

Eastleigh Borough Council

Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy

2023 – 2036

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1. Introduction – Brief, Scope, Vision and Aims

1.1 Background

The new Eastleigh Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy 2023-2036 produced in line with Sport England's latest guidance forms the updated evidence base to the previous Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy Update 2017.

Continuum Sport and Leisure were commissioned by the Council to lead on the production of the new strategy, which has been agreed by all the key indoor and outdoor national governing bodies of sport following the Sport England process. Each authority in the country is encouraged to produce this evidence base to inform future decisions regarding the demand and supply of existing and new playing pitches and built sports facilities in a given area. The strategy documents inform an action plan which detail potential facility developments based on the demand and supply analysis. This action plan will be reviewed and amended, in partnership with stakeholders and the Strategy Steering Group where necessary on an annual basis.

The supply side information contained in the strategy is generated through standard facility audits used for all levels of facility from park to elite sport, with findings then corroborated by the relevant national governing body of that sport. The demand side information is generated from surveys of current and potential users including local sports clubs as well as club and team data provided by the relevant governing bodies of sport and facility booking records where available. The Council's Leisure Service has provided context and a local perspective on the overarching vision and principles driving the strategy and the outcome objectives.

The resulting action plan is a guide on how enhanced and new facilities might be developed, pending viability testing, funding confirmation and planning permission where necessary, where they might be developed and the lead organisation to meet identified demand, exploit opportunities that may arise and provide sustainable management and operational models. Often projects are delivered through the Council or the sport's governing body engaging with voluntary, education or commercial partners. Each potential project identified in the action plan will be reviewed and re-evaluated considering the situation at the time. The strategy and action plan provide a 'snapshot' of the position at the time of writing. Factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered during the life of the strategy.

When applying for funding to develop new facilities, Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport, and most other funding organisations, require evidence of the current demand and supply of facilities in an area to justify the proposed project. This strategy - developed and agreed in partnership with these same organisations - is the document that provides this information and is vital to the success of any funding bid.

Through the implementation of this strategy, the Council has a major role to play in providing access to sporting opportunities at a cost that is acceptable to the wider community. The council has a role to play as a direct provider of entry level facilities such as free to use casual football pitches and community access park tennis courts as well as pay and play summer and winter sports pitches and leisure facilities with changing and toilet facilities to allow clubs to play competitively.

The Council, and Town and Parish Council's in Eastleigh also play an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and empowering community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate existing and new facilities.

The strategy document comprises two parts – Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and Built Sports Facilities (part 2) – each with an action and implementation plan.

1.2 Why the Strategy Has Been Developed

Alongside the need for the Council to ensure an up-to-date evidence base and need within the local plan, the purpose of the strategy is to support the Council’s overarching principles of positively shaping the future of Eastleigh. A key part of the future provision is the Council’s important direct and indirect contribution to improving health and increased physical activity levels of Eastleigh residents. The strategy will assist in establishing how to best meet the current and future health and wellbeing needs of Eastleigh’s community clubs, organisations and residents, contributing to the priority of making the borough of Eastleigh a better place to live and work.

The Council’s main rationales for producing this updated strategy and associated action plan are detailed below:

- To ensure that the Borough has an up to date framework for the prioritisation, provision and development of sports and leisure facilities across the public, private and independent sectors.
- To support the implementation of the Council’s adopted local plan policies relating to the protection, enhancement and provision of community sport and physical activity facilities.
- Provide an evidence-based framework to support negotiations with developers who may provide funding or other assistance to improve local provision.
- Help set the context for decisions on the future and priority of sports / leisure facilities in the Borough.
- Provide a robust evidence base to support funding bids.
- Support the Council’s Corporate Plan, adopted Local Plan, Sustainable Strategy as well as County wide and regional priorities.

1.3 Improvement Projects Achieved

The Council has achieved a number of projects since the last strategy in 2017.

These include the improvement to playing pitches such as:

- Stoneham Lane Football Complex comprising of 2 oversized 3G pitches, 1 full sized stadia 3G, new grass pitches and ancillary facilities.
- New 3G ATP Wyvern Sports College and Deer Park School.
- New grass pitches at Boorley Green and Berrywood Meadows.
- Two new NTP’s, improvements to grass football pitches and resurface of the hockey AGP at Wide Lane Sports Ground.
- Re-laid NTP at Royal Victoria Sports ground.
- Floodlights added to Rugby grass pitches at The Hub.

and the following Built Leisure Facilities projects:

- New Places Eastleigh leisure Centre including 25m 8 lane pool, a 20m x 10m learner pool and 15 court sports hall.
- New 4 court sports hall at Deer Park Secondary School.
- New 4 Court sports hall at Hiltingbury Recreation Ground Sports Complex
- Improvements to Wildern School pool, changing facilities and activity hall.

1.4 Vision and Key Deliverables

The vision for the Eastleigh Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy is to provide an assessment of the needs for playing pitches, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessment should identify specific needs and quantitative and/ or qualitative deficits or surpluses of playing pitches, sports and recreational facilities across Eastleigh Borough.

The 5 key deliverables of the Eastleigh Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy are as follows:

1. Comply with statutory policies and guidance for the assessment of needs and opportunities for sport, open space and recreational facilities.
2. Provide an understanding and comprehensive audit of existing provision (including those already allocated) of all types of playing pitches, sport and recreational facilities, including the quality of supply and their condition.
3. Identify the current and projected local need (supply and demand against anticipated population growth) for specified playing pitches (as detailed later in the brief) as well as for indoor and outdoor sports facilities.
4. Assess the quantitative and qualitative deficits and/ or surpluses of built leisure facilities and playing pitches as well as options for dealing with them now and in the future; this should inform decisions on land to be “identified” and/ or “designated” as open space and protecting them in their existing use and/ or to inform decisions on allocating land for other forms of development; and
5. Provide a robust and comprehensive evidence base to inform the Council’s decision-making processes in planning applications and public inquiries, particularly with regard to mitigation and offsetting any potential losses.

1.5 The Extent of the Study Area

The study area will cover the entirety of Eastleigh Borough. As an important part of the Strategy will be to identify future need for pitch provisions and facilities based on population growth and areas of housing growth as shown in Figure 1.1. Consideration is given to leading areas of growth such as One Horton Heath (2,500 dwellings), Land North and East of Borley Green and Botley (1,400 dwellings) and South of Chesthunt Avenue, Eastleigh at Stoneham Park (1,150 dwellings).

Figure 1.1 – Map of Eastleigh



There are also sports teams from inside Eastleigh that use facilities outside the borough boundary as well as teams from neighbouring local authority areas that use facilities in Eastleigh. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when considering future needs for each particular sport both in terms of specialist and strategic facilities that serve a sub-regional catchment area, and the local community sporting needs for Eastleigh residents.

1.6 The Approach to Developing the Strategy

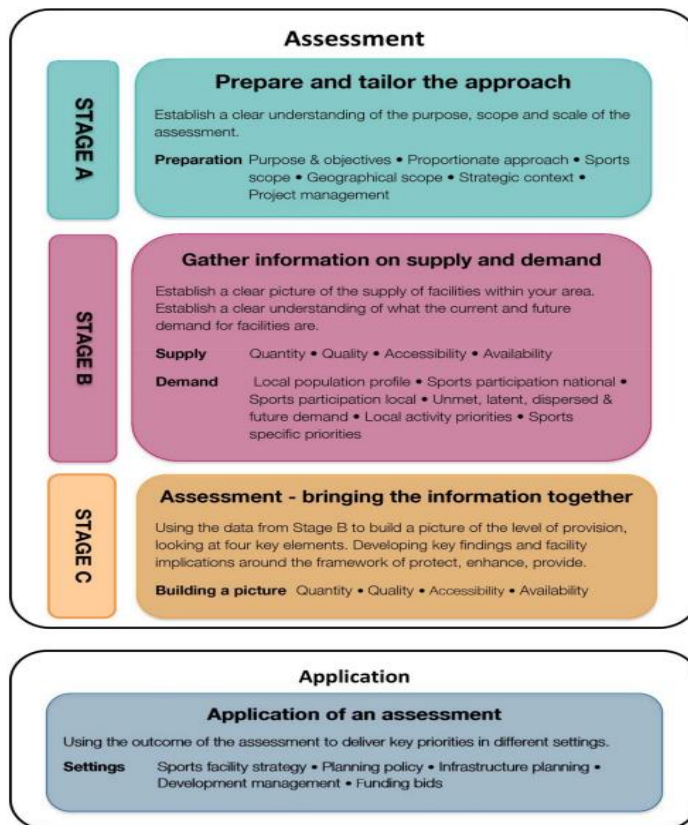
The strategy aims to be robust, based on local needs (currently and projections to 2036), and deliverable. This objective is assured by adhering to the 'ten steps' advocated in the current Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' and the 'Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities'. This guidance is detailed below.



Figure 1.2 - Ten Stage Approach to a PPS

- Stage A** - Step 1: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- Stage B** - Step 2: Gather supply information and views.
- Step 3: Gather demand information and views.
- Stage C** - Step 4: Understand the situation at individual sites.
- Step 5: Develop the current and future pictures of provision.
- Step 6: Identify the key findings and issues.
- Stage D** - Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan.
- Step 8: Write and adopt the strategy.
- Stage E** - Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy.
- Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up to date.

Figure 1.3- Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities (ANOG)



Stage A – Prepare and tailor the approach: Establish a clear understanding of the purpose, scope and scale of the assessment.

Stage B – Gather information on supply and demand: Establish a clear picture of the supply of facilities within the area and the current and future demands for facilities.

Stage C – Assessment – Bringing the information together: Using the data from Stage B to build a picture of the level of provision, looking at four key elements. Developing key findings and facility implications around the framework of protect, enhance, provide.

Application – Application of an assessment: Using the outcome of the assessment to deliver key priorities in different settings.

National Policy Adherence

There is also a need to adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Para 102 of the NPPF states: *“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate”.*

Sport England’s guidance highlights the importance of undertaking detailed assessments of sports facility needs and the benefits of sports and physical activity within local authority areas (as well as considering the range of possible options and scenarios for meeting priority needs and achieving positive outcomes identified through this process), before making recommendations for future action.

Specifically, the guidance recommends that local authorities:

1. Recognise and give significant weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity.
2. Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessments of need and strategies for

sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them.

3. *Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.*

The guidance published by Sport England also advocates that strategic recommendations and action planning consider the following hierarchy of needs:

1. **Protect** existing sports facilities where these are sustainable and continue to perform a valuable role in meeting community needs.
2. **Enhance** existing facilities that meet these criteria but need improvement to continue to be of value; and, lastly,
3. **Provide** new or extended facilities where there is found to be substantial unmet needs currently or predicted for the future.

1.7 Tailoring the Approach - What makes the study area different?

There are a number of sport specific issues which the Council had consulted with the leading NGBs on prior to the commencement of this strategy, these include:

- Football – Stoneham Lane Football Complex and Places Eastleigh host the Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer Central Venue League, meaning significant imported demand. There is a number of clubs in the area that have grown significantly since the last strategy.
- Rugby – Two clubs in the area serving the population of Eastleigh, Trojans FC are just over the border in Test Valley.
- Hockey – A number of hockey clubs in the area including the University and Trojans HC serving the residents of Eastleigh, loss of key site Crestwood Community School who have stopped community use.
- Cricket – Two large clubs in the area Trojans and Fair Oak, availability of community facilities an issue and imported and exported demand in the area.
- Significant housing growth in the area.

Population Profile and Growth

Any facilities which are developed from the study will need to meet the needs of Eastleigh’s future populations as well as its current population. Hampshire County Council produces Small Area Population Forecasts (SAPF) which help to enable future planning for local populations in Hampshire. Figure 1.4 summarises the most up to date population projections which are available for Eastleigh. These projections are from 2021 to 2036.

Figure 1.4 Population Projection for Eastleigh and Hampshire 2021 - 2036

Area	2021 Population	2028 Population	2036 Population	% increase
Eastleigh	135,404	141,722	146,900	8.49%
Hampshire	1,395,291	1,428,034	1,454,344	4.23%

Figure 1.0 demonstrates that Eastleigh’s population is projected to grow by over 8% from 2021 to 2036, this is larger than the regional average in Hampshire which is 4.23%. This considerable increase of population indicates that the current provision of facilities for sport, physical activity, and recreation in Eastleigh will be under pressure in the coming years as this growth occurs.

Health

It is useful to understand the health profile of Eastleigh both in regard to identifying health issues which new or improved facilities can contribute to addressing and with regards to understanding the propensity of a local population to be active. Eastleigh’s Local Authority Health Profile (statistics ranging from 2015 to 2021) states that the health of residents is better than the national average with a higher life expectancy for both men and women.

Figure 1.5 provides an overview of the performance of Eastleigh across several Department of Health key health indicators in comparison with national averages. Where figures for Eastleigh are highlighted in red, they are worse than the national average, however, many of Eastleigh health statistics are better than the national average.

Figure 1.5 Table of health indicators in Eastleigh and England

Indicator	Eastleigh	Region	England
Deprivation (IMD Score)	10.2	15.1	21.7
% Children in low-income families (U16)	8.8	10.8	15.3
% Prevalence of obesity (Year 6)	19.0	20.0	23.4
% Physically active adults	69.0	70.5	67.3
% Obese or overweight adults	71.2	62.7	63.8
% Estimated diabetes diagnosis rate	72.9	75.2	78.0
Life expectancy: male	81.7	80.6	79.4
Life expectancy: female	84.8	83.8	83.1
Under 75 mortality rate: cardiovascular	55.7	63.10	76.0
Under 75 mortality rate: cancer	126	112.9	121.5
Suicide rate	9.3	10.6	10.4

Figure 1.5 shows that Eastleigh performs well in comparison to the national averages with scores that are above the national average for eight out of eleven health indicators. However, some of the statistics are worse than the national average. Therefore, it is vital that facilities for leisure are built so they can help contribute to maintain the positive indicators shown and reducing the worrying levels of health including obese and overweight adults and physically inactive adults. According to Sport England, sport and physical activity can help with several different physical and mental issues including reducing the risk of diabetes, heart disease, depression and many more health indicators listed previously. Therefore, by improving the leisure facilities at key sites, the residents will have more access to the opportunity of bettering their health.

Deprivation

When planning for the development of new facilities for leisure it is important to consider deprivation levels within the borough and surrounding areas. Deprivation and the social and economic factors behind the figures directly affect the propensity and ability of the catchment population to access and use facilities and be active. Investment into community facilities can also form an important element of the regeneration of deprived areas. An awareness of how deprivation affects a local population can also influence how activities are delivered and what type of initiatives are launched to increase participation.

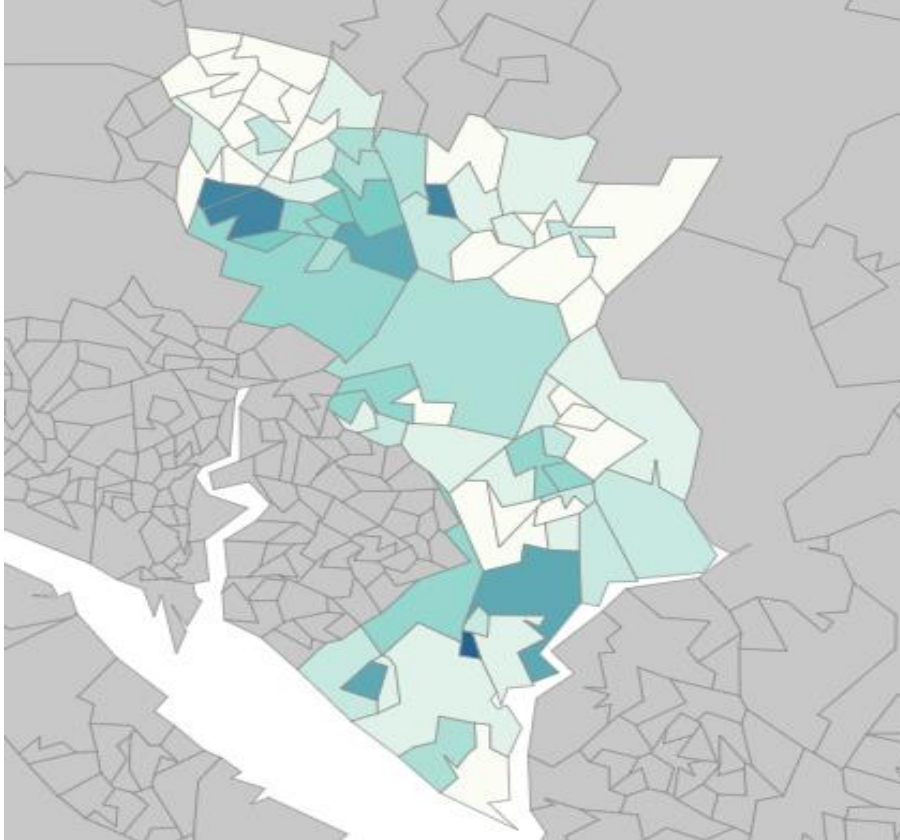
Figure 1.6 illustrates Eastleigh’s deprivation rank against other area within the region for the years 2015 and 2019. As shown on the table, with the sample size changing Eastleigh’s deprivation rank has slightly improved from 2015 to 2019 (where rank 1 is most deprived). Eastleigh is below some of their neighbouring areas with regard to the deprivation rank despite being the 11th least deprived area in Hampshire (4th bottom).

Figure 1.6 Eastleigh and neighbouring areas deprivation rank

Area	2015 Rank	2019 Rank
Eastleigh	290/326	288/317
Southampton	54/326	55/317
Winchester	298/326	293/317
Fareham	303/326	298/317

Figure 1.7 shows a map of Eastleigh split up into wards with different colours outlining their relative Index of Multiple Deprivation (The darker blue areas are the most deprived Local Super Output Areas). Understanding the most deprived areas of Eastleigh is helpful in knowing the neighbourhoods which may have the most difficulties accessing sport and leisure facilities due to their lack of resources.

Figure 1.7 Levels of deprivation across Eastleigh by Local Super Output Areas



The most deprived areas on the map are Pilands Wood, in Bursledon followed by Velmore in Chandlers Ford, Fleming Park, in Eastleigh and West Bishopstoke - Central. These are neighbourhoods to consider when looking at the development of leisure facilities and initiatives to increase participation and accessibility.

How does the population participate?

Sport England’s Active Lives Survey provides a comprehensive assessment of physical activity and sports participation at a local authority, county, regional and national level. Active Lives measure a range of performance indicators including activity rates, indoor and outdoor activity, and satisfaction with local sports provision. Active Lives also provides analysis of activity across a range of demographics including, gender, deprivation levels and age.

Figure 1.8 outlines the percentage of the population of Eastleigh, local districts and Hampshire County who participated in moderate intensity physical activity for at least 30 minutes per week during each of the aforementioned periods. The table shows that regular physical activity participation in Hampshire varies between districts. Eastleigh (63.2%) and Southampton (63.4%) recorded physical activity rates which are comparable to the national average (63.1%) in November 2021-22. However, this is roughly 4% less than the percentage of active residents across Hampshire, and 10% less than the activity rates in Winchester. This suggests that, despite participation rates being a national average in Eastleigh, residents are less active than the regional average. Physical activity rates may increase following the development of new or improved sports and leisure facilities.

Southampton displayed the greatest increase in physically active residents from November 2019-20 to 2021-22, recording a 4.7% increase in active adults. Eastleigh also showed similar increases in participation rates (4%), which is greater than the increases at county (2.8%) and national level (1.7%). This suggests that there is an increase in propensity to exercise and remain physically active in Eastleigh, which should be capitalised on in the built leisure facilities and playing pitch strategies.

The inactivity data for Eastleigh is also insightful and useful to consider in building a complete picture of physical activity levels. The Active Lives survey also measures the proportion of people who had not completed 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity. Figure 1.8 provides the inactivity data for Eastleigh, surrounding districts, Hampshire, and England and shows that inactivity levels have decreased from 2019-20 levels across all districts other than Winchester, which saw a 0.1% rise in inactivity over the 3 year period. Inactivity increased in Eastleigh, Hampshire, and nationally during 2020-21, likely due to the restrictions put in place to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Eastleigh has recovered well from this, with inactivity levels falling back to below pre-COVID levels in 2021-22.

Despite inactivity rates in Eastleigh (22.9%) being lower than the national average (25.8%), the county (21.2%) and Winchester (19.9%) are slightly lower. When considering new or improved leisure facilities, areas with higher inactivity rates should be strongly considered. Better quality or quantity of sports and leisure facilities in these areas could result in an overall increase in physical activity, by targeting inactive populations and removing barriers to exercise, which is in line with the strategic objectives of Sport England and providing facilities which offer the ability for people to be physically active in a more informal and recreational manner. Figure 1.9 provides the latest Active Lives activity data in graph form for Eastleigh, Hampshire and England.

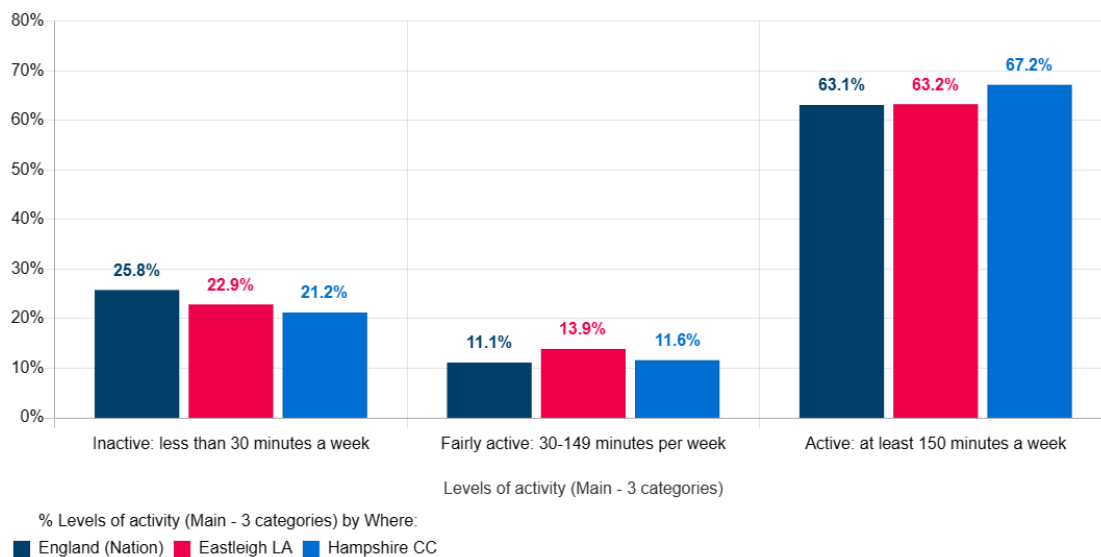
Figure 1.8 Levels of Activity across Eastleigh, Southampton, Winchester compared to Regional and National data for the last 3 years

Area	Year	Active (150+ mins of physical activity per week)	Fairly Active (30 - 149 mins of physical activity per week)	Inactive (less than 30 mins of physical activity per week)
EBC	2019-20	59.2%	16.5%	24.3%
	2020-21	62.2%	12.8%	25.0%
	2021-22	63.2%	13.9%	22.9%
SCC	2019-20	58.7%	10.9%	30.4%
	2020-21	61.6%	11.0%	27.4%
	2021-22	63.4%	11.7%	24.9%
WCC	2019-20	71.0%	9.3%	19.8%
	2020-21	73.7%	8.3%	18.0%
	2021-22	73.0%	7.1%	19.9%
Hants CC	2019-20	64.4%	13.2%	22.4%
	2020-21	65.3%	11.1%	23.6%
	2021-22	67.2%	11.6%	21.2%
England	2019-20	61.4%	11.5%	27.1%
	2020-21	61.4%	11.5%	27.2%
	2021-22	63.1%	11.1%	25.8%

Figure 1.9 Activity Levels in Eastleigh, Hampshire CC and England 2021-22.

Levels of activity (Main - 3 categories)

Nov 21-22



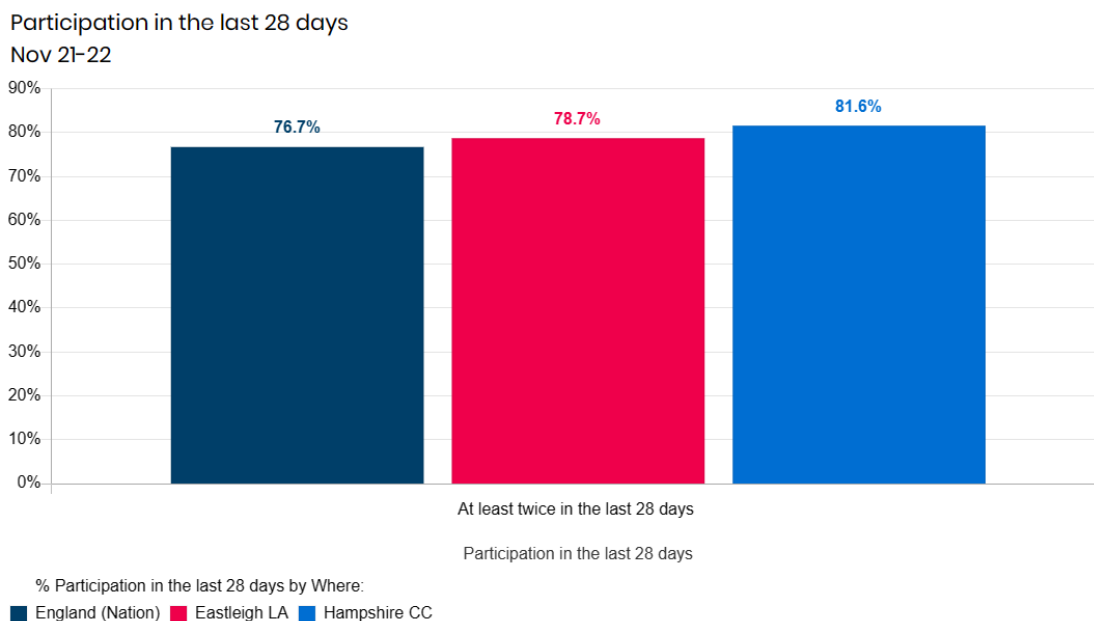
Regular participation trends (figure 1.10) show nominal increases in regular participation across Eastleigh (0.8%), Winchester (0.4%), and Hampshire as a whole (1.3%). However, data for Southampton shows a marked increase in regular participation since 2019 (5.2%).

Data for Eastleigh suggests that regular participation in 2021-22 is slightly lower than the Hampshire average, with 78.7% of Eastleigh residents partaking in physical activity twice in the last 28 days compared to 81.6% across Hampshire. In comparison to national averages (76.7%) however, there is a slightly greater rate of regular participation in Eastleigh (78.7%). Figure 1.11 provides the latest Active Lives activity data in graph form for Eastleigh, Hampshire and England.

Figure 1.10 Participation in the last 28 days across Eastleigh, Southampton, Winchester compared to Regional and National data for the last 3 years.

Area	Years	Regular participation (at least twice in the last 28 days)
Eastleigh	2019-20	77.9%
	2020-21	78.0%
	2021-22	78.7%
Southampton	2019-20	71.0%
	2020-21	74.3%
	2021-22	76.2%
Winchester	2019-20	83.3%
	2020-21	84.9%
	2021-22	83.7%
Hampshire	2019-20	80.3%
	2020-21	80.1%
	2021-22	81.6%
England	2019-20	75.4%
	2020-21	75.6%
	2021-22	76.7%

Figure 1.11 Participation in the last 28 days



The proportion of adults in Eastleigh classed as ‘Active’ (at least 150 minutes a week) has increased by 10.1% (from 53.1% to 63.2%) since Nov 15-16 (Figure 1.12). Over the same period, the figure for inactive (less than 30 minutes a week) residents has decreased by 6.7% (from 29.6% to 22.9%). Regular adult participation (at least twice in the last 28 days) has increased since Nov 15-16 from 73.3% to 78.7%, a decrease of 5.4% (figure 1.13).

