cricket Club	1	11	0	24-18	55-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	1	7	0	12-0	35-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Flimwell Cricket Club	1	11	0	18-15	55-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Frewen College	1	6	0	10-0	30-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
George Meadow	1	8	1	25 11	40-60	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Icklesham Recreation Ground	1	0	1	9-0	0 -60	This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets
King George V Playing Fields	1	8	0	29-0	40-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Little Common Recreation Ground	1	15	1	20-5	75-60	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Netherfield Recreation Ground	1	8	0	10-0	40-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Pett Recreation Ground	1	4	0	31-5	20-0	This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets
Polegrove Recreation Ground	1	17	0	47-35	85-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Rye Cricket Salts	1	13	0	29-50	65-0	This site is currently over capacity for grass wickets
The Clappers	1	10	1	12-2	50-60	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
The Down	1	10	0	10-0	50-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Westfield Cricket Club	1	12	0	15-0	60-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
Winchelsea Cricket Club	1	7	0	15-0	35-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Rother District Council
LEAD CONTACT	Nichola Watters
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	12/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DATA SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- 100% of known football sites assessed
- Received responses to the demand consultation from 34 out of 40 football clubs (85%)
- Information gathered in 4 global online platform www.playingpitch.com
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the FA before Stage B can be completed

Sign-off Process:

This datasheet is split into two sections;

- **Stage B Data** – Supply and demand data captured through site assessments and club consultations, to be signed off before Stage B is complete. Target sign off date for Stage B is Friday 19th February
- **Stage C Data and site by site analysis** – This is the analysis undertaken per site showing capacity, key issues and club requirements. For the February 2016 issue of the data sheet, this version will include a basic capacity analysis of all football sites, with further detail to be added prior to Stage C sign-off.



STAGE B SIGN-OFF

Pitch supply (including AGPs)

Introduction

An overview of the supply of football pitches in Rother is provided in this section. There are 5 types of pitches that are used by football teams from the ages of Under 7 through to Adults. The pitch types are as follows:

- Adult 11v11
- Youth 11v11
- Youth 9v9
- Mini soccer 7v7
- Mini soccer 5v5

Artificial grass pitches (AGPs) are also used by football teams and have been included in this data collection summary.

Site Details

The number of football pitches in Rother has been detailed in the table below. It is important to understand where there may be potential further supply should the capacity analysis inform us that there is overplay within Rother.

Table 1: Breakdown of sites and pitches

Site Name	Postcode	Availability for community use	Security of Use	Ownership	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer		AGP's		
					11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	Sand	3G	Water
Battle Abbey Prep School	TN40 2NH	Available	Unsecured	Education	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Battle Abbey Senior School	TN33 0AD	Not available	Unsecured	Education	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
Battle Area Sports Centre	TN33 0HT	Available	Unsecured	Education	1		-	-	-	-	1	-

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Battle Recreation Ground	TN33 0HB	Available	Secured	Town Council	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bexhill College (Gunters Lane)	TN39 4ED	Available	Unsecured	Education	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bexhill College Sports Centre	TN40 2JG	Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bexhill High School	TN39 4ED	Available	Unsecured	Education	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	TN38 8AS	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	8	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Bodiam Recreation Ground	TN32 5UG	Available	Secured	Parish Council	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bricklehurst Manor School	TN5 7EL	Not available	Unsecured	Education	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buckwood School	TN35 4LT	Available	Unsecured	Education	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Catsfield Playing Field	TN33 9DH	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	TN37 7PW	Available	Unsecured	Education	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	-
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	TN33 9AY	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frewen College	TN31 6NL	Available	Unsecured	Education	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guestling Playing Field	TN35 4HS	Available	Secured	Parish Council	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Icklesham Recreation Ground	TN36 4BB	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iden Playing Field	TN31 7XD	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Common Recreation Ground	TN39 4PH	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-
Little Common School	TN39 4SQ	Not available	Unsecured	Council	0	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Northiam Playing Fields	TN31 6LS	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-



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Oaklands Park	TN33 0QB	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Peasmarsh Recreation Ground	TN31 6ST	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pickforde Lane Recreation Ground	TN5 7AS	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polegrove Recreation Ground	TN39 3EX	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Riverhall Lane	TN32 5LY	Available	Secured	Private	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robertsbridge Community College	TN32 5EA	Available	Unsecured	Education	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rye College	TN31 7NQ	Not available	Unsecured	Council	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Rye Cricket Salts	TN31 7LR	Available	Secured	Local Authority	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sidley Recreation Ground	TN39 4BA	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Richards Catholic College	TN40 1SE	Not available	Unsecured	Local Authority	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Thomas Church Of England Aided Primary School	TN36 4ED	Not available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Stonegate Recreation Ground	TN5 7DY	Available	Secured	Parish Council	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swan Meadow Playing Field	TN19 7ER	Available	Secured	Trust	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Clappers Recreation Ground	TN32 5NY	Available	Secured	Parish Council	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Down	TN39 4HS	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Parish Field	TN35 4SB	Available	Unsecured	Trust	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ticehurst Village Club/Ticehurst Recreation Ground	TN5 7RT	Available	Secured	Trust	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vinehall School	TN32 5JL	Not available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-



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Winchelsea Beach Recreation Ground (Harbour Field)	TN36 4LX	Available	Secured	Parish Council	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Sidley Sports & Social Club	TN39 5AJ	Not Available	Unsecured	Private	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Battle & Langton CoE Primary School	TN33 0HQ	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Saint Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary School	TN40 2ND	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Westfield School	TN35 4QE	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Netherfield CoE Primary School	TN33 9QF	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Guestling-Bradshaw CoE Primary School	TN35 4LS	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ticehurst & Flimwell CoE Primary School	TN5 7DH	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Staplecross Methodist Primary School	TN32 5QD	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Salehurst CoE Primary School	TN32 5BU	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
St Peter and St Paul CoE Primary School	TN40 1QE	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Icklesham CoE Primary School	TN36 4BX	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-



Quantity Overview

Table 2 below provides an overview of the number of football pitches across Rother. This splits the football pitches into five sub-categories for grass pitches and 3 sub-categories for AGP's.

Table 2: Pitch supply overview

Rother	Number of pitches							
	Adult football	Youth football		Mini soccer		AGPs		
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	Sand Based	3G	Water based
Total	39	25	9	15	2	6	3	0

Tenure/Management Overview

The table below details how the ownership and management of football pitch sites is split across Rother. The two main owners of sites are Education and Parish Council. This is important to understand, as the owners of football pitches can affect their community use and potentially inhibit their use, or provide the opportunity for new/increased use.

Table 3: Site ownership

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Parish Council	12	15
Club	0	0
Education	23	20



Trust	3	4
Private	2	2
Council	2	1
Local Authority	8	6
Town Council	1	0
Unknown	0	3

Site Assessments

The site assessments carried out by RDC determine the 'Carrying Capacity' of a football pitch. This capacity determines the number of matches a pitch per week without having a detrimental effect on the quality. A pitch receives a score identified through the assessment that determines the quality as 'good', 'standard' or 'poor'. The effect this has on carrying capacity for adult pitches is as follows:

- Poor = 1 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Standard = 2 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Good = 3 match equivalent carrying capacity per week

For Youth Football 11v11 and 9v9 pitches, carrying capacity is affected differently due to the difference in nature and length of play. The effect of the quality scores on these pitches is as follows:

- Poor = 1 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Standard = 2 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Good = 4 match equivalent carrying capacity per week

For Mini soccer 7v7 and 5v5 pitches, the quality score affects carrying capacity as follows:

- Poor = 2 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Standard = 4 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Good = 6 match equivalent carrying capacity per week



Table 4 below provides a general overview of the scores received for the different pitch types across the area.

Table 4: Pitch quality summary

Quality score	Adult football	Youth football		Mini soccer	
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Good (80-100%)	12	3	5	4	0
Standard (50-79.9%)	16	14	4	5	0
Poor (0-49.9%)	11	8	0	6	2

Table 5 below provides a detailed view of the site-by-site assessment data collected by RDC.

Table 5: Pitch quality by site

Site	Pitch Type	Pitch Score	Ancillary Score	Rating
Battle Area Sports Centre	Adult Football	75.71%	66.15%	Standard
Battle Recreation Ground	Adult Football	64.29%	61.54%	Standard
Bexhill College (Gunters Lane)	Adult Football	62.86%	60.00%	Standard
Bexhill College (Gunters Lane)	Adult Football	62.86%	52.31%	Standard
Bexhill High School	Adult Football	55.71%	76.92%	Standard
Bexhill High School	Adult Football	55.71%	76.92%	Standard
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good

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Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bodiam Recreation Ground	Adult Football	44.29%	60.00%	Poor
Bodiam Recreation Ground	Adult Football	44.29%	60.00%	Poor
Catsfield Playing Field	Adult Football	52.86%	81.54%	Standard
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	Adult Football	52.86%	52.31%	Standard
Icklesham Recreation Ground	Adult Football	47.14%	52.31%	Poor
Iden Playing Field	Adult Football	44.29%	69.23%	Poor
Little Common Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	89.23%	Good
Northiam Playing Fields	Adult Football	47.14%	49.23%	Poor
Oaklands Park	Adult Football	75.71%	66.15%	Standard
Peasmarsh Recreation Ground	Adult Football	44.29%	66.15%	Poor
Pickforde Lane Recreation Ground	Adult Football	64.29%	56.92%	Standard
Polegrove Recreation Ground	Adult Football	91.43%	78.46%	Good
Riverhall Lane	Adult Football	41.43%	63.08%	Poor
Sidley Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	40.00%	Good
Sidley Sports & Social Club	Adult Football	38.57%	7.69%	Poor
St Richards Catholic College	Adult Football	51.43%	15.38%	Standard
St Richards Catholic College	Adult Football	54.29%	15.38%	Standard
St Richards Catholic College	Adult Football	45.71%	15.38%	Poor
St Richards Catholic College	Adult Football	45.71%	15.38%	Poor
St Richards Catholic College	Adult Football	54.29%	15.38%	Standard



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Swan Meadow Playing Field	Adult Football	44.29%	50.77%	Poor
The Clappers Recreation Ground	Adult Football	50.00%	61.54%	Standard
The Down	Adult Football	77.14%	24.62%	Standard
The Parish Field	Adult Football	82.86%	70.77%	Good
Ticehurst Village Club/Ticehurst Recreation Ground	Adult Football	60.00%	44.62%	Standard
Battle Abbey Prep School	Youth Football 11v11	47.14%	7.69%	Poor
Battle Abbey Senior School	Youth Football 11v11	57.14%	7.69%	Standard
Battle Abbey Senior School	Youth Football 11v11	57.14%	7.69%	Standard
Battle Recreation Ground	Youth Football 11v11	64.29%	61.54%	Standard
Bricklehurst Manor School	Youth Football 11v11	44.29%	0.00%	Poor
Buckswood School	Youth Football 11v11	50.00%	15.38%	Standard
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	Youth Football 11v11	67.14%	7.69%	Standard
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	Youth Football 11v11	67.14%	7.69%	Standard
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	Youth Football 11v11	67.14%	7.69%	Standard
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	Youth Football 11v11	64.29%	7.69%	Standard
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	Youth Football 11v11	61.43%	7.69%	Standard
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	Youth Football 11v11	61.43%	7.69%	Standard
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	Youth Football 11v11	45.71%	52.31%	Poor
Frewen College	Youth Football 11v11	40.00%	7.69%	Poor
Guestling Playing Field	Youth Football 11v11	32.86%	40.00%	Poor
Guestling Playing Field	Youth Football 11v11	50.00%	40.00%	Standard
Little Common Recreation Ground	Youth Football 11v11	85.71%	89.23%	Good
Little Common Recreation Ground	Youth Football 11v11	85.71%	89.23%	Good
Northiam Playing Fields	Youth Football 11v11	47.14%	49.23%	Poor
Polegrove Recreation Ground	Youth Football 11v11	85.71%	78.46%	Good



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Robertsbridge Community College	Youth Football 11v11	48.57%	76.92%	Poor
Robertsbridge Community College	Youth Football 11v11	48.57%	76.92%	Poor
Rye College	Youth Football 11v11	54.29%	15.38%	Standard
Rye College	Youth Football 11v11	50.00%	15.38%	Standard
Stonegate Recreation Ground	Youth Football 11v11	75.71%	47.69%	Standard
St Thomas Church Of England Aided Primary School	Mini Soccer 5v5	47.14%	7.69%	Poor
Little Common School	Mini Soccer 5v5	38.57%	15.38%	Poor
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Mini Soccer 7v7	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Mini Soccer 7v7	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Little Common Recreation Ground	Mini Soccer 7v7	85.71%	89.23%	Good
Little Common Recreation Ground	Mini Soccer 7v7	85.71%	89.23%	Good
Winchelsea Beach Recreation Ground (Harbour Field)	Mini Soccer 7v7	52.86%	40.00%	Standard
Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	52.86%	7.69%	Standard
Guestling-Bradshaw Church of England Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	52.86%	15.38%	Standard
Icklesham Church of England Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	50.00%	15.38%	Standard
Netherfield Church of England Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	50.00%	15.38%	Standard
Saint Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	45.71%	15.38%	Poor
Salehurst Church of England Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	45.71%	7.69%	Poor
St Peter and St Paul Church of England Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	42.86%	15.38%	Poor
Staplecross Methodist Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	37.14%	15.38%	Poor
Ticehurst and Flimwell Church of England Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	41.43%	15.38%	Poor
Westfield School	Mini Soccer 7v7	47.14%	15.38%	Poor
Little Common Recreation Ground	Youth Football 9v9	85.71%	89.23%	Good

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Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Youth Football 9v9	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Youth Football 9v9	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Guestling Playing Field	Youth Football 9v9	50.00%	40.00%	Standard
Oaklands Park	Youth Football 9v9	78.57%	66.15%	Standard
Oaklands Park	Youth Football 9v9	78.57%	66.15%	Standard
Polegrove Recreation Ground	Youth Football 9v9	88.57%	78.46%	Good
Rye Cricket Salts	Youth Football 9v9	85.71%	81.54%	Good
Winchelsea Beach Recreation Ground (Harbour Field)	Youth Football 9v9	52.86%	40.00%	Standard

Pitch Summaries

Table 6: Pitch Summaries

Site	Assessment Summary
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	<p>The site is operated by the local authority and accommodates the majority of adult football within the town. The site is also home to a number of junior teams, an adult rugby team and an American Football team.</p> <p>Six of the adult pitches on the site have enhanced drainage, which significantly improves playability in bad weather; however the entire site is located within a flood plain so some loss of fixtures to waterlogging is inevitable.</p> <p>The site is served by two pavilions, one brick built and the other timber framed; the timber framed pavilion has reached the end of its life and will require replacement/significant refurbishment in the near future.</p> <p>All pitches were assessed within the November to mid-December project timeline, meaning that scores didn't reflect the pitch conditions at the wettest time of the year, that period falls around December through to January locally. All pitches at this site are also maintained within a borough wide grounds maintenance contract and as a result maintenance scores are exactly the same from pitch to pitch.</p> <p>At the time of the inspection the contractors had just gang mowed the site and prepared pitches for weekend use, all pitches received the same score as grass length, ground conditions etc. were uniform across the site.</p> <p>The site is effectively made up of 4 levels:</p>



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	<p>Tier 1 at the south of the site has natural drainage and is the lowest laying area. Its surrounded by a watercourse to the north, east and south. There is currently one 9 a side pitch and two mini pitches in this area. The pitches in this area suffer from flooding during the winter and usually start being ruled as referee's discretion or unfit from around mid-November each year through to around mid-February annually.</p> <p>Tier 2 in the centre of the site has enhanced drainage which discharges into the adjacent watercourse. There are six senior pitches on this level. The pitches are amongst the fittest in the town. The pitches are used by the ESFL as one of their main venues, and as a result the pitches pick up a lot of responsive demand from teams who have lost their own pitches to poor fitness during the winter months.</p> <p>Tier 3 is the northernmost level of the site and has natural drainage. There is a large landfill site to the north of this level and the pitches suffer from waterlogging due to runoff from the slope leading to the landfill area. The only pitches currently in place on this level are the rugby pitch and a 9 a side pitch in the north-eastern corner, both are usually ruled referees discretion or unfit for use from around early November through to March annually.</p> <p>Tier 4 to the southwest of the site has good natural drainage. There are two senior pitches in the area. The pitches are amongst the fittest in the town and usually only ruled as referees discretion or unfit during very wet periods.</p>
Little Common Recreation Ground	A large site on the outskirts of Bexhill accommodating six pitches including one senior flood-lit pitch. The pitches are rated as standard and although there is drainage in place, ground conditions are still an issue during periods of persistent rain. This has implications on both fixtures and training as there is no all-weather surface available. The ancillary facilities managed jointly by the home football and cricket clubs are rated the best in the district.
Polegrove	Situated in central Bexhill, this is the premier public sports ground in the town serving as the home ground for both Bexhill United and Glenco Football Clubs and accommodating a senior flood-lit pitch, junior pitches and a grass training area. Use of the site for closed-gate matches, public events and cricket creates management and maintenance challenges. The pitch, changing facilities and grandstand are standard and the grandstand in particular would benefit from upgrading. No land drainage system is in place and turf maintenance practices alone are insufficient to ensure that pitches are playable during prolonged spells of rainfall. The grass training area is intensively used which presents capacity and maintenance issues.
Rye Cricket Salts	Currently accommodating just one 9v9 pitch, this site has the capacity to accommodate more pitches. The sports turf maintenance practices and a new pavilion mean that the playing fields are better than many around the district, but the long-standing users of the facility, Rye United FC, folded in 2014-15 and at present there is no demand for senior level football at this location.
The Parish Field	Home to Westfield United FC, one of the biggest clubs in the district. The ground and ancillary facilities are standard and used to capacity, causing the team to have to source training facilities outside the district. The lack of available



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	space has resulted in the senior club's relegation. The development of a new senior pitch as part of future housing development in the locality is viewed as essential for the club's progression and to support the growth of junior football.
Battle Area Sports Centre	The football pitch is owned and maintained by Claverham Community College (East Sussex County Council) and is used by the students during school hours. Out of hours it is available for community use through the Sports Centre and currently hosts home league matches for two Rother teams. Drainage issues limit its availability for use. There are changing facilities in the college building, a short walk from the pitch but these are rarely used by clubs hiring the facilities.
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	Located in a flood plain, these pitches which are used regularly both for matches and training, are prone to flooding most years. The pitches receive basic maintenance and the proposed reduction in the frequency of mowing due to limited resources may further impact upon their current poor rating. The pavilion is in need of an overhaul and its condition limits its scope for use. The replacement of the timber floor and veranda will need to be addressed in the short term, but limited resources are a limiting factor.
Northiam Playing Fields	Only basic maintenance is carried out at this standard pitch which accommodates both senior and junior football. There is no drainage system and as a consequence the pitches are unplayable at times and lack the capacity to sustain additional use. Dog fouling is an on-going issue and a lack of parking can be problematic. Whilst functional, the pavilion is basic and there are concerns over its expected lifetime. Funding secured through developer contributions in relation to a forthcoming housing development in the locality will assist in addressing this.
Swan Meadow Playing Field	Drainage issues and the slope of the pitch, together with a lack of good cultural practices due to scarce resources combine to give the pitch a poor quality rating. This is exacerbated by use of the pitch for training due to a current lack of alternative local provision. Whilst in good condition, the modern pavilion doesn't comply with current FA recommendations.
Guestling Playing Field	The pitches receive minimal maintenance, are poorly drained and slope more than most others in the district which contributes to their rating as poor. Pressure on the senior pitch, which is over-marked for U11s, will be relieved next season if the Parish Council's intention of bringing the redundant pitch, formerly used for senior football, back into use is realised. The Parish Council aspires to modernise the pavilion which has no showers and is extremely basic.
Frewen College	Located within the grounds of this private school, this single youth pitch has been used by the community for many years and is one of a number of sites currently used by Beckley Rangers' junior team. The pitch receives minimal maintenance and is in poor condition. At present, there are no changing facilities available for community use. The school aspires to improve its sports facilities and make them more accessible to the community, but its priority in the short-term is to refurbish and extend an existing asphalt macadam court to provide an all-weather surface for training.
Sidley Sports and Social Club (Gullivers)	Situated in the centre of Sidley, this facility was until recently the home ground for Sidley United Football Club, but



financial mismanagement has resulted in the sale of the ground forcing the club to find alternative facilities in neighbouring Hastings. The pavilion facilities and stands have suffered from arson and vandalism. The lack of pitch maintenance means the condition of this previously well-maintained and value pitch is currently the poorest in the district.

Pitch Quality Summary

Astroturf Pitches

Football training and matches can also be played on artificial grass pitches (matches can only be played on FA certified rubber-crumb 3G pitches), therefore the tables and information summarised below inform the provision of Artificial Grass Pitches in the area.

Table 7: AGP breakdown and use of AGP's for football training and matches

Site Name	Pitch Type (3G; Sand based; water based)	Size	Community use category	Security of use	Pitch score	Floodlighting
Battle Abbey Prep School	Sand Based	46 x 34	Available	Secured	54 - Standard	No
Battle Abbey Senior School	Sand Based	43.5 x 33.8	Available	Secured	73 - Standard	Yes
Battle Area Sports Centre	3G	86 x 55	Available	Secured	73 - Standard	Yes
Bexhill College Sports Centre	Sand Based	101 x 63	Available	Secured	61 - Standard	Yes
Bexhill High School	Sand Based	90 x 55	Available	Secured	67 - Standard	Yes
Buckswood School	3G	80 x 48	Available	Secured	54 - Standard	Yes
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	Sand Based	68 x 34	Available	Secured	58 - Standard	Yes
Rye College	3G	40x 25	Available	Secured	68 - Standard	Yes
Vinehall School	Sand Based	94 x 84	Not Available	-	74 - Standard	Yes

To illustrate which clubs use AGP's for football, Table 8 below match and training demand for each of the AGP's in the area.

Table 8: AGP use for football training and matches

Site Name	Football Demand in hours (Matches)	Clubs (matches)	Football Demand in hours (Training)	Clubs (training)
Battle Abbey Prep School	0	-	2	Little Common F.C.
Battle Area Sports Centre	2	Style Soccer F.C. Battle Baptist F.C.	28	Sedlescombe Rangers F.C. Style Soccer F.C. Battle Baptist F.C. Hastings Athletic F.C
Bexhill College Sports Centre	0	-	15	Sedlescombe Rangers F.C. Catsfield F.C. Westfield F.C. Hastings Athletic F.C. Bexhill Amateur Athletic Club F.C. 1066 Specials
Bexhill High School	0	-	2	Crowhurst Youth F.C.
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	0	-	15	Select Youth F.C. Sedlescombe Rangers F.C.
Rye College	0	-	1	Beckley Rangers F.C.

Pitch demand

The following section presents the data from the demand section of the PPS audit. This data has been gathered using the club survey as directed in the FA Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance. Each club has been given the opportunity to fill in their survey online. RDC have also chased all clubs a minimum of two times in order to encourage them to fill in the survey or to fill in the data over the phone.

Table 9 presents the number of teams per club in Rother, split into the eight key sub-groups as defined in the PPS guidance document.

Table 9: Teams per club

CLUB	HOME GROUND	ADULT TEAMS		YOUTH TEAMS				MINI TEAMS		TOTALS
		MENS	LADIES	BOYS		GIRLS		MINI SOCCER		
				11 V 11	9 V 9	11 V 11	9 V 9	7 V 7	5 V 5	
AFC Hastings	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Conquest United	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hastings Rangers	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hastings Rangers Youth	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	5
Hastings Town Youth 2000	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	4
Hastings Wanderers	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	4
Old Hastonians	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Orington	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
University of Brighton	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Battle Baptist F.C.	Battle Recreation Ground / Battle Area Sports Centre	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4

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Beckley Rangers F.C.	Peasmarsh Recreation Ground / Northiam Playing Fields / Iden Playing Field / Rye Cricket Salts	-	-	3	3	-	-	2	-	8
Bexhill Amateur Athletic Club F.C.	Sidley Recreation Ground / The Down	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bexhill United F.C.	Polegrove Recreation Ground	3	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	8
Bexhill United Ladies F.C.	Polegrove Recreation Ground	0	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Burwash F.C.	Swan Meadow Playing Field	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Burwash Juniors F.C.	Swan Meadow Playing Field	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	5
Catsfield F.C.	Catsfield Playing Field	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Crowhurst F.C.	Crowhurst Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Crowhurst Youth A F.C.	Crowhurst Recreation Ground	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3
Glenco F.C.	Polegrove Recreation Ground	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	4

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Hastings Athletic	Guestling Playing Field	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	5
Hooe Sports F.C.	Hooe Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hurst Green F.C.	Bodiam Recreation Ground	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	3
Icklesham Casuals F.C.	Icklesham Recreation Ground	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Little Common F.C.	Little Common Recreation Ground	4	-	4	4	-	-	3	2	17
Pebsham Sibex F.C.	Buxton Drive	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Robertsbridge United F.C.	The Clappers Recreation Ground	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	5
Rye Bay F.C.	Harbour Field	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	3
Sedlescombe Rangers F.C.	Oaklands Park	4	-	8	4	-	-	3	2	21
Style Soccer F.C.	Battle Area Sports Centre	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	1	5
Ticehurst F.C.	Pickforde Lane Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1



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Wadhurst Junior FC	Stonegate Recreation Ground / Ticehurst Village Club/Ticehurst Recreation Ground	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
Westfield Youth F.C.	The Parish Field / Hastings Academy / Mill Lane	3	-	2	2	-	-	4	4	15
Select Youth FC	Horntyte Sports Park / Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	1	6
Sidley United FC*	Hooe Recreation Ground	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*
Bexhill Rovers FC**	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground**	1**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1**
Bexhill Town Youth**	Bexhill College (Gunters Lane)**	-	-	1**	-	-	-	-	-	1**
Mountfield FC**	Riverhall Lane**	-	-	1**	-	-	-	-	-	1**
Northiam 75 FC**	Northiam Playing Fields**	1**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1**
Peasmarsh United FC**	Peasmarsh Recreation Ground**	1**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1**

* Club currently playing outside the study area due to the repossession of Sidley Sports & Social Club



** The following clubs have failed to respond to RDC's consultation. Team information obtained from FA's Whole Game System:

- Bexhill Rovers FC
- Bexhill Town Youth FC
- Mountfield FC
- Northiam 75 FC
- Peasmarsh United FC

Overall team profile

The demand data from the previous table is summarised in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Overall team profile following club breakdown

AREA	ADULT TEAMS		YOUTH TEAMS				MINI TEAMS		TOTALS
	MENS	LADIES	BOYS		GIRLS		MINI SOCCER		
			11 V 11	9 V 9	11 V 11	9 V 9	7 V 7	5 V 5	
Rother District	39	1	38	31	1	0	24	18	152

Key Club Consultation Summaries

The following is a summary of the consultations undertaken with 5 key clubs, focussing on their key issues and future plans. All pitch-rating comments are the opinions of the club and may differ from the impartial rating given by the site assessor.

Table 11: Summary of demand consultations from key football clubs in Rother

Club	Consultation Summary
1066 Specials	<p>Inclusive club providing football training for all abilities. Started mainly with young people and now also has adult teams playing competitive matches.</p> <p>Club does not have a fixed outdoor home ground and currently use Bexhill College for artificial and indoor training, as well as Little Common Recreation Ground and St Richards School for tournaments.</p> <p>Major needs identified by the club are: to continue developing inclusive sports and increasing participation with the support of NGBs and the council, and funding is required to allow further growth of the club, including a permanent home ground that provides appropriate access and changing facilities.</p>
Bexhill United FC	<p>A total of 8 teams, with 3 Adults and a growing junior section that has increased from 2 to 5 sides in the last three years.</p> <p>All teams play and train at Polegrove Recreation Ground, where they have identified the quality of the pitches as poor, with no ongoing maintenance (uneven, grass too long, dog fouling and litter) and suffering from major drainage problems.</p> <p>Club stated that more and improved facilities are needed not only at Polegrove but in Rother in general, including an all weather pitch to allow training and development of players.</p>
Little Common FC	<p>4 adult and 13 junior sides, all playing at Little Common Recreation Ground.</p> <p>Although they are generally satisfied with the quality of pitches and facilities at their home ground (in comparison to other sites in the county), they have identified serious drainage issues on some of their pitches, making them unplayable for 2-3 months per season and resulting in the club having to occasionally hire Bexhill Road for matches.</p> <p>Would like to fully enclose their designated pitch, with they currently maintain, in order to meet grading requirements for the step they play in but prohibited to do so due to the site being public land. If this continues to be the case the club will consider relocation to allow further growth and development (currently ineligible for promotion and competing as a relegated club)</p>
Sedlescombe Rangers FC	<p>Biggest club in the area with a total of 21 teams (3 senior and 18 junior).</p> <p>Currently satisfied with the quality of the pitches and facilities at Oaklands Park, but more 5v5 and 7v7 pitches with correct size goals and more and improved changing facilities are needed in the area.</p> <p>The club stated that they are currently over capacity and, in order to allow further expansion, they desperately need more affordable and available all weather training facilities, ideally a full size 3G pitch (none in the area) for both matches and training.</p>
Beckley Rangers FC	<p>A total of 8 junior sides, currently playing at over 5 different venues due to the lack of pitches and training facilities in the Beckley area.</p> <p>“We have ambitions to have a home ground where our early year teams could play, perhaps a 7 & 9 aside pitch. This would help to build the clubs identity amongst the younger teams. Within Beckley there is some space at the Jubilee Field but currently it does not have adequate pitches and no changing facilities. With the number of pitches we have compared with other clubs we are severely</p>

	<p>limited and are one of the biggest youth set up in the eastern part of Rother.</p> <p>We would welcome opportunities to look at options for development and funding in the future to be able to develop the game for all young people.”</p>
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STAGE C SITE BY SITE ANALYSIS

Supply and demand balance figures

Following the gathering of supply side and demand side information, the capacity analysis ('balance') for pitches/sites can be undertaken. The tables below split the balance figures across the 5 different football pitch types. The tables identify the supply of pitches in terms of quantity and overall carrying capacity (given that some pitches on the same site may be identified as different qualities), the demand placed on the pitches by clubs (matches and training) and then provides the balance (the difference between capacity and demand match equivalents). This capacity analysis will inform the site-by-site action plan in the final report.

Pitch type balance figures

Table 12: Adult football

Adult Pitch Provision - Site	Number Of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalents)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalents
Polegrove Recreation Ground	1	3	5	-2
Battle Abbey Prep School	0	0	2.5	-2.5
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	1	1	2	-1

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Little Common Recreation Ground	1	2	2	0
Battle Recreation Ground	1	2	1.5	0.5
Icklesham Recreation Ground	1	1	1.5	-0.5
Oaklands Park	1	2	2.5	-0.5
Pickforde Lane Recreation Ground	1	2	1.5	0.5
Robertsbridge Community College	0	0	1.5	-1.5
The Parish Field	1	3	1.5	1.5
The Clappers Recreation Ground	1	2	1	1
Catsfield Playing Field	1	2	0.5	1.5
Sidley Recreation Ground	1	3	0.5	2.5
Swan Meadow Playing Field	1	1	0.5	0.5
The Down	1	2	0.5	1.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	8	24	4.5	19.5
Northiam Playing Fields	1	1	0.5	0.5



Table 13: Youth football 11v11

Youth 11v11 Pitch Provision - Site	Number Of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalents) 11v11	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalents
Polegrove Recreation Ground	1	4	9	-5
Oaklands Park	0	0	4	-4
Battle Abbey Prep School	1	1	2	-1
Little Common Recreation Ground	2	8	2	6
Guestling Playing Field	2	3	1.5	1.5
Ticehurst Village Club/Ticehurst Recreation Ground	0	0	1.5	-1.5
Swan Meadow Playing Field	0	0	1	-1
The Parish Field	0	0	1	-1
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	6	12	0.5	11.5
Winchelsea Beach Recreation Ground (Harbour Field)	0	0	0.5	-0.5
Iden Playing Field	0	0	0.5	-0.5

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Northiam Playing Fields	1	1	0.5	0.5
Peasmarsh Recreation Ground	0	0	0.5	-0.5
The Down	0	0	0.5	-0.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	0	0	3.5	-3.5
Bexhill College (Gunters Lane)	0	0	0.5	-0.5
Riverhall Lane	0	0	0.5	-0.5

Table 14: Youth Football 9v9

Youth 9v9 Pitch Provision - Site	Number Of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalents) 9v9	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalents
Oaklands Park	2	4	2	2
Polegrove Recreation Ground	1	4	1.5	2.5
Battle Abbey Prep School	0	0	1	-1
Bodiam Recreation Ground	0	0	1	-1
Little Common Recreation Ground	1	4	2	2
Mill Lane*	0	0	1	-1



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Rye Cricket Salts	1	2	1	1
Stonegate Recreation Ground	0	0	1	-1
Swan Meadow Playing Field	0	0	1	-1
Battle Area Sports Centre	0	0	0.5	-0.5
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	0	0	0.5	-0.5
Guestling Playing Field	1	2	0.5	1.5
Northiam Playing Fields	0	0	0.5	-0.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	2	8	2	6
Robertsbridge Community College	0	0	0.5	-0.5

* Supply not included as teams are currently playing on informal site

Table 15: Mini Soccer 7v7

Mini Soccer 7v7 Pitch Provision - Site	Number Of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalents) 7v7	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalents
Mill Lane*	0	0	1.5	-1.5
Oaklands Park	0	0	1.5	-1.5



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Polegrove Recreation Ground	0	0	1.5	-1.5
Battle Abbey Prep School	0	0	1	-1
Battle Area Sports Centre	0	0	1	-1
Bodiam Recreation Ground	0	0	1	-1
Iden Playing Field	0	0	1	-1
Little Common Recreation Ground	2	12	1.5	10.5
Guestling Playing Field	0	0	0.5	-0.5
Winchelsea Beach Recreation Ground (Harbour Field)	1	4	0.5	3.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	2	12	0.5	11.5
The Clappers Recreation Ground	0	0	0.5	-0.5

* Supply not included as teams are currently playing on informal site

Table 16: Mini Soccer 5v5

Mini Soccer 5v5 Pitch Provision - Site	Number Of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalents) 5v5	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalents
Polegrove Recreation Ground	0	0	1.5	-1.5



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Battle Abbey Prep School	0	0	1	-1
Bodiam Recreation Ground	0	0	1	-1
Winchelsea Beach Recreation Ground (Harbour Field)	0	0	1	-1
Little Common Recreation Ground	0	0	1	-1
Oaklands Park	0	0	1	-1
Battle Area Sports Centre	0	0	0.5	-0.5
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	0	0	0.5	-0.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	0	0	1	-1
The Clappers Recreation Ground	0	0	0.5	-0.5

Table 17: Supply and demand balance summary

Provision - Site	Total Number Of Pitches	Total Pitch Capacity	Total Demand (Match Equivalents)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalents
Polegrove Recreation Ground	3	11	18.5	-7.5



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Battle Abbey Prep School	1	1	7.5	-6.5
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	2	3	3	0
Little Common Recreation Ground	6	24	8.5	15.5
Battle Recreation Ground	2	2	1.5	0.5
Icklesham Recreation Ground	1	1	1.5	-0.5
Oaklands Park	3	6	11.5	-5.5
Pickforde Lane Recreation Ground	1	2	1.5	0.5
Robertsbridge Community College	2	2	2	0
The Parish Field	1	3	2.5	0.5
The Clappers Recreation Ground	1	2	2	0
Catsfield Playing Field	1	2	0.5	1.5
Sidley Recreation Ground	1	3	0.5	2.5
Swan Meadow Playing Field	1	1	2.5	-1.5
The Down	1	2	1	1



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Guestling Playing Field	3	5	2.5	2.5
Ticehurst Village Club/Ticehurst Recreation Ground	1	1	1.5	0.5
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	6	12	0.5	11.5
Winchelsea Beach Recreation Ground (Harbour Field)	2	6	2	4
Iden Playing Field	1	1	1.5	-0.5
Northiam Playing Fields	2	2	1.5	0.5
Peasmarsh Recreation Ground	1	1	1	0
Bodiam Recreation Ground	2	2	3	-1
Mill Lane*	0	0	2.5	-2.5
Rye Cricket Salts	1	2	1	1
Stonegate Recreation Ground	1	2	1	1
Battle Area Sports Centre	1	2	2	0
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	12	44	11.5	32.5



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Bexhill College (Gunters Lane)	2	4	0.5	3.5
Riverhall Lane	1	1	0.5	0.5

* Supply not included as teams are currently playing on informal site

Appendix A – Club response breakdown

This appendix details the clubs identified by the Football Association and their response to 4 global and RDC's data gathering exercise. This requires sign-off from the Football Association.

Club	Number of Teams	Response Status	RDC Contact round 1/ Action taken	RDC Contact Round 2 / Action Taken
AFC Hastings	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Conquest United	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings Rangers	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings Rangers Youth	5	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings Town Youth 2000	4	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings Wanderers	2	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Old Hastonians	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Orington	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
University of Brighton	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Battle Baptist F.C.	4	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Beckley Rangers F.C.	8	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Bexhill Amateur Athletic Club F.C.	2	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Bexhill United F.C.	8	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Bexhill United Ladies F.C.	2	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable



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Burwash F.C.	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Burwash Juniors F.C.	0	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Catsfield F.C.	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Crowhurst F.C.	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Crowhurst Youth A F.C.	3	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Glenco F.C.	4	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings Athletic	5	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hooe Sports F.C.	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hurst Green F.C.	3	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Icklesham Casuals F.C.	3	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Little Common F.C.	14	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Pebsham Sibex F.C.	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Robertsbridge United F.C.	2	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Rye Bay F.C.	3	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Sedlescombe Rangers F.C.	18	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Select Youth F.C.	6	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Style Soccer F.C.	5	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Ticehurst F.C.	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Wadhurst Junior FC	3	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Westfield Youth F.C.	15	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Bexhill Rovers F.C.	-	Incomplete	Follow up email sent and phone call made 12/01/16	Follow up email sent and phone call made 18/01/16
Bexhill Town Youth F.C.	-	Incomplete	Follow up email sent and phone call made 12/01/16 – survey was part completed.	Follow up email sent and phone call made 15/01/16 – club confirmed they would be folding at end of 15/16 season. RDC asked for further info relating to



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				reasons why the club was folding. Club did not respond to follow up.
Mountfield United F.C.	-	Incomplete	Follow up email sent and phone call made 12/01/16	Follow up email sent and phone call made 18/01/16
Northiam 75 F.C.	-	Incomplete	Follow up email sent and phone call made 12/01/16	Follow up email sent and phone call made 18/01/16
Peasmarsh United F.C.	-	Incomplete	Follow up email sent and phone call made 12/01/16 - survey was part completed.	Follow up email sent and phone call made 18/01/16 – email received from club saying they had completed the survey. However only contact info was completed – follow up email sent by RDC explaining what was missing & offer of help. Email was not responded to by the club.

4 global Playing Pitch Platform Assumptions

The 4 global Playing Pitch Platform has been developed specifically in line with Sport England methodology. The standard assumptions within the supply and demand model are applied on the platform:

- **Pitch quality assumptions** - Adult, Youth and Mini soccer carrying capacities are generated through non-technical site assessment results
- **Match play and training demand** – matches and training form match equivalents on the platform in line with those set out in the guidance (e.g. 0.5 match equivalents per week for an adult team). Training and matches are distinguished between grass and AGP use.
- **Capacity analysis** – supply and demand are factored together to provide an overall view of the balance as well as on a site-by-site basis. Pitches with no community use are not factored into balance calculations.
- **Overmarking** – Overmarked pitches are identified and demand from teams on those pitches has been scaled down to represent any difference in time and nature of play.



PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Rother District Council
LEAD CONTACT	Nichola Watters
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	12/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION DATA SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All rugby sites visited
- Received responses from 2 rugby clubs (100%)
- Information gathered in 4 global online platform www.playingpitch.com
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

Sign-off Process:

This datasheet is split into two sections;

- **Stage B Data** – Supply and demand data captured through site assessments and club consultations, to be signed off before Stage B is complete. Target sign off date for Stage B is Friday 19th February
- **Stage C Data and site by site analysis** – This is the analysis undertaken per site showing capacity, key issues and club requirements. For the February 2016 issue of the data sheet, this version will include a basic capacity analysis of all football sites, with further detail to be added prior to stage C sign-off.



STAGE B DATA

Pitch supply

Quantity overview

The number of rugby pitches in Rother has been detailed in the table below. It is important to understand where there may be potential further supply should the capacity analysis inform us that there is overplay within Rother.

Table 1: Breakdown of sites and pitches

Site Name	Community use on site	Security of Use	Owners	Adult	Junior/Minis
Battle Area Sports Centre	Available	Unsecured	Education	1	0
Bexhill High School	Available	Unsecured	Education	1	0
Buckswood School	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	1	0
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	1	0
Frewen College	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	1	0
Robertsbridge Community College	Available	Unsecured	Education	1	0
Rye Rugby Club	Available	Secured	Club	2	1
St Richards Catholic College	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	1	0
Vinehall School	Not Available	Unsecured	Education	0	4
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	1	0

Tenure/Management

The table below identifies the split in ownership of all rugby pitches in Rother. Table 2 shows that the vast majority of rugby sites are owned by education establishments. Only one pitch is club owned and there are no council owned pitches



Table 2: Ownership and management summary of rugby pitches in Rother

	Ownership	Management
Education	11	9
Private	0	1
Club	3	3
Local Authority	1	1
Unknown	0	1

Quality assessment

RDC has visited all sites and non-technical site assessments have been undertaken to provide an overall quality score that is in line with the RFU guidance provided below. The maintenance and drainage scores determine the capacity of a pitch in match equivalents.

Table 3: RFU pitch assessment guidance

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
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

Table 4 below shows the number of pitches in Rother that fit into each of the RFU's pitch assessment guidance criteria (as shown in Table 3).



Table 4: Number of pitches fulfilling each category of the RFU pitch assessment guidance in Rother

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	1	0	0
Natural Adequate (D1)	5	0	0
Pipe Drained (D2)	0	0	0
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	0	0	0

Table 5 below shows the pitch scores following a non-technical quality assessment of the pitches that are used by the community for rugby in Rother. This allows us to understand the capacity of each pitch from a community use perspective, using the capacity calculations in Table 3.