Figure 1.12 Levels of activity Participation Trends

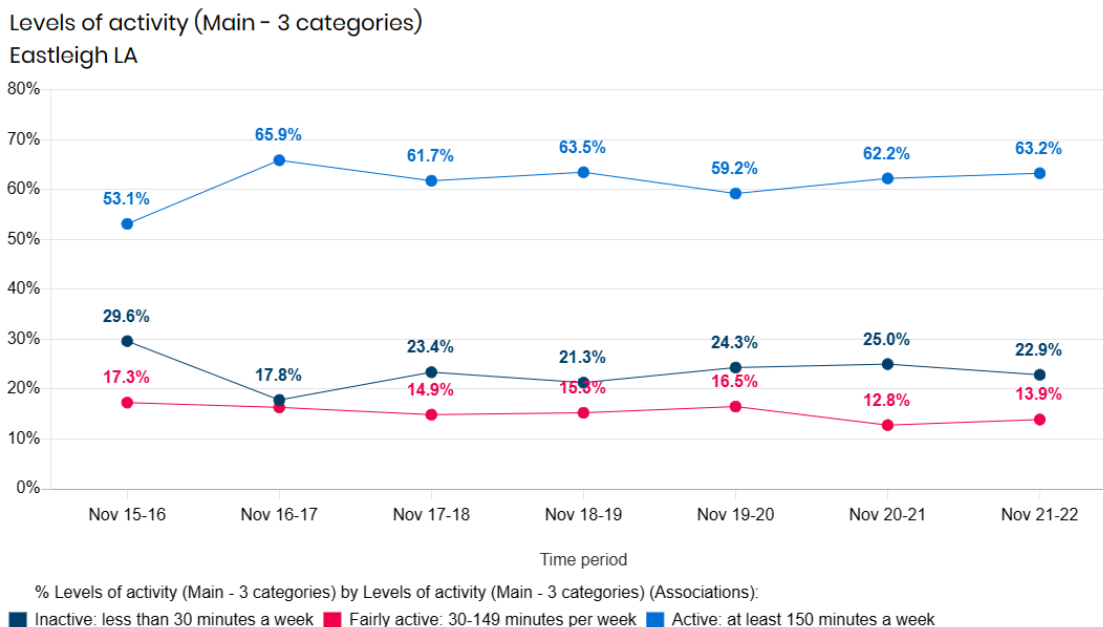
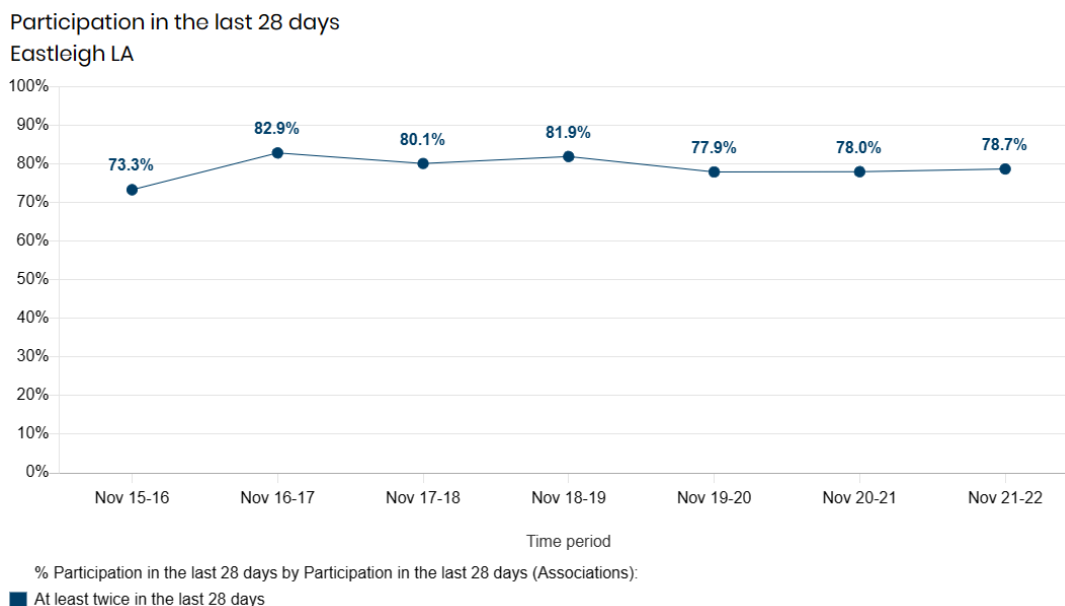


Figure 1.13 Regular participation trend



Childrens physical activity rates in Eastleigh are comparable to the regional and national average, with a slightly greater proportion of physically active children (49.0%) than the regional (48.2%) and national (47.2%) rates (Figure 1.14)

Figure 1.14 Levels of Children’s physical activity

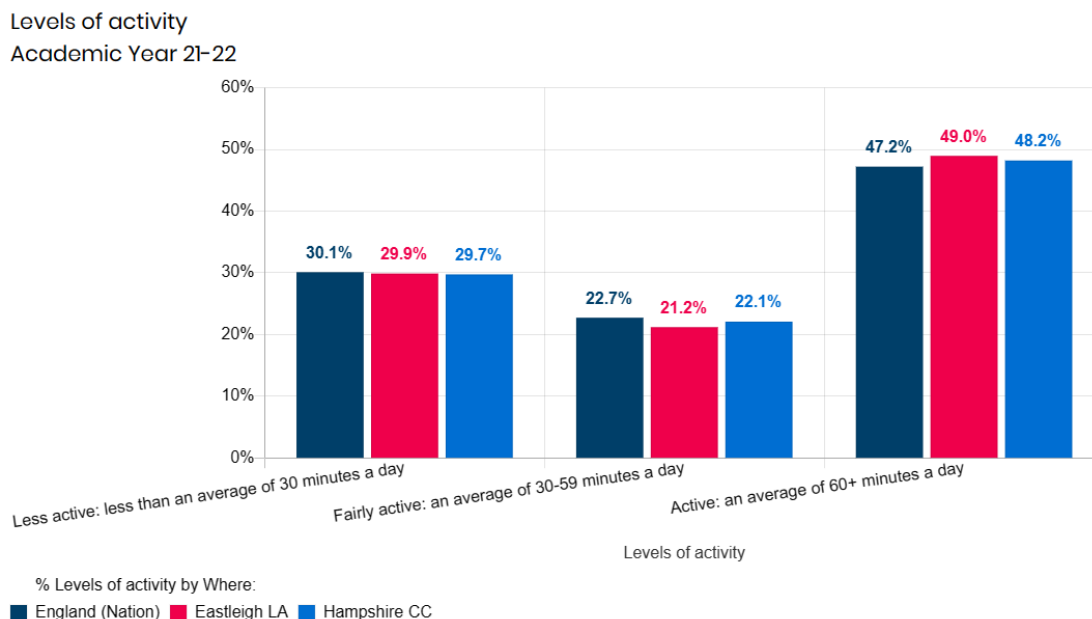
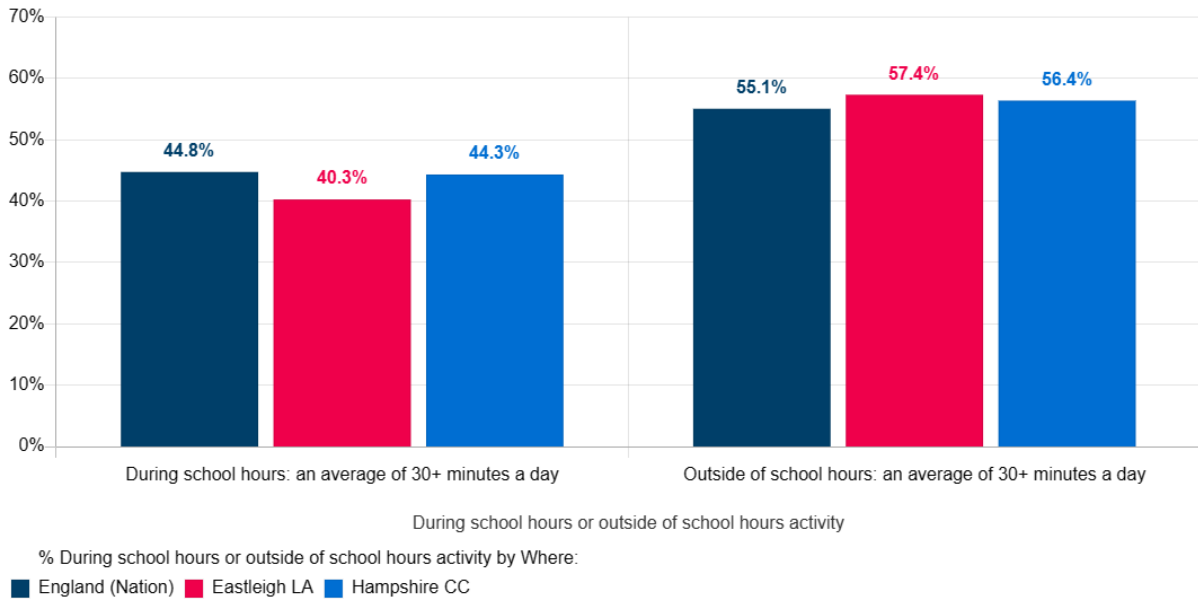


Figure 1.15 considers the extent of activity by children during school hours and outside of school hours. The data shows a noticeable decrease in rates of physical activity during school hours in Eastleigh (40.3%) compared to the regional (44.3%) and national (44.8%) average. This decrease is compensated for in the participation outside of school hours data, which is higher in Eastleigh (57.4%) compared to Hampshire (56.4%) and England (55.1%).

Figure 1.15 Children’s physical activity during school hours or outside school hours

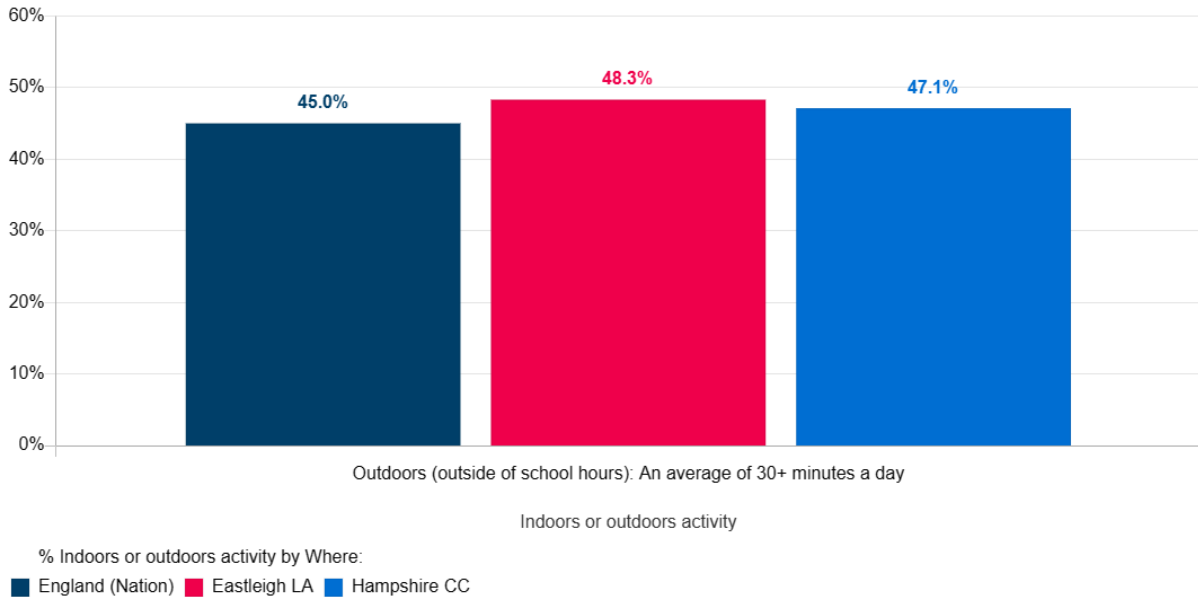
During school hours or outside of school hours activity
Academic Year 21-22



Of Eastleigh’s activity recorded outside of school hours, 48.3% was outdoor activity, rather than indoors. This proportion is slightly greater than the rates in Hampshire (47.1%) and nationally (45.0%).

Figure 1.16 Children’s physical activity outdoor out of school hours

Indoors or outdoors activity
Academic Year 21-22



Club Survey Overview

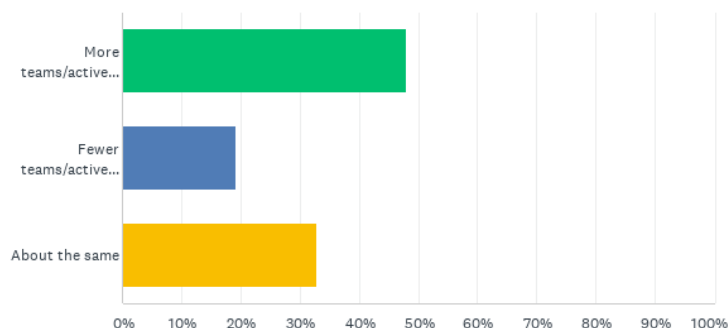
To understand the current landscape of clubs in Eastleigh, the demand and issues facing each specific sport covered within the strategy, data was collected from a survey which was distributed to the sports clubs in the borough. By analysing the data, it provides insight into whether the current level of provision for sport and physical activity is meeting the demands of these sports, the existing and latent demand for growth as well as potential priority project developments. A summary of the results of the club survey is provided below. 72 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey, these clubs are compiled of both indoor and outdoor sports. Figure 1.17 shows the spread of responses for each sport.

Figure 1.17 Club Responses – Spread of Responses

Answer Choices	Responses	
Athletics	12.16%	9
Badminton	13.51%	10
Basketball	8.11%	6
Bowls	5.41%	4
Boxing	2.70%	2
Cricket	13.51%	10
Exercise, movement or dance	9.46%	7
Football	41.89%	31
Golf	6.76%	5
Gymnastics	4.05%	3
Hockey	13.51%	10
Netball	6.76%	5
Rugby Union	6.76%	5
Squash	6.76%	5
Swimming	10.81%	8
Table Tennis	5.41%	4
Tennis	9.46%	7
Volleyball	5.41%	4
Other (please specify)	20.27%	15
	Answered	72

Figure 1.18 Club Responses – Growth Trend last 3 years

Q7 Does your Club/Organisation have more or fewer teams/active members than three seasons/years ago, or has the number of teams/active members stayed about the same?

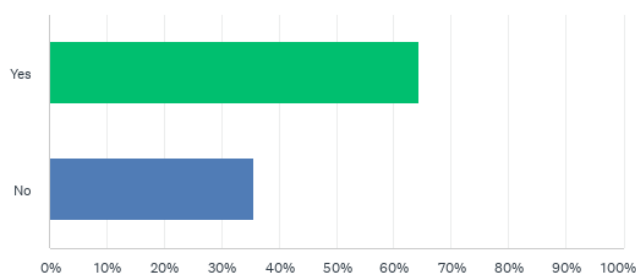


47.95% of sports clubs reported an increase in active members from three years ago with nearly a third of clubs reporting similar levels of active members. Whilst this is a mostly positive response, the impacts of COVID-19 on active members in the three years prior to the survey would lead to a more significant

prevalence of clubs with increased active members once the restrictions on travel and facility usage have been lifted. This growth however highlights an increasing the need and demand for sporting provisions.

Figure 1.19 Future Growth

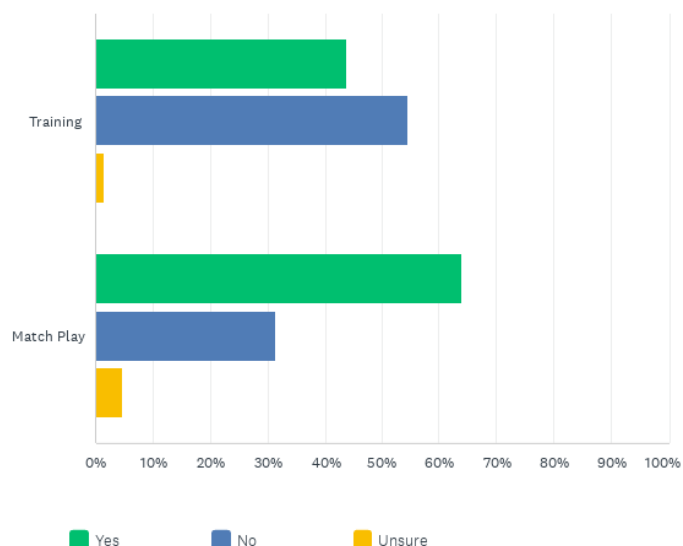
Q9 Does your Club/Organisation have plans to grow in the next three seasons/years?



Looking to the future, almost two thirds of the clubs surveyed were positive regarding plans for growth over the next three years/seasons, emphasising further the strength of the club sector in Eastleigh as well as likely rising demand. The remaining 35.62% of the respondents do not have any further plans to grow, this signals that there is a need to maintain the current provisions for these clubs to remain sustainable. Further sport and club specific needs are detailed in both the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy sections in the main strategy.

Figure 1.20 Club Needs – Meeting Demand

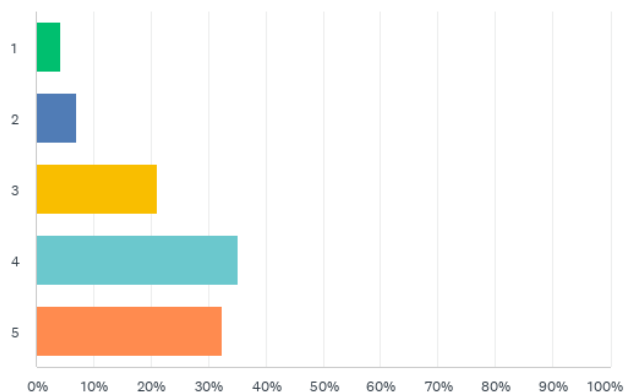
Q12 Is your current number of hours/pitches/evenings sufficient to meet the demand for your Club's/Organisation's activities for training and match play?



Over 50% of the clubs responded that they do not have sufficient programming time available at the sporting venues they access to meet current training demand from their memberships and 31% for match play. This shows the supply or availability of facilities and resources is not meeting the demands of the sports clubs, signalling a potential need to increase accessibility and capacity of sport facilities.

Figure 1.21 Club Response – Ratings

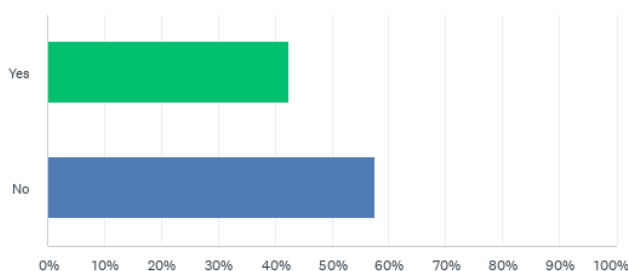
Q17 How do you rate the quality of your Club's/Organisation's main playing facilities, including playing surface? (1 being very poor and 5 being very good)



In terms of the quality of the stock of sports facilities available to the sports clubs in the area, just under 70% of respondents rated their playing facilities as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ and 21% as ‘average’. This is a largely positive response, suggesting that the current quality of sports facilities in Eastleigh is suitable for the clubs and organisations that use them. With over 30% of respondents rating their facilities as ‘average’ or below, there is some demand for upgrades to facilities and improved maintenance to enhance the facility stock within the borough. Site and sport specific venue needs are detailed further in the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Leisure Facility Strategy sections.

Figure 1.22 Main site – improvements

Q19 Is there a need to change your Club's/Organisation's main playing facilities to sustain or grow your club/Organisation?

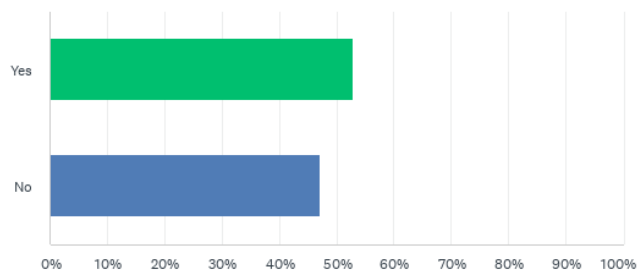


43.24% of sport clubs believe they are in need of change or improvements to their current main playing facilities to sustain or grow their club. This data shows that support is clearly needed for those clubs who are keen to promote growth or in many cases to ensure sustainability and longevity. Whilst the strategy details a number of enhancements and investment needs for sport and physical activity, the Council also acknowledges that in difficult financial times, the maintenance of the current stock of facilities is of prime importance as well as planning for the future.

The clubs surveyed cited a range of aspirations and facility needs to grow their clubs, individual club responses, from a range of sports, are included in Appendix F.

Figure 1.23 Club Growth and Sustainability

Q20 Is there a need to improve the quality of the facilities to sustain or grow your Club/Organisation?



52.78% of the respondent clubs consider they need to improve their facilities to sustain the appeal of their club to existing members and to attract new members. This is an evident issue for accommodating the growth of sports clubs as nearly half of sports clubs in the area have grown in the past three years, as identified in figure 1.19. Therefore, whilst a high majority of clubs are keen to expand further, there appears a link to need to invest in the wider infrastructure for clubs such as ancillary / support facilities to support this. Further site and sport specific issues are detailed in the main strategy sections that follow.

The Impact of Cost of Living on clubs and organisations

It is important to investigate how the economic environment is affecting clubs and participants so that they can be supported. Significant financial impacts may reduce clubs’ ability to operate sustainably, and negatively impact members ability to continue participating. The 67 responses to Q8, ‘What impact (if any) do you think the ‘cost of living crisis’ will have on your club/organisation, were thematically analysed to identify key themes in the impact of cost of living on clubs/organisations. The results from this analysis are displayed in figure 1.24.

Figure 1.24 Key themes of the impact of cost of living on clubs and organisations

Key Themes	Responses
Increase in Membership/Playing Fees	18
Increase in Pitch/Facility Hiring Costs	10
Loss of Participants	10
Increased Fuel or Travel Costs	7
Increased Running Costs	5
Reliance on Grants/External Funding	5
Provision of Hardship Funding for Participants	5

The most common impact of increased cost of living was the rise in membership and playing fees for participants. These increases in fees were often cited to be caused by other key themes such as increased travel and facility hire costs. Increased membership costs exclude residents of lower financial income from taking part in the clubs’ activities, thus lowering participation, physical activity, and health and wellbeing in more deprived areas. This is further impacted by clubs’ being unable to financially support the provision of hardship memberships for participants whereby the club/organisation provide financial support to those who require it. Initiatives like these need to be protected to ensure physical activity rates increase in deprived areas.

Survey summary

Many clubs are looking to grow over the next three years, and they are reporting needs for further development of facilities to achieve these goals. The data has shown that whilst the majority of clubs are satisfied with the facilities that they have access to, some highlight a need for improvements. Most clubs believe they are in need of funding to grow for a range of reasons, many of which are linked directly to facilities and improving the accessibility of provisions to members.

A few of the challenges surrounding the facilities in Eastleigh have been mentioned in the survey through an 'additional comments' question. Through these comments, it is clear that larger venues are in demand in the area as clubs struggle to have enough time for their growing memberships as the need for more sessions increase. Further site specific and sport specific issues are picked up in the main strategy sections that follow.

1.7 Tailoring the Approach - Which sports to include?

The Council agreed that the indoor sports facilities to be included in the strategy are:

- Swimming pools
- Sports halls (to include consideration of both multi-sport halls and specialist facilities for the sports of indoor cricket, gymnastics, trampolining, cheerleading, table tennis, martial arts, boxing and basketball, tennis and bowls)
- Health and Fitness venues (gyms, dance and exercise class/spin studios).

It was also agreed that the outdoor facilities to be included in the strategy are:

- Football
- Rugby (Union & League)
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Hockey
- Bowls
- Athletics and running
- Netball
- Squash
- Water based activities – angling / canoeing / kayaking / sailing / white water rafting / open water swimming / rowing / windsurfing / paddleboarding.
- Cycling – BMX / Cycle hubs
- Skate parks

Within these sports and facilities, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:

- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for cricket),
- Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport's governing bodies affiliated structures), and
- Un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.

1.8 Management and Delivery

The development of the strategy has been managed by the Eastleigh Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy Steering Group. Internal stakeholders within the steering group include representatives from Eastleigh Borough Council's Sport, Leisure, Culture, Parks, Neighbourhood and Planning services.

The external stakeholders included in the Steering Group made up of representatives from Sport England, Energise Me (Active Partnership), Football Foundation, Hampshire Football Association, England Rugby, England Hockey, Hampshire Cricket, England & Wales Cricket Board, Swim England, and

Continuum Sport & Leisure Ltd, the consultants appointed to co-ordinate the strategy development to the point of the recommendations and action plan.

As part of the process the consultant team also consulted with the following other National Governing Bodies: British Canoeing, British Gymnastics, Bowls England, England Boxing, England Netball, England Athletics, Lawn Tennis Association, Badminton England and Hampshire Squash.

The views of the National Governing Bodies consulted are reflected in the sport's specific sections. Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby (Union and League) in the Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment of Needs Appendices and the others as part of the Built Leisure Facilities Strategy Section 2 - Sports Specific Analysis.

Eastleigh Borough Council
Playing Pitch and Built Facilities Strategy
2023 – 2036

Section 2 (part one) – Playing Pitch Strategy



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1 - Introduction

This document is Part 1 of Eastleigh Borough Council's Playing Pitch & Built Leisure Facilities Strategy 2023-36 – the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The PPS, when adopted, will replace the previous Playing Pitch Strategy adopted in 2014 and updated in 2017.

Consistent with the previous strategy this PPS includes consideration of facility supply, demands, accessibility and availability for the four primary playing pitch sports:

- Cricket
- Football
- Hockey
- Rugby

Within these sports, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:

- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for cricket),
- Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport's governing bodies affiliated structures), and
- Un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.

In accordance with the national guidance for the development of playing pitch strategies, section 2 of the Eastleigh PPS sets out the findings of the assessment of needs for playing pitch facilities in the study area, both currently and in the future.

The findings are presented in summary format and should be read in conjunction with separate appendices for each playing pitch sport (Appendices A – D). These documents provide the findings of the detailed research and consultation undertaken to ensure that the facility needs findings summarised in section 2 are fully robust.

The section concludes with recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing facilities and for the provision of new facilities where considered necessary to address identified current or future needs to 2036.

Section 3 of this PPS sets a range of potential future change scenarios (e.g., loss of key playing pitch sites, new provision, substantial population growth in a particular area) and strategic scenarios for addressing identified needs (e.g., change of use from one pitch sport or pitch surface to another, greater community use of education playing pitches).

The PPS scenarios considered have emerged from discussion with the members of the Eastleigh Sports Facilities Strategy Steering Group and inform the policy recommendations and action plan that follow in Section 4 of the overall Playing Pitch & Built Leisure Facilities Strategy.

1.1 Trends in Participation in Pitch Sports

Nationally, Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey (ALS) data report published in April 2023 and covering the 12 months from November 2021 to November 2022 shows that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taking part at least twice in the last 28 days) in the leading playing pitch sports in England by adults (aged 16+) has generally recovered to pre covid levels.

- **Football** – has returned to pre covid levels of 4.4% from 3.2% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to covid, regular adult football participation fell from 5.0% in 2016/17 to 4.4% in 2018/19.

- **Cricket** – has increased to 0.8% above pre covid levels of 0.7%, which matches its highest level of participation since ALS started recording figures in 15/16 at 0.8%. In the three years prior to Covid, regular adult cricket participation was consistent at 0.7%.
- **Rugby Union** – has not fully recovered to pre covid levels of 0.5% but has increased to 0.4% from 0.3% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to covid, regular adult participation dropped from 0.6% in 2016/17 to 0.5% in 18/19.
- **Hockey** – has returned to pre covid levels of 0.3% from 0.2% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to covid, regular adult participation increased from 0.2% in 2016/17 to 0.3% in 2018/19.

With regard to female participation, the 12 months from November 2021 to November 2022, the Active Lives data shows ‘significant increase’ in participation in England compared to the previous 12 months in football (+0.3%), as well as in hockey, cricket and rugby union (0.1% in each sport).

In the six years since the last update of the playing pitch strategy in Eastleigh, there has been significant changes in the local picture of both pitch supply and pitch demand.

In the case of **cricket**, summer 2022 saw most larger clubs recover to pre-pandemic levels. Old Netley & Highfield Cricket Club is the most notable exception to this reporting the loss of two adult and three boys age grade teams since 2020. In term of cricket facilities, the last six years have seen a reduction of one fine turf pitch at College Playing Fields but additional provision in other areas including an extension of the fine turf square at Lapstone Playing Fields and a reinstated fine turf pitch at Hardmoor for use by Trojans Sports Club’s cricket teams. Further cricket facility improvements include a re-laid artificial non-turf pitch (NTP) at Royal Victoria Sports Ground, two new NTPs at Southampton University’s Wide Lane Sports Ground, and one each at Bursledon Recreation Ground, Botley Recreation Ground and Deer Park School.

Football pitch supply has undergone even greater change with the provision in 2019 of three new third generation artificial football turf pitches (AGPs) at Stoneham Lane Football Complex - two supersized (120x85m) and one full sized (105x70M), plus, in 2021, a further full sized 3G AGP at Deer Park Secondary School. Toynbee School’s 3G AGP was resurfaced in 2018 and Wyvern College’s pitch was extended to full size and resurfaced in 2021. Since the previous review, new natural turf pitches have been laid at Boorley Park Sports Pavilion, Berrywood Meadows and Deer Park School, and improvements have been made to the quality of grass pitches at Stoneham Lane Football Complex and Wide Lane Sports Ground. These new and improved football facilities have been required to meet a large uptick in demand most particularly in youth and mini soccer from both boys and girls. Overall, the last six years have seen an increase in registered teams of +210 – nearly 58% on 2017.

With regard to **hockey**, the supply of sand based artificial pitches has reduced as the pitch at Crestwood Community School (Shakespeare Campus) which has been unavailable for community use since the Covid pandemic. More positively, Southampton University has made improvements to the quality of the pitch at its Wide Lane Sports Complex. This reduction in hockey pitch supply has coincided with a modest contraction in hockey demand in the Eastleigh area. The two largest clubs - Trojans HC and Hamble HC - have both lost two teams in recent seasons.

Since 2017, **rugby union** in Eastleigh has lost one natural turf pitch at the Council owned and maintained Youth Options Hub site, the home ground of Eastleigh RFC. However, this loss of capacity has been partially offset by the provision of floodlighting to two of three remaining rugby pitches at the ground. Demand in the men’s game has not changed significantly since the last review in 2017. However, in the

women and girl’s game, growing demand is reflected in the reforming of a women’s section and development squad in the 2022/23 season.

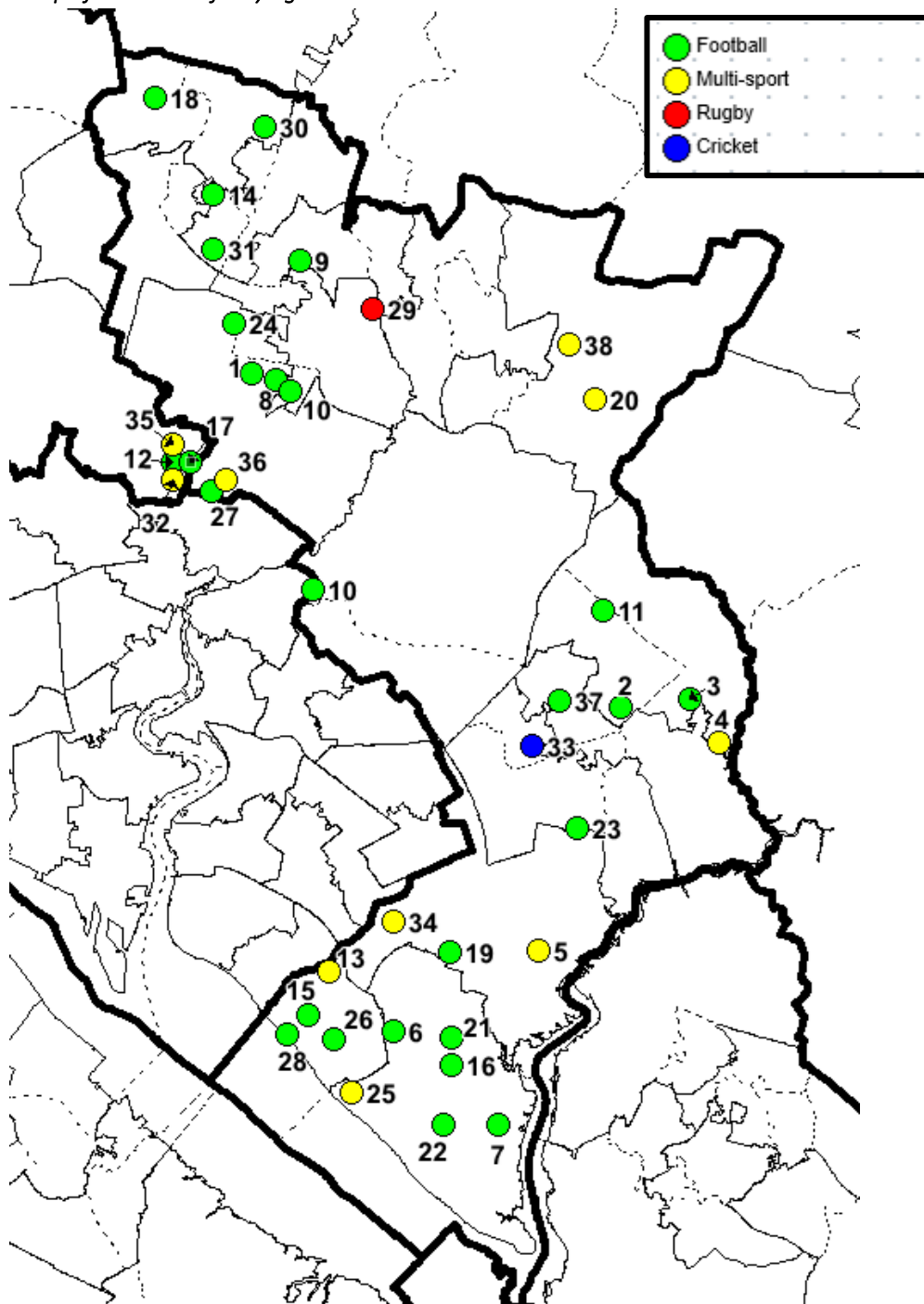
1.2 Natural Turf Playing Pitches

The sites with natural turf playing pitches in Eastleigh are listed in Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2 shows the distribution of natural turf playing pitch sites across Eastleigh.

Figure 1.1 Natural turf playing pitches in Eastleigh.

No	Site Name	Postcode	Sports
1	BARTON PEVERIL COLLEGE	SO50 5ZA	Football
2	BERRYWOOD MEADOWS	SO30 2HT	Football
3	BOORLEY PARK SPORTS PAVILION	SO32 2TG	Football
4	BOTLEY RECREATION GROUND	SO30 2EA	Football / Cricket
5	BURSLEDON RECREATION GROUND	SO31 8DA	Football / Cricket
6	BUTLOCKS HEATH	SO31 5FR	Football
7	COLLEGE PLAYING FIELDS (ROY UNDERDOWN PAVILION)	SO31 4HN	Football
8	CRESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL (CHERBOURG CAMPUS)	SO50 5EL	Football
9	CRESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL (SHAKESPEARE CAMPUS)	SO50 4FZ	Football
10	CUTBUSH LANE REC. GROUND (WEST END FOOTBALL FACILITY)	SO18 3HY	Football
11	DEER PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL	SO30 2HT	Football
12	EASTLEIGH FC (SILVERLAKE STADIUM)	SO50 9HT	Football
13	FOLLAND SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB	SO31 4NS	Football/ Cricket
14	FRYERN RECREATION GROUND	SO53 2LE	Football
15	HAMBLE COMMUNITY FACILITY	SO31 4BU	Football
16	HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX	SO31 4NE	Football
17	HARDMOOR	SO50 9HT	Football
18	HILTINGBURY RECREATION GROUND	SO53 5NP	Football
19	KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD (BURSLEDON)	SO31 8FF	Football
20	LAPSTONE PLAYING FIELDS	SO50 7PS	Football / Cricket
21	MALLARDS MOOR (HAMBLE UNITED FC)	SO31 4NE	Football
22	MOUNT PLEASANT RECREATION GROUND	SO31 4ND	Football
23	NORMAN RODAWAY SPORTS GROUND	SO30 0PA	Football
24	PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH	SO50 9NL	Football
25	ROYAL VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK	SO31 5HH	Football / Cricket
26	STATION ROAD RECREATION GROUND (NETLEY REC GROUND)	SO31 5EA	Football
27	STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX	SO16 2PA	Football
28	THE CRICKET FIELD	SO31 5FA	Football
29	THE HUB	SO50 6LA	Rugby
30	THORNDEN SCHOOL	SO53 2DW	Football
31	TOYNBEE SCHOOL	SO53 2PL	Football
32	TROJANS SPORTS CLUB (TEST VALLEY)	SO50 9HT	Rugby / Cricket
33	TURNPIKE WAY RECREATION GROUND	SO30 4TS	Cricket
34	VT SPORTS GROUND	SO19 9PW	Football / Cricket
35	WELLINGTON SPORTS GROUND	SO50 9HT	Football / Cricket
36	WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND	SO50 5PE	Football / Rugby / Cricket
37	WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE	SO30 4EJ	Football
38	WYVERN COLLEGE SPORT AND FITNESS	SO50 7AX	Football / Rugby

Figure 1.2 Map of Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites



1.3 Artificial Turf Playing Pitches

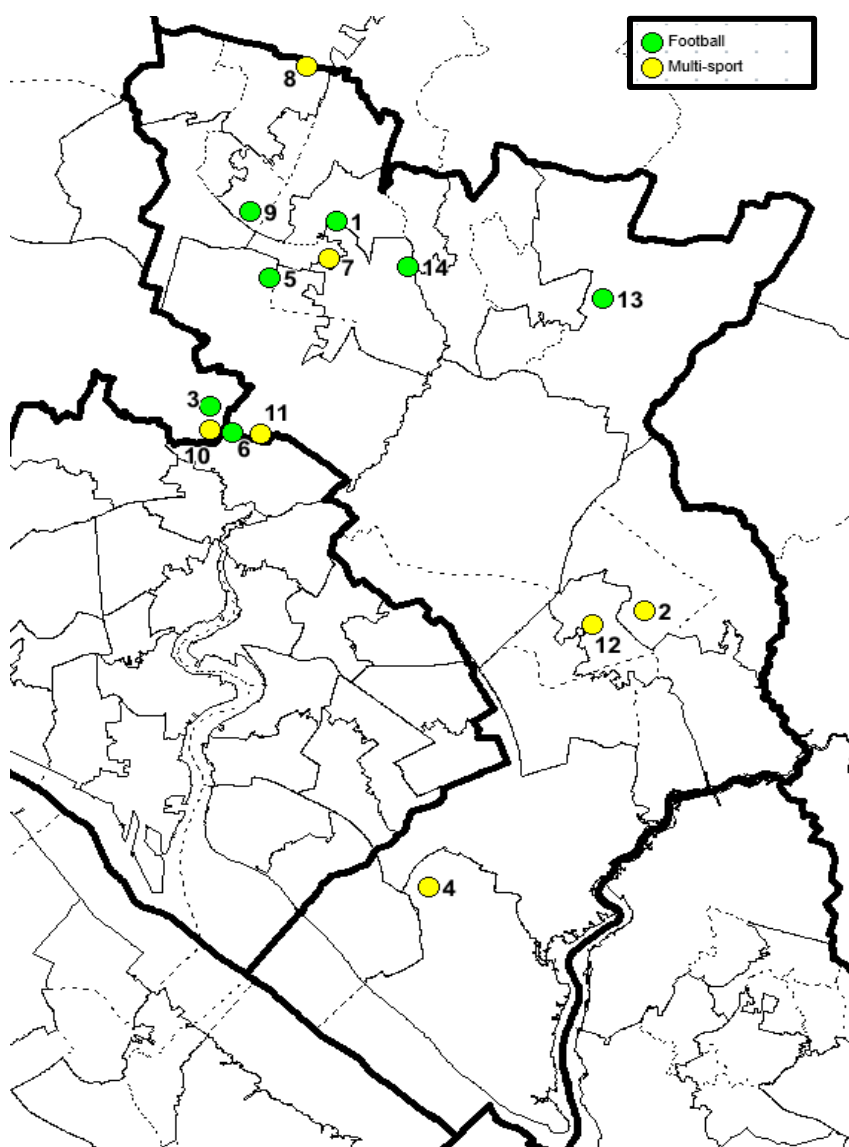
Sites in Eastleigh with artificial grass playing pitches (and the sports the sites provide for) are listed in Figure 1.3. The locations of these artificial pitches showing their distribution throughout Eastleigh are in Figure 1.4.

For cricket, NTP means Non-Turf Pitch which is an artificial strip located adjacent to a fine turf table or as a standalone wicket instead of a fine turf wicket table, this type of facility is used mainly for junior cricket and for recreation level adult cricket and practice.

Figure 1.3 – Artificial Turf Playing Pitches in Eastleigh

No	Site Name	Post Code	Sports
1	CRESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL (SHAKESPEARE CAMPUS)	SO50 4FZ	Football / Hockey
2	DEER PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL	SO30 2HT	Football / Cricket
3	EASTLEIGH FC (SILVERLAKE STADIUM)	SO50 9HT	Football
4	HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX	SO31 4NE	Football / Hockey
5	PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH	SO50 9NL	Football
6	STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX	SO16 2PA	Football
7	THE CRESCENT PRIMARY SCHOOL	SO50 9DH	Football / Hockey
8	THORNDEN SCHOOL	SO53 2DW	Football / Hockey
9	TOYNBEE SCHOOL	SO53 2PL	Football
10	TROJANS SPORTS CLUB (TEST VALLEY)	SO50 9HT	Football / Hockey
11	WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND	SO50 5PE	Football / Hockey / Cricket
12	WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE	SO30 4EJ	Football / Hockey
13	WYVERN COLLEGE SPORT AND FITNESS	SO50 7AX	Football
14	THE HUB	SO50 6LA	Football

Figure 1.4 - Distribution of AGP sites in Eastleigh





PPS Section 2 –
Findings and Facility Needs



2 – Findings and Facility Needs

The key findings of the detailed Assessment of Need reports for the four major playing pitch sports played in Eastleigh are summarised in this section leading to conclusions as to the playing pitch facility needs. These reports (covering Stages B and C of Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance) and supporting site-specific audit reports have been checked and challenged by representatives of the relevant sport's governing bodies and are appended as follows:

- Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix C: Hockey - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of Need and Site Audit

This chapter provides an overall summary of supply, planned and proposed changes to supply, current and latent demand, covering the following leading questions as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy methodology.

- What are the main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision?
- Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?
- Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
- What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?
- Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

2.1 Current supply and demand

The number of playing pitch sites and playing pitches in Eastleigh available for community use - both in 2023 and in 2017 (the date of the most recent update to the 2014 PPS) - are set out in Figure 2.1 below for each pitch type (natural turf and artificial turf) and for each of the major playing pitch sports for which there is a current demand in the borough.

Figure 2.1 – Supply of Community Use Pitches and Sites

	No. of Sites ¹		No. of Pitches	
	2023	2017	2023	2017
Cricket fine turf ²	9	10	12	13
Cricket NTP	7	3	8	3
Football grass	32	37	82	100
Football AGP ³	13	6	18	9
Hockey AGP	5	6	5	6
Rugby grass	4	4	11	12
Rugby AGP	0	0	0	0

The most significant changes in playing pitch supply over the last six years are:

- Loss of community access to a number of education playing fields – for example Crestwood Community School (Shakespeare Site) resulting in no access to the sand dressed hockey pitch or grass football pitches.

¹ Includes the **Trojans Sports Club's** pitches located just over the boundary in Test Valley directly adjacent to Eastleigh's reinstated Hardmoor Sports Field managed by Trojans SC under a long lease agreement with Eastleigh Borough Council. The playing pitch facilities at these two grounds serve residents of both local authority areas.

² Excludes Ageas Bowl cricket pitch as not available for community use.

³ All surface types & pitch sizes (14 3G, 4 sand based with football use in 2023), with and without floodlights

- The development of the Stoneham Lane Football Complex which has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of floodlit 3G AGPs and grass pitches with community availability located in the borough.
- The loss of one rugby grass pitch at the Hub and the addition of floodlights to two grass rugby pitches on site.
- Closure of playing pitch sites – for example the cricket pitches at College Playing Fields and Doncaster Farm (offset by reinstatement of Hardmoor Playing Field adjacent to Trojans Sports Club).

The Stoneham Lane complex’s two floodlit full size 3G Football Turf Pitches host a central district mini-soccer league and the facility serves football demand for all ages from across a sub-regional catchment area, i.e. not just football demand from Eastleigh borough residents. In addition, the provision of good quality natural turf facilities at Stoneham Lane has offset the cessation of community access to football pitches at several school sites since 2017.

In terms of expressed demand, the main changes since the last assessment is the continued growth in playing pitch sports at community sports clubs by children (including girls, most particularly in the younger age groups) especially in the member clubs of the Eastleigh & District Mini-Soccer League (EDMSL) and at the borough’s leading rugby, cricket and hockey clubs. There has also been an increase in demand among adults for opportunities to play pitch sports recreationally outside the traditional sports club model, including informal participation in small sided and shorter game formats.

In terms of sports clubs and teams, the current picture of demand in the borough in comparison with the position in 2017 is shown in Figure 2.2 below. All the pitch sports have seen growth in overall numbers and diversity of teams although there has been a fall in the number of clubs and/ adult men’s teams in three of the four main playing pitch sports with football the exception. This fall in adult men’s teams is offset to a large degree by growth in women and girls and mixed football and cricket, disability football and in junior cricket.

Figure 2.2 – Community Demand for Pitches and Sites

	Clubs		Teams	
	2023	2017	2023	2017
Cricket	8	9	46: 22 adult teams (20 men, 2 women), 24 junior plus Dynamos & All Stars children’s coaching groups	44: 26 adult teams (25 men, 1 women), 18 junior
Football	99	80	575: 99 adult teams (87 men, 11 women, 1 mixed), 187 youth (6 boys, 30 girls, 151 mixed), 281 mini-soccer (of which 11 girls only), 8 disability/futsal/rec	365: 72 adult teams (66 men, 6 women), 88 youth (76 boys, 12 girls), 180 mini-soccer
Hockey ⁴	4	4	19 adult teams (10 men, 9 women/mixed) across Eastleigh HC, Eastleigh Ladies HC, Trojans SC and Hamble HC plus 320 junior members	23 adult teams (12 men, 11 women across Eastleigh HC, Eastleigh Ladies HC, Trojans SC and Hamble HC plus c. 275 junior members

⁴ Includes Trojans HC (just over the borough boundary in Test Valley and serving Eastleigh demand), excludes Southampton University HC

	Clubs		Teams	
	2023	2017	2023	2017
Rugby ⁵	2	3	9 adult teams (6 men, 3 women), plus 17 age grade teams (11 boys, 6 girls) and 10 mixed mini squads across Eastleigh RFC and Trojans FC	9 adult teams (8 men, 1 women) plus boys only age grade teams and mixed mini squads

2.2 Is there enough provision for current demand?

Cricket - The assessment of facility needs shows that there is sufficient capacity at to meet the playing and training needs at the home grounds of those clubs with adult teams only. However, the three community cricket clubs based in the borough that have large youth sections with age grade teams namely Trojans CC, Fair Oak CC and Hedge End CC require additional facilities to cater for demand. Fair Oak CC and Hedge End Juniors CC travel to play at facilities outside of the borough (i.e., ‘exported demand’).

Overall, the cricket clubs in Eastleigh mostly benefit from good security of access on their home grounds, although Old Netley and Highfield CC are reliant on a one year rolling agreement and Folland (Hamble) CC has no direct tenure on their pitch.

Football - A number of playing field sites in Eastleigh have pitches that are being played at capacity or overplayed in relation to their quality. In the main, the overplayed pitches are on sites that are serve as the home ground for multi-team clubs with a limited number of pitches. Examples include Fryern Rec. Ground (AFC Hiltisbury), Hamble Community Facility (Hamble Club FC) and Mallards Moor (Hamble United FC).

There is no spare capacity for youth 11v11 pitches in the peak period (once poor pitches and those where community club access is unsecured are discounted from the supply). This impacts on the use of adult 11v11 pitches i.e., some youth matches are played on adult 11 v 11 pitches. Despite this, at the present levels of team demand for adult 11v11 football, there is sufficient capacity for match play. There is some spare pitch capacity for 9v9 youth football. This capacity will be needed for future growth as teams progress through the age groups from the over-subscribed Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer League.

With regard to team training, for youth/mini soccer and adult training, the shortfalls in 3G AGP supply remain notwithstanding the new provision at Stoneham Lane (3x 3G pitches) and Places Eastleigh (1x 3G pitch) since 2017. Despite flexible match days and kick off times, the available 3G AGPs are used at capacity in the peak hours and the Eastleigh and District Mini Soccer League has had to limit the number of teams per age group at weekends. There are also several clubs who travel outside of the borough for training or use sand based or grass areas for training due to the lack of local capacity in the peak period on 3G pitches. This constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand, particularly for girl's football. To meet the shortfall in current supply investment is needed in the provision of more full size 3G AGPs across the borough linked to large youth football clubs to help to meet the needs of these clubs for training and for mini soccer matches.

Hockey – As a result of the loss of access to the Crestwood Community School pitch, there is not sufficient provision in the area to meet current community club hockey demand from the Eastleigh, Hamble and Trojans hockey clubs, with all three ‘home’ sand based AGP pitches (at Thornden School,

⁵ Includes Trojans RFC, excludes Southampton University RC and Locksheath Pumas RFC based and training in Fareham Borough currently but playing home fixtures at Wide Lane Sports Ground in Eastleigh Borough. Stoneham RFC single team in Hampshire 3 no longer active.

Hamble Sports Complex and Trojans Sports Club respectively) used to capacity in the peak demand period for both hockey and football use.

Rugby - Overall, the 10 rugby pitches in the area that are suitable and regularly available for community club use by residents of Eastleigh borough - namely the three pitches (two floodlit) at The Hub, the four pitches at the University's Wide Lane Sports Ground, the three pitches (one floodlit) at Trojans Sports Club (in Test Valley) plus a grass training area on Hardmoor Sports Field (in Eastleigh borough adjacent to Trojans) - are overused and cannot maintain the current demand for training and matches.

In part this overplay is due to imported demand from Fareham Borough – i.e., Locksheath Pumas RFC playing in Eastleigh borough at Southampton University's Wide Lane Sports Ground and the high level of use of these pitches by university teams. However, the main factor is the large number of age grade and mini rugby squads at both Trojans FC and Eastleigh RFC and their extensive programme of training and match play. The central location within Hampshire and good access from the motorway network also makes these sites popular for county level training and competition across both club and education. As shown in the Assessment of Need (at Figure 1.3) the aggregated shortfall of weekly capacity across these pitches (taking into account the quality and carrying capacity of the pitches) totals 17.5 Match Equivalent Sessions (MES).

In terms of security of access to the available pitches, Eastleigh RFC's lease at The Hub is due to expire in 2027 and they have started discussions with the Council about the renewal of the lease. It will be important to ensure the club has long term security on the site.

Trojans Sports Club have freehold ownership of their site just across the borough boundary in Test Valley district effectively securing this supply for Eastleigh residents as well as for people living in Test Valley.

Southampton University has secured a planning consent to provide a World Rugby compliant (WRC) artificial pitch at its Wide Lane Sports Ground to be dual use with football. If delivered, this will substantially enhance the quality of provision for the University's teams for match play and daytime training. However, although a community use agreement is in place with the University, the proposals do not include floodlighting. Unless and until floodlights are provided, this proposed provision will have no impact on alleviating the current substantial shortfall in suitable floodlit pitches in Eastleigh borough for community club rugby team / squad training.

2.3 Is the provision of sufficient quality?

Cricket - Fine turf pitches across the borough are well maintained, with little opportunity to improve pitch quality and therefore increase capacity.

The non-turf practice net systems at Trojans Sports Ground (Test Valley) and Turnpike Way Recreation Ground in Hedge End both need upgrading.

Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at Bursledon Recreation Ground and the Royal Victoria Country Park Sports Ground (both pavilions are also used for football). Trojans Sports Club (also used for hockey, rugby and football) needs improved ancillary facilities and has recently received planning permission to build a new clubhouse.

The new cricket clubhouse at VT Sports Ground requires the provision of changing rooms and showers.

Whilst the pavilion facilities at Turnpike Way are of suitable quality, there are issues around access on match days which affects cricket play at this site by Hedge End CC juniors and Eastleigh CC.

Football – The football AGPs in the area are good quality, many with newly laid playing surfaces. Exceptions are the 3G AGPs at The Hub and at Eastleigh FC, where both pitches need resurfacing.

A number of grass pitches (20% of the total) are of a poor-quality suffering from poor natural drainage, compaction of the ground and/or overuse, thereby limiting the playing capacity of these pitches. To address this issue on a large scale would require significant additional investment in maintenance works at the frequencies required to effectively aerate and de-compact the playing surfaces of the poor-quality natural turf pitches.

The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at the sites assessed. In most cases, this will necessitate increased revenue investment in enhanced pitch maintenance regimes supported by grant funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund for priority sites.

The ancillary facilities across the borough vary in quality but most sites have adequate provision. The pavilion at Mount Pleasant Recreation Ground needs replacing and the provision at Bursledon Recreation Ground (also used for cricket), College Playing Fields, Hamble Community Facility and Royal Victoria Country Park Sports Ground (also used for cricket) need refurbishing. In future, should there be an opportunity for securing community use at Toynbee School's off-site playing field in Oakmount Road, ancillary provision will need to be provided.

Hockey - The artificial grass hockey pitches at Trojans Sports Club and Wide Lane Sports Ground (Southampton University) are in good condition. Hamble Hockey Club's home pitch at Hamble Sports Complex was last resurfaced in 2016 and is in fair condition. The priority at this site is upgrade to the floodlights which are nearing the end of their lifespan and becoming increasingly unreliable. Ensuring there is a sinking fund provision to fund refurbishment of the playing surface when next required should also be a priority.

The artificial grass pitch at Crestwood Community School (Shakespeare Site) is currently in poor condition and would need resurfacing if the school were to decide at a future date to reinstate community use of its playing pitches. The pitch at Thornden School is currently standard but will require resurfacing with in next 2-3 years.

Rugby - Improvements to the quality of the grass pitches at Eastleigh RFC (The Hub) would increase the playing capacity. However, as well as the constraints on the Borough Council's budgets, the high water table in the area impacts on drainage of these pitches in the winter and limits the potential for cost-effective improvement measures.

The rugby pitch at Wyvern College has minimal maintenance carried out. Levelling works to this pitch and an ongoing improved maintenance regime has the potential to substantially increase the playing capacity and make this education pitch more attractive to clubs to hire for community use although this would have limited impact on the current shortfall of supply which is primarily for floodlit training at the secured club sites.

There is a need for improvements to the changing facilities at both club sites - Trojans FC (in Test Valley) and The Hub (Eastleigh RFC), to better accommodate existing and latent demand for women and girl's rugby. Trojans Sports Club has recently received planning permission (from the Test Valley Local

Planning Authority) for a replacement, modern clubhouse with enhanced changing and social facilities for all the club's sports sections. This project will address playing pitch facility need for residents of Eastleigh borough as well as Test Valley.

2.4 Future supply and demand

Planned new supply - On the future supply side, there are committed projects (or current planning applications) for new and enhanced playing pitch provision in the borough and its immediate catchment area as follows:

- **Wide Lane Sports Complex** – replacing one natural turf pitch with a 3G AGP surface and another with a World Rugby compliant artificial grass surface. Planning consent is secured for both AGPs with a community use agreement in place. However, the proposals do not include floodlights to either pitch preventing community club use for evening training or midweek evening match play. There are also concerns regarding access (car parking) that may prevent additional community use even if floodlights are later given planning permission.
- **Lapstone Playing Fields** - Planning permission has recently been granted to relocate the current cricket square at Lapstone Playing fields and add a second wicket both with NTP's (squares to consist of 9 and 7 wickets).
- **One Horton Heath** - There are current plans for a 9v9 3G AGP to be provided as part of the One Horton Heath housing development in Eastleigh which, subject to planning, is due to be available Sept 2026.
- **Trojans Sports Club** (Test Valley) – a planning consent is in place for replacement of the outdated clubhouse with a new, modern building better suited to meet demand across both genders and all age groups.
- **Oasis Academy Mayfield** (City of Southampton) – newly completed full size floodlit AGP with a community use agreement close to the borough boundary and with capacity to accommodate community football teams from Eastleigh (e.g., Sholing FC and Eastleigh FC) including unmet demand for the Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer League.

In addition, Trojans FC are exploring options to upgrade a section of **Hardmoor Sports Ground** to two formal age grade rugby pitches. The rugby club already uses a section of the sports ground for summer training and mini rugby on Sunday mornings.

A potential to secure new community use at Toynbee School's off-site playing field in **Oakmount Road** has also been identified in the course of consultation for this strategy. However, if community access were to be secured, ancillary provision will need to be provided.

Population growth - In terms of estimating future demand for community playing pitches, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the substantial forecast population growth (+25,498 people resident in Eastleigh Borough by 2036), application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool indicates a potential need to secure considerably more playing pitch capacity in Eastleigh borough. This additional capacity will need to be achieved through a combination of investment in new provision, enhancement of existing pitches and negotiating and securing more community access to existing and any planned new school and college playing pitches.

As football is the most popular pitch sport, the additional demand for football pitches will be by far the largest. The PPC indicates there will be a requirement to provide an additional 52 more natural turf pitches plus around 105 additional weekly training slots on a 3G artificial pitch. 26 of the pitches identified are for 7v7 or 5v5 pitches as the majority of current provision for mini soccer is based on 3G AGP's this would equate to an additional 6.5 hours of use on a 3G pitch (based on four games per pitch per hour), a total of 111.5 hours. Accordingly, if all mini soccer is played on 3G, the PPC indicates a need for additional playing capacity equivalent to 3 full sized 3G AGPs and up to 26 natural turf pitches (16 youth size and 10 full size) by 2036 (see Figure 2.3).

Population growth will also create need for additional playing pitch capacity for cricket, rugby and hockey also although at a much lower level than for football (see Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3 – Additional Population by 2036: Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator Planning Tool

Sport and Pitch Type	Additional Capacity Needed by 2036 (pitches)
Cricket – fine turf	+ 1.67
Football – grass	+ 52.5 (26.15 mini; 15.51 youth; 10.84 adult)
Football – 3G AGP	+ 2.76
Hockey – sand/water AGP	+ 0.72
Rugby	+ 2.66

In considering future playing pitch capacity needs, it is important to note that the run of the Playing Pitch Calculator shown in Figure 2.3 above assumes 'static demand' i.e., the proportion of the population by age group and gender that currently play pitch sports stays the same.

Recent trends (see para. 1.1) suggest further growth in demand to play rugby, football and cricket among women and girls stimulated by recent successes of the national teams, the hosting of major tournaments such as the 2022 Women's Football Euros and the upcoming 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup to be held in England, together with recently announced changes to physical education policy and practice in schools aimed at equal opportunities for girls. Football is the playing pitch sport where demand increase is likely to be the greatest and have the most impact on future playing pitch needs.

For this reason, it is recommended that, for the purposes of facility planning, the PPC estimates in Figure 2.3 should be considered as the minimum future requirement for new playing pitch capacity that is likely to result from population growth to 2036. Scenarios to illustrate the impact on the future pitch needs of a large scale increase in demand in women's and girl's football, rugby and cricket are explored in section 3 of this study (using Sports England's Playing Pitch Calculator).