Table 5: Community sites and individual pitch capacity

Site Name	Type of pitch	Drainage Score	Pitch maintenance score	Pitch Capacity	Overall capacity of site
Bexhill High School	Senior Rugby Union	D1	1 - Poor (M0)	1.5	1.5
Robertsbridge Community College	Senior Rugby Union	D1	2 - Poor (M0)	1.5	1.5
Rye Rugby Club	Senior Rugby Union	D1	1 – Poor (M0)	1.5	4.5
Rye Rugby Club	Senior Rugby Union	D1	1 – Poor (M0)	1.5	
Rye Rugby Club	Junior Rugby Union	D1	1 – Poor (M0)	1.5	
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Senior Rugby Union	D0	6 - Poor (M0)	0.5	0.5

Pitch Summaries

Bexhill Academy (High School): The rugby pitch is available for community use outside school hours on weekdays but at present there is no demand for it and there is limited scope for community use in the winter since there are no floodlights. The pitch receives only minimal maintenance and as currently marked out it falls short of the recommended pitch size, but this could be addressed if demand arose. There is no constructed drainage scheme in place, but drainage is adequate for the school's purposes. Spacious, modern changing rooms are available within the Academy building and there is plenty of parking.

Robertsbridge Community College: The college is keen to maximise community use of its sports facilities, but there is no demand for use of the rugby pitch by the community at present so it is only used by the students. There are very good changing facilities within the adjacent college building which are available to anyone hiring the pitch. It is recognised that a drainage scheme would be needed if the pitch was to sustain additional use. The college is keen to introduce a more comprehensive maintenance regime if resources allow. The pitch is slightly less wide than the minimum recommended size and could only be extended by changing the sizes or location of the adjacent football pitches. The lack of floodlights could potentially be addressed through mobile lighting if there was the demand.

Rye Rugby Club: Serving as the main hub for rugby in Rother, this facility currently accommodates a senior pitch and a mini pitch, but intends to reinstate a second senior pitch in the near future. The club aspires to expand but recognises that both its ancillary facilities and pitches will need improvement to accommodate greater use. At present, no sports turf maintenance is carried out other than grass cutting. The club hopes to secure a RFU grant to fund specialist advice in relation to improving the pitches through an enhanced maintenance regime, including tackling areas of compaction. The pitches are not floodlit, but the training area benefits from lighting.

Pitch demand

Club breakdown

There are two rugby clubs that operates within the Rother area. The breakdown of teams in this club has been provided below. This table requires sign off from the Rugby Football Union.



Table 6: Team profile of clubs in Rother

Club	Adult teams	18-19 years youth teams	Junior teams (U13-17)	Mini / Midi teams (U7-12)	Totals
Rye Rugby Club	2	0	1	3	6
St Leonards Cinque Ports Rugby Club	1	0	0	0	1

Key Club Consultation Summaries

The following is a summary of the consultations undertaken with 1 key clubs, focussing on their key issues and future plans. All pitch-rating comments are the opinions of the club and may differ from the impartial rating given by the site assessor.

Table 7: Summary of demand consultations from rugby clubs in Rother

Club	Consultation Summary
Rye Rugby Club	<p>2 adult sides and a growing junior section with currently 4 teams and aspirations to increase numbers every year.</p> <p>Current facility development plans include: new floodlights for training area, new rugby posts on senior pitches, spectator barriers and ground maintenance equipment.</p> <p>In the long term, the club would like a new purpose built club house and a floodlit 4G/3G world rugby approved pitch, to allow all teams to train all year round regardless of the weather, and also encourage woman, man and children that dislike getting to muddy to play.</p> <p>The overall quality of the pitches at their home ground has been rated as standard, with some drainage and waterlogging problems; whilst the changing facilities and showers have been identified as good.</p> <p>“Our vision is to become a multisport venue centred around the rugby club. Our plan is to become the outdoor version of the sports centre, offering multiple sports and different types of rugby (non-contact and contact, competitive and social) for all ages and both genders.”</p>

STAGE C SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS

Supply and demand balance

Site-by-site balance figures

The table below details the site-by-site capacity analysis for all sites used by rugby clubs in Rother. Capacity analysis has not been carried out for sites where there is no demand for rugby. These sites have been detailed in table 5 above.

Table 8: Rugby site capacity analysis

Site Name	Pitch type	Quantity	Supply (Capacity)	Demand (matches + training in match equivalents)		Balance (Supply minus demand)
				SNR	JNR	
Rye Rugby Club	Senior	1	4.5	5	6	-6.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Senior	1	0.5	0.5	0	0

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Rother District Council
LEAD CONTACT	Nichola Watters
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	23/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	STOOLBALL ENGLAND DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY AND SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All stoolball sites assessed.
- Received responses from 15 stoolball clubs
- Information gathered through online survey and consultations taken by Rother District Council (RDC)
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

STAGE A DATA

Pitch Supply

RDC has visited and assessed all cricket sites in the area. Each site (and pitch) has been provided with quality ratings and as Stoolball is played primarily on cricket pitches, these quality ratings have been used to assess the supply for Stoolball.



Table 1: Cricket site breakdown

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Stoolball currently played at the site	Community Use On Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Outfield Score	Overall Rating
Ashburnham Recreation Ground	No	Available	Secured	Trust	86.67%	Good
Battle Area Sports Centre	Yes	Available	Secured	Education	100.00%	Good
Beckley Park Cricket Club	No	Available	Unsecured	Private	93.33%	Good
Bodiam Recreation Ground	No	Available	Secured	Parish Council	76.67%	Standard
Brightling Park	Yes	Available	Unsecured	Trust	80.00%	Standard
Buckswood School	No	Not Available	Unsecured	Private	86.67%	Good
Burwash Common Cricket Club	Yes	Available	Secured	Trust	80.00%	Standard
Catsfield Playing Field	Yes	Available	Secured	Parish Council	63.33%	Standard
Churchfields	No	Available	Secured	Parish Council	43.33%	Poor
Claremont Preparatory And Nursery School	No	Available	Unsecured	Education	100.00%	Good
Crowhurst Park Cricket Club	No	Available	Secured	Private	80.00%	Standard
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	Yes	Available	Secured	Parish Council	70.00%	Standard
Drewett Cricket Field	No	Available	Secured	Parish Council	100.00%	Good
Flimwell Cricket Club	No	Available	Secured	Parish Council	66.67%	Standard
Frewen College	No	Available	Unsecured	Education	100.00%	Good
George Meadow	No	Available	Secured	Town Council	76.67%	Standard
Icklesham Recreation Ground	No	Available	Secured	Parish Council	63.33%	Standard
Iden Playing Field	No	Available	Secured	Parish Council	93.33%	Good
King George V Playing Fields	No	Available	Secured	Parish Council	86.67%	Good
Little Common Recreation Ground	Yes	Available	Secured	Local Authority	53.33%	Standard
Netherfield Recreation Ground	Yes	Available	Secured	Trust	63.33%	Standard
Oaklands Park	No	Available	Secured	Parish Council	93.33%	Good
Pett Recreation Ground	Yes	Available	Secured	Parish Council	56.67%	Standard
Polegrove Recreation Ground	No	Available	Secured	Local Authority	53.33%	Standard
Rye Cricket Salts	No	Available	Secured	Local Authority	80.00%	Standard
St. Marys Recreation Ground	No	Available	Secured	Local Authority	76.67%	Standard
Staplecross Playing Field	Yes	Available	Unknown	Parish Council	-	Standard
Stonegate Recreation Ground	No	Available	Secured	Parish Council	73.33%	Standard

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Swan Meadow Playing Field	Yes	Available	Secured	Trust	73.33%	Standard
The Clappers	Yes	Available	Secured	Unknown	100.00%	Good
The Down	No	Available	Secured	Local Authority	83.33%	Good
Vinehall School	No	Available	Unsecured	Education	100.00%	Good
Westfield Cricket Club	No	Available	Secured	Trust	70.00%	Standard
Winchelsea Cricket Club	No	Available	Unsecured	Trust	70.00%	Standard

Tenure/ management breakdown

The following table provides a breakdown of the cricket pitches in the area by ownership and management (please note that this table refers to pitches and not sites).

Table 2: Ownership of cricket sites

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Club	0	5
Private	3	1
Trust	7	5
Parish Council	12	9
Local Authority	0	0
Education	3	2
Other	2	5

Pitch Summaries

Facilities currently used by Stoolball Teams

Battle Area Sports Centre: This stoolball facility is located on the cricket pitch within the grounds of Claverham Community College and is one of a number of sports facilities available to hire out of hours through the Sports Centre. The outfield is used for rugby and football during the



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winter. Maintenance of the pitch is carried out under the county-wide schools contract. There are changing facilities in the college building, a short walk from the pitch but these are rarely used by clubs hiring the facilities. In addition to casual use, the Sports Centre expect the cricket facility to be used on a regular basis by a new team, the Strikers in 2016. This could potentially impact upon use for stoolball.

Brightling Park: The outfield is generally of a good standard although it is very uneven in places. This site is Trust owned and access is poor since it is located down a long, bumpy farm track. There is no formal parking provision. Use of the facility for stoolball results in some damage which has the potential to cause conflict with its use for cricket. The changing accommodation is extremely basic and is simply divided into two changing areas. It has no running water. There is a separate outhouse.

Burwash Common: The ground is run by a management committee registered as a charity and is rated as a good all-round facility. The pavilion with its undercover terrace overlooking the cricket square opened in 2009 and is also used for a variety of community functions. There are significant changes of levels across the site; there is a slight slope across the square and parts of the outfield slope quite steeply.

Little Common Recreation Ground: This large playing fields site on the outskirts of Bexhill is owned and maintained by Rother District Council. It is used for cricket, football and tennis as well as stoolball. Protected under Fields in Trust QEII scheme, it benefits from a high standard of outfield, a good square, excellent pavilion accommodation and plenty of parking. Maintenance is undertaken by the council's grounds maintenance contractor and includes weekly rolling of the wicket during the season, fertilizing, scarifying and an autumn renovations programme. Greater consistency in the undertaking of this maintenance could further improve the outfield for play.

Netherfield Recreation Ground: This ground on the outskirts of Netherfield is held in Trust by the Netherfield Village Hall And Recreation Ground Trust and is used both for cricket and stoolball. Use by Brightling's stoolball team is established and it is expected that a new Battle-based team will begin using the ground in 2016. The ground has also been used for football in the past, but conflict between the different sports created difficulties that couldn't be overcome. As with the majority of sports pitches and pavilions around the district, the cost of maintaining the facilities exceeds the income generated through their hire and this presents an on-going challenge for those managing the sites. In addition to its sporting function, the pavilion is used as a community centre. The Trust would like to extend the pavilion to increase the community services that can be accommodated and to create more storage. Access for pedestrians is poor as there is no footpath from the village.

Pett Recreation Ground:

Managed by the Pett Sports Association, the ground is used both for cricket and stoolball. Tennis and bowls are also provided for at the same site. A basic level of maintenance, slight slopes across the site, general unevenness and animal damage mean that the site achieves a standard rating rather than a high one. Funding from Sports England and other sources has enabled the pavilion to be extended and



refurbished recently. Limited space means that it is difficult to accommodate practice nets. There is no formal parking provision and limited safe on-street parking.

Polegrove Recreation Ground:

Situated in central Bexhill, this is the premier public sports ground in the town and is used primarily for football, cricket and bowls, but is used for stoolball on occasion. The overlap of the cricket outfield, which is used for stoolball, with the football pitches and use of the site for special events presents management and maintenance challenges. The cricket pavilion is leased to the cricket club and use of the building by those playing stoolball would be at the club's discretion. The cricket club considers the pavilion to be inadequate for modern use.

Staplecross Playing Field: Stoolball is the only sport currently played on a formal basis at this site. The pitch receives no special maintenance in relation to sports turf and the stoolball results in significant wear in places. The ancillary facilities are quite basic and there is no surfaced on-site parking.

The Clappers: This site boasts the best all-round provision for stoolball in the district. The outfield is maintained to a high standard by Robertsbridge Cricket Club. The attractive weather-boarded pavilion funded by Sport England is fairly modern and is elevated due to its location on a floodplain. The car park provides an adequate amount of parking.

Pitch Demand

This section provides an overview of stoolball clubs in the area. Table 3 provides a summary breakdown of clubs that have responded to RDC. Table 4 provides a breakdown of clubs that have yet to respond, along with action already undertaken and suggested further action required.

Table 3: Responding stoolball clubs

Club	Members	Facility most frequently used
Scorpion Stoolball Team	25+	Battle Area Sports Centre
Catsfield Stoolball Club	9	Catsfield Playing Fields
Catsfield Stoolball Club (mixed)	20+	Catsfield Playing Fields
United Friends Stoolball Club	20+	Catsfield Playing Fields
Ashburnham Mixed Stoolball Club	15+	N/A

Icklesham Stoolball Club - Ladies	30+	Icklesham Recreation Ground
Icklesham Stoolball Club - Mixed	30+	Icklesham Recreation Ground
Mountfield Stoolball Club	20+	King George V Playing Fields
Pett Stoolball Club	30+	Pett Recreation Ground
Burwash Ladies Stoolball Club	15+	Swan Meadow Playing Field
Burwash Common Mixed Stoolball Club	15+	Burwash Common Playing Fields
Little Common Stoolball Club	10+	Little Common Recreation Ground
Crowhurst Stoolball Club	20+	Crowhurst Recreation Ground
Robertsbridge Stollball Club	25+	The Clappers
Staplecross Stoolball Club	20+	Staplecross Playing Field

Table 5: Non responding stoolball clubs

Club	RDC contact	RDC contact 2	Reason for no contact
Brightling Ladies	Initial email sent on 27/11/2015 (survey part completed)	Follow up email on 15/12/2015 and phone call to offer to fill incomplete part of survey. No responded to.	Did not respond to emails or phone call.
Brightling Mixed	Initial email sent on 27/11/2015 (survey part completed)	Follow up email on 15/12/2015 and phone call to offer to fill incomplete part of survey. No responded to.	Did not respond to emails or phone call.

Table 6: Additional Stoolball Clubs – not surveyed

Club	Reason for no contact
Beckley (Ladies)	No longer playing
Brede (Ladies)	No longer playing
Guestling (Ladies)	No longer playing
Netherfield (Ladies)	No longer playing
Northiam (Ladies)	No longer playing
Peasmarsh Ladies	No longer playing
Peasmarsh Mixed	No longer playing
Punnetts Town (Ladies)	No longer playing
Sedlescombe Ladies, Battle	No longer playing
Fusion Ladies, Battle	<u>Play indoors only</u>
Allsorts, Battle (Ladies)	Play indoors only
Westfield, Battle (Ladies)	Play indoors only
Staplecross Bowling Club (Mixed)	Annual game only

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Rother District Council
LEAD CONTACT	Nichola Watters
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	23/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY AND SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All tennis sites assessed.
- Received responses from 10 tennis clubs
- Information gathered through online survey and consultations taken by RDC
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed



STAGE A DATA

Pitch Supply

The following table provides an overview of all tennis courts in the area.

Table 1: Tennis site breakdown

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for tennis	Number of Tennis courts	Community Use On Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership
Vinehall School	6	Available	Secured	Vinehall School
Westfield Tennis Courts	2	Available	Secured	Westfield Parish Council
Riverside Recreation Ground Tennis Court	1	Available	Secured	Sedlescombe Parish Council
Sedlescombe Golf Club	2	Available	Secured	Sedlescombe Golf Club
Beckley Recreation Ground	2	Available	Secured	Beckley Parish Council
Egerton Park	8	Available	Secured	Rother District Council
Little Common Rec	2	Available	Unsecured	Rother District Council
Cooden Beach Tennis Club	6	Available	Secured	Cooden Beach Tennis Club
Woodfield Rec Grd Tennis Court	1	Available	Secured	Fairlight Parish Council
Pett Rec Tennis Court	1	Available	Secured	Pett Parish Council
Buckswood School	2	Not Available	Unsecured	Buckswood School
Swan Meadow Tennis Courts	2	Available	Secured	Burwash Common PFA
Claremont School	1	Not Available	Unsecured	Claremont School
Claverham College	3	Not Available	Unsecured	Claverham College (ESCC?)
Crowhurst Rec Grd	1	Available	Secured	Crowhurst Parish Council
Bexhill College	3	Not Available	Unsecured	Bexhill College
Bexhill High Academy	1	Not Available	Unsecured	Bexhill High Academy (ESCC?)
North Trade Road Recreation Ground	2	Available	Secured	Battle Town Council
Robertsbridge Community College	2	Not Available	Unsecured	Robertsbridge Community College (ESCC?)
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	11	Available	Secured	Rother Meads Tennis and Games Club

Frewen College	1	Not Available	Unsecured	Frewen College
Bricklehurst School	1	Not Available	Unsecured	Bricklehurst School

Tenure/ management breakdown

The following table provides a breakdown of tennis courts in the area by ownership and management (please note that this table refers to courts and not sites).

Table 2: Ownership of tennis courts

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Private	0	6
Trust	2	1
Parish Council	18	6
Local Authority	0	2
Education	20	20
Town Council	2	2
Club	19	24

Quality Assessment

RDC has visited and assessed all tennis sites in the area. Each site (and court) has been provided with quality ratings for 11 areas. Table 3 below shows site assessment information for each court.

Table 3: Pitch quality scores

Site	Surface Type	Total Score	% Rating	Assessment Summary
Vinehall School	Hard	51	93%	Three of the 6 courts on site have very recently been resurfaced and repainted. 40mm tarmac + anti slip surface. Good drainage, Mountfield Tennis Club play their mid week and on Sundays. There is capacity for greater use of the courts. Floodlights are mobile x 6. Currently no power to the courts, but the school is going to get power installed. The club house is a small pavilion (shed) with few facilities, it's literally just a place to change. The
Vinehall School	Hard	51	93%	
Vinehall School	Hard	51	93%	

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Vinehall School	Hard	25	45%	tennis club has use of toilets in the adjacent art block. They also use a small storage shed. Courts are also used for netball.
Vinehall School	Hard	25	45%	
Vinehall School	Hard	25	45%	
Westfield Tennis Courts	Hard	45	82%	2 courts within same fenced area. Chainlink fence with no holes or gaps although slightly 'rippled' in places. Small amount of moss and debris in the court, but not weeds. No ponding, cracks or damage. White lines on green and red courts. Club house has kitchen/social area and toilet. Separated store. Poor disabled access to the building.
Westfield Tennis Courts	Hard	45	82%	
Riverside Recreation Ground Tennis Court	Hard	43	78%	Surface is a little dirty, small amount of debris. Courts are gated and can be secured but are normally left open. There are 2 courts, but only 1 is used for tennis, the other one is used for netball and football. Resurfaced and repainted about 3 years ago. Free of charge. The PC have arranged for a lawn tennis coach and the public can pay for sessions with him - adults during the week and juniors on Saturday mornings, all year round. No changing facility.
Sedlescombe Golf Club	Hard	47	85%	2 courts within same fenced area, resurfaced a year ago. No ponding except one very small area of water, chain link fence with no holes. Lighting not possible because of adjacent residents. Sedlescombe Tennis Club are the main users: they pay a single fee annually and can then use the courts as much as they like. Also open to the public at £7.50 an hour.
Sedlescombe Golf Club	Hard	47	85%	
Beckley Recreation Ground	Hard	23	42%	Surface finish is becoming loose. Very mossy and significant amount of standing water. Chain link fence is in poor condition, leaning and has a large hole which people can walk through, as well as smaller holes in various places. Although there is a gate that locks, this provides no security due to the condition of the fence Lots of vegetation growing through the fencing and around the margins.
Beckley Recreation Ground	Hard	23	43%	
Egerton Park	Hard	41	75%	6 public courts at £5 per hour during the summer but free out of season. Maintained by RDC's grounds maintenance contractor. Repainted and minor surface repairs in 2014. Posts are a little rusty in places, small patches of ponding in places and not absolutely level in places. Prone to leaf debris due to adjacent mature trees. Some moss on surface. Not as clean as they should be if they were maintained as per the grounds maintenance
Egerton Park	Hard	41	75%	
Egerton Park	Hard	41	75%	



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Egerton Park	Hard	41	75%	specification. 2 courts are leased to Bexhill Tennis Club as well as the clubhouse, which is a small timber 'shed' with a kitchen but no toilets or showers.
Egerton Park	Hard	41	75%	
Egerton Park	Hard	41	75%	
Egerton Park	Hard	45	82%	
Egerton Park	Hard	45	82%	
Little Common Rec	Hard	21	38%	2 courts on site but one is currently out of use. Future of the courts is uncertain as a significant amount of expenditure is needed to bring them up to a good condition. On-going maintenance issues with mud washing onto the courts and tree debris due to location immediately alongside the woodland boundary. Chain link fence in very poor condition , crack in surface (possibly from a tree root), some ponding. Net is good but slack. Gate is left open, but has the potential to be locked. Use is free of charge but It is thought that they are little used.. There is a pavilion on site, but this is used by the cricket and football clubs only.
Little Common Rec	Hard	25	45%	
Cooden Beach Tennis Club	Hard	49	89%	6 courts on site, within two separate fenced areas. The first pair of courts also has a dividing fence between them since they are orientated lengthways, end on end. Classified as available for community use because anyone can join the club (if they can afford to do so). Repainted recently. White lines on green and purple courts. Floodlights in good order. Club's aspiration would be to have a covered facility, but as they are in a residential area this wouldn't be possible. Chainlink fence is in good condition.
Cooden Beach Tennis Club	Hard	49	89%	
Cooden Beach Tennis Club	Hard	49	89%	
Cooden Beach Tennis Club	Hard	49	89%	
Cooden Beach Tennis Club	Hard	51	93%	
Cooden Beach Tennis Club	Hard	51	93%	
Woodfield Rec Grd Tennis Court	Hard	41	75%	Surface has some moss, but has recently been swept because there is only a little bit of windblown debris. No ponding. Chainlink fence. Nets are OK, no holes but saggy. Gravel strip down both long sides, presumably to assist with drainage since the court is at the low end of the rec.



Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Pett Rec Tennis Court	Hard	43	78%	Classified as available for community use because anyone can join the club. Not known if non-members can play. Some ponding in centre of court in one half. Some brambles etc. in the surface around the court edges and coming through the fence. A few bits of unevenness in the surface, which needs sweeping too. Robust metal grid fence is intact but bowed slightly in places. Water from surrounds drains towards entrance making access awkward. Net sagging slightly. The sports pavilion is currently being extended and refurbished and can be used by the club.
Buckswood School	Hard	43	78%	2 courts within single fenced area. Used only by the pupils. Recently repainted in purple and green. Chainlink fence, no drainage issues. The AGP can also used for tennis + 1 Indoor court.
Buckswood School	Hard	43	78%	
Swan Meadow Tennis Courts	Hard	51	93%	2 courts within single fenced area. Chain link fence. A little bit of moss and debris on the surface., but no cracks or damages. Located at the bottom of a slope, but no evident drainage issues. Gravel drain around all sides, outside of fence. No charge for members who pay the £35 annual subscription. £6 per hour for casual use. There is a pavilion on site, but it is some distance from the courts and offers no view of play.
Swan Meadow Tennis Courts	Hard	51	93%	
Claremont School	Hard	29	53%	Rarely used for tennis. No public access. Clearly receives very little maintenance. Vegetation encroaching along boundaries. Chain link fence reasonable to poor. Surface not damaged, but very dirty.
Claverham College	Hard	36	72%	3 courts in a single fenced area. Robust galvanised mesh fence. Posts and nets not in place at present. Floodlights serve 1 of the courts (the middle one), but not the 2 courts on either side of it. Tarmac surface is reasonable, but school consider it could be better. School says that the surface puddles in wet weather and they would like better drainage, but not possible at the moment due to high cost. Courts also used as a MUGA and for netball. Pupils use changing facilities in the school. In theory, if the courts were used by an external club then the changing facilities could be made available as with other sports, but this wouldn't be a clubhouse offering kitchen, social or viewing facilities.
Claverham College	Hard	40	80%	
Claverham College	Hard	36	72%	
Bexhill College	Hard	43	78%	3 courts within single fenced area. Painted (purple and green with white lines) 3 or 4 years ago. Used only by the pupils. No ponding. Chain link fence is not fixed at the bottom in places. RDC Planning won't allow



Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Bexhill College	Hard	43	78%	floodlights. If the school wants to make the courts accessible out of hours or in the summer they have to get approval from RDC and this is a nuisance so making them available to the community isn't a priority. If the courts were made available for external use then in theory the changing facilities within the school could be used.
Bexhill College	Hard	43	78%	
Bexhill High Academy	Hard	34	68%	1 court that is (rarely) used by pupils only. Chainlink fence is OK, but some holes. Surface isn't damaged, but needs cleaning - quite a lot of moss present. Posts not in place at present, but there are sockets that accommodate them. If accessible to the public the changing facilities in the school could potentially be made to use, but public access is unlikely. Lines normally marked at Easter although it doesn't look like this could have been done this year. If the court was made available for external use then in theory the changing facilities within the school could be used, as they are for other sports, but this wouldn't be a club house offering kitchen, social or viewing facilities.
North Trade Road Recreation Ground	Hard	41	75%	2 courts within single fenced area. Chainlink fence is bent in places and gate is difficult to open. Information is so faded it is barely legible. Battle Tennis Club have exclusive use of the courts at set times. Fence abuts a 'hedge' on one side and there is a small amount of brambles coming through. In theory the adjacent sports pavilion could be used if needed.
North Trade Road Recreation Ground	Hard	41	75%	
Robertsbridge Community College	Hard	32	64%	2 courts within single fenced area used only by the pupils. -Not offered for community use. No clubhouse on site. Nets weren't up at time of assessment as it was out of season for the college. If the courts were made available for external use then in theory the changing facilities within the college could be used.
Robertsbridge Community College	Hard	32	71%	
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Grass	31	69%	11 courts in total (8 grass, 2 AGPs and 1 artificial clay) divided into 3 separate fenced areas. Grass courts: Assessment was undertaken out of season so no posts, nets or lines in place. Courts have been laser levelled at £5k per court. Very well maintained. Club has a member with excellent technical knowledge in terms of maintaining the courts to a high standard and he works out the maintenance regime. Small summerhouse type pavilion by courts used primarily for storage, but excellent clubhouse (ladies and gents changing facilities each with cubicle toilets, spacious comfortable changing area + 2 showers) located at site entrance alongside car park. Also has disabled toilet. Courts not currently locked, but there is the
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Grass	31	69%	
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Grass	31	69%	
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Grass	31	69%	
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Grass	31	69%	
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Grass	27	60%	



Rother District Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Grass	27	60%	<p>facility to do so. Chainlink fence. Club isn't staffed and therefore it isn't currently possible to offer pay and play for non-members. This might be a possibility in the future. Members can bring guests although the charge may be prohibitive. The club is looking to the future and is on the verge of re-submitting an amended pre-app to Planning with a proposal for a 3 court indoor facility that would be in addition to the current facilities, possibly with gym. Issues include being in a flood zone 3 and change of land use from agricultural. The possibility of developing the facility where the existing club building is located has been looked at, but for a number of reasons it isn't ideal. Club has around 600 members although many are just social members now because of age.</p> <p>AGP courts:</p> <p>Club consider it to be a dangerous surface to play on when wet although it is in good condition. Excellent clubhouse, opened 2009, located at site entrance alongside car park although it is not possible to view the tennis being played from there. Courts not currently locked. Floodlights in good condition apart from one which looks to have water sitting in it.</p> <p>Artificial clay court: Playable all year round even when frosty or after heavy rain. Used every weekend throughout the winter. Surface has been down for about a year. Requires little maintenance.</p>
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Grass	27	60%	
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Grass	27	60%	
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Hard (AGP)	51	93%	
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Hard (AGP)	51	93%	
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	Hard (clay)	51	93%	<p>Club consider it to be a dangerous surface to play on when wet although it is in good condition. Excellent clubhouse, opened 2009, located at site entrance alongside car park although it is not possible to view the tennis being played from there. Courts not currently locked. Floodlights in good condition apart from one which looks to have water sitting in it.</p> <p>Artificial clay court: Playable all year round even when frosty or after heavy rain. Used every weekend throughout the winter. Surface has been down for about a year. Requires little maintenance.</p>
Frewen College	Hard	26	52%	<p>Court is rarely used for tennis and more often is used as a warm up or training area when ground conditions are wet. Posts and nets not currently in place. Chainlink fence. Provision to be secured although the gate is not normally locked. The college wishes to refurbish and extend an existing adjacent tarmac area and make it available to the community for use at a charge. The cost of the works is estimated at £66k and in addition to this they would need to address changing facilities, parking, access, lighting (replacement of existing) etc. This would include tennis provision (probably 2 courts).</p>
Bricklehurst School	Hard	34	68%	<p>Single court not for public use. LED lights. Posts and nets not currently up as it is being used for netball. Surface was re-laid recently and currently painted green, with no drainage issues. Quite mossy. External contractor does line marking and painting. Chain-link fence.</p>
Crowhurst Recreation Ground	Hard	39	71%	<p>1 court only. Chainlink fence is OK, no holes, but sagging in places where people climb over to retrieve footballs. Surface is not terrible, but not as good as most and is quite pitted. Fox mess and moss present. Information board simply displays the name of the club and the contact telephone number. Pavilion could be used if needed although it needs modernising and is too far away to view the tennis properly.</p>



Vinehall School

This private school located just outside Mountfield has both some of the best hard-surfaced tennis courts in the district and some of the worst. The school has a total of 6 tennis courts, 3 of which have been refurbished very recently and are used by Mountfield Tennis Club as well as the school's pupils. There is potential for additional community use of the courts, especially if the school's intention of installing floodlighting is realised.

Cooden Beach Sports and Social Club (CBSSC)

This private tennis club set in the residential area of Cooden, Bexhill boasts 6 hard-surfaced tennis courts, 5 of which are floodlit. The courts are in good condition, 4 of them having been resurfaced within the last few years. Although the floodlights serving 2 of the courts are less than 5 years old, the others are around 20 years old and the club is mindful that they will need to be replaced before long. The club has some 350 members including around 250 adults and offers excellent squash and social facilities within its clubhouse as well as tennis.

Swan Meadow Tennis Courts

Two hard-surfaced tennis courts are situated at the lower end of this playing field in Burwash which is also home to a football pitch, pavilion and play area. Funded by the Lottery Sports Fund, the courts are in good condition and are available for casual use, but there is a membership option which offers very good value to those wanting to play on a regular basis. Coaching is also available.

Rye Lawn Tennis Club (Rothermeads)

This private club on the outskirts of Rye offers grass and artificial grass courts and is the only facility in Rother to offer a clay court. The floodlit artificial grass courts are excellent. The clubhouse was opened 2009 and offers excellent facilities including squash courts. The club has aspirations to develop its facilities and is considering the merits of an indoor tennis facility to extend opportunities for year-round play.

Little Common Tennis Courts

Located on Little Common Recreation Ground, these two hard-surfaced tennis courts have historically been little used and are currently the poorest in the district. One of the courts is no longer available to use. The location of the courts alongside a raised woodland edge is far from ideal particularly in terms of the shade created which promotes moss growth and also the deposition of leaf matter, soil and other debris which presents an on-going maintenance issue for Rother District Council.



Beckley Recreation Ground

The two hard-surfaced public courts in Beckley are in a very poor state of repair in all respects. It is evident from the condition of the surface, fencing, nets and the growth of vegetation that the courts are not being maintained. The Parish Council's intentions with regards their future is unknown. There is no associated clubhouse facility or on-site parking.

Claremont School

This private school between Mountfield and Westfield has a single court, but it is in a poor condition and is not used by the school itself or the community.

Table 4: Summary

Area	Number of Tennis Courts	Available for community use	Average Court Score	Average % Rating
Rother District	61	46	39.1	73.68%

Pitch Demand

This section provides an overview of the clubs in the area. Table 5 provides breakdown of clubs that have responded to 4 Global's survey and a summary of their comments. Table 6 provides a breakdown of clubs that have yet to respond, along with action already undertaken and suggested further action required.

Table 5: Responding tennis clubs

Club	Members	Facility most frequently used
Battle Tennis Club	11-25	Battle Recreation Ground
Bexhill Tennis Club	100+	Egerton Park
Burwash Tennis Club	85+	Swan Meadow Tennis Courts
Cooden Beach Tennis Club	290+	Cooden Beach Sports & Social Club
Fairlight Tennis Club	35+	Fairlight Recreational Ground
Mountfield Tennis Club	25+	Vinehall School



Pett Tennis Club	50+	Pett Recreation Ground
Rye Lawn Tennis Club	N/A	Rye Lawn Tennis Club
Sedlescombe Tennis Club	45+	Sedlescombe Golf Club
Westfield Tennis Club	35+	Westfield Tennis Courts?

Table 6: Non responding Tennis clubs

Club	RDC contact	RDC contact 2	Reason for no contact
Crowhurst Tennis Club	Initial email and phone call on 26/11/2015, with follow up email sent (15/12/2015) after phone call received from club – confirming new email address.	Further email and phone call follow up on 12/01/2016.	Did not respond to follow up emails or phone calls.

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Hastings Borough Council
LEAD CONTACT	Keith Duly
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Hastings Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	23/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	AMERICAN FOOTBALL DATA SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All American football sites visited
- Received responses from 1 American football clubs (100%)
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

STAGE B DATA

Pitch supply

Quantity overview

All pitches used by American football in Hastings have been detailed in the table below..

Table 1: Breakdown of sites and pitches

Site Name	Community use on site	Security of Use	Owners	Adult	Junior/Minis
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	1	0

Tenure/Management

The table below identifies the split in ownership of all American football pitches in Hastings

Table 2: Ownership and management summary of rugby pitches in Hastings

	Ownership	Management
Local Authority	1	1

Quality assessment

HBC has visited all sites and non-technical site assessments have been undertaken to provide an overall quality score that is in line with the Rugby Football Union guidance provided below. The maintenance and drainage scores determine the capacity of a pitch in match equivalents. It is important to consider the two sports as a combination as demand for both is satisfied on rugby pitches.

Table 3: RFU pitch assessment guidance

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
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

Table 4 below shows the number of pitches in Hastings, used by American Football that fit into each of the RFU's pitch assessment guidance criteria (as shown in Table 3).

Table 4: Number of pitches fulfilling each category of the RFU pitch assessment guidance in Hastings

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	1	0	0
Natural Adequate (D1)	0	0	0
Pipe Drained (D2)	0	0	0
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	0	0	0

Table 5 below shows the pitch scores following a non-technical quality assessment of the pitches that are used by the community for American football in Hastings. This allows us to understand the capacity of each pitch from a community use perspective, using the capacity calculations in Table 3.

Table 5: Community sites and individual pitch capacity

Site Name	Type of pitch	Drainage Score	Pitch maintenance score	Pitch Capacity	Overall capacity of site
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Senior Rugby Union	D0	6 - Poor (M0)	0.5	0.5

Pitch Summaries

Bexhill Road

This pitch is prone to severe waterlogging with water pooling at times. The rugby club have stated that 7+ games are cancelled per annum. Pitch does not currently have any improved drainage and might not be suitable for additional drainage as it is on top of former landfill and located within a flood plain. Club state that the pitch has slightly deteriorated since last season (drainage).

The American football club have identified the pitch surface as adequate but the ancillary facilities as very poor. The pitch has been classed as unsecured for American Football as the club has a current agreement for shared use of the rugby club's posts. The Rugby club hires the pitch on an annual basis.

Club breakdown

There is one American football club that operate within the Hastings area. The breakdown of teams in these clubs has been provided below. This table requires sign off from the American Football NGB.

Table 6: Team profile of clubs in Hastings

Club	Adult teams	18-19 years youth teams	Junior teams (U13-17)	Mini / Midi teams (U7-12)	Totals
Hastings Conquerors	2		1		3

Key Club Consultation Summaries

The following is a summary of the consultations undertaken with 1 key clubs, focussing on their key issues and future plans. All pitch-rating comments are the opinions of the club and may differ from the impartial rating given by the site assessor.

Table 7: Summary of demand consultations from rugby clubs in Hastings

Club	Consultation Summary
Hastings Conquerors	The club is based at Bexhill Road recreation ground and has over 70 members (adults and junior). The club has identified that AF is one of the fastest growing sports in the UK. They have not carried out much recruitment locally and are still not known by the majority of residents. The club expects a high increase in participants (+30) in the next three years. This is driven by the lack of supply for American Football, with the club being the only AF club within 1 hours drive.

Club	Consultation Summary
	The club is looking for assistance in recruitment and education of coaching staff, as well as an improved standard of playing facilities. The club would ideally like to have use of a 3G pitch, which would allow contact and reduce the amount of training and games called off by poor weather. The lack of appropriate club house at Bulverhythe is also an issue as there is nowhere currently for the 100 players and coaches to congregate after a game.

STAGE C SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS

Supply and demand balance

Site-by-site balance figures

The table below details the site-by-site capacity analysis for all sites used by American football clubs in Hastings. This capacity analysis includes the demand for both American football and rugby and assumes that HC train and play once a week. These sites have been detailed in table 5.

Table 8: Rugby site capacity analysis

Site Name	Pitch type	Quantity	Supply (Capacity)	Demand (matches + training in match equivalents)		Balance (Supply minus demand)
				SNR	JNR	
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Senior	1	0.5	1.5	0	-1

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Hastings Borough Council
LEAD CONTACT	Keith Duly
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Hastings Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	23/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	BOWLS ENGLAND DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY AND SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All bowls sites assessed.
- Received responses from 6 bowls clubs
- Information gathered through online survey and consultations taken by HBC
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

STAGE A DATA

Pitch Supply

The following table provides an overview of all bowls greens in the area.

Table 1: Bowls site breakdown

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for bowls	Number greens	Number of rinks	Community Use On Site	Ownership
Alexandra Park	1	6	Available	Local Authority
West Marina	1	6	Available	Local Authority
White Rock	4	24	Available	Local Authority
Hollington Old Church Bowls Club	1	4	Unavailable	Trust

Tenure/ management breakdown

The following table provides a breakdown of bowls sites in the area by ownership and management.

Table 2: Ownership of bowls sites

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Local Authority	3	3
Trust	1	0
Club	0	1

Quality Assessment

HBC has visited and assessed all bowls sites in the area. Full details on the quality assessments are presented on the accompanying excel file.

Pitch Demand

This section provides an overview of the clubs in the area. Table 3 provides breakdown of clubs that have responded to 4 Global's survey and a summary of their comments. Table 4 provides a breakdown of clubs that have yet to respond, along with action already undertaken and suggested further action required.

Table 3: Responding Bowls clubs

Club	Members	Facility most frequently used	Consultation Summary
Clive Vale Lawn Bowls Club	70+	Alexandra Park	40 adult and 30 senior members, all coming from the Hastings and St Leonards areas. No recent changes in the number of members and no plans of further growth in coming years. Although no specific issues were identified in regards to the playing facilities at Alexandra Park, they stated they are not likely to recommend it to other clubs. More seating and storage space need in the pavilion
Hastings Visually Handicapped Bowlers Club	10+	White Rock	Their 12 members access the facilities at White Rock for 5-8 hours per week, and they have identified the grounds and maintenance of the site as very good, but very short in toilets for casual bowlers and general public.
Alexandra Bowls Club	45+	Alexandra Park	40 senior members and 5 adults, accessing Alexandra Park bowls green for over 12 hours per week. No aspirations of further growth in coming years. Have identified the playing surface as adequate, suffering from constant animal damage. The changing facilities, toilets and club house facilities were rated as very poor: "clubhouse too small for sitting for teas and changing. There is a separate changing room for ladies but not for men. Very unimpressive interior and fittings"
Hastings Bowls Club	50+	White Rock	Currently 50 senior members. Club has seen a decrease in their membership in the last three years as a consequence of the cost of accessing the sport. Fairly satisfied with the facilities at White Rock, but need increased availability as there is limited space for a club their size. Toilets were identified as poor and in need of major improvement (ladies toilets are within gentlemen's changing rooms)
Observer Bowls Club	40+	West Marina	Majority of senior members, primarily coming from the Hastings & St Leonards and accessing the facilities at West Marina from 5 to 8 hours per week. Generally satisfied with their facilities, but have identified a need for improvement on the playing surfaces, changing facilities and toilets. They would definitely recommend this facility to other bowls clubs.
White Rock Bowls Club	100+	White Rock	65 adult and 35 senior members accessing the facilities at White Rock for over 12 hours per week. The lack of parking has been identified as a major issue and one that affects the club's intentions of attracting more participants. Disabled access and playing surfaces are another two areas where the club has identified a need for investment
Hollington Old Church Bowls Club	45+	Gibbons Field	45-50 members. Private member club, but anyone is welcome to join. The club have not had a groundsman for over two years, maintenance is undertaken by club volunteers. The club rate the rinks as good, although some mould presence. Some restriction on Sunday play. Disabled access into building and onto rinks is poor and club is keen to enhance this aspect. Pavilion has changing, toilets. Parking can be an issue when

			bowls and football matches clash. Club have capacity for more members (approx. 20 more) There is a wooded area to the rear. Some petty vandalism.
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Table 4: Non-responding bowls clubs

Club	HBC contact	HBC contact 2	Reason for no contact
All clubs responded			

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Hastings Borough Council
LEAD CONTACT	Keith Duly
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Hastings Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	02/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	ENGLAND AND WALES CRICKET BOARD DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY AND SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All cricket sites assessed
- Received responses from 3 out of 4 cricket clubs (80%)
- Information gathered in 4 global online platform www.playingpitch.com
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

Sign-off Process:

This datasheet is split into two sections;

- **Stage B Data** – Supply and demand data captured through site assessments and club consultations, to be signed off before Stage B is complete. Target sign off date for Stage B is Friday 12th February.
- **Stage C Data and site by site analysis** – This is the analysis undertaken per site showing capacity, key issues and club requirements. For the February 2016 issue of the data sheet, this version will include a basic capacity analysis of all football sites, with further detail to be added prior to stage C sign-off.

STAGE A DATA

Pitch Supply

The following table provides a full overview of all cricket pitches in the area.

The supply for grass and artificial is calculated by assuming that grass pitches can accommodate 5 matches per season and artificial pitches can accommodate 60 matches per season

Table 1: Cricket site breakdown

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Community Use On Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Squares	Wickets (grass)	Wickets (artificial)	Supply: grass - artificial
Ark William Parker Academy	Not Available	Secured	Education	1	8	0	40-0
Hornbye Park Sports Complex	Available	Secured	Trust	1	23	0	115-0
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	4	0	20-0
The St Leonards Academy	Not Available	Secured	Education	1	0	1	0 -60
Tilekiln Recreation Ground	Not Available	Secured	Local Authority	1	0	0	0

Tenure/ management breakdown

The following table provides a breakdown of the cricket pitches in the area by ownership and management (please note that this table refers to pitches and not sites).