A further key consideration in the assessment of future playing pitch needs is the extent to which the clubs based in the borough deliver on their development aspirations. Research and consultation for this strategy has found that a significant number of playing pitch sports clubs in the borough have embraced the youth, women and girls and recreational participation development initiatives and programmes of the national governing bodies. Accordingly, these clubs aspire to convert latent demand for their sport into new teams and/or to develop more playing opportunities at a recreational level alongside traditional league competition provided that required pitch capacity can be secured along with the additional volunteer coaches/ team managers needed to run the additional teams and activities.

2.5 Is there enough provision to meet future demand?

The clear conclusion of the assessments of need for playing pitches in Eastleigh is that, by 2036, there will be a need to provide additional playing and training capacity for all four major playing pitch sports.

Cricket - There is insufficient accessible and secured community use provision in the borough to meet

future demand. There is a need for additional playing capacity equivalent to two additional fine turf pitches in the area. Planning permission has recently been granted at Lapstone Playing Fields to provide a second fine turf pitch (with NTPs on both the existing and new squares) at Lapstone Playing Fields.

An opportunity to reinstate at least one former fine turf pitch at the University's Wide Lane Playing Fields (subject to funding and a community use agreement) has also been identified through the study process.

An NTP is needed at Trojans Sports Club (either on the club's main ground in Test Valley or the adjacent Hardmoor Sports Ground in Eastleigh) to alleviate pressure on their fine turf pitches and support the growth of their junior section.

There is also a need to improve access to the changing and toilet facilities on match days at Turnpike Way to enable the ground to be utilised to its full potential by Hedge End Cricket Club.

With regard to ancillary facilities to support cricket, investment into the pavilions is required at Bursledon Rec. Ground and Royal Victoria Sports Ground. In addition, the new social clubhouse at VT Sports Ground requires extending to provide changing space and showers.

Delivery of these projects has the potential to provide sufficient additional playing capacity for cricket in the area to support the needs of community cricket clubs that is likely to result from population and demand growth to 2036.

Football - Over the period of the strategy to 2036, to address forecast population growth, unmet latent demand identified by clubs (particularly for women and girls' football), and to continue to deliver on the FA's strategy to transfer more affiliated competitive football to 3G surfaces, further secured playing capacity on 3G AGP pitches will be needed.

An additional four pitches would be required to meet the FA's target scenario for all existing teams to have access to a weekly evening training session (i.e., the FA's calculation of one pitch for every 38 teams). A further three pitches are likely to be needed to provide mini soccer match play and weekly team training capacity for the forecast new population of the borough by 2036.

As identified above (para 2.4) in relation to future supply, two new 3G pitches with community access are in the planning pipeline or just completed: a full size floodlit 3G AGP at Oasis Academy Mayfield accommodating teams from Eastleigh has recently been completed and a 9v9 floodlit 3G AGP is proposed within the One Horton Heath housing development. Effectively, once delivered, these two pitches will reduce the future need from seven to five additional full size equivalent 3G AGPs by 2036 (provided that the 9v9 pitch proposed in Horton Heath is upgraded to a full-size pitch).

The next priority for community football over the life of the plan should therefore be the delivery of up to five additional 3G AGP's in key areas to facilitate training and match play demands of large youth clubs with the priority to support those not currently linked as partner clubs on existing pitches in the borough.

Additional natural turf pitch capacity is also likely to be needed for adult 11v11 and youth 11v11 for match play by 2036 in light of the scale of forecast population growth. Securing additional community use on education sites and improvements to pitch quality will need to be explored to increase capacity on key grass football sites along with identifying opportunities to secure additional provision of new or extended playing field sites via contributions in association with new housing development.

Hockey - There is insufficient floodlit hockey compliant pitch capacity in the area to accommodate the aspirations of the borough-based hockey clubs and the Trojans Hockey Club to grow, nor to meet future demand likely to result from planned population growth. In light of this, there is a clear need to protect the existing supply of hockey pitches and to explore opportunities to provide additional playing capacity in the area.

Potentially, this additional capacity could be provided by refurbishing the existing AGP at Crestwood Community School (Shakespeare Site) linked to a new agreement with the school to re-establish and secure community hockey use. This pitch has potential to serve both Trojans Hockey Club (as a satellite site) and provide additional capacity for the Eastleigh men's and ladies hockey clubs as required.

An additional hockey pitch at Trojans Sports Club would be difficult to deliver due to the site constraints and the adverse impact a second hockey pitch would have on other sports on this multi-sport site.

The hockey pitch at Hamble Sports Complex is currently used by football for 13 of the available hours in the peak period and the Trojans hockey pitch for a small sided soccer league. Should this football use be reallocated (e.g., to a new floodlit 3G AGP when delivered), this capacity could be used to support future growth of hockey at these two sites.

There is also a need to replace the floodlights at Hamble Sports Complex and improve changing provision at Trojans Hockey Club, Hamble Sports Complex and Thornden School. The pitch at Thornden School is currently standard but will require resurfacing with in next 2-3 years in order to be able to sustain its level of provision.

Rugby – The current capacity deficit for community rugby in the Eastleigh area is estimated at 17.5 match equivalent sessions a week⁶. The majority of the capacity need is for evening training. In order to provide this level of additional capacity on natural turf would require the equivalent of 8.75 natural turf pitches (assuming good natural drainage and adequate maintenance) and either permanent or mobile floodlights for training on many of the new pitches. The pitch maintenance at Trojans is good and capacity could only be improved by installing drainage which would only increase each pitches match equivalent capacity by 0.5, which would be significant investment for little outcome.

Improvement to the maintenance of the three pitches at The Hub (Eastleigh RFC) would increase the playing capacity at this site by three match equivalent sessions a week. However, the high water table and budget constraints are significant limiting factors at this site along with the extent of existing over-play of these pitches due to the amount of match and training demand.

Improving the single grass pitch at Wyvern College would increase its match equivalent capacity by +1.5 and could make it more attractive for community use. However, significant investment would be required in levelling the ground, improved drainage and enhanced on-going maintenance.

If it is assumed all four pitches (three at Eastleigh RFC and one at Wyvern College) were enhanced, then the capacity deficit would be reduced from 17.5 to 13 match equivalent sessions a week, the equivalent of 6.5 natural turf pitches (assuming good natural drainage and adequate maintenance).

The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator indicates that to meet rugby demand from the projected population growth of 25,498 additional residents (as currently forecast) and assuming levels of rugby demand for matches and training remain at current levels, the equivalent capacity of three additional

⁶ **Including** supply and demand at Trojans Sports Club just over the borough boundary and serving residents of Eastleigh; **excluding** the pitches in Eastleigh Borough at King Edward School's Wellington Sports Ground (6 No.) and at Thorden School (1 No.) which are not available for community use on a regular basis.

natural turf pitches will be required in the borough by 2036 (PPC +2.66 rounded up). In addition, the PPC indicates a likely requirement to accommodate an additional three training sessions per week.

Future need for a minimum of 9.5 additional natural turf rugby pitches by 2036 is therefore indicated – i.e., 6.5 to address the remaining capacity deficit assuming The Hub and Wyvern College pitches are enhanced, plus 3 to cater for new demand from population growth.

Over and above the impact of population growth, both community rugby clubs in the area – Eastleigh RFC and Trojans FC (Test Valley) - anticipate a significant increase of girls/women’s rugby participation over the coming years. In 2025, England will host the 10th edition of the Women’s Rugby World Cup. The heightened interest the tournament will generate in the women’s game is likely to create additional demand. The impact of a demand growth scenario for age grade and mixed mini rugby is considered in Section 3.

There may be potential to negotiate additional match play capacity on the rugby pitches at King Edward School’s Wellington Sports Ground. However, this is likely to be difficult due to the level of the school’s own demand for its school teams and priority to protect the quality of its pitches for the benefit of its students.

Due to the level of training demand from existing teams, the clear priority is a 3G rugby compliant pitch in the area. If provided, this would substantially reduce the need for additional grass pitches. The ideal location would be on one of the two club sites – The Hub (Eastleigh RFC) or Trojans Sports Club (Trojans FC). In view of the high water table at Eastleigh RFC, the Trojans site is likely to be the better option in a joint venture with Test Valley District (the Test Valley 2020 PPS includes the preparation of a feasibility study for this project as a priority).

As detailed above, Southampton University has secured planning consent for a proposal to replace one of their current grass pitches at the Wide Lane Sports Ground with a rugby compliant 3G pitch without floodlights. If floodlighting could be provided at a later date (ideally as a permanent installation but otherwise as mobile training lights) and a community use agreement secured to allow community rugby in the peak period, this would also help to address training capacity issues in the area, although university teams would naturally have priority.

Figure 2.4 – Estimate of Minimum Future Additional Playing Pitch Capacity Needs to 2036⁷

Sport	Additional playing capacity equivalent to:
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +2 fine turf pitches • Non Turf Pitch at Trojans SC (Test Valley) and/or Hardmoor Playing Field
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +5 floodlit full size equivalent 3G Football Turf Pitches • +16 youth natural turf pitches • +10 adult natural turf pitches
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +1 full size hockey AGP
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 floodlit full size 3G Rugby Turf Pitch • +9.5 natural turf pitches

The options or scenarios in Eastleigh for meeting the identified capacity needs are explored in more detail in the following section.

⁷ Assumes future new supply projects at para 2.4 are delivered

PPS Section 3 – Meeting the needs
(‘How to’ Scenarios)

3 – Meeting the needs ('How to' Scenarios)

As part of the Strategy Development process a number of scenarios have been identified as options to meet the future facility needs summarised in the preceding section. The Steering Group has considered these scenarios along with their potential implications on the future picture of provision for the leading playing pitch sports in Eastleigh and how best to meet existing and future playing pitch facility demand. These scenarios have also been considered in relation to setting the priorities for future enhancement and provision detailed in the action plan for playing pitches in the first part of Section 4 of this Playing Pitch & Built Leisure Facilities Strategy – i.e., the initial action plan.

3.1 Improved quality of sites

Before considering the provision of new playing fields it is important to first consider the potential for increasing capacity of existing sites (particularly those grounds owned or leased by community clubs) as these have resources and structures in place (e.g., grounds maintenance, coaching) and an established sporting identity developed over many years.

Improving the quality of ancillary facilities such as practice, changing and social provision can also have an impact by sustaining and retaining existing demand and on attracting under-represented groups (e.g., the provision of suitable changing provision for women and girls).

Cricket – As set out above in para. 2.3 the existing fine turf pitches are well maintained with little potential for delivering more playing capacity. However, the planned extension at Lapstone Playing Fields to provide a second fine turf pitch and the addition of non-turf pitches on both squares (existing and new) will, if delivered, addresses 50% of the identified need by 2036 of +2 fine turf pitches and assuming a good fine turf rating provides an additional 25 MES, with the extra NTP providing a further 60 MES.

Other improvement priorities for cricket in Eastleigh relate to ancillary facilities which are important both to sustain existing membership and participation and to meet the quality expectations of potential new players including women and girls. The necessary improvements relate both to pavilions and to practice facilities and are detailed in the recommendations (Section 4).

Football - The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at selected club sites supported by funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, for example if the 16 sites rated poor were upgraded to at least standard this would create an additional 16 MES, if improved to good it would allow an additional 39 MES.

However, in light of the much greater playing capacity of floodlit 3G pitches, the quality improvement that would have the greatest positive impact is upgrading of the playing surfaces of the two floodlit 3G AGPs in need of refurbishment at Eastleigh FC and The Hub.

There are a number of football changing pavilions (some serving both football and cricket) that need substantial quality improvement or replacement in order to sustain and grow participation particularly among women and girls. The priority projects are set out in Section 4.

Hockey – The clear quality enhancement priority to sustain existing hockey participation in Eastleigh borough is at Hamble Sports Complex where the floodlighting has become unreliable impacting adversely on evening training.

Under a scenario where regular community use were to be reinstated and secured at the floodlit sand filled pitch at Crestwood Community School (see para. 3.2 below), this pitch would require resurfacing. This scenario has potential to address the facility need for hockey in the borough over the strategy period.

The pitch at Thornden School is currently standard but will require resurfacing with in next 2-3 years in order to sustain the level of provision.

Trojans HC in Test Valley plays a key role in meeting hockey demand from Eastleigh residents. As such, improving the Trojans Sports Club pavilion will impact positively on the playing pitch needs in Eastleigh borough as well as those in Test Valley.

Rugby – As set out in para. 2.3, whilst the pitches at Trojans, The Hub and at Wyvern College would, if upgraded, provide some additional weekend match play capacity (+1.5, +3, +1.5 MES respectively), issues at all sites (i.e., need to install drainage at Trojans, a high water table at the Hub and sloping ground at the College) militate against this as a cost effective option.

Investment would have more impact on the shortfall of supply if allocated to additional floodlighting and/or to provision of a floodlit rugby compliant 3G pitch with secured community access for evening training.

As the case for hockey above, improving the Trojans Sports Club pavilion in Test Valley will impact positively on rugby provision for Eastleigh residents, especially women and girls who are currently under-represented in the sport.

3.2 More community use at education sites

There has been a significant reduction in regular access for community clubs to playing pitches on secondary school sites in Eastleigh since the Covid pandemic with Crestwood Community School the main example. At other education sites, for example at the Southampton University Wide Lane Sports Ground and at the independent King Edward School's Wellington Sports Ground, access to community clubs is by arrangement and not secured through long-term agreement.

Whilst the Government seeks to widen access to sports facilities on school premises as part of the Department for Education's School Sport and Physical Activity Action Plan, investment available from its Opening Schools Facilities Fund is restricted to revenue spending on capacity building, sports leaders/coaches, equipment to deliver community activities out-of-hours specifically targeted at under-represented groups in sport and physical activity living in areas of relative deprivation. Energise me, Hampshire's Active Partnership, should consider the findings of this strategy to prioritise their work on opening schools facilities in the area.

Investment in refurbishing the existing AGP at Crestwood Community School (Shakespeare Site) linked to a new agreement with the school to re-establish and secure community hockey use would meet the priority facility need for increased pitch capacity for community hockey in Eastleigh to 2036. As identified in section 2.3, this sand based floodlit pitch has potential to serve both Trojans Hockey Club (as a satellite site) and provide additional capacity for the Eastleigh men's and ladies hockey clubs as required.

Similarly, if feasible, investment in providing floodlights to the two new University 3G pitches (in place of existing grass pitches) at the University's Wide Lane Sports Ground linked to a community use

agreement could impact very significantly in addressing the community club training capacity shortfall for both rugby and football, however consideration of the access arrangements (i.e. parking) may need to be assessed to gauge if floodlighting would allow increased community use.

The shortfall of provision of youth football pitches to meet future match play demand resulting from population growth (i.e., 16 pitches by 2036) could, theoretically, be met through securing access in the peak weekend period to more youth pitches at the school sites that do not provide access currently. However, consultation with most of these education sites indicates no clear potential to open up these facilities for community use in the future. A possible exception is Toynbee School's offsite Oakmount Road Playing Fields although ancillary changing rooms would need to be provided to support community football use.

3.3 Change of use from one sport or pitch type to another

The most common scenarios involving change of pitch type are:

- Upgrading natural turf pitches to 3G artificial football turf and to rugby turf
- Resurfacing sand-based hockey AGPs as 3G football turf.

The first scenario has potential to make a significant impact on meeting existing and future capacity shortfalls for football and for rugby in Eastleigh borough.

The optimum location for this type of upgrade in terms of accessibility to Eastleigh residents and secured community club use (subject to successful outcome of ongoing lease renewal or asset transfer discussions) is the Youth Options Hub Site in the town, the home of Eastleigh RFC. However, the high water table at this ground is a concern and a feasibility assessment is needed to establish if this is a cost effective option.

The alternative rugby site meeting demand from Eastleigh borough is Trojans Sports Club close to the borough boundary in Test Valley district where around 50% of members are resident in Eastleigh borough. Establishing the feasibility of upgrading one of the pitches at this key rugby site to rugby 3G is a priority action in the Test Valley District Playing Pitch Strategy.

The project with a current planning consent to upgrade two grass pitches at Wide Lane Sports Ground to football and rugby 3G respectively also has potential to impact on community club playing pitch needs but only if floodlighting is provided (lights are not in the current plans), there is suitable access arrangements and if regular community use in the peak evening period can be secured in negotiation with the University.

The second scenario – resurfacing of existing hockey AGPs to football 3G – is a risk to community hockey nationwide, particularly on school sites where the greater revenue potential from hire of football 3G to clubs for team training and to small sided soccer leagues out of hours is the usual rationale. In Eastleigh, it is critical that the pitch at Thornden School (last resurfaced in 2015) remains hockey compliant when next resurfaced. This pitch is used extensively by both Eastleigh and Trojans hockey clubs as well as by football clubs.

Finally, under this scenario, provision of additional 3G Football AGPs in the borough could potentially release more peak slots at the three hockey AGPs in current use - at Hamble Sports Complex, Thornden School and Trojans Sports Club - by transferring football use away from these sand based pitches to the new 3G pitches (see 3.5 below).

3.4 Potential loss of availability of a key site or sites

No imminent threat to availability of key community playing pitch sites in Eastleigh has been identified in the course of the research and consultation for this PPS. However, it should be recognised that, in the absence of a formal Community Use Agreement, there is always a risk of loss of availability of education pitches for community club use.

3.5 New or reinstated pitches in borough or catchment

Cricket - As identified above at para. 3.1, delivery of the current proposal to provide a second pitch at Lapstone Playing Fields will impact significantly on meeting the identified capacity shortfall for cricket.

Football - Provision of additional 3G floodlit football AGPs of FA register standard would have very significant impact on the supply and demand balance for community football in the borough. New 3G capacity with secured community access would benefit community football by reducing the reliance of clubs and teams on unsecured access to school playing fields for local league match play.

It would also address the identified shortfall of 3G supply to accommodate demand for midweek evening team training, a significant proportion of which is currently met on sand based AGPs in the borough. Transfer of this football demand to additional 3G AGP supply would also increase hockey capacity in the peak midweek and weekend slots on the sand based AGPs.

One options identified in consultation is to extend the playing pitch delivery requirement associated with the One Horton Heath housing development from 9v9 floodlit 3G size pitch to a full size floodlit 3G pitch. This would increase the playing capacity and address more of the established shortfall of borough supply for football training and match play.

In terms of the distribution of football 3G pitches, a priority for at least one of the new pitches should be located in Hamble as this area lacks provision. The site options identified are either at the Hamble Sports Complex (separate provision to the existing hockey pitch) or an upgrade of the Hamble Community Facility, the home of Hamble Club FC, to a stadium 3G. The location of further sites should be assessed further via feasibility studies once the impact of the following has been considered; the provision of the above priority projects (One Horton Heath and Hamble 3G), the provision of floodlights and community use impact at Wide Lane, the preferred site for a dual use rugby/ football 3G and the delivery of the new artificial pitches at the Outdoor Sports Centre in Southampton.

Hockey –The ideal scenario to address the shortfall of hockey pitches over the strategy period would be the resurface of the hockey pitch at Crestwood Community School and reinstatement of community use. The provision of a second pitch at Trojans Sports Club would also support the shortfall. However, the demands of the other playing pitch sports and the physical constraints of the Trojans site and the adjacent Hardmoor Sports Ground (leased by EBC to the sports club) are major barriers.

Rugby - A project under consideration by the Trojans Sports Club is to establish two new age grade grass rugby pitches on the Hardmoor Sports Field. This playing field is not new provision as it was reinstated in 2017/18 as part of a Section 106 planning agreement with Eastleigh Borough Council relating to housing development on former pitches at Doncaster Farm. A section of the playing field is already used by Trojans FC for rugby training on light summer evenings and for mini rugby training on Sunday mornings. A key consideration is the need to also accommodate cricket on the site in the summer season, a large year-round archery programme and mini soccer on Saturday mornings in winter.

There may also be potential to reinstate more of the land at The Hub as playing pitches for rugby and/or football although as stated above in relation to the potential for a 3G AGP, the high water table may prevent this as a cost effective option.

3.6 Relocation of district league programming in the borough or its catchment

Consultation with the Football Association and the Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer League (EDMSL) during the strategy development process has identified a proposal to relocate a proportion of the existing weekend programme of district mini-soccer league play from the Stoneham Lane Football Complex to the planned new provision at the Outdoor Sports Centre in Southampton.

Currently the number of teams per club permitted to join the league is capped due to lack of available capacity on 3G pitches on Sundays. By relocating those u8s teams that play at Stoneham (between one and three teams a week with the majority of fixtures taking place at the Ganger Farm 3G in Romsey), some of the unmet demand in the u9 and u10 age groups on Sundays could be accommodated at Stoneham Lane. Currently, the u10s league teams play across four venues – Places Leisure Eastleigh, Stoneham Lane, Ganger Farm and Mountbatten School.

3.7 Significant increase in demand by an age group or sport

The future playing pitch need for the forecasted additional population of Eastleigh borough by 2036 as shown in in para. 2.5 assumes the current levels of demand. Para. 1.1 of the strategy shows national trends in playing pitch team sport participation are generally flat due in large measure to the impact of the pandemic and the time required for competitive structures and participation levels to re-establish. However, as highlighted at para. 2.5, in Eastleigh and its wider district catchment area, there are indications of strong recovery among the younger age groups in all four of the main pitch sports and most particularly for mini-soccer and youth football and for training in football and rugby. This growth is driven in part by successful local clubs and strong district leagues. There is also slow but accelerating growth in demand for opportunities to play these playing pitch sports from women and girls.

While hockey participation is already evenly split between the genders, the governing bodies of football, cricket and rugby all have a clear strategic focus on delivering more opportunities for women and girls to play and compete. As identified in the detailed assessments of future need for each sport, it is demand growth from women and girls that is likely to be the most significant over the next planning period and place the most pressure on the available capacity in the peak hours at existing pitches – particularly football small-sided game pitches and 3G AGPs – and on the existing stock of pavilions many of which do not have adequate changing and toilet facilities.

In view of these demand pressures, further runs of the Playing Pitch Calculator have been made to show the possible impact on pitch needs of large-scale demand growth in women and girl’s football and mixed mini-soccer as well as women and girls age grade rugby and mixed mini-rugby and women and girl’s cricket. The increased pitch needs of a 25% and 50% increase in demand are shown in Figure 3.1

Figure 3.1 - Additional Population and Female Demand Increase by 2036: Sport England PPC

Pitch Type	Additional Capacity Needed by 2036 (No. of pitches)		
	0% female demand growth	25% female demand growth	50% female demand growth
Adult football	10.93	11.28	11.72
Youth football	15.80	16.98	18.46
Mini soccer	27.46	32.69	39.23
3G AGP	2.85	3.21	3.65
Rugby	2.66	2.93	3.20
Cricket fine turf	1.67	1.76	1.79

The needs for additional playing pitch capacity in the borough catchment by 2036 identified in figure 2.4 should therefore be considered as a minimum requirement as they take no account of any increase in the rate of demand within the area population. In order to address future playing pitch needs effectively it is clear that a cross local authority boundary approach will be necessary, particularly in relation to supply and demand for mini soccer and youth football leagues and for football and rugby training.

PPS Section 4 – Recommendations by Pitch Sport



4 – Recommendations by Pitch Sport

Based on the findings of the assessment of current and future facility needs for the four major playing pitch sports summarised in section 2 of this strategy and detailed in sport-specific reports at appendices A to D, the following recommendations are made for strategic provision of playing pitch facilities in Eastleigh Borough to 2036.

The recommendations assume the quantum of population growth forecast in the ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020) – i.e. +25,498 additional residents by 2036 and take into consideration the range of potential scenarios available to the Council and its partner sports bodies to address the facility needs detailed in section 3 above.

4.1 Protect

In the context of current demand, future net population growth and the development aspirations of key sports clubs – particularly to grow opportunities for more women and girls to play cricket, football and rugby - the over-riding priority recommendation of the PPS is to continue to retain the existing overall quantity of land in the borough available for use as playing pitches.

Protecting the supply of playing fields, playing pitches and ancillary provision should continue to be a core principle in the planning policies of Eastleigh Borough Council in its Local Plan.

The relevant existing planning policies for the protection of playing pitches in Eastleigh are detailed in Appendix G of this Playing Pitch & Built Leisure Facilities Strategy.

Strategic recommendations aimed at maximising the effectiveness of local planning policy in Eastleigh and the planning process to both protect playing fields, playing pitches, ancillary provision and to secure community access are set out in Section 3 of the overall Playing Pitch & Built Leisure Facilities Strategy.

Effective use of the planning process to ensure protection of access to education playing pitches is particularly critical to community sport. In Eastleigh, the Hockey Club currently relies heavily on unsecured access to an artificial grass pitch and changing rooms within a school site. Continued access to school and the university playing fields at weekends is also key to many community football clubs in the borough to deliver their programmes of match play for growing numbers of youth and mini-soccer teams.

4.2 Enhance and Provide

It is recommended that a number of existing playing pitch facilities should be prioritised for investment in upgrades (subject to funding, planning and feasibility) in order to continue to meet existing demand from community teams and individuals and to ensure, where possible, that additional capacity is provided to contribute to meeting demand growth.

Greater playing capacity will be needed in future as a result of population growth and as a consequence of demand growth stimulated by the sports development initiatives of local clubs supported by the Council and other stakeholders including the relevant sports governing bodies. Improved ancillary facilities will also be critical to attracting and retaining players, particularly women and girls who remain under-represented in cricket, football and rugby participation.

The assessment of needs and the possible scenarios to address the needs has established that the additional playing pitch capacity that is likely to be needed over the strategy period will not be achievable without new provision.

Figure 4.1 below summarises the strategic recommendations for enhancement of existing playing field sites and for new provision.

Figure 4.1 – Recommended Facility Enhancement and New Provision by Sport

Pitch Sport	Site(s)	Recommendation
Cricket	Lapstone Playing Fields, Trojans SC ground (Test Valley) or Hardmoor	Provide NTPs
	VT Sports Ground, Trojans SC ground (Test Valley),	New or Replacement pavilion
	Bursledon Rec. Ground, Royal Victoria Country Park,	Pavilion refurbishment
	Lapstone Playing Fields, Wide Lane Playing Fields	New or reinstated fine turf pitch
	Trojans SC ground (Test Valley), Turnpike Way Rec. Ground	New or upgraded non turf practice net systems
Football	Poor rated grass pitch sites	Grass pitch improvements
	Mount Pleasant Rec. Ground	New or Replacement pavilion
	Hamble Community Facility, Bursledon Rec, College Playing Fields Ground	Pavilion refurbishment
	Toynbee School, Oakmount Road Playing Field	Assess the feasibility of a pavilion and CUA
	Wide Lane Sports Ground	Install floodlights to proposed football 3G pitch and amend CUA with Southampton University.
	One Horton Heath	Upgrade S106 requirement from floodlit 9v9 3G to 11v11 3G
	Hamble Sports Complex or Hamble Community Facility	Assess the feasibility of a 11v11 3G at this site
Hockey	Hamble Sports Complex	Upgrade floodlights to the AGP
	Crestwood Community School (Shakespeare Site), Thorden School	Resurface and secure for community use
	Trojans SC ground (Test Valley)	Replace or upgrade pavilions
Rugby	Hardmoor Sports Ground	New pitches
	Wide Lane Sports Ground	Install floodlights to proposed rugby 3G pitch and amend CUA with Southampton University
	Trojans SC ground (Test Valley)	Replace or upgrade pavilions
	The Hub, Wyvern College	Grass pitch improvements
	The Hub, or Trojans SC ground (Test Valley)	Assess the feasibility for a rugby/ football 3G

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PPS Section 5 – Conclusion

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5 – Conclusion

The review of Playing Pitches has highlighted a number of facility investment needs for the Council and partners, bringing together the analysis, consultation and assessment work.

Eastleigh Borough Council has a history of supporting sport and leisure, and commitment to improving levels of physical activity and health for their residents and communities and the needs within this section will result in the Council considering some important and key decisions to make over the coming years.

Given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector, it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the sport specific investment needs identified within this strategy.

Section 3 of the Playing Pitch & Built Leisure Facilities Strategy that follows sets out a number of overarching policy recommendations aimed at facilitating and addressing the sports specific needs identified in this Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and in the Built Leisure Facilities Strategy that follows (part 2).

The final Section (4) is an initial prioritised Action Plan identifying priority projects arising out of this strategy as well as the partners and stakeholders who are likely to be central to facilitating this change.

**Eastleigh Borough Council
Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities
Strategy
2023 – 2036**

Part 2 Built Leisure Facilities Strategy



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BLFS Section 1 - Introduction



Section 1: Introduction

This document is Part 2 of Eastleigh’s Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy 2023-36 – the Built Leisure Facilities Strategy. Part 2 includes the following built leisure facilities for indoor and/or outdoor sport:


- Swimming pools
- Sports halls (and activity halls of 1+ badminton court size)
- Gymnastic and Trampolining facilities
- Indoor Bowls halls and outdoor greens
- Health & Fitness facilities (studios and gyms)
- Squash courts
- Indoor and outdoor courts for Tennis, Padel, Netball, Basketball
- Athletics and running tracks
- Watersports facilities

Significant specialist large-scale sports facilities in neighbouring authorities with good access for Eastleigh residents have been taken into consideration in determining current and future facility needs.

The methodology follows current national guidance published by Sport England - *Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities, Sport England (July 2014)*. In accordance with ANOG guidance, Section 2 sets out a detailed analysis of facility supply, demand and accessibility factors by sport facility type (informed by the use of available sports facility planning tools) along with a summary of consultation findings to identify club and NGB facility priorities in the study area. The section concludes with recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing facilities and for the provision of new facilities where considered necessary to address identified current or future needs to 2036.

Section 3 sets out overarching sports facility planning policy recommendations. These ensure that the overall strategy (the combination of the Built Leisure Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy) continues to play a leading role in the on-going provision of high-quality built sport facilities and meet priority needs through the planning process.

Section 4 provides a delivery plan related to the potential priority projects and facility needs for sport and recreation identified in Section 2. This initial action plan will be subject to periodic review and update over the life of the strategy.

A photograph of an indoor swimming pool with several swimmers in various lanes. Lane lines are visible in red, yellow, and blue. Small triangular flags are attached to the lines. The pool is surrounded by a tiled deck and a large glass wall in the background.

**BLFS Section 2 –
Sport Specific Analysis**

Section 2 - Sport Specific Analysis

2.1 Swimming

What's changed since the Sports Facilities Needs Assessment 2017

With regard to public indoor swimming pools in Eastleigh Borough the key change has been the replacement of the former Fleming Park Leisure Centre with the borough's flagship centre, Places Leisure Eastleigh. This sub-regional leisure centre opened at the end of November 2017 providing residents and visitors with a 25m 8 lane pool, a 20m x 10m learner pool, spectator seating for 150 and a modern changing village. The centre is able to host larger gala events than the previous 6 lane provision, increasing the available water space by approximately 180 sqm to 600sqm.

In addition, the 4 lane pool at Wildern School in Hedge End - to the south east of Eastleigh - reopened in December 2020 following a year-long closure to enable refurbishment including a new roof, dedicated poolside spectator seating and replacement of the perimeter pool tiling. These works were funded by the Borough Council at a cost of £1.2m. At the same time, the Academy Trust that owns and manages the facility funded refurbishment of the changing rooms for use by both students and the wider public. This provision also has a 100sqm learner pool built in 2005. The site continues to offer a comprehensive year-round public swimming programme including access to swim early mornings, evenings and weekends during term times.

As well as the Eastleigh pools, Everyone Active manage a 4 lane indoor pool built in 2002 at Hamble Sports Complex located within Hamble Community Sports College in the south of the borough in Bursledon close to the borough's border with the City of Southampton. This provision is unchanged since the last update in 2017 and offers a comprehensive public swimming programme outside the school day in term-time. Finally, the David Lloyd Club in Eastleigh underwent a pool refurbishment in 2018.

To inform the current strategy and to better understand the current swimming pool needs in 2023 as a baseline to help inform future priorities for swimming provision in the Local Plan period to 2036, the Council commissioned a Standard Facilities Planning Model (FPM) Assessment of swimming pool provision from Sport England reporting in June 2023.

Sport England's Facility Planning Model

The overall aims of the standard FPM assessment reports are to provide a current assessment of need for swimming pools in the borough (in this case at 2022), and across the study area.

It is most important to state that the FPM study is a quantitative, accessibility and spatial assessment of the supply, demand and access to swimming pools. The assessment is based on catchment area, so includes the swimming pools and population across the borough and the neighbouring local authorities. In determining the position across the borough, it is important to take full account of the swimming pools and population in neighbouring local authority areas located within the travel time catchment area for Eastleigh residents.

Also, the most attractive (and accessible) facility for some Eastleigh Borough residents may be outside the borough (known as exported demand). For residents of neighbouring local authorities, their most attractive (and accessible) swimming pool may be in Eastleigh (known as imported demand). To take account of these factors, the study area places Eastleigh at its centre and includes the neighbouring local authorities and their swimming pool supply.

Headline Strategic Overview from The FPM Analysis

The headline strategic finding is that, there is sufficient swimming pool capacity in the Borough to meet demand. However, three sites are uncomfortably full at peak times. That said, at current population levels, there is insufficient unmet demand to justify further swimming pool provision and reduce the used capacity of the pools at peak times.

The strategic interventions in the short term are therefore about management of the current stock:

- Ensuring that the two educational sites - Wildern Leisure Centre and Hamble Sports Complex - continue to provide for community use and, if not in place already, a community use agreement is put in place. The educational sites represent 50% of the total supply.
- There is scope to increase the hours for community use by 13 hours in the weekly peak period at Wildern Leisure Centre. Based on current availability, it is 100% full at peak times. The centre is a key site as it has both a main pool and learner pool and can provide most swimming activities. It also provides recreational swimming on a pay and swim basis, is available to all residents, and operates without membership.

Places Leisure Eastleigh is strategically important in meeting demand and providing all swimming activities. The centre is available for the maximum peak hours and, consequently, there is no scope to increase capacity. Therefore, it is important to ensure that pool programmes maximise pool time for the most popular activities at peak times to make the most effective use of the site.

Supply of Swimming Pools in Eastleigh Borough

Supply is defined as the supply or capacity of the swimming pools available for community and club use in the weekly peak period. Supply is expressed in the number of visits that a pool can accommodate in the weekly peak period and in square metres of water. The total supply and available supply are different because of the hours available for community use in the weekly peak period.

The weekly peak period is when the majority of visits take place and when users have most flexibility to visit. The peak period for swimming pools is one hour on weekday mornings, one hour on weekday lunchtimes, five and a half hours on weekday evenings, and seven and a half hours on weekend days. This gives a total of 52.5 hours per week. The modelling and recommendations are based on the ability of the public to access pool facilities during this weekly peak period.

The four swimming pool facilities that meet the criteria (e.g. where the main pool is 20m or more) to be included in the FPM modelling are listed in Figure 2.1 below and the locations of the current swimming pools (green diamonds) are shown in Figure 2.2.

Four other indoor pool venues in the borough are excluded from the model assessment. All are located within commercial health clubs. In contrast to the David Lloyd Club pool, the pools at Botleigh Grange Spa & Hotel, Spirit Health Club, Vital Health & Wellbeing respectively are too small to meet the minimum model criteria for inclusion as significant provision. The fourth – a small freeform ‘leisure’ pool at Village Gym – is too narrow to provide a balanced swimming programme.

Figure 2.1: Details of Swimming Pools in Eastleigh

Site	Operation	Year Built / (Refurbished)	Facility Type	Peak Hours
Places Leisure Eastleigh	Public	2017	8 lane pool (25x16m)	52.5
		2017	Teaching pool (20x10m)	52.5
Wildern Leisure Centre	Educational	1979 (2020)	4 lane pool (25x12.5m)	38.5
		2005	Teaching pool (10x10m)	39
Hamble Sports Complex	Educational	2002	4 lane pool (20x8.5m)	52.5
David Lloyd Club	Commercial	1994 (2018)	5 lane pool (22x12m)	52.5

Figure 2.2 Location of Swimming Pool Sites in Eastleigh

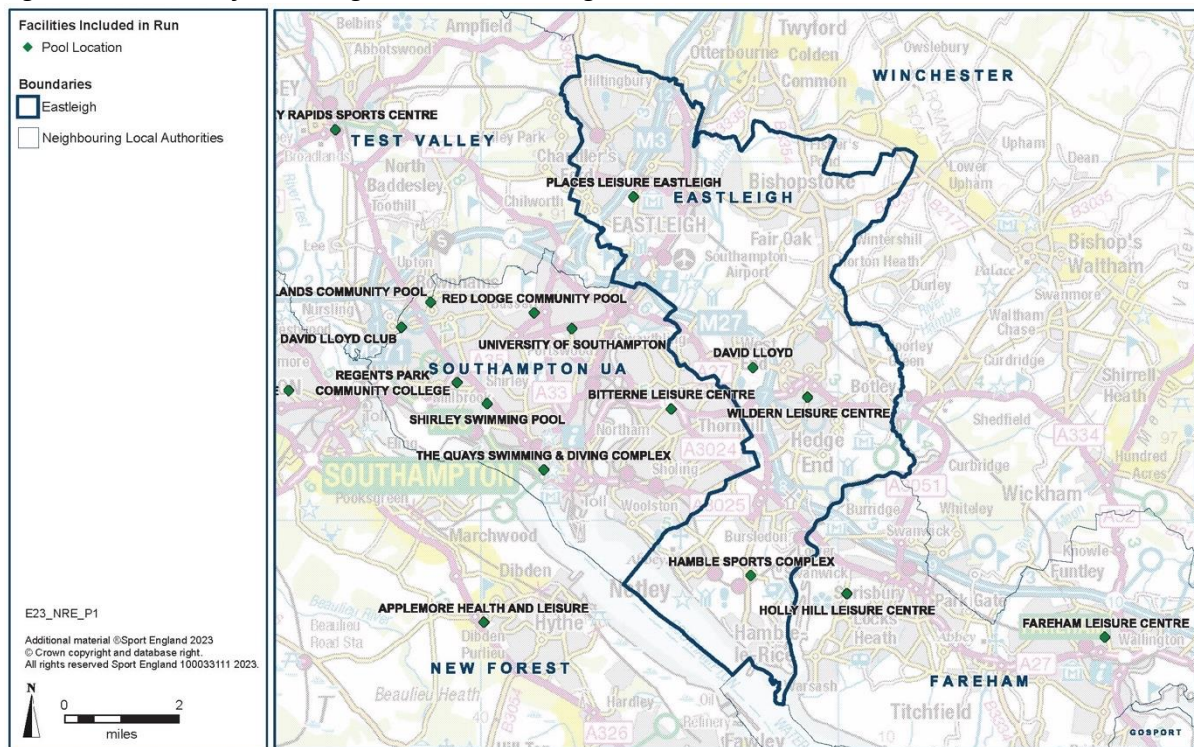


Figure 2.3: Supply of Indoor Swimming Pools in Eastleigh

Total Supply	2023
Number of indoor pools	6
Number of indoor pool sites	4
Supply in sqm of indoor water	1,446
Supply in sqm of water scaled with hours available in peak period	1,337
Supply in visits per week in peak period	11,700
Average year built of all sites	1998
Average year built of public leisure centre sites	2017

The scale of the pools at Places Leisure Eastleigh means it can provide all swimming activities in dedicated pools, without compromise. The swimming activities are:

- Casual recreational swimming.
- Lane and fitness swimming.
- Learn to swim.
- Swimming development through clubs.

There is a high commitment to community use at the two educational indoor swimming pool sites in Eastleigh. Hamble Sports Complex provides casual recreational and fitness swimming and operates a learn to swim school in its single pool. Although available for fewer hours in the peak period, the two pools at Wildern Leisure Centre also provide casual recreational and fitness swimming on a play and swim basis and operate a learn to swim school.

The educational and commercial swimming pool sites are located in the southern half of the Borough. Places Leisure Eastleigh is the only pool site in the northern half of the Borough. The location of Places Leisure Eastleigh may limit access for residents in the southern half of the Borough who only wish to participate in recreational swimming on a casual basis. Fortunately, Wildern Leisure Centre is also available on a pay and swim basis and provides more geographical balance for recreational swimmers.

Demand for Swimming Pools

Total demand is calculated by adding the participation by each five-year age band/gender of Eastleigh’s population with the frequency of participation in each age band/gender and is expressed in visits in the weekly peak period and square metres of water. The FPM parameters for the percentage and frequency of participation, for gender and age, are calculated from Sport England’s Active Lives survey up to March 2020.

Eastleigh’s resident population in 2023 was just over 137,500, smaller by far than the population of its adjoining unitary neighbour, City of Southampton (257,700) but slightly larger than the respective populations of Winchester to the north east (127,800), Test Valley to the north west (130,400), Fareham to the east with a shared boundary along the River Hamble and its estuary (118,000). The largely rural New Forest district to the south-west has a larger population than Eastleigh at 175,800 but is separated from Eastleigh by the shared boundary of Southampton Water and less accessible.

The total demand for swimming by Eastleigh residents in 2023 is 9,043 visits per week in the peak period which equates to 1,487 sqm of water. For context the total supply of water space in the borough is 1,446 sqm of which 1,337 sqm is available in the weekly peak period.

There is an extensive supply of swimming pools in the eastern part of Southampton that are in the catchment area of the western parts of Eastleigh borough, but, on the eastern side, there are no swimming pool sites in Winchester close to the Eastleigh boundary. To the south east, in Fareham Borough, Holly Hill Leisure Centre is close to the Eastleigh boundary (see Figure 2.2). This relatively new provision (opened in 2016) managed as a public leisure centre by Everyone Active will draw demand from the southern settlements in Eastleigh borough.

Eastleigh ranks higher than its three accessible neighbour borough and district local authority areas in terms of demand for swimming pools expressed as water space (see Figure 2.4) whilst, unsurprisingly, demand is nearly twice that of Eastleigh borough in the City of Southampton.

Figure 2.4: Demand for Swimming by Local Authority

Demand considering a ‘comfort’ factor*	Sqm of water
Fareham	1,234
Southampton	2,790
Test Valley	1,392
Winchester	1,348
EASTLEIGH	1,487

* The FPM is designed to include a ‘comfort factor,’ beyond which the venues are too full. The pool itself becomes too crowded to swim comfortably, and the changing and circulation areas also become too congested. In the model Sport England assumes that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and that the swimming pool is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.

Deprivation

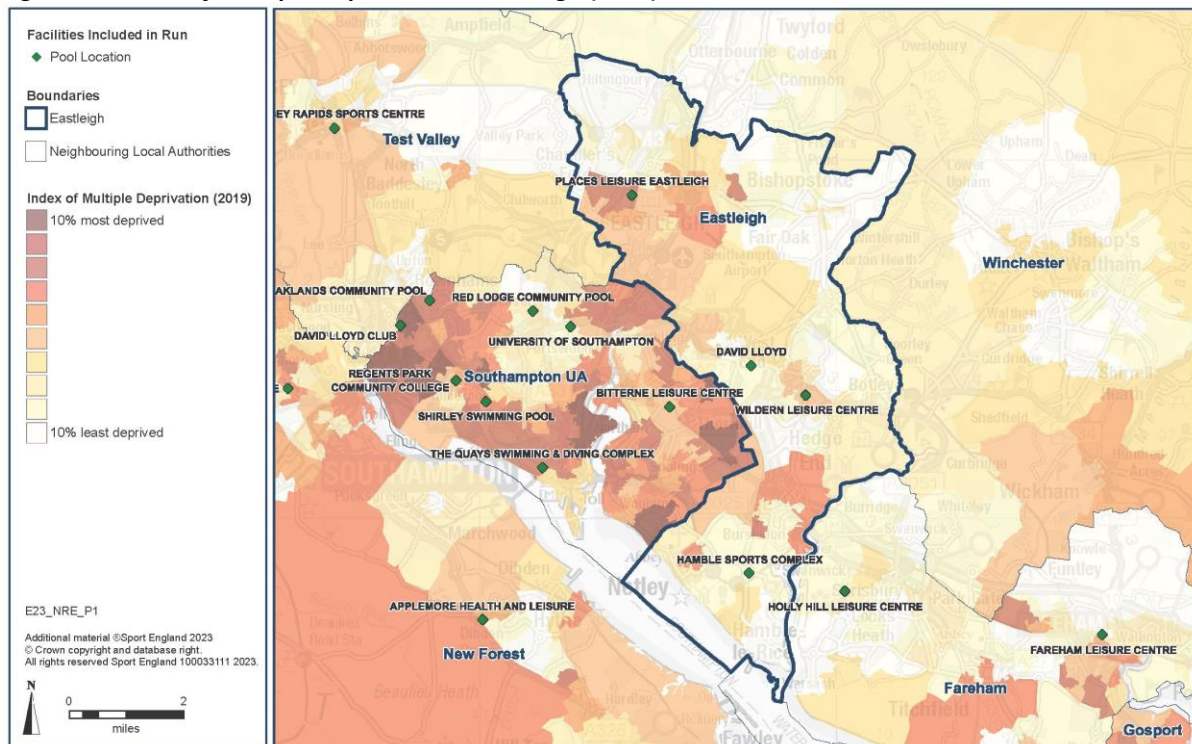
Eastleigh has no lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived 10% nationally, and several in the 10% least deprived based on the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) measure. However, deprivation ranges across the Borough as shown in Figure 2.5. The areas of highest deprivation are, in order:

- Eastleigh town west, near Places Leisure Eastleigh, and Bishopstoke, which is to the east of Eastleigh town.
- Bursledon and south of Hedge End, to the south of Wildern Leisure and to the north of Hamble Sports Complex.
- Netley, to the west of Hamble Sports Complex.

The least deprived areas are Chandler’s Ford, Fair Oak, Botley, Hedge End and Hamble-le-Rice.

The IMD score is used in the FPM to limit whether people will use commercial facilities, such as David Lloyd. A weighting factor is incorporated to reflect the cost element often associated with commercial facilities. The assumption is that the higher the IMD score (less affluence), the less likely the population of the LSOA would choose to go to a commercial facility.

Figure 2.5: Index of Multiple Deprivation in Eastleigh (2023)



Accessibility of swimming pools

For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools by public transport, by bike or on foot is the choice of travel. The FPM uses a distance decay function where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. On average, a 20-minute travel time accounts for approximately 90% of visits to a swimming pool. The travel time limits used are:

- Driving - 20 minutes
- Public transport - 20 minutes (at half speed of car)
- Walking - 20 minutes (one mile)

The proportion of the resident population in Eastleigh who do not have access to a car is 11% which is lower than the regional average of 16% and much lower than the national average of 23%.

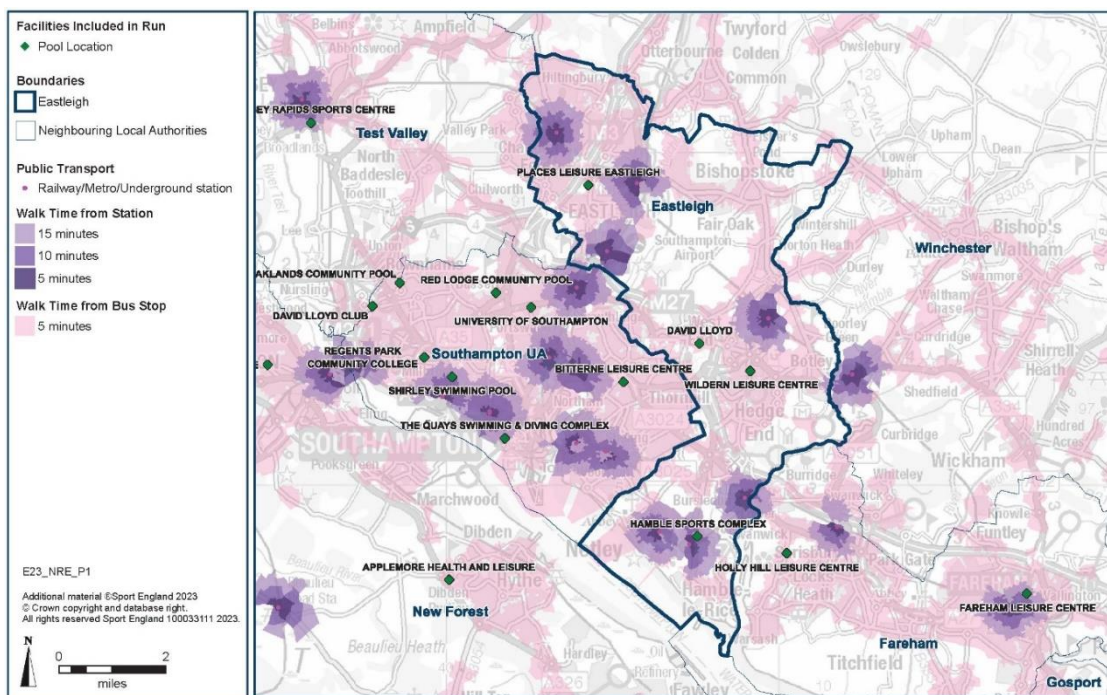
The percentage of the population without access to a car influences travel patterns to swimming pools. A low percentage, as in this case, means that there is likely to be a larger number of visits to swimming pools by car. For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools by public transport and walking becomes the choice of travel, and a network of local accessible swimming pools is important for these residents to encourage participation.

To gain some understanding of how accessible swimming pools are by public transport in Eastleigh, Figure 2.6 shows the areas of the Borough that are within 0-15 minutes’ walk of a railway station (purple

areas) and within 0-5 minutes’ walk of a bus stop (pink areas). All four pool sites are within 5 minutes of a bus stop but only the Hamble Sports Complex is located within 15 minutes’ walk of a railway station.

It should be noted that, while residents in the purple and pink areas on the map can access public transport, it does not mean they can reach a pool within 20 minutes via a combination of walking and public transport. Also, in rural areas the service may not be regular.

Figure 2.6: Areas of Eastleigh within Walking Distance of Public Transport (2023)



It is estimated that over four fifths (87%) of journeys to swimming pools by Eastleigh residents are by car, 8% are on foot and 6% by public transport. Residents who choose to travel by car have access to several swimming pools within 20 minutes travel time.

Satisfied Demand for Swimming Pools

In 2023, 95% of total demand for swimming from Eastleigh residents is satisfied by the existing pool supply located either in the borough or in a neighbouring local authority within the driving, walking or public transport catchment areas for Eastleigh residents. 29% of the total swimming demand generated by Eastleigh residents is met by pools in the catchment area located in neighbouring local authorities in the study area – i.e., ‘exported demand’. Whilst exported demand is a significant proportion of total demand, it is clear from Figure 2.8 that this is not adversely impacting on the levels of satisfied demand in the neighbouring authorities which have rates of satisfied demand of between 90% (Test Valley) and 95% (Southampton).

Figure 2.7: Satisfied Demand for Swimming in Eastleigh

Satisfied Demand	2023
Number of visits which are met per week in peak period	8,612
% of total demand satisfied	95%
Number of visits retained per week in peak period	6,122
Demand retained as a % of satisfied demand	71%
Number of visits exported per week in peak period	2,490
Demand exported as a % of satisfied demand	29%

Figure 2.8: Percentage of Satisfied Demand in Study Area

% of Total Demand Satisfied	2023
Eastleigh	95%
Southampton	95%
Test Valley	90%
Winchester	91%
Fareham	93%

Retained and Exported Demand for Swimming Pools

Another key measurement is retained demand which is a subset of satisfied demand and shows how much of Eastleigh residents’ satisfied demand for swimming is retained at pools within the borough. This assessment is based on the catchment area and appeal of the borough’s pools and residents in the borough swimming at these pools.

At present, 29% of Eastleigh’s satisfied demand for swimming is met by pool sites outside the borough. Although the standard model does not identify which sites, it is reasonable to assume given its location close to the borough boundary with Fareham and its quality that Holly Hill Leisure Centre (6 lane 25m main pool and learner pool built in 2016 operated by Everyone Active) is the primary site accommodating exported demand from Eastleigh Borough. Other pools outside the borough most likely to be used by Eastleigh borough residents are in Southampton. Some Eastleigh residents with access to a car and willing to travel are also likely to use the new swimming facilities in Bar End, Winchester opened in 2023 attracted by the availability of a state-of-the-art 50m pool with moveable floor and large (20m x 10m) learner pool.

Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools

Unmet swimming demand is defined in the model as demand for swimming pools which cannot be met because there is either too much demand for any particular swimming pool within its catchment area resulting in a lack of available capacity, or because demand is located too far away from any swimming pool.

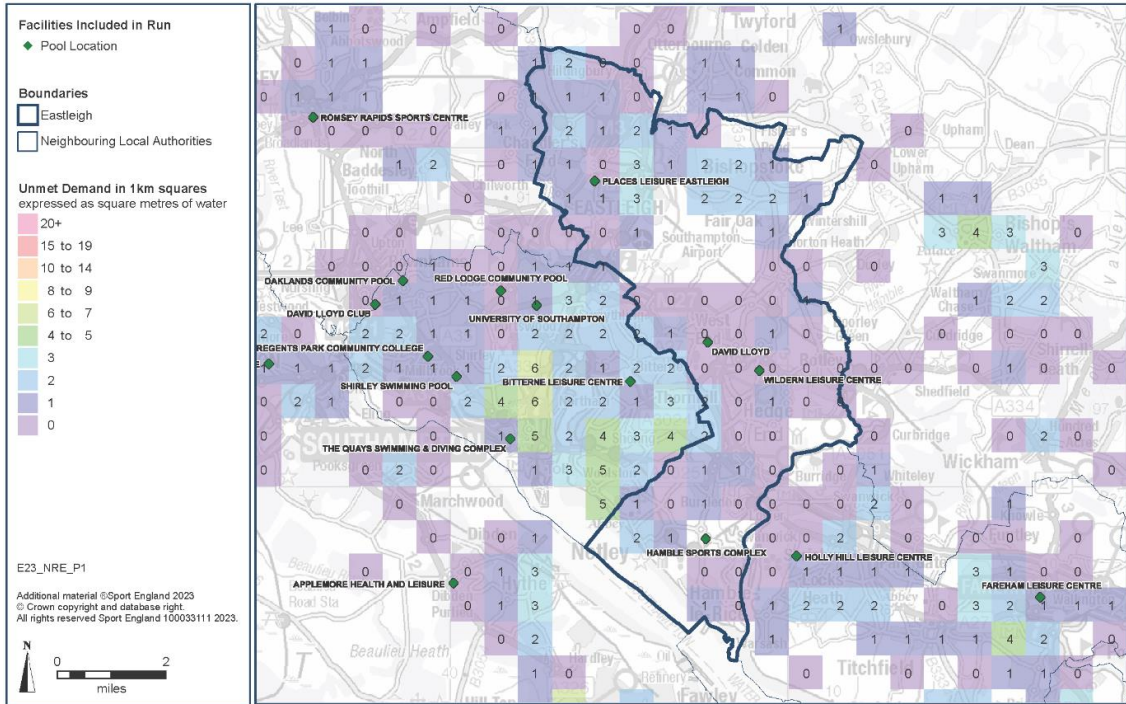
In Eastleigh, unmet demand amounts to a relatively small 5% of total demand, equivalent to 71sqm of water area. This is shown in Figure 2.9. This total unmet demand is aggregated from across the whole borough and not concentrated in a single location. As shown in Figure 2.9, unmet swimming demand in Eastleigh is predominantly for residents without access to a car who live outside the walking or public transport catchment area of any pool.

Figure 2.9: Unmet Demand for Swimming in Eastleigh

Unmet Demand	2023
Number of visits unmet per week in peak period	431
Unmet demand as a % of total demand	5%
Equivalent in sqm of water with comfort factor	71sqm
Facility too far away:	99%
Without access to a car	80%
With access to a car	19%
Lack of facility capacity:	1%
Without access to a car	1%
With access to a car	0%

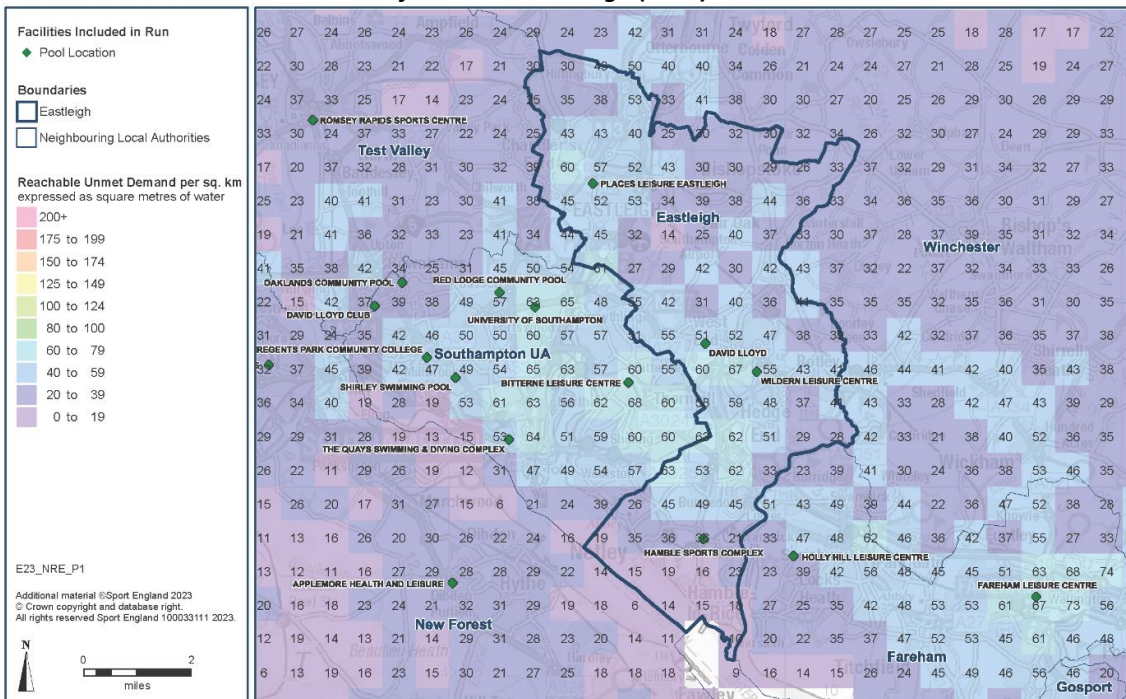
Some unmet demand will always exist because it is not possible to achieve complete spatial coverage whereby all areas of an authority are within walking distance of a swimming pool providing sufficient capacity in the peak period and not everyone will want, or be able, to drive to a facility. Figure 2.10 shows that unmet swimming demand in Eastleigh is highest in the 1km squares just to the east of Places Leisure Eastleigh, and total just 3 sqm of water.