Table 2: Ownership of cricket sites

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Trust	1	1

Local Authority	2	2
Education	2	2

Quality Assessment

HBC has visited and assessed all cricket sites in the area. Each site (and pitch) has been provided with quality ratings for 5 areas (as per Sport England guidance) that can be seen in the table below.

Table 3: Pitch quality scores

Site	Outfield	Artificial Wickets	Grass Wickets	Changing /Pavilion	Non Turf Practice	Overall Score	Rating
Ark William Parker Academy	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	92.00%	25.00%	83.40%	Good
Hornbye Park Sports Complex	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	75.00%	95.00%	Good
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	80.00%	85.71%	100.00%	72.00%	50.00%	77.54%	Good
The St Leonards Academy	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Poor
Tilekiln Recreation Ground	73.33%	85.71%	66.67%	80.00%	0.00%	76.43%	Good

Pitch Summaries

Ark William Parker Academy: This cricket site is located on an educational site. The school previously had Sports College status and has a range of sports facilities on site including sports halls, gymnastics centre, rugby and football pitches, athletics track and more recently a dual-use fitness gym. The cricket pitch is used by two teams from Priory CC (3rds and 4ths). At the time of the pitch assessment the pitch was also used by the Civil Service Stool Ball team (the only Hastings based stool ball team). The pitch is of a satisfactory standard. There is an adjacent pavilion. There are also practise nets present, but these are unusable due to significant overgrowth and damage to the surface.

Sandhurst: This site accommodates all HBC cricket provision and demand. The cricket square is located in the south west corner of the site, due to other winter sports and the slope of the site there is limited scope to move the location of the pitch. The site is on a slope and the ground suffers from poor drainage; a recent IOG assessment concluded that the nature of the soil is slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. There is no enhancement to any of the drainage on site. There are two pavilions on site, both are single story timber framed structures with felt roofs. In 1999 a condition survey carried out predicted a life expectancy of around 10 years with maintenance, the buildings have been maintained and remain in use to this day but will require refurbishment/replacement soon.

Tilekiln: There is one cricket square maintained at the site between two football pitches, however due to lack of demand for this location no cricket wickets are cut. There is little scope to move the cricket square within the site because of other sports pitches. A recent IOG assessment concluded that the nature of the soil is slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. There is no enhancement to any of the drainage on site. The site is served by a decent quality brick built pavilion; the building is well maintained and should continue to meet acceptable standards in the future

Horntye Park Sports Complex:

St Leonards Academy: The site has an artificial cricket wicket that is currently disused and in a state of total disrepair, the carpet is torn and lifting in places and the on site nets are currently totally over grown with weeds and unmaintained. The cricket facilities were last maintained for use around 5 years ago but have undergone no serious maintenance for around 10 years or more. The academy does not use the cricket facilities and has no community use of the facilities. The changing rooms on site are not available.

Pitch quality summary

Generally the quality of cricket pitches within the borough is acceptable, while there is generally a lack of supply and demand it is felt that the existing local authority facilities are suitable for most casual users. Users seeking facilities for higher standard competitive play are likely to be better served by the clubs and provision at Hornty Park. If there was need to re-introduce additional facilities for community clubs as a result of growth there should be capacity to do this at Tilekiln.

Pitch Demand

This section provides an overview of the clubs in the area. Table 5 provides a summary breakdown of clubs that have responded to HBC. Table 6 provides a breakdown of clubs that have yet to respond, along with action already undertaken and suggested further action required.

Table 4: Responding cricket clubs

Club	No. of competitive teams			Total
	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	
Clive Vale CC	1	0	0	1
Hastings & St Leonards Priory CC	4	1	6	11
Sidley Cricket Club	1	0	0	1
Total	6	1	6	13

Table 5: Non responding cricket clubs

Club	HBC contact	HBC contact 2	Reason for no contact
The Legion CC	Mark Busbridge - 07708061300	Neil - 01424 204126	Brief telephone conversation on 18 th Jan. Follow-up emails sent on 18 th Jan and 9 th Feb. ECB also requested to chase the club.

Key Club Consultation Summaries

The following is a summary of the consultations undertaken with 5 key clubs, focussing on their key issues and future plans. All pitch-rating comments are the opinions of the club and may differ from the impartial rating given by the site assessor.

Table 6: Summary of demand consultations from rugby clubs in Hastings

Club	Consultation Summary
Priory CC	Priory is a well established local club, with 4 mens and 1 womens team. The club has a strong youth section. The number of teams has remained static over the past 3 seasons with the exception of the re-introduction of a senior men's team. The club rate the overall quality of both the Horntyne and William Parker pitches as standard
Sidley CC	The club hosts one adult team. The club were originally based in Sidley, Rother. However, after losing their home ground in 2012 they moved to Sandhurst in Hastings (approx. 8 miles away). As a result their 1 st and 2 nd teams and youth section all folded. At the time of moving their youth section had 70+ members. The club are satisfied with the Sandhurst pitch but are keen to find a home ground closer to Sidley, where they have aspirations to develop
Clive Vale	Clive Vale CC operates 1 men's team with no plans to expand. The team plays at Sandhurst, which they give an overall rating of 'standard'

STAGE C SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS

3. SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE – CAPACITY ANALYSIS

Table 7 below presents the supply and demand capacity analysis for cricket in the area. Sites highlighted in yellow to be confirmed following final input

Table 7: Capacity Analysis

Site Name	No of Pitches	No of wickets	No of Non-Turf wickets	Games Per Season		Site Comments
				Games played (Adult – Junior)	Capacity	
Hornnye Park Sports Complex	1	23	0	34-36	115-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets

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Sandhurst Recreation Ground	1	4	0	10-0	20-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets
William Parker	1	8	0	24-0	40-0	This site is currently under capacity for grass wickets

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Hastings Borough Council
LEAD CONTACT	Keith Duly
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Hastings Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	06/03/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DATA SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- 100% football sites assessed
- Received responses from 20 out of 20 football clubs (100%)
- Information gathered in 4 global online platform www.playingpitch.com
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

Sign-off Process:

This datasheet is split into two sections;

- **Stage B Data** – Supply and demand data captured through site assessments and club consultations, to be signed off before Stage B is complete. Target sign off date for Stage B is Friday 12th February.
- **Stage C Data and site by site analysis** – This is the analysis undertaken per site showing capacity, key issues and club requirements. For the February 2016 issue of the data sheet, this version will include a basic capacity analysis of all football sites, with further detail to be added prior to stage C sign-off.

STAGE B SIGN-OFF

Pitch supply (including AGPs)

Introduction

An overview of the supply of football pitches in Hastings is provided in this section. There are 5 types of pitches that are used by football teams from the ages of Under 7 through to Adults. The pitch types are as follows:

- Adult 11v11
- Youth 11v11
- Youth 9v9
- Mini soccer 7v7
- Mini soccer 5v5

Artificial grass pitches (AGPs) are also used by football teams and have been included in this data collection summary.

Site Details

The number of football pitches in Hastings has been detailed in the table below. It is important to understand where there may be potential further supply should the capacity analysis inform us that there is overplay within Hastings.

Table 1: Breakdown of sites and pitches

Site Name	Postcode	Community use on site	Security of Use	Ownership	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer		AGP's		
					11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	Sand	3G	Water
Ark Blacklands Primary Academy	TN34 2HS	Not Available	-	Education		1						
Ark William Parker Academy	TN34 2NT	Available	Secured	Education		4						
Baird Primary Academy	TN34 3TH	Available	Unsecured	Education		1						

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Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	TN38 8AS	Available	Secured	Local Authority	8		2	2				
Gibbons Memorial Field	TN38 9LA	Available	Secured	Church	1							
Helenswood Sports Centre	TN37 7PS	Available	Secured	Education		1						
Hollington Primary Academy	TN38 9DS	Not Available	Secured	Education		1						
Holy Child Language School	TN37 6EG	Not Available	Secured	Education		2						
Ore Village Primary Academy	TN35 5DB	Not Available	Secured	Education					1			
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	TN35 5NA	Not Available	Secured	Education					1			
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	TN34 2RD	Available	Secured	Local Authority		2	1	2				
Sandown Primary School	TN34 2AA	Available	Secured	Education				4				
Saxon Mount School	TN38 8HH	Not Available	Secured	Education		1						
Silverdale Primary Academy	TN37 7EA	Not Available	Secured	Education					2			
St Leonards Cep Academy	TN38 0NR	Available	Unsecured	Education		1						
St Pauls Church Of England Primary	TN37 6RT	Not Available	Secured	Education		1						
Tackleway Fc	TN35 5DX	Not Available	Secured	Charity	1		1					
The Firs (Mini Soccer Centre)	TN34 2AX	Available	Secured	Local Authority					1	1		
The Hastings Academy	TN35 5DN	3G Available / Grass Not Available	Secured	Education		1					1	
The Pilot Field	TN34 2AX	Not Available	Secured	Local Authority	1							

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The St Leonards Academy	TN38 8HH	Available	Unsecured	Education		1				1		
Tilekiln Recreation Ground	TN38 9RT	Available	Secured	Local Authority	3							
West St Leonards Primary Academy	TN38 8BX	Not Available	Secured	Education		1						
Alexandra Park	TN34 2LJ	Available	Secured	Local Authority						1		
Hornbye Park Sports Complex	TN34 1EX	Available	Secured	Trust						1		
St Leonard'S Academy (former Grove School)	TN38 9JP	Not Available	Secured	Education						1		
Torfield Stp	TN34 3JT	Available	Secured	Local Authority						1		

Quantity Overview

Table 2 below provides an overview of the number of football pitches across Hastings. This splits the football pitches into five sub-categories for grass pitches and 3 sub-categories for AGP's.

Table 2: Pitch supply overview

Hastings	Number of pitches							
	Adult football	Youth football		Mini soccer		AGPs		
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	3G	Sand based	Water based
Total	14	18	4	8	5	1	6	0

Tenure/Management Overview

The table below details how the ownership and management of football pitch sites is split across Hastings. The two main owners of sites are Education and Local Authorities. This is important to understand, as the owners of football pitches can affect their community use and potentially inhibit their use, or provide the opportunity for new/increased use.

Table 3: Site ownership

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Parish Council	0	0
Club	0	3
Education	17	12
Charity / Trust	3	2
Council	0	4
Local Authority	7	6
Other	0	0

Site assessor overview

The site assessments carried out by HBC determine the 'Carrying Capacity' of a football pitch. This capacity determines the number of matches a pitch per week without having a detrimental effect on the quality. A pitch receives a score identified through the assessment that determines the quality as 'good', 'standard' or 'poor'. The effect this has on carrying capacity for adult pitches is as follows:

- Poor = 1 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Standard = 2 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Good = 3 match equivalent carrying capacity per week

For Youth Football 11v11 and 9v9 pitches, carrying capacity is affected differently due to the difference in nature and length of play. The effect of the quality scores on these pitches is as follows:

- Poor = 1 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Standard = 2 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Good = 4 match equivalent carrying capacity per week

For Mini soccer 7v7 and 5v5 pitches, the quality score affects carrying capacity as follows:

- Poor = 2 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Standard = 4 match equivalent carrying capacity per week
- Good = 6 match equivalent carrying capacity per week

Table 4 below provides a general overview of the scores received for the different pitch types across the area.

Table 4: Pitch quality summary

Quality score	Adult football	Youth football		Mini soccer	
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Good (80-100%)	12	2	3	4	1
Standard (50-79.9%)	2	9	1	0	0
Poor (0-49.9%)	0	7	0	4	4

Table 5 below provides a detailed view of the site-by-site assessment data collected by HBC.

Table 5: Pitch quality by site

SITE	PITCH TYPE	PITCH SCORE	ANCILLARY SCORE	RATING
Ark Blacklands Primary Academy	Youth Football 11v11	48.57%	0.00%	Poor
Ark William Parker Academy	Youth Football 11v11	52.86%	47.69%	Standard
Ark William Parker Academy	Youth Football 11v11	50.00%	47.69%	Standard

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Ark William Parker Academy	Youth Football 11v11	50.00%	47.69%	Standard
Ark William Parker Academy	Youth Football 11v11	52.86%	47.69%	Standard
Baird Primary Academy	Youth Football 11v11	51.43%	0.00%	Standard
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Youth Football 9v9	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Youth Football 9v9	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Mini Soccer 7v7	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Mini Soccer 7v7	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	52.31%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Adult Football	85.71%	49.23%	Good
Gibbons Memorial Field	Adult Football	75.71%	100.00%	Standard
Helenswood Sports Centre	Youth Football 11v11	45.71%	66.15%	Poor
Hollington Primary Academy	Youth Football 11v11	45.71%	15.38%	Poor
Holy Child Language School	Youth Football 11v11	55.71%	0.00%	Standard
Holy Child Language School	Youth Football 11v11	62.86%	0.00%	Standard
Ore Village Primary Academy	Mini Soccer 5v5	48.57%	7.69%	Poor
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	Mini Soccer 5v5	48.57%	12.31%	Poor
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	Youth Football 9v9	80.00%	56.92%	Good
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	Youth Football 11v11	80.00%	56.92%	Good
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	Youth Football 11v11	80.00%	56.92%	Good
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	Mini Soccer 7v7	80.00%	56.92%	Good

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Sandhurst Recreation Ground	Mini Soccer 7v7	80.00%	56.92%	Good
Sandown Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	48.57%	7.69%	Poor
Sandown Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	48.57%	7.69%	Poor
Sandown Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	48.57%	7.69%	Poor
Sandown Primary School	Mini Soccer 7v7	48.57%	7.69%	Poor
Saxon Mount School	Youth Football 11v11	37.14%	7.69%	Poor
Silverdale Primary Academy	Mini Soccer 5v5	32.86%	0.00%	Poor
Silverdale Primary Academy	Mini Soccer 5v5	32.86%	0.00%	Poor
St Leonards Cep Academy	Youth Football 11v11	48.57%	0.00%	Poor
St Pauls Church Of England Primary	Youth Football 11v11	51.43%	0.00%	Standard
Tackleway FC	Youth Football 9v9	68.57%	41.54%	Standard
Tackleway Fc	Adult Football	68.57%	41.54%	Standard
The Firs (Mini Soccer Centre)	Mini Soccer 5v5	85.71%	24.62%	Good
The Hastings Academy	Youth Football 11v11	48.57%	55.38%	Poor
The Pilot Field	Adult Football	100.00%	92.31%	Good
The St Leonards Academy	Youth Football 11v11	37.14%	40.00%	Poor
Tilekiln Recreation Ground	Adult Football	88.57%	63.08%	Good
Tilekiln Recreation Ground	Adult Football	88.57%	63.08%	Good
Tilekiln Recreation Ground	Adult Football	88.57%	63.08%	Good
West St Leonards Primary Academy	Youth Football 11v11	65.71%	0.00%	Standard

Pitch Summaries

Bexhill Road: The site is operated by the local authority and accommodates the majority of adult football within the town. The site is also home to a number of junior teams, an adult rugby team and an American Football team.

Six of the adult pitches on the site have enhanced drainage, which significantly improves playability in bad weather; however the entire site is located within a flood plain so some loss of fixtures to waterlogging is inevitable.

The site is served by two pavilions, one brick built and the other timber framed; the timber framed pavilion has reached the end of its life and will require replacement/significant refurbishment in the near future.

All pitches were assessed within the November to mid-December project timeline, meaning that scores didn't reflect the pitch conditions at the wettest time of the year, that period falls around December through to January locally. All pitches at this site are also maintained within a borough wide grounds maintenance contract and as a result maintenance scores are exactly the same from pitch to pitch.

At the time of the inspection the contractors had just gang mowed the site and prepared pitches for weekend use, all pitches received the same score as grass length, ground conditions etc. were uniform across the site.

The site is effectively made up of 4 levels:

Tier 1 at the south of the site has natural drainage and is the lowest laying area. Its surrounded by a watercourse to the north, east and south. There is currently one 9 a side pitch and two mini pitches in this area. The pitches in this area suffer from flooding during the winter and usually start being ruled as referee's discretion or unfit from around mid-November each year through to around mid-February annually.

Tier 2 in the centre of the site has enhanced drainage which discharges into the adjacent watercourse. There are six senior pitches on this level. The pitches are amongst the fittest in the town. The pitches are used by the ESFL as one of their main venues, and as a result the pitches pick up a lot of responsive demand from teams who have lost their own pitches to poor fitness during the winter months.

Tier 3 is the northernmost level of the site and has natural drainage. There is a large landfill site to the north of this level and the pitches suffer from waterlogging due to runoff from the slope leading to the landfill area. The only pitches currently in place on this level are the rugby pitch and a 9 a side pitch in the north-eastern corner, both are usually ruled referees discretion or unfit for use from around early November through to March annually.

Tier 4 to the southwest of the site has good natural drainage. There are two senior pitches in the area. The pitches are amongst the fittest in the town and usually only ruled as referees discretion or unfit during very wet periods.

The entire site is located below sea level, within a flood plain and around 250-300m from the sea to the south. During the wettest times of the year the drainage, nearby streams and Combe River cannot drain out to sea if there is a high tide as the sluice will not be open. This causes problems for the entire site at can effectively render even the enhanced drainage as non-functioning when local winter flooding occurs.

Sandhurst Recreation Ground: The site is operated by the local authority and accommodates the majority of the towns youth football, there is also a cricket square and the venue is used by 3 local cricket teams. Hastings United Youth are currently the sole football user at the site and have 12 teams based at the venue, meaning that the pitches see a significant level of use.

The site is on a slope and the ground suffers from poor drainage; a recent IOG assessment concluded that the nature of the soil is slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. There is no enhancement to any of the drainage on site.

All pitches were assessed within the November to mid-December project timeline, meaning that scores didn't reflect the pitch conditions at the wettest time of the year, that period falls around December through to January locally. All pitches at this site are also maintained within a borough wide grounds maintenance contract and as a result maintenance scores are exactly the same from pitch to pitch.

There are two pavilions on site, both are single story timber framed structures with felt roofs. In 1999 a condition survey carried out predicted a life expectancy of around 10 years with maintenance, the buildings have been maintained and remain in use to this day but will require refurbishment/replacement soon.

Tilekiln Recreation Ground: The site is operated by the local authority and accommodates 6 ESFL premier division teams. A cricket square is maintained on site but there are no users currently.

The football pitches at the site are generally of a good quality; however the site is prone to some waterlogging during the winter months. A recent IOG assessment concluded that the nature of the soil is slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. There is no enhancement to any of the drainage on site.

The site is served by a decent quality brick built pavilion; the building is well maintained and should continue to meet acceptable standards in the future.

All pitches were assessed within the November to mid-December project timeline, meaning that scores didn't reflect the pitch conditions at the wettest time of the year, that period falls around December through to January locally. All pitches at this site are also maintained within a borough wide grounds maintenance contract and as a result maintenance scores are exactly the same from pitch to pitch.

St Leonards Cep Academy: The site lacks any potential for expansion due to sloping surrounding topography, as a result the pitch markings aren't able to be moved year on year and there is a high level of wear to the pitch from general school sports use. The pitch also suffers from poor drainage as a result of the runoff from the surrounding slopes

The academy expressed an interest in constructing a 3G pitch (not full size) on their field but advised that they lacked suitable budget to achieve this.

Changing facilities are contained within the school and not available to any non-school users.

West St Leonards Primary Academy: The site has one poorly draining grass pitch and is adjacent to a railway line. The pitch has been out of use at times following works to the railway embankment nearby, however the school have secured funding to improve the drainage of part of their pitch following some recent substantial railway works; they are now looking to secure additional funding now to enhance the drainage of the rest of the pitch.

Changing facilities are contained within the school and not available to any non-school users.

The Firs (Mini Soccer Centre): The site is located on part of the former St Leonards FC ground along with a small sided sand filled muga, which is well used. The grass pitch suffers from poor drainage and cannot currently be increased in size due to the space constraints of the venue.

The former clubs stadium is partially dismantled however some parts remain and are awaiting future demolition. There is a building on site which is leased to the Education Futures Trust. However, there are no changing rooms or toilets available to the community on site.

Despite recent attempts to bring the site back into formal use for mini soccer, the uptake has been minimal with many users preferring to play elsewhere. However, there remains a demand for local informal play and a local aspiration to enhance this offer further.

The Pilot Field: The site is under the management of Hastings United Fc and the pitch is the best quality within the town. Facilities are maintained by a team of in-house groundsmen who work on the pitch daily. The stadium surrounding the pitch is very well maintained however due to its age the club are seeking a replacement ground in the near future. Issues with the stand requiring significant works/refurbishment. Changing facilities are of a good standard. The site is not available for community use.

Approximately 80 games are played at the Pilot per season, depending on cup runs etc.

The club is currently working with partners to explore future options. Aspirations include working with partners to potentially sell the current ground and relocate with enhanced facilities. There are currently no confirmed plans in place.

Ark William Parker. There are approx. 900 students on the school roll (all male school). The school is renowned for its emphasis on sport (previously achieving Sport College status). Significant formal and informal school use, combined with after school community use, is likely to result in heavy pitch wear, due to possible over-subscription. Evidence suggests that maintenance is not being carried out effectively; possibly too infrequent, possibly carried out at the wrong time of year, or perhaps the use of incorrect equipment. Ground conditions are likely to be poor regardless of the maintenance regime, given the high level of use. Ground conditions are unlikely to improve until overall use is managed more efficiently and maintenance regime is improved'

Pitch quality summary

Generally pitch quality within the borough is rated as standard to poor with the biggest issue being a lack of drainage; this is particularly problematic in schools where a small field is sometimes the only outdoor area available and therefore is used heavily for a number of school activities.