Figure 2.10: Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools in Eastleigh (2023)



Finally, Figure 2.11 illustrates that there is insufficient reachable unmet demand in any one area of the borough to justify the provision of additional pools.

Figure 2.11: Reachable Unmet Demand for Pools in Eastleigh (2023)



Used Capacity of Swimming Pools

Sport England define used capacity as a measure of usage at swimming pools that estimates how well used or how full facilities are in the peak hours; the pools and ancillary changing rooms etc. expressed as a percentage. The assumption is that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and that the venue is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage. The estimated used capacity of Eastleigh’s swimming pools in the weekly peak period, across the borough is 86% (see Figure 2.12). This is 16 percentage points above the Sport England comfort level of 70% used capacity in the weekly peak period.

Figure 2.12: Used Capacity of Swimming Pools in Eastleigh

Used Capacity	2023
Number of visits used of capacity in weekly peak	10,066
% of overall capacity of pools used	86%
Number of visits imported in weekly peak period	3,945
Visits imported as a % of used capacity	39%
Imported visits less exported visits	+1,454

David Lloyd has the lowest estimated used capacity of the individual sites at 56% in the weekly peak period. David Lloyd provides recreational participation through membership only. It is not available for public pay and play or for club development. Therefore, it offers a more limited programme of use than the public leisure centres and is less utilised. Estimated utilisation is more than 70% at the three other sites (Figure 2.13).

Figure 2.13: Estimated utilisation at individual swimming pool sites in Eastleigh

Sites	Estimated Utilisation
Wildern Leisure Centre	100%
Places Leisure Eastleigh	96%
Hamble Sports Complex	73%
David Lloyd	56%

As the amount of unmet demand for swimming among residents is low (5% of total demand, equivalent to 71sqm of water space) the focus in the short term should be to reduce used capacity in the peak at Wildern Leisure Centre by seeking to increase the available hours in the peak period from the current 38.5 closer to the maximum of 52.5.

The clear conclusion of the FPM is that there is no need to increase swimming pools provision in Eastleigh based on the used capacity findings of the existing pool supply and existing population levels.

Local Share of Swimming Pools in Eastleigh

This measure helps show which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision and is useful for looking at ‘equity’ of provision. It considers the size, availability and quality of facilities, as well as travel modes and decreases as facilities age. Local share is the available capacity at the locations that people want to visit in an area (taking into account deprivation), divided by the demand for that capacity in the area.

A value of 1 means that there is enough quality supply reachable by the demand. A value of less than 1 indicates a shortage of quality supply that can be reached by the demand and a value greater than 1 indicates a surplus of reachable quality supply.

Eastleigh has a local share for swimming pools of 1.12. This is higher than in Fareham (1.05), Southampton (0.88) and Test Valley (1.11) but lower than in Winchester (1.61) which recently substantially increased its supply by building a 50m pool replacement for an old 25m pool.

Comparative Measure of Provision

A comparative measure of swimming pool provision by local authority area is water space per 1,000 population. In 2023, there is wide variation in provision across the study area, ranging from 19 sqm of water per 1,000 population in Winchester (reflecting its new 50m provision) down to 9 sqm of water per 1,000 population in Fareham. Eastleigh has 11 sqm of water space per 1,000 population which is broadly on a par with the average across the South East Region (13%) and England as a whole (12%).

What next based on the FPM analysis?

The FPM report provides a detailed ‘snapshot’ of the supply and demand balance for public swimming in the borough as at 2023. The report findings do not justify investment in providing more supply at the present time. The clear priority is to secure the current supply by means of Community Use Agreements as 50% of current demand is met on education sites.

The report makes clear that the three sites accessible on a pay and swim basis (i.e., without membership) are all used above comfortable capacity in the peak periods of demand. Opportunities to alleviate the peak time capacity issue by maximising availability of pools in the peak period (e.g., by extending the available peak hours at Wildern Leisure Centre) should therefore be fully explored.

Future need

Finally, in the context of this strategy and the Local Plan, it is important to consider the projected increase in population in the Borough in terms of scale and location, and how this will impact on the future demand for swimming pools. This conclusion is unchanged from the 2017 FPM assessment which stated:

‘In the context of forecast population growth in the Borough of 40,000 approx. (2016 to 2036), the model findings suggest that further provision is likely to be required in the emerging Local Plan period 2011-2036, either within Eastleigh Borough or within the drive time catchment. This conclusion is endorsed in consultation with the ASA (the governing body for swimming) particularly when the FPM findings for the neighbouring Boroughs of Southampton and Fareham are taken into account both of which show a substantial shortfall in water space to meet the demands of their own current borough populations (i.e., a negative Supply/Demand balance) before imported demand from Eastleigh or other neighbouring Boroughs is taken into account.’

There remains a projected increase in population from 2023 to 2036 of 25,498 which, based on this one-year FPM assessment, strongly suggests that the current sites are unlikely to be able to accommodate a sustained increase in demand. The development at One Horton Heath is likely to create additional pressure on swimming pool facilities, both Places Leisure Eastleigh and Wildern Leisure Centre are within 5 miles of the site. There is an opportunity to increase the community hours available for peak use at Wildern Leisure Centre and as the closest facility to One Horton Heath this should be explored to cater for this additional demand.

Longer-term local bespoke assessments can be undertaken using Sport England’s FPM. These assessments should include population projections with options for changing the pool supply and assessing the collective impact this has on the future demand for pools and the distribution of that demand. Such an evidence base can be applied in strategic planning and the Local Plan policy and can be used for securing inward investment.

In the interim, to provide a indicative indication of the quantum of additional swimming water space likely to be required to accommodate demand from projected population growth, Sport England’s Sports Facility Calculator planning tool has been used. The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is a planning tool which helps to estimate the amount of demand for key community sports facilities that may be

generated by a given population. It is important to remember that the SFC looks at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities as it doesn't include a spatial element. To meet the demand of from 25,498 additional residents (as currently forecast⁸) over the strategy period until 2036 and assuming the current levels of demand, the SFC suggests demand will be generated for 276sqm of water space equivalent to 5.2 lanes or 1.3 new 4 lane pools at a cost of almost £6m at 2022 quarter 3 prices. In view of the lack of capacity at the existing pools to meet additional demand (except the commercial David Lloyd club), it is therefore apparent that new indoor swimming provision will be required by 2036.

Figure 2.14: Demand for Swimming Pools from estimated population growth to 2036

Swimming Pools ⁹	
Demand adjusted by	0%
Square meters	276.22
Lanes	5.20
Pools	1.30
vpwpp	1,680
Cost	£5,903,874

Swimming Pool Sites and Consultation

David Lloyd Leisure Centre has an indoor pool and a heated outdoor pool both in good condition available to members only. They also offer a children's coaching session for members.

Hamble Sports Complex is a 4 lane 20m pool which is available for use during the day with the school no longer taking up daytime use. The site is managed by Everyone Active who run an in house swim school. The pool used by three local Primary Schools and a number of clubs including Hamble Swim Club, HAST, TriStars, Trico / Grove Project (disability 1 week), British Triathlon (training for new coaches), sea survival, Hamble school yachting, BOSS (British off shore Sea Survival), Sailing logistic and Mendez Marina. They state their pool is fully booked all day every day, with sessions including lane swimming, swimming lessons, aqua sessions, school swimming, public and family swimming and external groups and teams. The swim school at 68.53% capacity which leaves spaces for new children to join and current swimmers to progress when needed.

Places Leisure Eastleigh was built in 2017 and has an 8 lane 25m pool underwater cameras to assist lifeguards. The deep end accommodates diving boards with a depth of 3m. The teaching pool has a moveable pool down to 1.6m. The main pool has a platform lift and the teaching pool a pool pod for easier access. Eastleigh Swim Club use the pool most mornings, evenings and at the weekend. Fleming Park Lifesaving Club use the facility Sat evenings and they also have a diving club and sub aqua group that use the pool. Places Leisure reported good levels of usage and that the learn to swim programmes are near to capacity.

Wildern Leisure Centre is a 4 lane 25m pool that accommodates school use during the day (Wildern School and local primary schools) and community use and clubs in the evening (Hamble Swim Club, Hedge End Triathlon, Wilder Waves Swimming Club). The learner pool extension was completed in 2000 and is open for community use all day and offers a learn to swim programme. The roof on the main pool was recently replaced (2 years ago) to increase space for seating and improve heat loss. One of the pumps in the plant room needs replacing and the pool tiles are in need of regrouting which the school are planning to stagger with the shallow end being completed first. Wildern report that the pool is full to capacity with no gaps for usage.

⁸ ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

Club Consultation

Bassett JSF Swimming Club

The club has approximately 100 youth members with 70% coming from the borough of Eastleigh. The club has seen a reduction in membership of approximately 10% due to Covid restrictions. The club are looking to grow by extending training time for their academy. They use pools outside of Eastleigh, in Southampton, Red Lodge Community Pool (main facility) and use Oaklands Community pool (secondary). The club have identified a need for more pool time.

Chapel Tri Junior Triathlon Club has approximately 135 mainly youth members of which the club state approximately 30% come from the borough of Eastleigh, the club has had a relatively stable membership in the last few years and are looking to sustain this level. The club use Hamble Sports Complex and Victoria Park for training. The club have not identified any facility needs.

Quality ratings – Main facility - 5/5 Changing facilities - 5/5

Eastleigh Disability Swimming (EDSAD) has approximately 32 adult members with 70% coming from the borough of Eastleigh. The club has seen a growth in membership recently and are looking to sustain this number. They use both the main and teaching pools at Places Eastleigh. The club have not highlighted any facility needs but have highlighted due to the needs of their members it is essential the lifts, hoists, poolside wheelchairs and disability parking is available for their members.

Quality ratings – Main facility – 5/5, Changing facilities 4/5

Eastleigh Swim Club (ESC) is a large swimming club with members from 7-18 years and a learn to swim programme from 3 to 12 years of which 60% of members coming from Eastleigh. The club has seen a steady membership level in the last few years and are looking to grow by expanding their learn to swim programme, introducing adult teams and a masters squad. They use Places Eastleigh as their main facility as well as Oaklands Community Pool in Southampton. The club state they are at their current limit for pool time, and ideally need access to another facility. They also state anti-social behaviour from local youths is risking club membership.

Quality ratings – Main facility – 4/5, Changing facilities 4/5

Hamble Aquatics Team has approximately 60 youth members and 6 aged over 18, 90% of members come from the borough of Eastleigh. The club has seen a steady membership level in the last few years and are looking to sustain this. Their main facility is Hamble Sports Complex, and they also use Bitterne Leisure Centre in Southampton. The club have not identified any facility needs although state they lost pool time during Covid and the changing facilities at Hamble Sports Complex needs refurbishment.

Quality ratings – Main facility – 4/5, Changing facilities 3/5

Priorities and Actions - Swimming Pools

Swimming		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure the current levels of water space and peak period availability at all four pool sites including Community Use Agreements (CUAs) at the two education sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the timetabling at Wildern LC with the school to try and secure up to 13 additional hours in the peak period for community use. Undertake further modification of the pool sites where feasible to reduce energy costs and minimise emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider options to expand water area to meet future demand from housing growth – i.e., an options appraisal to include bespoke Facility Planning Model reports from Sport England based on population projections and identified scenarios.
<p>Prioritised Actions:</p> <p>Short Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to work with Wildern School to review the timetable to try and secure up to 13 additional hours in the peak period for community use. <p>Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider options to expand water area to meet future demand from housing growth – i.e., an options appraisal to include bespoke Facility Planning Model reports from Sport England based on population projections and identified scenarios. 		

Sports Halls

What’s changed since the Sports Facilities Needs Assessment 2017

With regard to sports halls in Eastleigh Borough the key change has been the replacement of the former Fleming Park Leisure Centre with the borough’s flagship centre, Places Leisure Eastleigh. This sub-regional leisure centre opened at the end of November 2017 providing residents and visitors with a larger (15 badminton court size) sports hall suitable to accommodate large scale events (with retractable spectator seating) replacing the former 10 court hall – i.e., an increase of 5 badminton courts.

There has also been new supply of two sports halls at Deer Park Secondary School, Botley, Hedge End – a new school opening in 2022 with a 594sqm 4 badminton court sports hall (33mx18m) as part of a Sports Centre with community availability owned and operated jointly with Wildern Leisure Centre by the Wildern Academy Trust, and Hiltingbury Recreation Ground Sports Complex, Chandler’s Ford – a new community sports facility opened in July 2019 with a 594sqm 4 badminton court sports hall (33mx18m), owned and operated by the Chandler’s Ford Parish Council. In addition, the Activity Hall (1 bad court 18x10m) at Wildern Leisure Centre (an educational site with club and pay & play availability in the peak hours) was refurbished in 2019.

However, the sports halls at Crestwood Community School Cherbourg and Shakespeare Campus are no longer available to community use following the Covid 19 Pandemic. Both sites had a 4 court Sports Hall (34.5x20m) and a activity hall (18x10m), that was used for a range of sports activities.

Supply of Sports Halls in Eastleigh Borough

With this new supply, in 2023, there are 9 main sports halls in Eastleigh Borough that provide access to the public at large. Eight of the sports halls are 4 badminton court size and one (Places Leisure Eastleigh) is a large 15 court sports hall with capacity for spectator events. Three of the sites with a main sports hall also provide a second, smaller activity hall. Other than Places Leisure Eastleigh no other sports halls currently meet with Sport England’s recommended community 4-court hall size guidelines for multi-sport of 34.5mx20m. Details of the sports hall supply including type of management/operation, the age of the facility and the number of hours of available access to community users in the peak period are set out in Figure 2.15 below.

Figure 2.15: Details of Sports Hall Supply in Eastleigh

Site	Operation	Year Built / (Refurbished)	Facility Type	Peak Hours
Barton Peveril College	Educational	2005	4 court main hall (34.5x20m)	20
Deer Park School, Botley	Educational	2022	4 court hall (33x18m)	36
Hamble Sports Complex	Educational	2002	4 court main hall (32x18m)	52.5
Hiltingbury Recreation Ground	Public	2019	4 court hall (33x18m)	98
Places Leisure Eastleigh	Public	2017	15 court main hall (64.05x40.6m)	52.5
Thornden School	Educational	1970 (2010)	4 court hall (33x18m)	46
		2015	Activity hall (18x10m)	16
Toynbee School	Educational	1977 (2003)	4 court hall (33x18m)	35
			Activity hall (20x10m)	
Wildern Leisure Centre	Educational	1979	4 court main hall (33x18m)	39
		1979 (2019)	Activity hall (18x10m)	
Wyvern College	Educational	2005	4 court hall (33x18m)	69

The borough also has the following 8 sites with large activity halls (defined as 1 badminton court or larger) used regularly by their local communities for sports and active indoor recreation:

Figure 2.16: Details of Activity Halls in Eastleigh

Site	Facility Type	No of Courts
Hedge End Village Hall	17x9m	1
Holy Cross Catholic Church	18mx10m	1
Lakeside School	18mx10m	1
Pavilion on the Park	18x17m 18 x10m	2 1
QE2 Activity Centre	18x17m	2
The Hub	18x17m	2
Wells Place Centre	20x10m	1
West End Parish Centre	18x10m	1

Accessibility of Sports Hall Supply

The distribution of the supply of sports and activity halls across Eastleigh taken from Sport England Active Places Power is shown in Figure 2.17 below, this does however include the Sports Halls at Crestwood Community School (Cherbourg and Shakespeare Campus).

Figure 2.17 Location of Sports Hall Sites in Eastleigh



The two new sports halls provided at Deer Park School, Botley, Hedge End and in Hiltingbury, Chandler’s Ford since the last strategy in 2017 has improved the distribution of halls across the borough to better meet demand from residents living outside the main urban area of Eastleigh Town.

Availability of Sports Hall Supply

The replacement in 2017 of the Fleming Park sports hall with larger provision in Places Leisure Eastleigh compensated for the permanent closure of the Eastleigh College sports hall in 2016 and enabled greater programming of indoor events. However, event programming impacts adversely on availability at weekends for regular recreational programming and local clubs.

The changes to the sports hall supply since 2017 in Eastleigh and in Chandler’s Ford have also gone some way to addressing the reliance on educational sports halls for community use in these towns and lack of availability during the daytime on weekdays. However, in common with most local authority areas, there remains heavy reliance in Eastleigh borough on access to educational sports halls in the peak evening and weekend hours for community indoor sports. Other than at Places Leisure Eastleigh and Hiltingbury Recreation Ground in Chandler’s Ford, community daytime access to indoor sports relies entirely on provision of activity halls such as church and village halls of suitable dimensions and flooring etc. to accommodate a recreational level of play in a limited range of sports.

Imported and Exported Sports Hall Demand

The size and spectator capacity of Places Leisure Eastleigh are such that this site hosts a number of regional and sub-regional sports events each year. Accordingly, the centre attracts users and spectators from outside the borough. Similarly, a number of Eastleigh borough residents with access to a car and willing to travel are likely to be attracted to events hosted at one or other of the following three large-scale sports centres with sports halls that have opened in neighbouring local authority areas since 2017:

- Southampton Solent University (Solent Sports Complex), SO14 0YN – built 2019, two 4 court halls with registered membership accessibility 7 days a week (6 days to 10pm, 5pm on Sundays).
- Andover Leisure Centre, SP10 1QP – built 2019, Two large sports halls (one 10 court, one 8 court), full community access
- Winchester Sports & Leisure Park, Bar End, SO23 9NR – built 2023, large 8 court hall, full pay and play access.

Comparative Measure of Provision

Figure 2.18 compares the provision of sports and activity halls in Eastleigh Borough with its immediate accessible neighbour local authorities.

Figure 2.18 Quantity of Sports Halls Comparison

Local Authority	Number of halls	Number of courts	Population	Halls per 1,000 population	Courts per 1,000 population
Eastleigh	25	60	136,491	0.18	0.44
Fareham	29	59	117,809	0.25	0.50
Southampton	41	105	256,901	0.16	0.41
Test Valley	31	53	129,506	0.24	0.41
Winchester	37	65	127,164	0.29	0.51

Eastleigh has the lowest number of sports and activity halls with availability to the community at 25. Relative to the size of the population, sports hall supply in Eastleigh ranks ahead of Southampton but below its other three neighbours (on the quantitative measure of halls per 1,000 people. In part, this reflects the single large hall at Places Leisure Eastleigh. Badminton courts with community availability per 1,000 population is therefore a better comparator measure of sports hall supply. On this measure,

Eastleigh ranks third out of five with Southampton and Test Valley having slightly less supply per capita and Fareham and Winchester slightly more.

Sport England’s Facility Planning Model 2016 Run

In light of the recent investments and changes in supply of sports halls in the borough (+5 courts since 2017), the Borough Council has not commissioned Sport England to provide an updated FPM analysis and report to inform this strategy. The needs assessment therefore relies on review of changes to supply and demand for halls since the last FPM run in 2017 including site visit assessments and consultations with stakeholders.

The 2016 FPM report found that while 96% of overall demand for sports halls from borough residents was satisfied by the available and accessible supply of halls, as much as a third (33.4%) of that overall demand was being met by sports halls outside the borough. The increase in supply in the borough by +5 courts since 2017 (+5 courts in Eastleigh, +4 courts in Hedge End and +4 courts in Chandler’s Ford as detailed above offset by the closure of Crestwood Community School sites for community use -8 courts), is likely to have reduced somewhat the reliance on halls in neighbour boroughs (exported demand).

The 2016 FPM report concluded that further supply – i.e. in addition to the planned projects detailed above - was not required based on the population at the time, however this would not have factored in the loss of community use at Crestwood Community School.

Future need

As with swimming pools, in the context of this strategy and the Local Plan, it is important to consider the projected increase in population in the Borough in terms of scale and location, and how this will impact on the future demand for sports halls.

The development at One Horton Heath is likely to create additional pressure on sports hall facilities and in particular at Places Leisure Eastleigh and Wildern Leisure Centre which are within 5 miles of the site. There is a proposal for a new primary school / community centre as part of the development, which provides an opportunity for additional activity Hall provision for the area to cater for this additional demand.

Again, as with pools, longer-term local bespoke assessments can be undertaken using Sport England’s FPM. These assessments should include population projections with options for changing the sports hall supply and assessing the collective impact this has on the future demand for halls and the distribution of that demand. Such an evidence base can be applied in strategic planning and the Local Plan policy and can be used for securing inward investment.

In the interim, to provide a indicative indication of the quantum of additional sports hall space likely to be required to accommodate demand from projected population growth, Sport England’s Sports Facility Calculator planning tool has been used. The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is a planning tool which helps to estimate the amount of demand for key community sports facilities that may be generated by a given population. It is important to remember that the SFC looks at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities as it doesn’t include a spatial element.

To meet the demand of from 25,498 additional residents (as currently forecast¹⁰) over the strategy period until 2036 and assuming the current levels of demand, the SFC suggests demand will be generated for just over 7 additional badminton courts or 1.8 new 4 court sports halls at a cost of £5.3m at 2022 quarter 3 prices.

¹⁰ ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

Figure 2.19: Demand for Sports Halls from estimated population growth to 2036

Sports Halls	
Demand adjusted by	0%
Courts	7.23
Halls	1.81
vpwpp	2,129
Cost	£5,380,446

Further FPM analysis will be beneficial to assess the extent to which the existing supply has available unused capacity in the peak period to accommodate demand generated by the additional population. This analysis will inform the extent to which any new sports hall provision will be required by 2036.

Sports Hall Sites and Consultation

Places Leisure Eastleigh is a key site for sports hall provision with 15 courts and bleacher seating available at the far end, it is used for a range of activities including indoor cricket, badminton, netball, volleyball, football, kids activities, basketball, gymnastics, trampolining and dance.

The Hub is a council owned facility, and the Sports Hall is operated by Youth Options, the current lease runs until May 2030. The facility is in need of decoration and repairs in some areas, the sports hall has a small roof leak which has been unresolved for a while now. The maintenance is spilt between the Council, Eastleigh RFC, (the other lease holder on the site) and Youth Options. The hall is used for a range of activities including football, boxing, karate, table tennis and badminton.

The QE2 Activity centre has a 2 court activity hall, the hall floor is old and in need of refurbishment. The facility is leased from Hampshire CC on a 25 year lease, which was last renewed in 2006. The centre has other priorities for investment across the site and unlikely to renew the floor until new lease is signed. The other sites across the borough, mainly on education sites, are in good condition and well used for a variety of activities. Thornden School Sports Hall floor is over 14 years old; the floor is worn and needs refurbishing.

The condition of the majority of sports halls are either good, such as the newer provision e.g., Places Leisure Eastleigh and Hiltingbury Sports, with the rest of a standard quality. However, The Hub, Thornden School and QE2 Activity Centre require repairs or refurbishment.

Wildern Leisure Centre reports some spare capacity during peak hours Monday to Friday evenings but are full to capacity at weekends.

Hamble Sports Complex hall is available to community groups from 4:30-9:30pm Monday to Friday and all day at weekends. They estimate they are 80% full in the evenings, fully booked Saturdays and Sundays is 30-40% booked. The centre leave spaces to accommodate casual bookings with around 50% of usage being block booked by clubs. They state occasionally they have to turn bookings away due to hirers wanting a full sports hall when only half is available, but this doesn't happen often.

Both Hedge End and Bishopstoke Parish Council feel there is a need for increased sports hall provision in their area's. Bishopstoke is in the process of rebuilding their memorial hall which may be able to provide access for some forms of physical activity and sport.

Badminton England's area profile indicates there are 13 badminton clubs in Eastleigh, 8 affiliated and 5 unaffiliated and highlights a projected demand of 2,484 in the borough. The supply and demand analysis for 2030 results in an under supply of 0.3 courts, when unmet demand is factored in this under supply increases to 0.8 courts. There priority would be to increase the number and quality of facilities in the area.

Hampshire Cricket identifies a need for more space for the South Hampshire Indoor Cricket League currently delivered at Places Leisure Eastleigh, which has recently been restricted to 2 sections of the Sports Hall and meant the Women’s section was cancelled.

Club Consultation

Dwarf Sports Association (Wyvern College) has 17 youth members of mixed ages and genders of which 10% come from Eastleigh. The association has grown in the last few years and aims to grow further by using social media to attract more families. The association use Wyvern Sports Centre as its main venue for a range of activities including Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Exercise, Football and Hockey. It has identified a possible need to make use of the outside track space should numbers expand.

Quality ratings – Main facility - 4/5

Eastleigh Shotokan Karate Club (Wyvern College) has 55 members and has seen a growth in numbers in the last few years but have no plans to grow further. The club has not identified any facility needs.

Quality ratings – Main facility 5/5, Changing facilities 5/5

Multi sports Club (Wildern School + other venues) caters for young people 16 + with learning disabilities, they currently have 8 members, which has dropped since covid and the closure of Crestwood Community School facilities as members cannot travel to the new venue. The club are aiming for numbers to return to pre covid levels. Their main venue is Wildern School, but also use Woodlands, QE2 and Thornden School. The club state there is a need for more venues with disabled access around Eastleigh for ease of transport.

Quality ratings – Main facility 5/5

Thornden Community Badminton Club (Seniors) (Hiltingbury Sports Hall) has approximately 40 members of which 90% come from Eastleigh. Their membership has grown, and the club is now at capacity for their sessions. The club would like to grow and to offer a second evening but cannot find available facilities.

Quality ratings – Main facility 5/5

Valley Park Badminton Club (Hiltingbury Sports Hall) has around 54 members (youth and adult) of which 30% come from Eastleigh, with others coming from Winchester, Test Valley and Southampton. Their membership has doubled in the last few years, the club would like to grow further but would need additional facilities.

Quality ratings – Main facility 4/5, Changing facilities 4/5

Wado Sport Karate Academy (Wyvern College) has around 75 members with around 20% coming from Eastleigh. The clubs membership has been relatively stable in the last few years, and they have no plans to grow further. The club also use Swanmore College and Wickham Community centre for their activities. They have not identified any facility needs.

Quality ratings – Main Facility 5/5, Changing facilities 5/5

Wyvern Dragons Badminton (Wyvern College) has around 50 members of which 90% come from Eastleigh. Their membership numbers have recovered to pre covid levels and the club has ambitions to grow further by having more league matches. The club did not identify any facility needs.

Quality ratings – Main facility 4/5, Changing facilities 4/5

Sports Halls Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of the existing overall sports hall supply including the availability of sports halls on education sites as a minimum, securing Community Use Agreements where not already in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Crestwood Community School to explore options to reopen at least one site for community use. • Investigate roof leak at the Hub. • Support QE2 activity centre and Thorden School with funding advice and support to relay the hall floor. • Negotiate CUA on education sites to secure community use where they are not already in place. • Seek to secure more space for the delivery of the South Hampshire indoor cricket league at Place Leisure Eastleigh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options of community use for activity hall provision at OHH primary school/ community centre. • Consider options to expand sports hall provision to meet future demand from housing growth – i.e. an options appraisal to include bespoke Facility Planning Model reports from Sport England based on population projections and identified scenarios.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Crestwood Community School to explore options to reopen at least one site for community use. • Investigate roof leak at The Hub. • Negotiate CUA on education sites to secure community use where they are not already in place. • Seek to secure more space for the delivery of the South Hampshire indoor cricket league at Place Leisure Eastleigh. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options of community use for activity hall provision at OHH primary school/ community centre. • Consider options to expand sports hall provision to meet future demand from housing growth – i.e. an options appraisal to include bespoke Facility Planning Model reports from Sport England based on population projections and identified scenarios. • Provide QE2 activity centre and Thorden School with funding advice and support to relay the hall floor. 		

Health and Fitness Provision in Eastleigh

There are currently 11 sites with 25 stations or more that offer health and fitness provision and 15 that have studio facilities for exercise classes. Schools with gyms for pupil use only are not included. The existing provision provides accessible opportunities across the range of access types (pay and play or pay as you go, and membership), and provision (cardio, weights, functional fitness, circuits, exercise to music classes, studio cycling) and options of 24/7 access (Anytime fitness).