All pitches were assessed within the November to mid-December project timeline, meaning that scores didn't reflect the pitch conditions at the wettest time of the year, that period falls around December through to January locally. Several pitches, achieved a score just slightly above the

relevant scoring threshold. For example the Sandhurst and Ark William Parker pitch scores are close to threshold cut-off for ‘Good’ and ‘Standard’ respectively. However, only a slight reduction in quality would result in a down grading for both these sites.

When carrying out assessments of sites a number of schools expressed an interest in creating 3G facilities but most schools lack the budget to explore this option or do not know how to go about it. Many teams highlighted that the Hastings Academy 3G is the favoured training facility – but it is oversubscribed at peak times.

Ancillary facilities are another problematic issue; most local authority sites have outdated buildings approaching the end of their lifetime but there is currently no funding available with which to rebuild or refurbish. Schools generally have changing facilities that are of a decent standard but these aren’t available for non-school use and it isn’t feasible for them to be used without significant remodelling of the schools interior to prevent access to other areas.

Astroturf Pitches

Football training and matches can also be played on artificial grass pitches (matches can only be played on FA certified rubber-crumb 3G pitches), therefore the tables and information summarised below inform the provision of Artificial Grass Pitches in the area.

Table 6: AGP breakdown

Site Name	Pitch Type (3G; Sand based; Sand filled; water based)	Size	Community use category	Security of use	Pitch score	Floodlighting
Alexandra Park	Sand Filled	37 x 18.5	Available	Secured	51 - Standard	Yes
Hornbye Park Sports Complex	Sand Filled	100 x 60	Available	Secured	64 - Standard	Yes
St Leonard'S Academy (former Grove School)	Sand Filled	37 x 18.5	Not Available	Secured	38 - Poor	Yes
The Firs (Mini Soccer Centre)	Sand Filled	37 x 19.5	Available	Secured	48 - Poor	Yes
The Hastings Academy	3G	67 x 38.5	Available	Secured	63 - Standard	Yes
The St Leonards Academy	Sand Dressed	60 x 34	Available	Unsecured	52 - Standard	Yes
Torfield Stp	Sand Filled	37 x 19.5	Available	Secured	53 - Standard	Yes

Table 7: AGP use for football training and matches

Site Name	Football Demand in hours (Matches)	Clubs (matches)	Football Demand in hours (Training)	Clubs (training)
Hornbye Park Sports Complex	0.5	Hastings Town Youth 2000 U7s	14	Hastings Town Youth 2000
The Hastings Academy	0	-	29	St Leonards Social FC Ore Athletic FC Hastings United FC The Junior Club Tackleway University of Brighton
Alexandra Park	0	-	2	Hollington United FC
St Leonard'S Academy	0	-	2	Hastings Rangers Youth
The Firs (Mini Soccer Centre)	0	-	1	Hollington United FC

Pitch demand

The following section presents the data from the demand section of the PPS audit. This data has been gathered using the club survey as directed in the FA Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance. Each club has been given the opportunity to fill in their survey online. HBC have also chased all clubs a minimum of two times in order to encourage them to fill in the survey or to fill in the data over the phone.

Table 8 presents the number of teams per club in Hastings, split into the eight key sub-groups as defined in the PPS guidance document.

Table 8: Teams per club

CLUB	HOMEGROUND	ADULT TEAMS		YOUTH TEAMS		MINI TEAMS	TOTALS
		MENS	LADIES	BOYS	GIRLS	MINI SOCCER	

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				11 V 11	9 V 9	11 V 11	9 V 9	7 V 7	5 V 5	
AFC Hastings	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Conquest United	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dynamo Hastings	The Firs (Mini Soccer Centre)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hastings Rangers	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hastings Rangers Youth	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	5
Hastings Town Youth 2000	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground / Horntye Park Sports Complex	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	4
Hastings United Youth	Sandhurst Recreation Ground	-	-	6	3	-	-	3	-	12
Hastings Wanderers	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	4
Old Hastonians	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Orington	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ore Athletic	Tilekiln Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

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Peché Hill Select	Tilekiln Recreation Ground	2	-	-		-	-	-	-	2
Rock-A-Nore (Old Hastings)	Tilekiln Recreation Ground	1	-	-		-	-	-	-	1
University of Brighton	Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	1	-	-		-	-	-	-	1
Hastings United FC	The Pilot Field	3	-	-		-	-	-	-	3
Hollington United	Gibbons Memorial Field	1	-	1		-	-	-	-	2
St Leonards FC	Ark William Parker Academy / Baird Primary Academy	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	4
St Leonards Social F.C.	Tilekiln Recreation Ground	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
The Junior Club Tackleway	Tackleway Fc	2	-	2	2	-	-	3	1	10
West Hill United	Ark William Parker Academy	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

This data is summarised in Table 9 below.

Overall team profile

Table 9: Overall team profile following club breakdown

AREA	ADULT TEAMS		YOUTH TEAMS				MINI TEAMS		TOTALS
	MENS	LADIES	BOYS		GIRLS		MINI SOCCER		
			11 V 11	9 V 9	11 V 11	9 V 9	7 V 7	5 V 5	
Hastings Borough	20	0	14	10	-	-	9	5	58

Key Club Consultation Summaries

The following is a summary of the consultations undertaken with 5 key clubs, focussing on their key issues and future plans. All pitch-rating comments are the opinions of the club and may differ from the impartial rating given by the site assessor.

Table 10: Summary of demand consultations from football clubs in Hastings

Club	Consultation Summary
Hastings Utd FC	Total of 3 adult teams comprising of U21 development squad, U19 AWPA Academy team and the semi-professional 1st team who play in the Ryman South league (the town's most senior team). The club have highlighted significant demand for additional 3G training facilities. The teams train on grass at Ark William Parker Academy and 3G at Hastings Academy. The club currently lease their home ground (Pilot Field) from HBC and are currently working with partners to explore future options. Aspirations include working with partners to potentially sell the current ground and relocate with enhanced facilities. There are currently no confirmed plans in place. The club's youth section are operated independently but under linkage with the senior club.
Hastings Utd Youth	12 teams ranging from U9's to U18's, the players live locally, typically within 2-5 miles. All teams train and play matches at the Sandhurst pitches. The Club are planning to increase the number of junior and mini teams. The club rate the evenness of the pitches as poor with a severe slopes, lots of unofficial use (including 'lots' of dog fouling) with evidence of poor drainage. The club states that lots of games were cancelled last season. The club state that there is a lack of parking, which often results in parking penalty tickets. They praised the pitch operator (HBC) for catering for their

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	needs, but ideally the club would prefer to play at the Tilekiln pitches.
Hollington Utd	The club have one adult and one youth team (u15) who both use Gibbons Memorial Field as their home ground. There is a pavilion on site, which has been purpose built by the club. No floodlights. The teams train on HBC owned sand-dressed MUGAs elsewhere in town. Majority of their players are local. The club's catchment includes an area of low income. During the past 3 seasons the number of teams has decreased by one adult team and one mini team, due to lack of numbers and lack of parental support respectively. The club have no plans for facility development. The ground is owned by a church organisation and the access to the ground is open and frequently used by local young people for informal use.
Hastings Rangers Youth	4 youth teams. The number of overall teams have stayed consistent in recent seasons (teams have moved from mini to junior and junior to adult). The club have plans to increase the number of junior and mini teams. Home ground is Bexhill Road. Teams train at St Leonards Academy, indoor at the local YMCA and Claremont School. However, the club state that they have a current unmet demand for 3G training facilities. The club state that the pitch quality has slightly deteriorated since last season there is evidence of poor drainage, frequent long grass (and poor grass collection), evidence of problem areas such as dog fouling, goal post fixings missing, broken fences and unofficial use.
TackleWay FC	The club's home ground is Tackelway. The club rate the evenness of the pitch as poor, with areas of poor drainage. 20 cancelled games last season, due to weather and ground conditions. The pitch quality has got 'slightly poorer' since last season. There are changing pavilions of 'adequate quality' but with shared toilet and shower provision, on site. The club currently has 10 teams, (2 of which are adult teams). The club have increased the number of teams by 3 over the past 3 years and has plans to develop additional teams including a women's team.
Hastings Town Youth 2000	4 youth teams whose home ground is Bexhill Road, with the exception of the U7 who play on Horntye's sand dressed AWP. The club has lost 3 teams (U15, U16 & U17) in the past 3 years, due to unaffordable fees for players and the increasing responsibly on managers/ coaches. The club aim to develop from the 'grass roots up' and have plans to introduce 4 more junior/mini teams. They state that enhanced facilities would result in an increase of players/teams, the need for better changing facilities were highlighted. They state that the pitch conditions at Bexhill Road have got slightly poorer since last year, with many cancellations due to rain.
St Leonards Social	2 senior teams, home ground is Tilekiln, which the club state has poor drainage and is slightly poorer quality compared to last season. The club state that better facilities would help retain players.
Dynamo FC	One U9 team who play matches at the Firs and train at YMCA indoor venue but would prefer to train on grass. The club states that enhanced ancillary facilities (changing and an additional pitch) at the Firs would result in more teams.
AFC Hastings	1 adult team whose home ground is Bexhill Road. Cost is the key driver for choosing training facilities, they currently train at Bexhill Road. They would prefer to play at Tilekiln..

STAGE C SITE BY SITE ANALYSIS

Supply and demand balance figures

Following the gathering of supply side and demand side information, the capacity analysis ('balance') for pitches/sites can be undertaken. The tables below split the balance figures across the 5 different football pitch types. The tables identify the supply of pitches in terms of quantity and overall carrying capacity (given that some pitches on the same site may be identified as different qualities), the demand placed on the pitches by clubs (matches and training) and then provides the balance (the difference between capacity and demand match equivalents). This capacity analysis will inform the site-by-site action plan in the final report.

Pitch type balance figures

Table 11: Adult football

ADULT PITCH PROVISION - SITE	NUMBER OF PITCHES	PITCH CAPACITY	DEMAND (MATCH EQUIVALENTS)	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAPACITY & DEMAND MATCH EQUIVALENTS
Ark William Parker Academy	0	0	5.5	-5.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	8	24	4	20
Tilekiln Recreation Ground	3	9	3	6
The Pilot Field	1	3	1.5	1.5
Tackleway Fc	1	2	1	1

Hastings Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Gibbons Memorial Field	1	2	0.5	1.5
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Table 12: Youth football 11v11

YOUTH 11V11 PITCH PROVISION - SITE	NUMBER OF PITCHES	PITCH CAPACITY	DEMAND (MATCH EQUIVALENTS) 11v11	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAPACITY & DEMAND MATCH EQUIVALENTS
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	2	8	9.5	-1.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	0	0	3.5	-3.5
Hornbye Park Sports Complex	0	0	1.5	-1.5
Tackleway Fc	0	0	1	-1
Gibbons Memorial Field	0	0	0.5	-0.5

Table 13: Youth Football 9v9

YOUTH 9V9 PITCH PROVISION - SITE	NUMBER OF PITCHES	PITCH CAPACITY	DEMAND (MATCH EQUIVALENTS) 9V9	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAPACITY & DEMAND MATCH EQUIVALENTS
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	1	4	6	-2
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	2	8	2	6

Hastings Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Tackleway Fc	1	2	1	1
Baird Primary Academy	0	0	0.5	-0.5

Table 14: Mini Soccer 7v7

MINI SOCCER 7V7 PITCH PROVISION - SITE	NUMBER OF PITCHES	PITCH CAPACITY	DEMAND (MATCH EQUIVALENTS) 7v7	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAPACITY & DEMAND MATCH EQUIVALENTS
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	2	12	5	7
Tackleway Fc	0	0	1.5	-1.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	2	12	0.5	11.5
The Firs (Mini Soccer Centre)	0	0	0.5	0.5

Table 15: Mini Soccer 5v5

MINI SOCCER 5V5 PITCH PROVISION - SITE	NUMBER OF PITCHES	PITCH CAPACITY	DEMAND (MATCH EQUIVALENTS) 5v5	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAPACITY & DEMAND MATCH EQUIVALENTS
Tackleway Fc	0	0	1	-1
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	0	0	1	-1

Hastings Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Horntye Park Sports Complex	0	0	0.5	-0.5
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Table 16: Supply and demand balance summary

Provision - Site	Total Number Of Pitches	Total Pitch Capacity	Total Demand (Match Equivalents)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalents
Tackleway Fc	2	4	5.5	-1.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	12	44	11	33
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	5	24	20.5	3.5
The Firs (Mini Soccer Centre)	1	6	0.5	5.5
Baird Primary Academy	1	2	0.5	1.5
Gibbons Memorial Field	1	2	1	1
Ark William Parker Academy	4	8	5.5	2.5
Tilekiln Recreation Ground	3	9	3	6
The Pilot Field	1	3	1.5	1.5

Appendix A – Club response breakdown

This appendix details the clubs identified by the Football Association and their response to 4 global and HBC's data gathering exercise. This requires sign-off from the Football Association.

Club	Number of Teams	Response Status	4G Contact round 1/ Action taken	4g Contact Round 2 / Action Taken
AFC Hastings	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Conquest United	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Dynamo Hastings	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings Rangers	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings Rangers Youth	5	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings Town Youth 2000	4	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings United Youth	12	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings Wanderers	2	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Old Hastonians	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Orington	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Ore Athletic	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Peche Hill Select	2	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Rock-A-Nore (Old Hastings)	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
University of Brighton	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hastings United FC	3	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hollington United	2	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
St Leonards FC	2	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
St Leonards Social F.C.	2	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
The Junior Club Tackleway	10	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

West Hill United	1	Complete	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
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4 global Playing Pitch Platform Assumptions

The 4 global Playing Pitch Platform has been developed specifically in line with Sport England methodology. The standard assumptions within the supply and demand model are applied on the platform:

- **Pitch quality assumptions** - Adult, Youth and Mini soccer carrying capacities are generated through non-technical site assessment results
- **Match play and training demand** – matches and training form match equivalents on the platform in line with those set out in the guidance (e.g. 0.5 match equivalents per week for an adult team). Training and matches are distinguished between grass and AGP use.
- **Capacity analysis** – supply and demand are factored together to provide an overall view of the balance as well as on a site-by-site basis. Pitches with no community use are not factored into balance calculations.
- **Overmarking** – Overmarked pitches are identified and demand from teams on those pitches has been scaled down to represent any difference in time and nature of play.

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Hastings Borough Council
LEAD CONTACT	Keith Duly
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Hastings Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	12/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	ENGLAND HOCKEY DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY AND SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All hockey sites visited and assessed by the council's designated site assessors
- Received responses from 1 out of 1 hockey clubs (100%)
- Information gathered in 4 global online platform www.playingpitch.com
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

Sign-off Process:

This datasheet is split into two sections;

- **Stage B Data** – Supply and demand data captured through site assessments and club consultations, to be signed off before Stage B is complete. Target sign off date for Stage B is Friday 19th February
- **Stage C Data and site by site analysis** – This is the analysis undertaken per site showing capacity, key issues and club requirements. For the February 2016 issue of the data sheet, this version will include a basic capacity analysis of all football sites, with further detail to be added prior to stage C sign-off.

STAGE B DATA

Pitch supply

Quantity overview

The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the Artificial Ground Hockey Pitches available across Hastings. This table only includes sand-dressed AGP's as 3G surfaces are not appropriate for hockey. For supply and demand analysis, any AGP's that are not full size (at least 100x60m) will not be included as they are not the required size for competitive hockey use.

Table 1: Sites with Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) that provide community use.

Site Name	Sand Filled /Sand dressed	Ownership	Management	Availability of community use / Security of community use	Size
Hornbye Park Sports Complex	Sand Filled	Trust	Trust	Available / Secured	100 x 60

The table below provides a summary of the scores provided to each site following the HBC site assessment. The assessment of Artificial Grass Pitches was carried out in line with the England Hockey non-technical quality assessment aligned with the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance.

Table 2: Overview of quality ratings

Quality rating	AGP
Good (80-100%)	0
Standard (50-79.9%)	1
Poor (0-49.9%)	0

Table 3 below shows the detail behind Table 2 above, with the site assessment information for each pitch, as well as their additional facility and age.

Table 3: Detailed quality ratings for hockey AGP's in Hastings

Site Name	Sand Filled /Sand dressed	Size	Floodlit	Age of playing surface	Condition (Quality score)
Horntye Park Sports Complex	Sand Filled	100 x 60	Yes	16 years	64 - Standard

Table 4 below details the availability of AGPs at sites where they are utilised for hockey club use. This has been presented in the form of match slots (= c.2 hours AGP use). Although mid week demand is mainly for training purposes, some matches may take place therefore in the demand section of this paper, training has been converted to match slots to allow for consistent measures. The availability of AGPs at hockey sites requires sign off from England Hockey.

This table includes only those facilities that are currently available for community use and are of a suitable size for competitive hockey to be played.

Table 4: AGP availability at Hockey club sites

Site name	AGP type	Weekday peak hours available	Saturday hours available	Sunday hours available
Horntye Park Sports Complex	Sand Filled	24.8	13.25	13.25

Pitch Summaries

Horntye Park: The venue is centrally located with a range of sports facilities including sports hall, cricket ground and the only full-size sand filled AGP in Hastings. Horntye is home to South Saxons HC an established and well-respected local club with adult, youth and women teams. The pitch surface is in need of refurbishment, both to the surface and base. There have been recent repairs to areas where the pitch has sunken due to collapsed drains. There is currently an additional area of the pitch in need of similar repairs. The venue and club agree that the estimated lifespan of the pitch surface is limited and is likely to need replacing within the next 12-18 months. If the pitch is not improved at this time, then South Saxons are likely to be forced to relocate to another venue, the nearest possibility being in Bexhill.

The Horntye Trustees report that the venue has a history of operating with a revenue deficit and therefore they have raised significant concerns over the long-term future of the Horntye Complex . With the current financial situation being unsustainable the Trust are pro-actively exploring sustainable options including aspirations of developing housing at Horntye Park and developing enhanced off-site sports facilities.

Pitch quality summary

The AGP pitch surface/base is in need of refurbishment. There are various signs of damage to the surface. The pitch is very busy in the evenings, mainly with football bookings. Some hockey players have fed back that the surface causes the ball to bobble.

Pitch demand

Club/Team profile

There is 1 hockey club that operates within the Hastings area. The breakdown of teams in these clubs has been provided below.

Table 5: Club analysis

CLUB NAME	ADULT TEAMS			JUNIORS	TOTAL
	SENIOR MEN	SENIOR WOMEN	MIXED		
South Saxons Hockey Club	4	2	0	3	9

The table below highlights how the profile of Hockey teams across Hastings creates demand for competitive match slots throughout the week. A match slot consists of 2 hours of full AGP use.

Table 6: Competitive match slot demand

	Number of teams	Competitive hours required		
		Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Senior teams (16-65)	6	0	6	0
Junior teams (11-15)	3	0	1	2

The table below highlights how the profile of hockey teams across Hastings creates demand for AGP training hours throughout the week. Senior teams train midweek however some junior teams/development centres may train on weekends. It is important to understand that this will impact on capacity analysis when considered with the competitive match slots required above.

Table 7: Training hours required

	Number of teams	Training hours required		
		Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Senior teams (16-65)	6	12	0	0
Junior teams (11-15)	3	6	0	0

Key Club Consultation Summaries

The following is a summary of the consultation undertaken with South Saxons Hockey Club, focussing on their key issues and future plans. All pitch-rating comments are the opinions of the club and may differ from the impartial rating given by the site assessor.

Table 8: Summary of demand consultations from rugby clubs in Ashford

Club	Consultation Summary
South Saxons Hockey Club	Conversations with Chairman and one senior player in addition to online survey. Successful and established club with 4 x senior male teams, 2 x senior female and 3x Juniors (of which one female). 150 members, of which 55 are female. The number of teams has stayed static over the past 3 seasons. The club have plans to develop an additional junior girls team. The club also indicated that if additional pitch time was available they would be able to potentially host 5 additional teams. The club rate the overall condition of the pitch as POOR and state that the pitch has deteriorated over recent seasons.

STAGE C SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS

Site-by-site capacity analysis

The table below provides capacity analysis for all hockey club AGPs in Hastings. Match slots have been used in this table, which contains demand from competitive matches as well as an equivalent match slot from training hours required by the clubs (including Football training).

Table 8: AGP capacity analysis

Site name	Supply (Hours)			Demand (Hours required – for training and matches)			Balance (Hours)		
	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Horntye Park Sports Complex	24.8	13.25	13.25	18 (+11 Football training)	7	2	-4.2	6.25	11.25

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Hastings Borough Council
LEAD CONTACT	Keith Duly
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Hastings Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	12/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION DATA SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All rugby sites visited
- Received responses from 2 rugby clubs (100%)
- Information gathered in 4 global online platform www.playingpitch.com
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

Sign-off Process:

This datasheet is split into two sections;

- **Stage B Data** – Supply and demand data captured through site assessments and club consultations, to be signed off before Stage B is complete. Target sign off date for Stage B is Friday 19th February.
- **Stage C Data and site by site analysis** – This is the analysis undertaken per site showing capacity, key issues and club requirements. For the February 2016 issue of the data sheet, this version will include a basic capacity analysis of all football sites, with further detail to be added prior to stage C sign-off.