Figure 2.20: Health and Fitness Facilities in Eastleigh with 25+ stations

Facility Name	Postcode	Approx. Stations	Access Type	Ownership
3D HEALTH AND FITNESS	SO53 4BW	43	Reg. Members use	Commercial
ANYTIME FITNESS (EASTLEIGH)	SO50 5SF	47	Reg. Members use	Commercial
CROSSFIT (SOUTHAMPTON)	SO50 6RR	40	Reg. Members use	Commercial
DAVID LLOYD (Southampton West End)	SO30 3XA	100	Reg. Members use	Commercial
HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX	SO31 4NE	85	Pay and Play	Comm. school
HEDGE END GOLF CENTRE	SO30 4BZ	25	Reg. Members use	Commercial
PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH	SO50 9NL	100	Reg. Members use	Local Authority
SPIRIT HEALTH CLUB (EASTLEIGH)	SO50 9PG	29	Reg. Members use	Commercial
VILLAGE GYM (EASTLEIGH)	SO53 3YJ	75	Reg. Members use	Commercial
WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE	SO30 4EJ	37	Pay and Play	Comm. school
WYVERN COLLEGE SPORT AND FITNESS	SO50 7AN	48	Reg. Members use	Academies
	Total	679		

Figure 2.21: Studio Facilities in Eastleigh

Facility Name	Postcode	No of Studios	Access Type	Ownership
3D HEALTH AND FITNESS	SO53 4BW	2	Reg. Members use	Commercial
ANYTIME FITNESS (EASTLEIGH)	SO50 5SF	1	Reg. Members use	Commercial
CROSSFIT (SOUTHAMPTON)	SO50 6RR	2	Reg. Members use	Commercial
DAVID LLOYD (Southampton West End)	SO30 3XA	3	Reg. Members use	Commercial
EASTLEIGH COLLEGE	SO50 5FS	1	Sports Club / Comm. Ass.	Further Ed.
HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX	SO31 4NE	1	Pay and Play	Comm. school
HILTINGBURY RECREATION GROUND	SO53 5NP	1	Pay and Play	L. Authority
PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH	SO50 9NL	3	Pay and Play	L. Authority
SPIRIT HEALTH CLUB (EASTLEIGH)	SO50 9PG	1	Reg. Members use	Commercial
THE HUB	SO50 6LA	1	Sports Club / Comm. Ass.	L. Authority
THORNDEN SCHOOL	SO53 2DW	1	Sports Club / Comm. Ass.	Comm. school
VILLAGE GYM (EASTLEIGH)	SO53 3YJ	2	Reg. Members use	Commercial
VITAL HEALTH & WELLBEING (BOTLEY PARK HOTEL)	SO32 2UA	1	Reg. Members use	Commercial
WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE	SO30 4EJ	1	Pay and Play	Comm. school
WYVERN COLLEGE SPORT AND FITNESS	SO50 7AN	1	Reg. Members use	Academies
	Total	22		

There are also smaller specialist gyms within Eastleigh such as Curves, a specialist women’s only facility offering circuit sessions, Fair Oak Squash and Racketball Club, whose small gym targets females and older adults that prefer somewhere quieter, Lakeside Weightlifting Club, a membership based club for youth and adults, affiliated to British Weightlifting, Vital Health and Wellbeing, who has a small gym to compliment their spa and hotel offer and Wide Lane Sports Ground, which is a sports performance gym used by Sports Teams and students.

In light of the revenue contribution made by health and fitness to the financial sustainability of the area’s main public leisure centre and its vital contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of local

residents, it is important to ensure that the health and fitness offer at Places Leisure Eastleigh remains competitive in relation to availability (opening hours), access (affordable membership options) and attractiveness (the quality of the studios, equipment, training and instruction).

There is a good level of health and fitness provision in the main Council owned and operated leisure centre, Places Leisure Eastleigh, who have pay and play options as well as memberships. The centre offers personal training, a vast range of group exercise classes, supervised junior fitness sessions (11-15 years), wellness programmes available via GP referral, forever active as well as classes and multi sport activities for older adults.

The Hub does not have a gym facility and the studio area was hired out by several groups prior to Covid rather than the centre running exercise classes. This space was then utilised by the NHS Physiotherapy department during the pandemic and has continued since as the previous users no longer require the space.

Everyone Active took over the operation of Hamble Sports Complex, a Hampshire County Council facility, in 2019 and has since refitted and extended the gym from 35 stations to 85 stations. They offer virtual and in person led exercise classes. The school use of the gym is limited to 10 hours a week for a max of 10 students at a time to allow community use to continue during the day.

Lakeside Weightlifting Club is based at Lakeside Country Park and has 'Talent Academy' status (one of only 5 clubs nationally) for work developing youths into GB weightlifting pathways.

CrossFit Southampton is a function training gym, with a bespoke training rig for both weightlifting and gymnastics as well as 15 dedicated lifting platforms and a range of fitness equipment. They offer classes 7 days a week from 8 years to adult and are also a British Weightlifting affiliated club. They have no security with just a rolling contract at their current venue which is an old railway warehouse.

Wildern Leisure Centre has a small gym (37 stations) with public access on weekdays from 5:20am – 12:30pm then 4-10pm, with school use between 12:20 - 4pm. The gym is open to the public 7am -7pm Saturday and Sunday. The centre is busy with over 1,000 members.

Wyvern Sports and Fitness has 48 stations with public access on weekdays 7-11am and 3.30-9.30pm, with school use in between. The gym is open between 8am-4pm Saturday and Sunday, and they offer a range of exercise classes every day of the week. They have approx. 400 members plus casual usual.

Quality of Health and Fitness Facilities

The majority of the facilities that were assessed by the Consultant Team were in a good or a very good standard. Wildern school reported that some of their machines are due to be replaced soon. All the health and fitness facilities listed offer some form of disability access.

Location of Health and Fitness Facilities in Eastleigh

There is a good spread of health and fitness facilities across the borough, with the majority of residents within 20 minutes' drive of their nearest facility.

Health and Fitness Participation

In terms of health and fitness demand trends, the latest annual state of the industry report found that, in 2022, the penetration rate (i.e., the proportion of the adult population in the UK that were members of a gym in either the public or private sector) has dropped from 15.6% in 2019 to 14.6%, with 1 in every 10 people in the UK being a member of a gym. The 2022 report highlights that the pandemic has knocked the industry back around three years and the 3-year period to the end of March 2022 has seen

decreases of 2.4% in the number of fitness facilities, 4.7% in the number of members and 4.3% in market value. The industry is taking time to recover to pre pandemic levels as consumers adapted to new exercise habits, including online and hybrid models, although group exercise remains popular for its social aspects.

This evidence of the reduction of UK health and fitness participation is supported by the findings of the Active Lives Survey for England. 10.5% of adults (16+) in England took part in a gym session at least twice in the previous 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 4,842,600 people. This has decreased from 13.3% in 2018/19, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but has increased from 7.7% in 2020/21, showing some signs of recovery. The number of people taking part in a fitness class was higher at 12.5% (5,779,400 people), which is a decrease from 14% in 2019/20, the first time there has been a reduction in participation since the start of the survey in 2015/16.

Club Consultation
<p>CrossFit Southampton / Southampton Weightlifting Club has over 900 members from youth to adult, of which approximately 80% come from Eastleigh, the club has seen a 200% increase in membership in the last few years and are looking to grow further to support more young people and over 65's in the local area. The club have identified a need for a larger purpose built facility.</p> <p>Quality ratings – Main facility - 4/5 Changing facilities - 3/5</p>

Health and Fitness Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community health and fitness facilities through planning policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure council owned/operated health and fitness facilities and equipment are maintained to a good quality standard whilst offering affordable pricing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review health and fitness facility and equipment needs in relation to changes in accessible supply (e.g., 24/7 budget gyms and high street / retail town centre provision), fitness participation and industry trends and population growth. Provide advice and guidance to CrossFit Southampton to support them with their facility ambitions.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a community focused presence within the market of health and fitness provision in the area. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for the future refurbishment of the council leisure facilities and equipment. Provide advice and guidance to CrossFit Southampton to support them with their facility ambitions. 		

Squash Provision in Eastleigh

There are currently 12 squash courts in Eastleigh, with a good number of these being glass backed, enabling the spectating of matches.

Figure 2.22: Squash Facilities in Eastleigh

Site Name	Postcode	No of courts	Court types	Ownership Type
Fair Oak Squash and Racketball Club	SO50 7AX	3	2 x Normal, 1 x Glass backed	Sports Club
Hamble Squash Club	SO31 4HU	1	1 x Normal	Local Authority
Places Leisure Eastleigh	SO50 9NL	4	4x Glass backed 1 moveable wall	Local Authority
Trojans Sports Club	SO50 9HT	4	2 x Glass backed 2 x Normal	Sports Club
Vital Health and Wellbeing (Botley Park Hotel)	SO32 2UA	2	2 x Normal	Commercial
TOTAL COURTS		14		

England Squash has a benchmark quantitative guidance standard of 1 court per 10,000 people. The latest population figures for Eastleigh indicate a population of 136,400 (Census 2021), meaning based on a supply of 14 accessible courts, the level of provision in Eastleigh is within this benchmark at approximately 1 court per 9,743 people. It should also be noted that this includes the 4 courts at Trojans Sports Centre which is just outside the Borough of Eastleigh in Test Valley as they are easy to access, and membership includes Eastleigh residents, it is feasible to include them in the calculation. The estimated population increase of 25,498 by 2036, however means the level of provision will fall under the benchmark at 1 court per 11,564.

Fair Oak Squash and Racketball club has a long lease from the council and is a member's club. The facility has 3 courts, one of which is glass backed, with a viewing area outside. The courts are regularly maintained, with Court one's side and back wall redone last year and Court two's back wall done the year before. There is also a viewing area above the courts from the bar upstairs. The club recently installed a small gym area targeted at older adults and females that prefer a quieter gym, this has helped to attract new members to the site, with some converting to play racketball as well. The club has a junior section and runs Squash Stars sessions. They have recently refurbished their changing rooms with shower cubicles and separate toilets. The club are keen to expand their facilities and are exploring options for an outdoor court or a padel court in the park area next to the club.

Hamble Squash club is a small non-profit making organisation managed by a voluntary committee. There is one court with no viewing gallery but has changing rooms and separate showers. The court is maintained regularly and has an online booking system.

Places Leisure Eastleigh has 4 glass backed squash courts, with a moveable wall between courts 1 and 2 so the space can be used for doubles or for other activities e.g., exercise classes or table tennis. Fleming Park Squash Club are based at the centre and book the courts as required depending on player numbers. They are a small club with only adult members, the previously junior section at the club moved across to Trojans.

Vital Health and Wellbeing (Botley Park Hotel) has two courts for members to complement their spa and hotel offer.

Quality of Squash Facilities

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits to the majority of squash facilities in the study area and gave them a quality rating of poor, standard or good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 2.23. The standard of facilities in the area is good but

needs to be maintained on a regular basis to ensure the current level of activities can be continued.

Figure 2.23: Quality of Squash Facilities in Eastleigh

Squash Facilities	Quality Rating
Fair Oak Squash and Racketball Club	Good
Hamble Squash Club	Not seen
Places Leisure Eastleigh	Good
Trojans Sports Club	Good
Vital Health and Wellbeing (Botley Park Hotel)	Not seen

Location of Squash Facilities in Eastleigh

The majority of provision is located in the Northern half of the borough with only the one court at Hamble Squash Court in the South.

Squash Facilities in Neighbouring Local Authorities

Within a 20 minute drive time there are 4 courts at Jubilee Sports Centre (Southampton University) and 2 courts at St Mary’s Leisure Centre both in Southampton that are likely to attract some residents in the west of Eastleigh.

Squash Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹¹ indicate the adult demand for squash nationally is almost back to pre-covid levels following a decline in previous years. 0.6% of adults (16+) in England played at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 264,100 people, in 2018/19 (pre covid) the percentage was 0.7%, and although Squash is showing signs of recovery participation levels are still significantly lower than 1.0%, the benchmark figure for ALS in 2015/16, overall, a decrease of -0.4%.

England Squash has a number of engagement programmes aimed at encouraging more people to become involved with the sport and help to create thriving communities, these include Squash 101 programmes - Squash Stars, Junior 101, Adult 101, Squash 57 (Racketball) and Squash Girls Can. For these programmes to be successful facilities need to be well maintained to provide a positive experience along with a partnership approach between the various clubs and leisure management teams where applicable.

Hampshire Squash acknowledges that both Trojans and Fair Oak are growing fast and are often fully booked in the evenings with daytime use of facilities also increasing, meaning both clubs could fill more courts. Hamble Squash Club are looking to introduce additional provision in the form of Racketball. They also highlighted there is an opportunity to deliver a para pb open day for people with learning difficulties/disabilities to play a range of sports including squash.

Club Consultation
<p>Fair Oak Squash and Racketball Club has approx. 172 playing members, of which around 70% come from Eastleigh. The club has seen a stable membership level in the last few years and are looking to sustain this. The club has seen peak time court demand exceed availability, post covid it has eased slightly with more play taking place during the day, the club state they cannot sustain heavy evening demand. They have identified a need to provide an outdoor court or a padel court on the park next to the club.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 5/5</p>

¹¹ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Fleming Park Squash Club has approx. 17 playing members, of which around 70% come from Eastleigh. The club has seen a drop in memberships level over the last few years, which they attribute to the lack of advertising space for the club available at the centre. The club have identified a need for the squash courts at the centre to be cleaned more often and state that non squash usage causes damage to the floor due to incorrect footwear.

Quality ratings – Playing surface – 4/5 Changing facilities – 5/5

Trojans Squash Club has approx. 226 members, of which around 50% come from Eastleigh. The club has seen a 10% increase in membership and are looking to grow further by hosting more open weekends with elite players to inspire people to play. They have not identified any facility needs specific to the squash section.

Quality ratings – Playing surface – 5/5 Changing facilities – 3/5

Squash Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the current quantity and the availability of community squash facilities through this strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the current supply of squash courts are maintained to a good quality standard. Discuss with Hampshire Squash the option to host a Para PB open day at Places Leisure Centre. Explore opportunities to promote Fleming Squash club further within Places Leisure Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility to provide additional provision of outdoor squash / padel at Fair Oak Squash and Racketball club. Regularly review squash facility needs with England Squash and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to promote Fleming Squash club further within Places Leisure Centre. Discuss with Hampshire Squash the option to host a Para PB open day at Places Leisure Centre. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility to provide additional provision of outdoor squash / padel at Fair Oak Squash and Racketball club. Ensure the current supply of squash courts are protected and maintained to a good quality standard. 		

Gymnastics and Trampolining Provision in Eastleigh

There are 3 gymnastics/trampolining clubs in Eastleigh, with only one having a dedicated facility as part of an education site and the others operating from leisure centres or education sites.

Figure 2.24: Facilities in Eastleigh used by Gymnastics clubs

Site Name	Postcode	Facility Type
Dynamo Gymnastics	SO31 4NE	Dedicated Facility – Education site
Southampton Trampolining Club (Places Leisure)	SO50 9NL	Non- Dedicated Leisure Site
Horizon Gymnastics (Thornden School & Wildern School)	S053 2DW SO30 4EJ	Non- Dedicated Education Site

Dynamo Gymnastics has its own dedicated facility at Hamble Sports Complex, however access is restricted by the school. Initially they had access to all the facilities during the day, when the school Headteacher changed this was limited to after school only. A small preschool area and office was added to the facility later which they had access to during the day (except during exam time). School usage of the facility is limited but causes wear and tear to the facilities, which the club is responsible for. The school headteacher has recently changed again but at the time of this report the club is unsure of what their policies will be around daytime access. The club has over 900 members including 100 elite gymnastics in county, regional or national pathways. They also have around 200 on their waiting list and are at capacity with the current access restrictions. They offer artistic gymnastics and run outreach gym tot’s sessions at West End Parish Centre and Boorley Green Community Centre.

Horizon Gymnastics has around 240 members and runs Team and Rhythmic Gymnastics sessions, across three locations, two in Eastleigh at Thornden and Wildern School and one in Southampton at Chamberlayne Leisure Centre. The club uses the school gym, a small hall (one court) with a wooden floor at both Thornden and Wildern School.

Southampton Trampolining Club is based at Places Leisure Eastleigh where they have club sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and Saturday Mornings. The club has just over 150 members and also supports beginner and recreational Trampolining sessions run by the leisure centre.

Quality of Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits at the facilities in the area currently used for gymnastics and trampolining. Each facility was given a quality rating of poor, standard or good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 2.25.

Figure 2.25: Quality of Gymnastic Facilities

Gymnastic Facilities	Quality Rating
Dynamo Gymnastics	Good
Places Leisure (Southampton Trampolining Club)	Good
Thornden School (Horizon Gymnastics)	Standard
Wildern School (Horizon Gymnastics)	Good

The clubs using Leisure Centre and School facilities tend to use sports hall / school gym space, with mats, springboards, and trampolines.

Location of Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities in Eastleigh

There is a good spread of Gymnastics provision across the borough, with Southampton Trampolining club in the North west of the borough, Horizon Gymnastics in the North and center of the borough and Dynamo Gymnastics in the South.

Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities in Neighbouring Authorities

There are several gymnastics clubs in the neighbouring boroughs, but they all rely on the hire of school facilities or leisure centres, the nearest club with dedicated facilities is Southampton Gymnastics Club (Southampton).

Gymnastics Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicated a return to pre covid levels of adult demand for gymnastics and trampolining nationally with 0.4% of adults (16+) in England participating in gymnastics or trampolining at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 204,900 people. However, it should be noted that adult data is of limited value in estimating overall demand for the sport of gymnastics as most participation is by children under 16, who are excluded from this data source.

The Active Lives Children and young people data shows 28.7% of young people (2,097,900) participated in Gymnastics, trampolining or cheerleading in the last 7 days during the academic year of 21-22, this is slightly lower than previous years (prior to covid) 31.3% in 17-18, 32.6% in 18-19 and 29.8% in 19-20 but an increase from 25.6% in 20-21.

British Gymnastics state the main issue for gymnastic development is having access to sufficient dedicated space for clubs to grow and extend their programmes. The NGB states that the operational challenges that Dynamo Gymnastics has faced have contributed to the club losing 800 members between 2017 and 2023, which has had a significant impact on the provision of gymnastics in the area. Their priority for the area is to support the club to have appropriate access to their current facility or to support the development of an alternative appropriate facility with long term security for the club.

Club Consultation		
<p>Dynamo Gymnastics Club has over 900 members and has seen a decline in membership in the last few years, due to the access restrictions of the school. The club would like to grow further but is at capacity with current facility. The club has identified a need for larger facility with daytime access to be able to cater for other forms of gymnastics such as tumbling, rhythmic, cheer.</p>		
Gymnastics and Trampolining Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for gymnastics and trampolining through planning policy and this strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with British Gymnastics and the local clubs to support the ongoing refurbishment needs of facilities in order to maintain the current level of provision. Support Dynamo Gymnastics club to negotiate better access to their current facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore alternative sites for Dynamo Gymnastics Club that could cater for the clubs ambition to grow and provide other forms of gymnastics. Regularly review gymnastics and trampolining facility needs with British Gymnastics, and the clubs based in the study area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions		
<p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with British Gymnastics and the local clubs to support the ongoing refurbishment needs of facilities in order to maintain the current level of provision. Support Dynamo Gymnastics club to negotiate better access to their current facilities. 		
<p>Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore alternative sites for Dynamo Gymnastics Club that could cater for the club’s ambition to grow and provide other forms of gymnastics 		

Athletics Provision in Eastleigh

There is a developmental CompactTrack at Wyvern College, with throwing cage, long jump and javelin area. It is well used by running clubs in the area as well as Southampton Athletic club, who use it twice weekly during the winter.

Eastleigh Running Club has 233 members registered with England Athletics (as of 21/22). They cater for anyone over 16 who can run at least 5k non-stop. Their principal club nights are Monday and Thursday at Places Leisure Eastleigh. They also have a Tuesday evening meeting at Knightwood Leisure Centre (Test Valley) and have track sessions at Wyvern College once a month. On Sundays they have informal group runs. Members participate in a number of events throughout the year.

Hedge End Running club has 283 members registered with England Athletics (as of 21/22). They run training sessions on weekday evenings with informal runs on Saturday and Sunday mornings. They hire the Compact Track at Wyvern College in the winter, using it bi-weekly in an arrangement with Eastleigh Running Club and also use Southampton Sports Centre. In the Summer they use Southampton Sports Centre, Botley Rec or Deer Park School. The club runs recreational sessions including Couch to 5k and return to running programmes. The club are looking for a more permanent base in Hedge End with all year round facilities for training.

Netley Abbey Runners is open to runners of all abilities with the aim of allowing runners to train together in small groups rather than on their own. They organise social runs as well as formal training and offer Coach to 5k courses. They meet at Abbey Hall in Netley for weekday sessions and take part at the Parkrun at Royal Victoria Park on weekends.

Solent Running Sisters are a running club specifically for women, who host beginner, 5k and 10k confidence courses. Their principal venue is Bitterne Train Station but they also meet at locations in Eastleigh including The Hub and Asda in Chandler's Ford. They also use the J Track at Wyvern College for speed and technique training once a month.

Quality of Athletics Facilities in Eastleigh

The Track at Wyvern appears in a standard condition but is now over 10 years old and has not been refurbished. England Athletics recommend that Wyvern college carry out a TrackMark unit 1 Track Surface inspection to assess the current stage of the track lifecycle to prepare and plan for future repair / resurfacing work.

Location of Athletics Facilities in Eastleigh

There are no outdoor synthetic 400m facilities located in Eastleigh, however the area is currently well serviced by a developmental CompactTrack at Wyvern College and by standard 400m competition/ training tracks in neighbouring local authorities, with 2 facilities within a 20 minute drive time, Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre (Southampton) and University of Winchester (Winchester).

England Athletics feel the facilities at Wyvern College are well placed to meet the needs of track and field athletics in Eastleigh, however there is an opportunity to explore more informal facility provision to capture recreational running and provide a home for local road running / recreational running initiatives and feel an ActiveTrack (walk/jog/run/cycle loops) should be considered as part of any future housing developments.

Participation in Athletics and Running

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹² indicate a slight decrease in adult demand for running, or athletics multi sports nationally in the last two years compared to a relatively stable period prior to this. 13% (down from 13.7%) of adults (16+) in England went running or took part in track or field athletics at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 (i.e., 5.9 million people). The period between 2015/16 and 2019/20 participation was relatively stable at 15.6%. The current participation figure, however, is now higher than gym-based health and fitness membership.

Parkrun

There are three parkrun’s at 9am every Saturday morning in the Borough, at Fleming Park Old Golf Course, where the average attendance per week is 200 finishers across 610 events, at Itchen Valley County Park, where the average attendance per week is 135 finishes across 120 events and at Royal Victoria Country Park, where the average attendance per week is 206 across 556 events. There are also two junior parkruns, 9am every Sunday morning in the area at Dowds Farm, Hedge end, which has an average of 70 finishes every week across 122 events and Royal Victoria Country Park, which has an average of 44 finishers across 265 events.

Walking

The NHS provides evidence of countless health benefits to walking, centered around heart health, general fitness levels and burning excess calories. Beyond medical benefits the NHS recommend walking as one of the cheapest and easiest ways to become healthier. Whilst physical and mental health is key to the promotion of walking, the environmental benefits are vast in terms of reduced transport by other means and therefore cleaner air and reduced pollution. Eastleigh’s open spaces and parks provide excellent opportunities for walking and good quality and safe walking routes are part of the wider picture for better provision for physical activity. Eastleigh Borough Council run a number of Walk and Talk sessions led by Country Park officers at Lakeside and Itchen Valley Country Parks and in Bursledon, Hamble and Hound. In addition to this a programme of health walks is managed by the Council’s HealthWorks team and includes weekly sessions across the borough from Monday to Friday.

Club Consultation

Eastleigh Running Club (Places Leisure Eastleigh) has 300 members with around 80% coming from Eastleigh. The clubs membership has grown in the last few years, but they have no plans to grow further. They have identified it would be useful for them to have access to an athletics track at Places Leisure Eastleigh.

Quality ratings – Playing surface – 5/5 Changing facilities – 5/5

Hedge End Running Club has approx. 200 members, with around 90% of them coming from Eastleigh. The clubs membership levels have been relatively stable over the last few years, but they have ambitions to grow and have identified a need for a permanent base in the area.

¹² Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Athletics Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the lighting, waymarking and other signage along footpaths and in parks used for jogging and walking for health, are maintained to a good standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider improved lighting, waymarking and signage in parks to encourage more jogging and walking. Work with Wyvern College to undertake a TrackMark Unit 1 Track surface inspection to plan for future refurbishment and ensure funds are set aside. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the feasibility to provide an Active Track as part of future housing developments that could provide a base for Hedge End Running Club. Regularly review athletics and running facility needs with England Athletics, clubs and leisure providers in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Wyvern College to undertake a TrackMark Unit 1 Track surface inspection to plan for future refurbishment and ensure funds are set aside. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the feasibility to provide an Active Track as part of future housing developments that could provide a base for Hedge End Running Club. 		

Tennis provision in Eastleigh

There are 17 sites that offer accessible tennis courts in the area, with a total of 66 outdoor and 10 indoor tennis courts. There are 38 outdoor floodlit courts in the study area as detailed in figures 2.26, 2.27 and 2.28.

Tennis Clubs in Eastleigh

There are a total of 2 tennis clubs/ providers located within the study area, listed in figure 2.26, and accounts for 20 (17 floodlit) of the total courts within the study area.

Figure 2.26 Club Tennis Sites in Eastleigh

Site	No. Courts	Floodlit	Indoor
David Lloyd (Southampton West End)	16	4	10
Thornden School (Thornden LTA)	4	4	-
Total	20	8	10

There are 10 indoor tennis courts at David Lloyd in Eastleigh comprising of 5 indoor acrylic courts and 5 indoor carpet courts, they also have 6 outdoor courts, 3 hard acrylic (2 under a bubble) and 3 synthetic grass, and 2 outdoor padel courts. Four of the outdoor courts are floodlit. David Lloyd is a private members club, and their facilities contribute to a high percentage of the provision in Eastleigh, which whilst in providing high quality indoor and outdoor facilities they are not accessible to everyone.

Thornden Tennis Club is based at Thornden School, they have 4 floodlit courts plus 2 mini courts with a hitting wall. The club has access to the facilities at the weekends and from 4pm weekday evenings (termtime). They are responsible for maintenance of the facility and have recently upgraded the floodlights to LED.

Local Authority Tennis Sites

There are tennis courts available in 7 public recreation grounds and one leisure centre in the area. There is floodlit provision at 3 sites.

Figure 2.27: Local Authority Tennis Sites

Site	No. Courts	Floodlit
Bursledon Rec Ground	2	0
College Playing Fields	2 (only 1 net up)	2
Hiltingbury Rec Ground	4	0
Lapstone Playing Fields	2	0
Moorgreen Rec Ground	1	0
Places Leisure Eastleigh (Premier Tennis)	4	4
The Hub	3	3
Woodhouse Lane Rec Ground	3	0
Total	21	9

College Playing Fields has two tennis courts marked out as part of a multiuse games area, that also has markings for basketball and football. Only one side had a net up for tennis during the site visits. The courts at Hiltingbury Rec Ground were resurfaced last year and are operated by Chandler's Ford Parish Council. The use of the courts is through a small membership fee and key card deposit, courts 1-3 can be pre booked with court 4 available for people to turn up and play. Fair Oak and Horton heath Parish Council introduced the ClubSpark booking system at Lapstone Playing Fields in 21/22 and have seen an increase in usage of 24%.

Premier Tennis are based at Places Leisure Eastleigh and have access to 4 floodlit courts at the centre. They provide a range of activities including Adult and Junior coaching, holiday programmes and mini and tot's sessions. In the last year they have recorded 735 unique players (June 22-23). They also run a

number of after school mini-tennis clubs at the following schools in the area, Nightingale Primary School, Rainbow Pre School, Shakespeare Infant School, Shakespeare Junior School and St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School.

Jem Tennis is based at Woodhouse Lane Rec Ground, where they have 3 non-floodlit hard courts and run various adult and junior sessions at the site. The facilities are maintained by Hedge End Town Council with the courts also available for public hire through the LTA ClubSpark system with gate access technology. Jem Tennis also use the courts at Deer Park School and Oasis Academy Mayfield (Southampton).

Education Tennis Sites

In addition to the tennis clubs and park tennis court sites in Eastleigh there are also 35 tennis courts on educational sites, however a number of these have limited community use due to not being floodlit. These include Barton Peveril sixth form who have a multi-use games area that includes 2 tennis courts, however the facility is currently being used as an overflow car park, Toynbee School have 6 courts that are mainly used for netball in the summer and Wildern Leisure Centre also have 6 courts without floodlights.

Wide Lane Sports Ground has 8 floodlit tennis courts that double as netball courts, which have no current community tennis use. Wyvern College has community coaching sessions including a Saturday morning club, girls’ tennis and adult specific sessions, whilst the courts at Hamble Sports Complex are just available for members to hire.

Other education sites with tennis courts but no community use include Crestwood Community School (Cherbourg and Shakespeare Campus), Wellington Sports Ground and Botley COE Primary School.

Figure 2.28: Educational Tennis Sites

Site	No. Courts	Floodlit
Barton Peveril sixth form	2 (not usable)	0
Deer Park School	3	3
Hamble Sports Complex	4	4
Toynbee School	6	0
Wide Lane Sports Ground	8	8
Wildern Leisure Centre	6	0
Wyvern College	6	6
Total	35	21

Quality of Tennis Courts in Eastleigh

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits to the following tennis facilities in the study area. Each facility visited was given a quality rating of Poor, Standard or Good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 2.29. Not all tennis court sites were visited for a range of reasons including those on school sites with limited community use and single courts with no ancillary facilities.

Figure 2.29: Quality of Tennis Courts audited.

Tennis Courts	Quality Rating
Barton Peveril sixth form	• Unplayable (2)
Bursledon Rec Ground	• Poor (2)
College Playing Fields	• Standard (2)
David Lloyd (Southampton West End)	• Good (16)
Deer Park School	• Good (3)
Hamble Sports Complex	• Standard (6)
Hiltingbury Rec Ground	• Good (4)
Lapstone Playing Fields	• Good (2)
Places Leisure Eastleigh	• Good (4)
The Hub	• Poor (3)
Thornden School	• Good (4)
Toynbee School	• Standard (6)
Wide Lane Sports Ground	• Good (8)
Wildern Leisure Centre	• Standard (6)
Woodhouse Lane Rec Ground	• Standard (3)
Wyvern College	• Standard (6)

The non-technical site assessments highlight that the tennis courts within the area vary in quality. There are two courts unusable at Barton Peveril sixth form where the facility is currently being used as an overflow car park, while building works to the college takes place. The facility is due to be reinstated once the works have been completed. Five courts are in poor condition, three of these at The Hub need resurfacing, and a booking system in place. Two courts at Bursledon Rec. Ground are also in a poor state with overhanging trees which are causing debris. The Council is working with the LTA to invest in renovating both these sites through their park’s scheme. It should be noted that the 7 sites listed with a quality rating of standard will need to be resurfaced within this strategy timeframe.