STAGE B DATA

Pitch supply

Quantity overview

The number of rugby pitches in Hastings has been detailed in the table below. It is important to understand where there may be potential further supply should the capacity analysis inform us that there is overplay within Hastings.

Table 1: Breakdown of sites and pitches

Site Name	Community use on site	Security of Use	Owners	Adult	Junior/Minis
Ark William Parker Academy	Available	Secured	Education	1	1
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Available	Unsecured	Local Authority	1	0

Tenure/Management

The table below identifies the split in ownership of all rugby pitches in Hastings

Table 2: Ownership and management summary of rugby pitches in Hastings

	Ownership	Management
Education	2	2
Local Authority	1	1

Quality assessment

HBC has visited all sites and non-technical site assessments have been undertaken to provide an overall quality score that is in line with the RFU guidance provided below. The maintenance and drainage scores determine the capacity of a pitch in match equivalents.

Table 3: RFU pitch assessment guidance

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
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

Table 4 below shows the number of pitches in Hastings that fit into each of the RFU's pitch assessment guidance criteria (as shown in Table 3).

Table 4: Number of pitches fulfilling each category of the RFU pitch assessment guidance in Hastings

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	1	0	0
Natural Adequate (D1)	0	0	0
Pipe Drained (D2)	0	0	0
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	0	0	2

Table 5 below shows the pitch scores following a non-technical quality assessment of the pitches that are used by the community for rugby in Hastings. This allows us to understand the capacity of each pitch from a community use perspective, using the capacity calculations in Table 3.

Table 5: Community sites and individual pitch capacity

Site Name	Type of pitch	Drainage Score	Pitch maintenance score	Pitch Capacity	Overall capacity of site
Ark William Parker Academy	Senior Rugby Union	D3	13 - Good (M2)	3.5	7
Ark William Parker Academy	Junior Rugby Union	D3	13 - Good (M2)	3.5	
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Senior Rugby Union	D0	6 - Poor (M0)	0.5	0.5

Pitch Summaries

Ark William Parker

Pitches are very well maintained by club and ground staff. Drainage works have taken place previously. Period of wet weather at the time of the inspection. The naturally draining football pitches nearby at the site were very waterlogged compared to the rugby pitches. Some water logging present on the rugby pitches, but they were considered to be fit for use at time of inspection.

Bexhill Road

Rugby pitch is prone to severe waterlogging with water pooling at times. The club state that 7+ games are cancelled per annum. Pitch does not currently have any improved drainage and might not be suitable for additional drainage as it is on top of former landfill and located within a flood plain. Club state that the pitch has slightly deteriorated since last season (drainage)

Pitch quality summary

Generally the quality of rugby pitches is relatively good with the exception of drainage issues at both site (most significantly at Bexhill Road). The H&B site is the major rugby hub in the area and would benefit from improvements in drainage and pavilions improvement.

Pitch demand

Club breakdown

There are two rugby clubs that operate within the Hastings area. The breakdown of teams in these clubs has been provided below. This table requires sign off from the Rugby Football Union.

Table 6: Team profile of clubs in Hastings

Club	Adult teams	18-19 years youth teams	Junior teams (U13-17)	Mini / Midi teams (U7-12)	Totals
Hastings & Bexhill RFC	3	2	6	6	17
St Leonards Cinque Ports Rugby Club	1	0	0	0	1

Key Club Consultation Summaries

The following is a summary of the consultations undertaken with 1 key clubs, focussing on their key issues and future plans. All pitch-rating comments are the opinions of the club and may differ from the impartial rating given by the site assessor.

Table 7: Summary of demand consultations from rugby clubs in Hastings

Club	Consultation Summary
H&B Rugby	The club is based at Ark William Parker which has a range of sporting facilities on site. The H&B Rugby facilities consist of a pavilion (changing, toilets and social area) and 2 pitches. Refurbishing the social area (hopefully Summer 2016), providing disability toilet access and lift access to the first floor, enhancing the changing/ shower facilities for Girls/Women's are all priorities within the pavilion. At present the club have to exclude male members from the changing rooms when females are playing at home. Ideally, the club would also like additional floodlights. Pitch enhancement is also a priority. The club state that drainage has deteriorated over the years, but are playable unless there has been very heavy rain. The club are talking to the RFU regarding pitch enhancements. Our pitch assessment took place during a period of rain and reflected the clubs views regarding drainage enhancements are ideally required. The club rate their pitches as good.
St Leonards Cinque Ports Rugby Club	The club has one adult team who play at Bexhill Road. The club shares a pitch with Hastings Conquerors American Football Club. The club state that the pitch is frequently water logged and drainage is 'a major issue'. The club often use Heathfield as an alternative pitch.

STAGE C SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS

Supply and demand balance

Site-by-site balance figures

The table below details the site-by-site capacity analysis for all sites used by rugby clubs in Hastings. Capacity analysis has not been carried out for sites where there is no demand for rugby. These sites have been detailed in table 5 above.

Table 8: Rugby site capacity analysis

Site Name	Pitch type	Quantity	Supply (Capacity)	Demand (matches + training in match equivalents)		Balance (Supply minus demand)
				SNR	JNR	
Ark William Parker Academy	Senior	1	3.5	5.5	0	-2
Ark William Parker Academy	Junior	1	3.5	0	11	-7.5
Bexhill Road Recreation Ground	Senior	1	0.5	0.5	0	0

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Hastings Borough Council
LEAD CONTACT	Keith Duly
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Hastings Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	23/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	ENGLAND STOOLBALL DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY AND SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All sites assessed
- Received responses from 1 stoolball club
- Information gathered in 4 global online platform www.playingpitch.com
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

STAGE A DATA

Pitch Supply

HBC has visited and assessed all cricket sites in the area. Each site (and pitch) has been provided with quality ratings and as Stoolball is played primarily on cricket pitches, these quality ratings have been used to assess the supply for Stoolball.

Table 1: Cricket site breakdown

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Community Use On Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership	Outfield Score	Overall Rating
Ark William Parker Academy	Available	Secured	Education	100.00%	Good
Hornbye Park Sports Complex	Available	Secured	Trust	100.00%	Good
Sandhurst Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Local Authority	80.00%	Good
The St Leonards Academy	Not Available	Secured	Education	0.00%	Poor
Tilekiln Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Local Authority	73.33%	Good

Tenure/ management breakdown

The following table provides a breakdown of the cricket pitches in the area by ownership and management (please note that this table refers to pitches and not sites).

Table 2: Ownership of cricket sites

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Trust	1	1
Local Authority	2	2
Education	2	2

Pitch Summaries

Ark William Parker Academy: This site is located on an educational site. The school previously had Sports College status and has a range of sports facilities on site including sports halls, gymnastics centre, rugby and football pitches, athletics track and more recently a dual-use fitness gym. The cricket pitch is used by two teams from Priory CC (3rds and 4ths). The pitch is also used by the Civil Service Stool Ball team (the only Hastings based stool ball team). The pitch is of a satisfactory standard and there is an adjacent pavilion.

Sandhurst: This site accommodates all HBC cricket provision and demand. The square is located in the south west corner of the site, due to other winter sports and the slope of the site there is limited scope to move the location of the pitch. The site is on a slope and the ground suffers from poor drainage; a recent IOG assessment concluded that the nature of the soil is slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. There is no enhancement to any of the drainage on site. There are two pavilions on site, both are single story timber framed structures with felt roofs. In 1999 a condition survey carried out predicted a life expectancy of around 10 years with maintenance, the buildings have been maintained and remain in use to this day but will require refurbishment/replacement soon.

Tilekiln: There is one cricket square maintained at the site between two football pitches, however due to lack of demand for this location no cricket wickets are cut. There is little scope to move the cricket square within the site because of other sports pitches. A recent IOG assessment concluded that the nature of the soil is slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. There is no enhancement to any of the drainage on site. The site is served by a decent quality brick built pavilion; the building is well maintained and should continue to meet acceptable standards in the future

Pitch Demand

This section provides an overview of stoolball clubs in the area. Table 3 provides a summary breakdown of clubs that have responded to HBC. Table 4 provides a breakdown of clubs that have yet to respond, along with action already undertaken and suggested further action required.

Table 3: Responding stoolball clubs

Club	Members	Facility most frequently used	Consultation Summary
The Original Civil Service Stoolball Team	25+	Ark William Parker Academy	4 youth, 16 adult and 5 senior members coming from the areas of Hastings St Leonards, Bexhill and Rye. Very happy with the facilities at Ark William Parker Academy (which they access from 1 to 4 hours per week), but stated that maintenance, changing facilities and cleanliness could do with an improvement. Would recommend this facility to other stoolball clubs, but have also stated that prices could be too high, specially if the match is over too quickly. Club has seen no change in its number of members over the last three years and are not expecting any further growth in the near future

Table 4: Non responding stoolball clubs

Club	HBC contact	HBC contact 2	Reason for no contact
N/A – all clubs responded			

PROJECT DETAILS	
CLIENT NAME	Hastings Borough Council
LEAD CONTACT	Keith Duly
ASSIGNMENT TITLE	Hastings Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy
DATE OF REPORT	23/02/2016
PURPOSE OF REPORT	LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY AND SIGN OFF

Summary update:

- All tennis sites assessed.
- Received responses from 2 tennis clubs
- Information gathered through online survey and consultations taken by HBC
- Raw site assessment and demand consultation data is presented in the accompanying excel file.
- All supply and demand data in this datasheet is required to be signed off by the NGB before Stage B can be completed

STAGE A DATA

Pitch Supply

The following table provides a full overview of all tennis courts in the area.

Table 1: Tennis site breakdown

Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for tennis	Number of Tennis courts	Community Use On Site	Secured Community Use	Ownership
Alexandra Park	6	Available	Secured	HBC
Amherst Tennis Club	7	Not Available	Secured	Amherst LTC
The Green Tennis Club	9	Not Available	Secured	The Green LTC
Falaise Road (Site name TBC)	6	Available	Secured	HBC

Tenure/ management breakdown

The following table provides a breakdown of tennis courts in the area by ownership and management (please note that this table refers to courts and not sites).

Table 2: Ownership of tennis courts

Type of ownership	Ownership	Management
Local Authority	12	12
Club	16	16

Quality Assessment

HBC has visited and assessed all tennis sites in the area. Each site (and court) has been provided with quality ratings for 11 areas. Table 3 below shows site assessment information for each court.

Table 3: Pitch quality scores

Site	Surface Type	Total Score	% Rating
Alexandra Park	Hard	37	67%
Alexandra Park	Hard	37	67%
Alexandra Park	Hard	31	56%
Alexandra Park	Hard	31	56%
Alexandra Park	Hard	31	56%
Alexandra Park	Hard	25	45%
Amherst Tennis Club	Grass	55	100%
Amherst Tennis Club	Grass	55	100%
Amherst Tennis Club	Grass	55	100%
Amherst Tennis Club	Grass	55	100%
Amherst Tennis Club	Grass	55	100%
Amherst Tennis Club	Hard	47	85%
Amherst Tennis Club	Hard	47	85%
The Green Tennis Club	Hard	55	100%
The Green Tennis Club	Hard	55	100%
The Green Tennis Club	Hard	55	100%

Hastings Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy

The Green Tennis Club	Hard	55	100%
The Green Tennis Club	Hard	55	100%
The Green Tennis Club	Hard	55	100%
The Green Tennis Club	Hard	55	100%
The Green Tennis Club	Hard	55	100%
The Green Tennis Club	Hard	55	100%
Falaise Road	Hard	25	45%
Falaise Road	Hard	25	45%
Falaise Road	Hard	25	45%
Falaise Road	Hard	25	45%
Falaise Road	Hard	25	45%
Falaise Road	Hard	25	45%

Table 4: Summary

Area	Number of Tennis Courts	Available for community use	Average Court Score	Average % Rating
Hastings Borough	28	12	43	78%

Pitch Demand

This section provides an overview of the clubs in the area. Table 5 provides breakdown of tennis clubs that have responded to 4 Global's survey and a summary of their comments. Table 6 provides a breakdown of clubs that have yet to respond, along with action already undertaken and suggested further action required.

Table 5: Responding tennis clubs

Club	Members	Consultation Summary
The Green Tennis Club	150+	Majority of adult members, but also some children, youth and seniors – coming mainly from the immediate vicinity, as well as Hastings and St Leonards. Their Junior Coach leaving caused a major decrease in junior membership over recent years, but the club are now reinstating their junior section and expecting a growth of 40-50 members within the next 3 years. Fairly satisfied with their facilities, but have identified the following 4 priority areas for investment in order to allow further use: Floodlights, more all weather courts, maintenance of playing surfaces, finish on-going works to improve car park
Amherst Tennis Club	175+	Biggest tennis club in the area with approximately 175 members accessing the courts and facilities at Amherst Tennis Club for more than 12 hours per week. Most members travel to this facility by car and come from the Hastings and Rother areas. Club has seen an increase in their number of members over the last three years due to the quality of their facilities and expect further growth (of at least 20%) in the near future too. In order to be able to accommodate this planned growth, club will need 10 more hours of court time per week, which could be provided by increasing the number of floodlit courts. Club are very happy with the quality of their facility and would definitely recommend it to other clubs, but identified that cost of rent charged by council as substantial when compared to similar ones in surrounding areas.

Table 6: Non responding tennis clubs

Club	HBC contact	HBC contact 2	Reason for no contact
N/A – All clubs responded			



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Population Totals within Active Age Groups (2016)

Active Age Group	Sport	Male	Female	Mixed
0-5 years	Non active			4864
6-9 years	Football			3657
8-12 years	Rugby			4473
10-15 years	Football	2717	2537	
11-15 years	Hockey	2258	2114	
11-17 years	Cricket	3105	2957	
13-17 years	Rugby	2188	2111	
16-17 years	Rugby Union (F)		843	
16-45 years	F'ball/Hockey	11492	11968	
18-45 years	Rugby	10645	11124	
18-55 years	Cricket	16989	17881	
Over 55 years	Non active			5205

Population Totals within Active Age Groups (2028)

Active Age Group	Sport	Male	Female	Mixed
0-5 years	Non active			4823
6-9 years	Football			3578
8-12 years	Rugby			4661
10-15 years	Football	2846	2701	
11-15 years	Hockey	2354	2236	
11-17 years	Cricket	3124	2986	
13-17 years	Rugby	2140	2056	
16-17 years	Rugby Union (F)		750	
16-45 years	F'ball/Hockey	10635	11213	
18-45 years	Rugby	9865	10462	
18-55 years	Cricket	15121	15830	
Over 55 years	Non active			7231

Population Breakdown (2028)

	Total	Male	Female
0 - 4	3,928	2,023	1,905
5 - 9	4,473	2,303	2,170
10 - 14	4,787	2,461	2,326
15 - 19	3,802	1,926	1,876
20 - 24	2,860	1,335	1,525
25 - 29	2,735	1,267	1,468
30 - 34	3,408	1,645	1,763
35 - 39	4,134	2,033	2,101
40 - 44	4,653	2,306	2,347
45 - 49	5,082	2,543	2,539
50 - 54	5,197	2,559	2,638
55 - 59	6,806	3,313	3,493
60 - 64	8,117	3,851	4,266
65 - 69	8,456	4,006	4,450
70 - 74	7,718	3,644	4,074
75 - 79	7,231	3,236	3,995
80 - 84	6,776	2,871	3,905
85 - 89	3,832	1,456	2,376
90 and over	3,354	1,082	2,272
Totals	97,349	45,860	51,489

www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/default.asp

TEAM GENERATION RATE CALCULATOR

Local Authorities covered: **Rother and Hastings**

Date work completed: **Apr-16**

Work undertaken by: **4 global Consulting**

	Age Groups	Pop'tion within Age group	Age group as a % of total active pop'tion	Number of Teams within age group	Teams generated per 1000 pop	Pop in age group needed to generate 1 team	Future Population for Active age group	Total Number of teams required in 2028	Additional teams required in 2028
Football:									
Mini-soccer (U7-U10s) -	6-9yrs	3657	8%	42	11.5	87	3578	41.1	-0.9
Youth football - boys	10-15yrs	2717	6%	69	25.4	39	2846	72.3	3.3
Youth football - girls	10-15yrs	2537	6%	1	0.4	2537	2701	1.1	0.1
Men's football	16-45yrs	11492	25%	39	3.4	295	10635	36.1	-2.9
Women's football	16-45yrs	11968	27%	1	0.1	11968	11213	0.9	-0.1
Totals for football		32370		152	4.7	213	30974	145.4	-6.6
Cricket:									
Junior cricket - boys	11-17yrs	3105	7%	27	8.7	115	3124	27.2	0.2
Junior cricket - girls	11-17yrs	2957	7%	0	0.0	N/A	2986	N/A	N/A
Men's cricket	18-55yrs	16989	38%	43	2.5	395	15121	38.3	-4.7
Women's cricket	18-55yrs	17881	40%	1	0.0	17881	15830	0.9	-0.1
Totals for Cricket		40932		71	1.7	577	37062	64.3	-6.7
Hockey:									
Junior hockey – boys	11-15yrs	2258	5%	2	0.9	1129	2354	2.1	0.1
Junior hockey – girls	11-15yrs	2114	5%	1	0.5	2114	2236	1.1	0.1
Men's hockey	16-45yrs	11492	25%	4	0.35	2873	10635	3.70	-0.3
Women's hockey	16-45yrs	11968	27%	2	0.2	5984	11213	1.9	-0.1
Totals for Hockey		27831		9	0.3	3092	26438	8.5	-0.3
Rugby Union:									
Mini-rugby - mixed	8-12yrs	4473	10%	3	0.7	1491	4661	3.1	0.1
Junior rugby - boys	13-17yrs	2188	5%	1	0.5	2188	2140	1.0	0.0
Junior rugby - girls	16-17yrs	843	2%	0	N/A	N/A	750	N/A	N/A
Men's rugby	18-45yrs	10645	24%	3	0.3	3548	9865	2.8	-0.2
Women's rugby	18-45yrs	11124	25%	0	N/A	N/A	10462	N/A	N/A
Totals for Rugby Union		29274		7	0.2	4182	27879	6.7	-0.3
Total Area Population for all active age groups (6-	45079		Totals	239		Total Additional Teams in 2028			-13.9



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3.0 Sports Facilities

3.1 Bowling Greens

Bowling greens are to be maintained to retain a true level playing surface, free from pests, moss and weeds over the full extent of the greens. Maintenance should aim to provide a healthy sward, while attempting to achieve a playing speed of 11 – 12 seconds (as tested through STRI test – the time a wood takes to travel over a pre determined distance). Ditches are to be kept clean and clear of moss, weeds and litter at all times throughout the playing season.

3.1.1 Switching and Brushing

Carry out the work in the early morning and time operations to enable other works to be executed as specified.

When occurring allow frost to disperse before operations are carried out. Do not switch or brush when frost remains in the ground or when disease is present.

Additionally, between October and April (inclusive), carry out switching and brushing in the early morning on a daily basis. All greens should be drag brushed on at least one occasion per week.

3.1.2 Mowing

Cut the grass with approx. 500mm width pedestrian operated single cylinder mowers having not less than 10 cutting blades on the cylinder and achieving 80 cuts per metre. Machines shall be well maintained and correctly adjusted to give a clean cut without ribbing or bruising the sward and shall be fitted with grass collection boxes and fine combs or brushes which shall be correctly adjusted to avoid damaging the grass.

Cut as and when necessary in the playing season (Saturday nearest to 1st May to the Sunday nearest to the 1st October) to maintain the grass sward to a height of between 4mm and 5mm with a minimum of 3 mows on all greens in a week.

For the remainder of the growing season cut to a height of not less than 8mm and do not allow to grow higher than 12mm. Over a 2 week period starting at least 4 weeks before the start of the playing season, in even stages, gradually reduce the height of the cut to that specified for playing season. Prior to tournaments apply “GreenUp” or alternative liquid iron, as per manufacturers recommendations.

Where particular greens are to be utilised for tournaments cut the green on each day of play prior to play commencing to maintain the same height of cut as specified by the Contract Officer on all Tournament greens. Time each cut to allow for all other maintenance and preparatory operations to be completed in correct sequence. Allowance for weekend or Bank Holiday tournaments should be considered in all operational duties.

Commence mowing by cutting three widths around the perimeter of the green and then mow to achieve an even striped effect across the direction of play either diagonally across the greens or at right angles to the edges and covering the full extent of the greens varying the direction of cut on each occasion, this is finished off

by cutting two widths around the perimeter of the green. (Avoid mowing in the direction of play).

Edge the greens to maintain the grass at 9mm.

3.1.3 Fertiliser

Spring and Summer: supply and apply a Spring/Summer fertiliser at 35gms per square metre with an N.P.K. ratio of 20:5:8 + 2 Mg. Make three applications at regular intervals between March and the first week in August inclusive under suitable conditions.

Autumn and Winter: supply and apply an Autumn/Winter fine turf fertiliser at 35gms per square metre with an N.P.K. ratio of 3:0:12 + 3 Mg. Apply on one occasion in October under suitable weather conditions after scarification and hollow/solid tining has been completed. The Contractor is to ensure that all soil nutrients are adequate to maintain a good strong sward.

Irrigate immediately following the application of fertiliser to avoid scorching.

The Contractor shall carry out individual soil tests on each green in August, to determine PH and nutrient levels. The choice of material supplied thereafter should be aimed at correcting discrepancies in nutrient content etc.

3.1.4 Wetting Agent

During March to August, at monthly intervals, apply seaweed and wetting agent, which is to be purchased, supplied and applied at the Contractors expense. Type of wetting agent is to be approved by the Contract Officer.

3.1.5 Weeds

Greens are to be maintained weed free at all times.

3.1.6 Fungal Disease

Greens are to be maintained free of fungal disease, such as Fusarium, Red Thread.

3.1.7 Insect Pests

Greens are to be maintained free from insect pests, such as leatherjackets, chafer grubs.

3.1.8 Moss

The greens should be maintained free of moss.

3.1.9 Irrigation

Irrigate the greens ensuring water penetrates to a depth of 100-125mm as and when necessary from April to September to ensure optimum grass growth. Automated irrigation systems are supplied to all bowls greens.

Irrigation of greens shall be completed by 7.30 a.m. On any occasion where the green is not required for play on the day of irrigation, times may be varied with the consent of the Contract Officer.

During tournaments, irrigation should be completed by 4.30 a.m. Should any malfunction occur to the automatic system all additional hand watering costs will be met by the Contractor.

At the end of the bowls season drain down irrigation systems and close for Winter period. Prior to commencement of the new season recommission the irrigation and check for proper operation. The contractor will be responsible for all repairs/replacements required to sprinkler heads and their connection to supply pipes.

3.1.10 Legionella Control Measures

Appoint a named duty holder and named responsible person/s and authorised deputy/supervisor. The duty holder to keep a record of scheduled tasks in a legionella control logbook, to be supplied by the Contract Officer.

Scheduled Tasks:

For hose points in many locations: prior to use, flush the outlet direct to drain for a minimum of 2 minutes with a minimum production of spray so as not to inhale any droplets.

For bowls greens sprinkler systems in Alexandra Park, West Marina Gardens and White Rock Gardens, Hastings; The Polegrove, Egerton Park, Sidley Recreation Ground and Rye Town Salts, Rother; and cricket square sprinklers at The Polegrove, The Downs and Rye Cricket Salts, Rother: clean and disinfect tank and distribution pipe work. Drain and keep empty during off season. Clean and disinfect the tank and distribution pipe work at the end of each season before draining. Clean, disinfect and de-scale sprinkler heads, if necessary, prior to the start of the season.

3.1.11 Rolling

Roll using a 102Kg roller, the greens in two directions on 2 occasions during each of the months April to September (inclusive). Do not roll immediately following irrigation.

3.1.12 Spiking

During suitable conditions and using approved machinery fitted with air tines between April to September and normal tines from November to March. On a four weekly program to a depth of 100mm. In addition, using a sorrel roller, carry out surface aeration to a depth of 25mm. Allow for seven operations at regular intervals between April to September.

3.1.13 Scarification

On 8 occasions between April and September inclusive, carry out light scarifications in two directions across the full width of the greens. Using thatch prevention blades at a depth of 3mm.

In the last two weeks of September, scarify in four directions the full extent of the green. Penetration of the tines will be dependent on the extent of the work required and shall not exceed 9mm. Box off all arisings.

Following autumn scarification, box mow the grass leaving the height of the sward at not less than 5mm.

3.1.14 Aeration

Solid/Hollow Tine

Carry out hollow tine core extraction during October to 5 no greens per year for 3 years, allowing for no tine work during the 4th year. All other greens are to be solid tine to a depth of 100mm at 100 spacing. Remove all cores.

Sweep and rake surrounds, banks and pathways and leave in a clean, tidy condition.

3.1.15 Overseeding

Supply and sow grass seed at a rate of 17gm² evenly over the full area of the green.

3.1.16 Top Dressing

Following solid or hollow tining, supply and apply evenly over the full extent of the green, top dressing comprising sharp sand and sterilised loam, to be 70:30 sand soil mix, as agreed by the Contract Officer.

For hollow tining supply and apply a minimum of 5cu. metres per green. For solid tining supply and apply a minimum of 3cu. metres per green.

Work the top dressing into the surface of the green using lutes, dragmats or dragbrushes. Ensure all the holes are filled and a true, even playing surface is maintained. Avoid top dressing entering the ditches.

Sweep and rake clear surrounds, banks and pathways and leave in a clean and tidy condition.

Supply and apply top dressing in Spring to 'top up' any tine holes, where settlement of the Autumn dressing has occurred and re-seed any affected areas. Any areas of the green that have not had successful germination by December 1st should be re-seeded with a further light top dressing at the discretion of the Contract Officer.

3.1.17 Banks and Surrounds

3.1.18 Mowing

Bank surrounds should be treated as Ornamental Grass as spec. 1.1. Damaged covers shall be replaced at the Contractor's expense where such damage has resulted during the course of specified works. Cut all grass edges to maintain grass at between 9mm and 12mm.

3.1.19 Ditch Maintenance:

During the winter period, clean out ditches and the drain outlets to or from the ditches with draining rods. All mats should be cleaned after renovation work and in spring prior to start of the season.

3.1.20 Rink Markings Etc

Set out the green at the start of the season using rink markers and jack markers which are to be removed and replaced during routine maintenance. Before play commences each day, reposition rink markers and jack markers so as to vary the position of the rink on the green in accordance with the English Bowls Association's

recommended dimensions. Turn rinks through 90o once per week during the playing season. As soon as the playing season has finished, remove all markers to Contractor's store for the winter period. Markers will be supplied by the Contractor at the commencement of the contract period and thereafter supply replacements.

3.1.21 Turf Repairs

- Repair by re-turfing vandalised areas. (For areas not exceeding 10 m2).
- Cut out the full extent of the damaged or worn area leaving wedged edges and a square area for re-turfing. Carefully removing the old turf in order to preservethe level of the abutting and undisturbed turf.
- Lightly cultivate to produce a fine tilth to a depth of 30mm. Consolidate by treading and raking to produce a smooth, level base to receive the replacement turf.
- The turf is to be hand lifted in 300mm x 300mm turfs of an even thickness being not less than 25mm or more than 30mm.
- Supply and lay turf.
- When they cannot be laid within 24 hours of delivery they are to be laid out in an approved location, grass side up and appropriately maintained.
- Immediately turfing is completed, supply and apply a sharp sand dressing to match normal top dressing and brush well into joints between turfs.
- Remove all arisings to approved site on the completion of the work and leave the green and surrounds in a clean and tidy condition.
- Maintain the repaired area according to the type of routine maintenance for the season.

3.3 Cricket Squares

Cricket squares should provide a true and level surface, conducive to providing good consistent bounce, suitable for local league cricket. Maintenance should aim to provide a healthy sward of predominantly ryegrass and fescue, which should be free of. pests, (such as leather jackets), wormcasts, moss and weeds over the full extent of the playing surface. Throughout the year, keep all squares and surrounds free of debris, litter and other rubbish.

Rother: For sites located in Rother the Contractor is to maintain four no squares during the playing season as follows: The Downs, Bexhill – 25 wickets, The Polegrove, Bexhill – 60 wickets, Little Common, Bexhill – 55 wickets, The Salts, Rye – 55 wickets

The wickets to be used for each game are to be determined by the grounds men and cricket club on site. Any additional wickets will be requested by the Contract Officer and paid under non routine.

The playing season commences on the Saturday nearest to the 1st May and continues until the last Sunday in August.

3.3.1 Mowing

Cut the grass with a pedestrian operated cylinder mower having not less than 10 cutting blades on the cylinder and achieving 80 cuts per metre. Machines shall be fitted with grass collection boxes and fine combs or brushes to remove early morning dew prior to cutting, which shall be correctly adjusted to avoid damaging the grass.

Cut as and when necessary in the playing season to maintain the grass to a height of not less than 5mm and do not allow growth to exceed 10mm using not more than one machine per square on each occasion.

For the remainder of the growing season cut to a height of not less than 12mm and do not allow growth to exceed 25mm. Over a 2 week period starting at least 4 weeks before the start of the playing season, in even stages, gradually reduce the height of the cut to that specified for playing season. Dragbrush the squares at least once a month to smooth the surface and spread worm casts.

Carry out pre-match mowing parallel to and along the line of the wicket during closed season. At other times vary the direction of cut across the wicket to prevent formation of ridges.

3.3.2 Rolling Pre Season

Prior to commencement of the season and during suitable conditions using a 450Kg roller, for a minimum of 2 hours, roll the square in four directions, ending in the direction of play.

Roll the square with a 450Kg roller in two directions on 2 occasions each month during the playing season, in addition to wicket preparation rolling.

3.3.3 Fertiliser

- Supply and apply one application in March/April of a spring/summer micro fine turf fertiliser at 35 grams per square metre with an N.P.K. ratio of 18:0:0 + 6% iron.
- Supply and apply one application of a spring/summer micro fine turf fertiliser at 35 grams per square metre with an N.P.K. ratio of 18:0:0.
- Autumn and Winter.
- Supply and apply in October after scarification an autumn/winter micro fine turf fertiliser at 35 grams per square metre with an N.P.K. ratio of 4:0:8 + 2% iron.
- Irrigate following application to avoid scorching. If not precede by rain within 24 hours.

3.3.4 Irrigation

Irrigate the squares at regular intervals between April and September to maintain optimum grass growth and ensure that water penetrates evenly to a minimum depth of 100mm over the entire square. Do not water so that wicket preparation is adversely affected, apply sufficient water to ensure that rolling is effective.

3.3.5 Scarification

Operations shall be carried out using machinery having well maintained tines. Before the start of the playing season lightly scarify in two directions along the line of the wicket. Penetration of the tines shall not exceed 3mm. Box of all arisings and remove.

3.3.6 Autumn Renovations

All autumn renovations must be completed within one week, following the final match of the season. Thoroughly scarify the surface of the square in four directions to

remove thatch, horizontal stems and dead matter. Penetration of the tines will be dependant on the extent of work required and shall not exceed 9mm. Carry out operations along the line of and diagonally across the wicket and include the full extent of the square.

Immediately following autumn scarification, box mow the square leaving the height of the sward at not less than 10mm. Remove all arisings to approved site.

Aeration

Following autumn scarification, carry out solid tine spiking in 2 directions using 12mm diameter tines penetrating to a depth of 100mm and over the full extent of the square.

Top Dressing

Supply and apply top dressing to all squares as soon as autumn renovations are complete and after fertilizer has been applied. Apply evenly at the rate of 3Kg/m². The dressing is to be well worked in using lutes, drag mats or drag brushes.

Overseeding

Following autumn scarification and spiking, supply and sow grass seed evenly at the rate of 17gms/m² prior to the final luting of top-dressing. Worn or bare areas are to be over sown at the higher rate of 35gms/m².

3.3.7 Fungal Disease **SP021**

The cricket square must be maintained free of fungal disease (such as Fusarium).

3.3.8 Worms

The cricket square should be maintained free of casting worms.

3.3.9 Weeds

Maintain all squares free of weeds and moss by hand or by chemical controls.

3.3.10 Protection

During the season protect the square with rope and pins. Outside the playing season protect the square with 900mm chestnut pale fencing, adequately fixed and with access provided for retrieving footballs.

3.4 Football Pitches – Feature code SPFO (Plot ID 0.23)

Pitches will need to support the maximum number of games per season, through improved drainage, strong sward, level surface and good maintenance. Also important is the ability to renovate the pitches quickly after the last game of the season in order to give maximum establishment time. Note, some pitches dissect cricket outfields.

3.4.1 Mowing

Cut using a cylinder gang mower. Height of grass is to be maintained between 25-50mm from April to August (inclusive) and 50-60mm from September to March (inclusive).

Mowing of all pitches shall include the full extent of the playing field (but excluding cricket squares).

3.4.2 Aeration

Spike (with attached roller) the pitch to a minimum depth of 150mm at 150mm spacings using a solid or slit tine spiker, on 14 occasions each playing season, allow for a 14 day interval between each operation. Any wheel damage incurred shall be repaired within 24 hours.

3.4.3 Fertiliser

Supply and apply to the area of the pitches spring/summer fertiliser at 25gms per metre in April or May. Apply Autumn/Winter fertilizer applied during suitable conditions applied at the commencement of the playing season.

3.4.4 Weeds

Pitches are to be maintained 80% free of weed growth. An application of selective weed killer should be applied once during the growing season, approximately 10 weeks after germinated seed to all pitches. If the selective spray is not successful another application will be needed.

3.4.5 Mowing Reinstated Areas

Include reinstated areas in the mown area only when the grass is well established and has attained a height of 50mm, thereafter reducing the height of the grass on 2 occasions with a 7 day interval, by half on each occasion to attain the specified height for the facility and then maintain in accordance with football pitch mowing.

3.4.6 Surface Treatment

Using a hand fork or approved mechanical means to probe vertically to a depth of 200mm the goal areas and centre circles of each pitch to relieve surface compaction and allow surface water to drain away. Do not lift or displace turf.

Supply and apply sand to goal mouths and centre circles throughout the winter months to minimize mud and poaching. Walk the length of the pitch and replace divots and repair dangerous holes to the surface.

3.4.7 Setting Out and Marking

Within two weeks before the playing season, set out and mark the pitches in accordance with the rules of the game, ensuring that pitches are parallel-sided with true right angled corners, and in accordance with client's requirements. Remark the pitches to ensure at all times, lines are clearly visible and suitable for play for each game.

3.4.8 Goal Posts and Post Boxes: - Hastings Only

Metal posts and pins shall be supplied by the Contract Officer at the start of the contract period. At the end of the season the Contractor must re-cap goal post holes immediately and ensure that these caps are replaced as necessary throughout the summer months. Post caps must be replaced as required by the Contractor. The Contractor will be required to purchase and supply 2 no senior goals (or the equivalent) on a yearly rolling program with the agreement of the Contract Officer.

Immediately before the start of the playing season clean out and repair post boxes. Make good damage done to surrounding turf following repairs and repositioning of boxes.

Clearly mark, after erecting and final coat of paint has been applied, using black paint and a 2" stencil, on the centre rear of each crossbar, the respective pitch number.

Erect the correct posts with the crossbar at the correct height as required by the rules of the game for seniors and juniors respectively. Prior to the start of the season a yearly health & safety check of the structural stability of goalposts is to be undertaken at the Contractors expense by a suitably qualified safety inspector. A completed safety report is to be supplied to the Contract Officer.

3.4.9 Goal Posts, Post Boxes and Nets: - Rother Only

As per 3.4.8 with the exception that the clubs purchase, supply and erect their own nets and are wholly responsible for them. If any nets are damaged and or vandalised it is the responsibility of the clubs to replace.

3.4.10 Summer Practice Goals

There are a number of practice goal posts on certain sites. These goals must be maintained to the same specification as above. There will be no requirement to dismantle these posts at seasons end. However, the Contractor must ensure that all posts are secure and corrosion free at all times. Where excessive ground wear starts to occur within the goal area the Contractor will be required to relocate the goal in order to prevent severe goal mouth erosion. The new location for the goal is to be agreed by the Contract Officer prior to relocating.

Check weekly the stability and condition of goal posts and back irons, where any are found unstable insert chock blocks at base level. Where back irons require rethreading/ attaching this must be undertaken by a suitably qualified blacksmith, at the Contractors cost, with the exception of acts of vandalism, where the Contract Officer will be notified.

On every Friday during the football season the pitches are to be inspected and any remedial work (i.e. infilling of holes/dips, litter collection) undertaken by the Contractor are to be noted on a weekly report, approved by the Contract Officer, which shall be submitted every Friday during the playing season indicating the fitness of each pitch and any work undertaken/required to pavilions.

The Contractor shall then be responsible for providing storage for goalpost during the close season.

When vandalism to, or theft of any equipment is noted, report immediately to the Contract Officer and submit a written report detailing the nature and extent of any damage or loss. The Contractor will maintain adequate stocks of posts, and sockets etc. and replace with new material as required at the Contractors expense.

Return all equipment to relevant store at the end of the playing season.

Cap goal post boxes with caps supplied at the beginning of contract, thereafter by the Contractor.

During the closed season clean off all mud, rust and flaking paint from posts and boxes. Supply and apply one coat of metal primer as appropriate, one white undercoat, and, after erection on site, one coat of white gloss paint finish.

At the end of the contract period the correct equipment in correct numbers shall be returned and checked by the Contract Officer. Football teams will be supplied with nets by the Council and the teams will be responsible for putting up and taking down.

3.4.9 Goal Posts, Post Boxes and Nets: - Rother Only

As per 3.4.8 with the exception that the clubs purchase, supply and erect their own nets and are wholly responsible for them. If any nets are damaged and or vandalised it is the responsibility of the clubs to replace.

3.4.10 Summer Practice Goals

There are a number of practice goal posts on certain sites. These goals must be maintained to the same specification as above. There will be no requirement to dismantle these posts at seasons end. However, the Contractor must ensure that all posts are secure and corrosion free at all times. Where excessive ground wear starts to occur within the goal area the Contractor will be required to relocate the goal in order to prevent severe goal mouth erosion. The new location for the goal is to be agreed by the Contract Officer prior to relocating.

3.4.11 Pitch Reinstatement

At the end of the season (April/May) the Contractor is to allow for reinstating all goal mouths by removing compaction, forking and topping up with soil, firming, forking and seeding. All turfing works requested will be done under contract rates.

3.4.12 Closed gate notices

At various times during the playing seasons closed gate notices will need to be displayed at some grounds if a league game requires it, these will be supplied by the Contract Officer when necessary. See Weekend special duties 3.11.

3.5 General Playing Field Areas And Margins

Areas referred to herein shall include all areas of grass within the defined boundaries of grassed playing fields and sports facilities which do not comprise any facility for which maintenance is specified elsewhere, and shall not include banks leading down to watercourses and other identified areas requiring special attention. All areas will be treated as amenity grass, with the exception of Football pitches and cricket outfields.

3.5.1 Football Mowing

Described under football (3.5).

3.5.2 Cricket Outfields

Cut throughout the playing season on Thursday or Friday to 25mm, height of grass must not exceed 50mm. For the rest of the growing season treat as amenity grass spec.

3.6 Hard Tennis Courts and Basketball Courts –

Hard tennis courts are to be maintained having a true level playing surface, free from pests, moss and weeds. At all times the courts surface, stop netting and gates shall be maintained in a safe and effective condition for play.

3.6.1 Sweeping

Throughout the year keep all courts free of litter, leaves and water by sweeping. Sweeping to remove water shall be carried out in such a manner that the direction of the work is at all times away from footpaths and other thoroughfares used by the public. Collect all litter, leaves, loose grit and any other debris arising and remove.

3.6.2 Weeds and Moss

Maintain all courts free of weeds and moss by hand or by chemical controls.

3.6.3 Marking Out

- During April, re-mark line markings on all courts in accordance with the relevant Association measurements.
- Maintain line markings in a clear, solid, well defined condition throughout the year. Line widths shall be 50mm measured to the outside of lines, using suitable rubberized marking materials.

3.6.4 Stop Netting and Gates

- In April and July, lubricate gate hinges and fastenings.
- Make minor repairs to stop netting and maintain in safe and effective condition.

3.6.5 Damage

Where damage occurs to boundary fencing, submit written report detailing the nature and extent of the damage.

3.6.6 Tennis Nets, Wires, Tapes, Net Posts, Winders and Hoops

All tennis nets, wires, tapes, net posts, winders and hoops shall be supplied by the Contractor at the beginning of the contract period.

Immediately vandalism to, or theft of any equipment is noted, inform the Contract Officer and submit a written report detailing the nature and extent of any damage or loss. The Contractor must replace any badly damaged or missing net within 48 hours and maintain adequate stocks to ensure replacement.

Nets, wires, tapes, hoops and posts shall be purchased and supplied by the Contractor and set up at the beginning of each season and maintained/repared throughout the playing season. In April, nets, wires, tapes, posts and winders to be painted, oiled and maintained by the Contractor.

3.7 Football Pavilions – Rother District Only

Football pavilions are utilized from early September through to the end of April, mainly on Saturdays and Sundays. During that time they should be maintained in a clean, safe condition as specified below. Allow for extra cleans during April to accommodate mid-week games.

Clean all floors by sweeping/washing leaving surfaces as dry as possible. Clean walls to remove marks and dust ledges. Thoroughly clean/disinfect shower areas, including walls/floors. In showers fitted with curtains, these shall be wiped down with clean solutions to remove all deposits. Clean and disinfect all WC pans, urinals and hand basins, ensuring all operate effectively without leaks. All litter and arisings are to be removed from site.

The contractor is to provide toilet rolls and replacement light bulbs, including fluorescent bulbs (disposal arrangements are to be in place by the Contractor). A report is to be provided to the Contract Officer weekly on the condition of each facility.

There are three pavilions in the Rother contract that have shower facilities which will need to be turned on and off if the pitch has been booked with showers. The Downs, The Polegrove and Buxton Drive. See weekend special duties 3.11.

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The contractor will arrange for staff to open car park barriers and pavilions at the commencement of the playing period, ensuring facilities are adequate for purpose. At the close of play pavilions and car parks are to be secured, ensuring that the water is not left running and lights/ electrical items are switched off. Graffiti is to be removed from surfaces within 48 hours.

3.7.1 Fire Extinguishers and Associated Signs

Annual inspections, tests repairs and replacement of equipment are to be carried out by Client. Contractor is to report any damage noted during routine visits immediately to Contract Officer.