Location of Tennis Facilities in Eastleigh

There is a good spread of tennis courts facilities across the borough, but the LTA have highlighted that the area lacks floodlight provision which would provide all year round tennis and recommended that Eastleigh investigate the feasibility of providing floodlights at Woodhouse Lane and Hiltingbury Rec Ground.

Padel

The LTA also oversees the running of Padel, a new sport which is growing fast across the country that provides an exciting addition to the traditional game of tennis, enjoyed by both existing players and complete beginners. The LTA encourages councils to consider tennis and or padel provision as part of any new housing or education provision for community access. There are currently two padel courts in the area at David Lloyd, however there is no community access. Trojans Sports Club are looking to install six courts and Fair Oak Squash and Racketball club are investigating options to provide a court. The LTA supports venues to consider padel due to the lack of courts in the area but not to the detriment of tennis.

Tennis Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹³ indicate there has been an increase in adult demand for tennis nationally over the last year and is back to the highest recorded level since the benchmark Active Lives Survey in 2015/16. 2.0% of adults (16+) in England participated in tennis at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 915,000 people. This shows the initial post covid resurgence of demand for outdoor park tennis has now converted into regular participation.

¹³ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

The LTA encourages providers of tennis facilities available for community use to implement an online booking system, and a chargeable model to ensure sustainability for future investment into sites. The LTA will work with providers to review booking processes and price points.

Club Consultation
<p>David Lloyd has approx. 24 members across their 6 teams of which around 90% are from Eastleigh. They also have significant usage of the courts by centre members, overall numbers have reduced in the last few years. The organisation aims to grow numbers in the future through year on year growth of their junior programmes. They have not identified any facility needs.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 5/5</p> <p>Jem Tennis has approx. 250 members of which around 60% are from Eastleigh. Participation numbers had an initial surge after covid, but numbers have started to reduce due to cost of living pressures and apathy in sports participation. The club is looking to grow by expanding into new venues and increasing their community outreach and disability programmes. Their main site is Woodhouse Lane, but they also use Deer Park and Oasis Academy Mayfield. The club identified a need for a new pavilion, as the facility they currently use is due to be knocked down, they also state the courts will need resurfacing in the next 2/3 years.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 3/5 Changing facilities - 1/5</p> <p>Thornden LTC has approx. 250 members, of which around 90% are from Eastleigh. Their membership numbers have remained relatively stable over the last few years and the club aims to sustain this level. The club has highlighted that the courts will need resurfacing in the coming years.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 3/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p>

Tennis Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for tennis through planning policy. Club sites to be maintained to a good quality standard (club led) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the LTA to refurbish the courts at Bursledon Rec and The Hub and create a sustainable model to ensure future investment to the site. Work with the LTA to provide support for tennis sites in the area to refurbish and enhance their facilities further. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of providing floodlights at Woodhouse Lane and Hilingbury Rec Ground. Ensure the courts at Barton Peveril College are reinstated and available for community use. Investigate the feasibility of providing a new pavilion at Woodhouse Lane Rec Ground. Provide support for providers considering implementing padel courts. Consider park and padel community courts within new housing development to support the growth in population Regularly review tennis and padel facility needs with the LTA and the tennis clubs based in the area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the LTA to refurbish the courts at Bursledon Rec and The Hub. Ensure the courts at Barton Peveril College are reinstated and available for community use. Investigate the feasibility of providing floodlights at Woodhouse Lane and Hilingbury Rec Ground. Provide support for providers considering implementing padel courts. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of providing a new pavilion at Woodhouse Lane Rec Ground. Work with the LTA to provide support for tennis sites in the area to refurbish and enhance their facilities further. Consider park and padel community courts within new housing development to support the growth in population 		

Netball Provision in Eastleigh

Eastleigh has a total of 41 courts across 10 different sites. There are 32 outdoor courts and 9 indoor courts in the study area.

Figure 2.30 Netball Sites in Eastleigh

Site	No Courts	Indoor	Outdoor	Floodlit
Barton Peveril College	3	1	2 (unplayable)	No
Deer Park	4	1	3	Yes
Hiltingbury Sports Hall	1	1	0	-
Places Leisure Eastleigh	6	3	3	Yes
Thornden School	4	1	3	No
Toynbee School	6	1	5	No
Wellington Sports Ground	4	0	4	Yes
Wide Lane	6	0	6	Yes
Wildern Leisure Centre	5	1	4	No
Wyvern College	2	0	2	Yes
Total	41	9	32	

All of the indoor courts are on education sites, with the exception of those at Places Leisure Eastleigh. There are floodlit outdoor courts at 5 venues Deer Park School, Places Leisure Eastleigh, Wellington Sports Ground, Wide Lane and Wyvern College. There are 3 clubs based in the area as well as recreational provision in the form of social leagues, walking netball and back to netball sessions.

Ravens Netball club has over 200 members with teams from under 10 through to adult and also run a Back to Netball session. They were previously based at Crestwood Community School Cherbourg Campus 3 nights a week and were due to expand the adult section from 4 teams to 6, however the school has not reopened for community use since covid and the club have had to keep the number of adult teams to 4 and use various other sites across the borough including Place Leisure Eastleigh, Barton Peveril College, Wellington Sports Ground, Thornden School, Toynbee School, Hiltingbury Sports and Wildern School.

Swan Netball Club has 22 teams from U9 up to adults, the club trains at Barton Peveril College and plays matches at Places Leisure Eastleigh. Western Park Blades Netball Club is based at Sparsholt College (Winchester) but utilises facilities in Eastleigh for youth training at Hiltingbury Sports and Toynbee School.

Deer Park School hosts a weekly social netball league, by a commercial provider Play Netball every Wednesday which accommodates 12 teams across two leagues. Players can join as individuals or in a team. Places Leisure runs Walking Netball as well as hosting club activities. Wildern Leisure Centre run a Back to Netball Programme but do not have any club usage and Wyvern College is used by two informal netball groups.

Quality of Netball Courts in Eastleigh

The quality of Netball courts in the area varies depending on the type of provision e.g. indoor or outdoor, the age of the facility and the surface type. The courts at Deer Park, Hiltingbury Sports Hall, Places Leisure Eastleigh are all new and in good condition. The courts at Toynbee and Thornden need improving and the courts at Barton Peveril are currently unavailable and used as a temporary car park whilst building work is ongoing.

Location of Netball Facilities in Eastleigh

The spread of facilities across the borough is concentrated in the northeast of the borough, with limited provision in the northwest and South of the borough and there is no provision in the middle of the borough, which was previously covered by provision at Crestwood Community School.

Netball Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁴ indicate there has been an increase in adult demand for Netball nationally over the last year and is almost back to pre-covid levels of 0.7%. In 2021/22 0.6% of adults (16+) in England participated in netball at least twice in the last 28 days i.e., 290,200 people.

England Netball’s supply and demand analysis suggests a projected demand of 4,153 additional participants in the area and based on 41 courts in the borough showed an oversupply of 1 court to 2030, however when incorporating unmet demand this decreases to an under supply of -0.4 courts. England Netball highlighted the loss of Crestwood Community School for community use impacted Netball clubs, who were forced to find other facilities and restrict the number of teams they have. Many clubs have waiting lists and there is a need for more facilities in the area.

Club Consultation
<p>Ravens Netball Club (Places Eastleigh + various other sites) has just over 200 members and has seen a growth in junior memberships in the last few years going from 10 teams to 16 teams. Approximately 90% of participants come from Eastleigh. The club has ambitions to grow but needs access to more facilities. The club have highlighted a need for more facilities and stated that the indoor courts at Thorden and Toynbee school are not great, and they can only use the outdoor courts at Thornden as they do not have floodlights.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p> <p>Weston Park Blades Netball Club (Sparsholt College) has approximately 184 members with 20% coming from the Eastleigh area. They have seen a growth in the last few years, with the demand of netball increasing. They have ambitions to grow further but need access to more facilities. The club use Hiltingbury Sports and Toynbee School for youth team training. They have highlighted that the courts at Toynbee school are too small for competitive play and need refurbishing.</p>

Netball Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for netball through planning policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Education sites to ensure the courts, fencing and nets at all venues are maintained to a good quality standard and club activity is secured. Work with Crestwood Community School to explore options to reopen the Cherbourg and Shakespeare campus for community use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the courts at Barton Peveril College are reinstated. Explore the feasibility of floodlighting courts at Thornden and/or Toynbee school. Regularly review netball facility needs with England Netball, netball clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Crestwood Community School to explore options to reopen the Cherbourg and Shakespeare campus to enable for community use. Ensure the courts at Barton Peveril College are reinstated. <p>Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the feasibility of floodlighting courts at Thornden and/or Toynbee school. 		

¹⁴ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Cycling, BMX and Skate Park Provision in Eastleigh

There are several facilities providing cycling, BMX and skate park provision in the Eastleigh area. Off road cycling is available at Itchen Valley Country Park, with a small 2km off-road cycle loop that runs through both woodland and open fields connected to Sustrans route and around Fleming Park, where Cycles for All at Pavilion on the Park provides a range of cycles to enable inclusive cycling for all ages and abilities including tandems, hand cycles, trikes, power assisted cycles and wheelchair bikes. As well as at Royal Victoria County Park which has flat, accessible paths and forms part of Route 2 of the national cycle network.

There is a BMX track and skate park, called Freespace in Chandler's Ford where the skatepark area was reopened in August 2023 following extensive refurbishment after the track was previously vandalised. The new facility was designed by local young people and includes new ramps, features, and a bowl. There is also a large skate park in Woodhouse Recreation Ground, Hedge End and smaller skate ramps in a number of parks and open spaces across the borough including Greta Park and Fleming Park.

Quality of Cycling, BMX and Skate Park Facilities in Eastleigh

The quality of off road cycling provision is good with the paths well maintained particularly in the Country Parks. The skate park provision is mixed with the facilities at Freespace being new in a good condition and the remaining sites of a standard provision.

Location of Cycling, BMX and Skate Park Facilities in Eastleigh

There is a good spread of off road cycling provision across the borough within a reasonable distance for most residents. The skate park provision is concentrated in the more populated areas of the borough.

Cycling Provision in Neighbouring Local Authorities

There are three BMX cycling facilities accessible to residents in Eastleigh within a 20 minute drive time in the surrounding areas including a BMX pump Track at Monty's community hub (Southampton) and New Road Playing Field (Winchester), and a BMX race track at Knightwood Leisure Centre (Test Valley).

Road and Track Cycling

There are no cycling clubs in the borough, however Chapel Tri Junior Triathlon Club is based in Eastleigh using Royal Victoria Country Park for its cycling activities. There are also a number of cycling clubs across the Hampshire area likely to attract residents of Eastleigh including Sotonia CC (Southampton) and VC Venta (Winchester).

Participation in Cycling

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁵ indicate a slight decrease in adult demand for cycling for leisure and sport nationally over the last year. There was a significant increase likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019-20 where 16% of adults (16+) in England participated in cycling at least twice in the last 28 days, this dropped to 13.8% in 2021/22 i.e., 6,363,300 people, which is in line with activity in prior years.

British Cycling are looking to focus work in areas of deprivation to increase opportunities for Women and Girls, Children and young people, disability groups and ethnic communities through their Breeze and guided rides programmes. They are also encouraging Council's to consider opportunities to run a Pedal Party (Parkrun for cycles) for families at park sites near leisure centres.

Cycling for community and active travel purposes

Cycling forms part of the active travel offer in Eastleigh which includes walking to school, cycling to

¹⁵ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

work or other everyday journeys, which can offer a convenient, accessible, and affordable way to move more. Helping residents to get moving through walking and cycling can make a powerful, lasting difference to their physical and mental health and well-being. The council promote cycling as a good way to help everyone lead a more active lifestyle and have a network of 71km of designated cycle routes within the borough and have produced a borough wide interactive cycle map. Through the maintenance of parks, cycle routes and investment into a more active environment Eastleigh Borough Council will continue to encourage people to choose more active modes of transport in the area.

Cycling		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council should continue to protect the existing BMX and skate park facilities through planning policy. The Council should ensure that existing cycle paths, cycle routes, lighting, waymarking and other signage are maintained to a good standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council should investigate opportunities with British Cycling to establish a pedal party in the borough. The council to maintain, refurbish and update the skate parks in the area when needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review cycling facility needs with British Cycling and local clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. Work with schools to link to national cycling networks and promote opportunities for active travel.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure through planning conditions that any new developments create the conditions for active travel between all locations. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the opportunity to work with British Cycling to establish a pedal party in the borough. 		

Bowls provision in Eastleigh

There are 6 bowls clubs in Eastleigh area affiliated to Bowls Hampshire and Bowls England and an Indoor Bowls club (Banister Park Bowling Club), located just outside the borough in Test Valley but likely to serve the residents of Eastleigh.

The Council has two council owned venues for outdoor bowls, one in Fleming Park, which has two 6 rink green's, one grass and one artificial along with a pavilion. The site is shared by two clubs, Fleming Park Bowls Club and Parkside Bowls Club. Hedge Town Council has a 6 rink green, and pavilion leased to Hedge End Bowls Club. Fleming Park Bowls club are responsible for the maintenance of the pavilion, Places Leisure Eastleigh are responsible for the maintenance of both greens. They have a lease with the Council which they are in the process of renewing. The artificial green was recently damaged by a fire and needs replacing as it is holding water. Parkside Bowls club are also based at Fleming Park and share the facilities.

Hedge End Bowls Club have a lease on 4 of the 6 rinks but can book the additional two rinks when needed. The club runs several recreational opportunities to attract new members including single ladder, turn up and play (mixed and ladies), various competitions throughout the year and short mat bowls in winter. The club is responsible for building interior & garden borders, with Hedge Town Council responsible for building exterior, maintenance of green and surrounding grass and path. Their current lease is coming to an end, and the club may need to take on a greater role in the maintenance of the green.

There are three private bowls clubs in Eastleigh: Folland Bowls club, Eastleigh Railway Bowls Club and Old Netley Bowls Club. Folland Bowls Club have a 6 rink green and a small pavilion. The club is responsible for the maintenance of their facilities and maintain the green to a high standard. The pavilion is very dated with only one separate room for changing, 2 portaloos and a small kitchen. The security of the site for the club is unclear. The Railway Institute is a members sports and social club with a 6 rink bowls green. The club has around 1,000 members but only 20 are part of the bowls club. The site is due to be sold for development within the next 12 months, and members are seeking other clubs to join. Old Netley Bowls Club is based at the VT Sportsground. They have a representative on the main board and have a one year rolling lease agreement along with the football and cricket club on site. The club maintains the facilities to a high standard and organises roll ups Monday and Friday afternoons and Tuesday evenings, with Wednesday for friendly matches.

Indoor Bowls

Bannister Park Bowling Club is located just over the boundary of Eastleigh in Test Valley, the site has 8 indoor lanes and 2 outside greens of 6 rinks. The site is the headquarter for Hampshire Bowls who use it for quarter final matches and inter county competitions. They have 330 members with the majority being indoor members (258). They also have 20 junior members aged from 8-25, which include 4 county winners.

Boccia

Pavilion on the Park runs weekly friendly drop in Boccia sessions for players of all abilities.

Quality of Bowls Provision in Eastleigh

The quality of the grass bowls greens in the area is good, however the artificial green at Fleming park bowls club needs replacing. The changing provision at clubs is mixed with good facilities at Fleming Park but a need for improvements at Hedge end and Folland Bowls Clubs.

Location of Bowls Facilities in Eastleigh

The spread of facilities across the borough is good with all parts of the borough served by a club. There is a concentration of clubs in the northeast of the borough accessible to residents with Fleming Park, Parkside bowls, Bannister Park bowling club and Eastleigh Railway Club all within 3 miles of each other. Hedge End serves the East of the borough with Folland Bowls Club and Old Netley Bowls Club serving the South of the borough.

Participation in Bowls

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁶ indicate an increase in adult demand for bowls nationally over the last year. 0.6% of adults (16+) in England participated in bowls at least twice in the last 28 days (272,200 people), this has increased from 0.4% in 2020/21, but down on previous highs of 0.8% between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Hampshire Bowls has identified that some playing surfaces in the area are in need of improvement, in particular the artificial surface at Fleming Park. They state clubs are looking to encourage bowlers of all ages as the sport can be played from 10 to 90 years and any assistance with equipment for new bowlers to use would be useful in growing the sport in the area.

Club Consultation
<p>Fleming Park Bowls Club has approximately 56 members, with 90% coming from the borough. They have seen a growth in membership in the last few years with old members returning and new members joining. The club has plans to grow further and have roll up's every Wednesday and Friday. They have identified a need to replace the artificial turf which was damaged by fire and a need for increased storage provision.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p>
<p>Folland Bowls Club has approximately 87 members, with approx. 90% coming from Eastleigh. The club has seen a reduction in membership in the last few years due to the advancing age of members, they have ambitions to grow through engaging with the local community and advertising. The club have identified a need to upgrade their pavilion which is old and in need of constant maintenance.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 3/5</p>
<p>Hedge End Bowling Club has approximately 150 members, of which 90% come from Eastleigh. They have seen a growth in members in the last few years and have ambitions to grow further with active recruitment. The club have identified a need for larger changing facilities.</p> <p>Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 3/5 Changing rooms – 2/5</p>

¹⁶ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Bowls Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to continue to protect the four main sites of community facilities for bowls through planning policy. • In liaison with clubs, seek to ensure the existing facilities for bowls continue to be maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Hedge Town BC to establish the feasibility for them to take on the maintenance of the green including identifying funding to purchase maintenance equipment. • Support clubs to improve changing facilities where possible. • Support clubs to recruit new members through promotion of open days. • Support members of the Railway Institute to transfer across to other clubs once site closes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurface the artificial green at Fleming Park BC. • Regularly review bowls facility needs in the area with the Bowls Development Alliance, England Bowls, England Indoor Bowls Association, and the established bowls clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support members of the Railway Institute to transfer across to other clubs once site closes and seek contributions through planning for improvements at Fleming Park as mitigation. • Work with Hedge Town BC to establish the feasibility for them to take on the maintenance of the green including identifying funding to purchase maintenance equipment. <p>Long term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurface the artificial green at Fleming Park BC. 		

Boxing Provision in Eastleigh

There are currently 2 Boxing clubs in Eastleigh, Eastleigh ABC and Poseidon ABC. Eastleigh boxing club is based at The Hub and runs two mixed sessions a week for participants over 10 years up to adult. Poseidon ABC is based on the first floor of the east stand of the Ageas Bowl. They offer sessions from 7 years upwards, including adult only sessions, family bootcamps and women’s boxercise.

Quality of Boxing Provision in Eastleigh

The quality of provision at Poseidon ABC is good with purpose built facilities with the east stand of the Ageas bowl. Eastleigh ABC uses the sports hall at the Hub which as outlined in the Sports Hall section is in need of repairs.

Location of Boxing Facilities in Eastleigh

The boxing facilities in Eastleigh cover the Eastleigh and West end area of the borough and are within reach of most residents of the borough.

Participation in Boxing

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁷ indicate a slight increase in adult demand for boxing (including boxing fitness classes) nationally over the last year. 1.3% of adults (16+) in England participated in boxing at least twice in the last 28 days (593,900 people), this has increased from 1.1% in 2020/21, but down on previous highs of 1.7% between 2016/17 and 2018/19.

England Boxing highlights that their focus is currently on areas within the top 40% of deprivation in the country and as such Eastleigh is not a priority area for them.

Boxing Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for boxing through planning policy. In liaison with the local clubs, seek to ensure the facilities are to be maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local clubs to promote boxing activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review facility needs for boxing in the area with the clubs based in the area and England Boxing in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions Short Term (1-2 years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local clubs to promote boxing activities. 		

¹⁷ Active Lives Adult Survey November 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

Watersports provision in Eastleigh

Eastleigh Borough (and the Hamble area in particular) has a reputation for its water-based sports with a number of clubs in the area benefiting from access to Southampton Water, the River Itchen and the River Hamble which are used for a variety of watersports including sailing and paddlesports.

Lakeside Country Park has a large watersports lake used for kayaking groups (Upper Hamble Canoe Club, Scout Groups) and swimming clubs (Hampshire Open Water Lifesavers, Wilder Waves College, Portsmouth North Sea Swimming Club). There is no public access for individual sessions and the park do not run activities themselves. River Hamble Country Park, managed by Hampshire County Council provides opportunities for kayaking and paddleboarding.

Hamble River Sailing club offer sailing and paddleboarding, they have a 100 year lease on their facility which consists of a large clubhouse and bar and a number of moorings for boats. The club are a registered RYA training centre running dingy sailing and powerboat courses.

Netley Sailing club are based in Royal Victoria Country Park, they have a large clubhouse built 5 years ago and space for boat storage. Members can access the facilities year round, 24 hours a day. They have over 800 members and run a variety of sessions including weekend training and Saturday and Sunday racing from 6 years through to adult. They also run a successful summer youth club attracting 75 children and run RYA courses.

Hamble sea scouts offer activities for 6-25 years old and have their own HQ, as well as use of Mercury Marina during the spring and summer months. They offer a number of watersports including Kayaking, rowing, sailing and Powerboating, yachting and keelboating, swimming and surfing. They also run RYA training courses.

Upper Hamble Canoe Club offer paddlesports, canoeing and Kayaking, they are a recreational club not involved in competition. They meet at their main venue Bark Store, Botley on Sundays as well as using Lakeside Country Park during the summer and Bitterne pool (Southampton) in the winter. They have a lease from Hampshire CC on their main site with 7 years remaining. The club are only responsible for the internal maintenance with Hampshire CC looking after external maintenance.

The QE2 Activity Centre, based in the River Hamble Country Park provides activity opportunities for people with additional needs which includes watersports activities such as motorboat rides, canoeing, kayaking, raft building.

Watersports Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁸ indicates an increase in adult demand with participation close its highest recorded level at 1.4% (693,600) of adults (16+) in England participating in watersports at least twice in the last 28 days, following a decline during the pandemic when levels dipped to 0.9% in 2019/2020 and 1.1% in 2020/21. The highest recorded level of participation was in 2015 (the first year in which survey results are available) at 1.5%, with levels dropping slightly to 1.4% in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

British Canoeing state that post pandemic recreational activity of paddlesports has grown significantly but brought challenges around car parking access at slipways and a lack of signage and safety information in areas. A priority for the area would be to improve access points and develop paddle trail information for the Hamble area as well as ensure clubs have suitable access to swimming pools to provide vital safety training for new members and those with additional needs during the winter months. British Canoeing has also identified the area would benefit from setting up an AquaPaddle, a

¹⁸ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 21/22 Report, Sport England (April 2023)

free timed 5km paddle. The NGB is currently developing a Built Facilities Strategy which will identify national priorities.

Club Consultation
<p>Hamble River Sailing Club have seen an increase in membership in the last few years and the club has plans to grow further by expanding its offer to include disadvantaged groups. The club noted their facilities are a little tired, but no changes were needed.</p> <p>Quality ratings – Changing facilities - 3/5</p> <p>Netley Sailing Club reached capacity in membership a few years ago and are looking to continue to sustain this level. Approx. 90% of their members come from Eastleigh. They have a relatively new clubhouse and a good amount of ground space to store boats. They have not identified any facility needs.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 5/5</p> <p>Upper Hamble Canoe Club state only 10% of their membership comes from Eastleigh, with the majority of members coming from Fareham, Southampton, Portsmouth and New Forest. Membership has reduced in the recent years by around 5%, but the club has plans to grow offering more social paddles with coaching and development opportunities. They state their biggest challenge is getting access to a swimming pool for winter skills training.</p>

Watersports recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for water sports through planning policy and, in liaison with the local clubs, seek to ensure the facilities are to be maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local clubs to promote the range of watersports opportunities to residents, schools and youth groups. Develop paddle trail information for the Hamble area, identifying access points and linking to safety information. Consider the opportunity to establish an AquaPaddle in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with British Canoeing to identify areas that need signage and access improvements for paddlesports. Regularly review facility needs for watersports with clubs and NGB's in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop paddle trail information for the Hamble area, identifying access points and linking to safety information. Consider the opportunity to establish an AquaPaddle in the area. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with British Canoeing to identify areas that need signage and access improvements for paddlesports. 		

Summary

The analysis, consultation and assessment work this section has brought together highlights a number of potential facility investment needs for the Council and partners.

Eastleigh Borough Council has a history of supporting sport and leisure, and a commitment to improving levels of physical activity and health for their residents and communities, and the needs within this section will result in the Council making some important and key decisions over the coming years.

Given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector, it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the investment needs identified within this strategy. Section 4 of this report sets out the priority projects arising out of this strategy as well as the partners and stakeholders who are likely to be central to facilitating this change.

Section 3 – Policy Recommendations



3. Strategic Recommendations

3.1 Introduction

This section of the Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy sets out a number of overarching strategic recommendations, endorsed by the Strategy Steering Group, aimed at ensuring the on-going provision of high-quality, accessible playing pitches and built sport facilities and can meet the needs and demands of the borough's current and future populations. The recommendations respond to the facility needs highlighted in Section 2 i.e., the Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and the Built Leisure Facilities Strategy (part 2).

3.2 Planning Policy

The need to protect and enhance the existing scale of facility provision for key facility types – pools, sports halls, artificial and natural turf playing pitches, gymnastics centres and health and fitness facilities - remains similar to the findings of the previous strategy update assessment in 2017.

Given the evidence presented, the principles established in the current Local Plan Policies with respect to community, sport and recreation facilities i.e., policies DM32 (Protection of recreation and open space facilities), DM33 (Provision of recreation and open space facilities with new development), DM34 (New and enhanced recreation and open space facilities), DM35 (Recreational activity on the River Hamble), DM36 (Community, leisure and cultural facilities) - need to be maintained.

These planning policies are set out in full at Appendix G to this document.

3.3 Protect

Eastleigh Borough Council has undertaken a Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy and assessed existing and future needs for all provision across the borough. The firm conclusion is that there is an identified need to retain the existing overall quantity of sports facilities within the borough whilst recognising that the distribution of facilities may change (for example, through closure of sites of poor quality or of limited value for community sport offset by new provision). This headline finding and recommendation is also applicable when examined at the LPA level.

It is therefore recommended that the Local Plan should continue to maintain a policy framework to resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a sports facility unless:

- 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.

Should a current or newly created sports facility exist in Eastleigh Borough that is not mentioned in this Facilities Strategy and appendices, its omission is not an endorsement by the Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.

It is also recommended that the Council continue to work with strategic sports partners (Sport England and the National Governing Bodies of sport) to seek agreements to secure access for community sport at those sites in the borough where there is existing access, but long-term access is currently unsecured (i.e. by means of Community Use Agreements).

Where sports facility sites are in Local Authority ownership, the policy of securing community access through asset transfer to community clubs and/or sports associations should continue to be applied, provided that:

- I. The facilities are assessed as 'good' quality by the relevant governing bodies of sport prior to

transfer, and

- II. The transferee is able to demonstrate it has the capacity and resources to maintain the facilities to good quality (and this forms part of any service level agreement). It is recommended that the terms of future transfer agreements include incentives for the clubs to deliver sports development outcomes (e.g. grow numbers of teams, volunteering, and sporting opportunities for under-represented groups).

It is recommended the Council continue to seek to influence the design and specification of any new education sports facilities and extensions to existing facilities to ensure their suitability for both education and community use (i.e., provided to Sport England and/or the relevant sport's national governing body design dimensions and standards as opposed to education dimensions and standards).

It is further recommended that the Council negotiates secure affordable community access as a condition of planning consent (via formal Community Use Agreements) for applications from education providers of sports facilities relating to:

- I. Extending hours of permitted use
- II. Extensions to existing sports facilities
- III. Provision of new sports facilities

3.4 Enhance and Provide

It is recommended that the Local Planning Authority continue to seek the advice of appropriate sport national governing bodies whenever pre-planning proposals or planning applications involving new sports facilities are brought forward or new S106 Agreements for sports facilities are drafted. This to ensure that the design, layout and management plans maximise the community value of the new facilities and that any maintenance plans meet any relevant Performance Quality Standards.

For all developments involving the creation of one or more residential units, contributions should be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards the delivery of 'off site' priority projects as identified in the Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy within the locality of (or easily accessible without a car from) the proposed development. Appropriate contributions should also continue to be sought for ongoing maintenance of any new sports facilities.

The priority projects are those set out in the Action Plan current at the time the planning application is submitted. The initial Action Plan is at Section 4 of this document. The priority projects include sites in private ownership and on school sites outside the control of the Council. Accordingly, the lead party responsible for progressing the actions is identified in the Action Plan along with the key supporting agencies.

For strategic scale proposals comprising of a 1,000 or more dwellings, on-site provision may be sought in place of securing contributions towards off-site projects. On-site provision will be promoted instead in those instances where there is no existing sports provision within the locality which is easily accessible to the site and is capable of absorbing the additional demand arising from the development, and where the site is physically able to accommodate appropriate facilities. This process will be guided by the needs identified in the Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy. On-site provision will typically be secured via a legal agreement and contributions may be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards its delivery and maintenance.

The latest version of Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator tool should be used to scope the appropriate scale and approximate costs of new sports provision and to provide the starting point for

project specific negotiations of S106 and/or CIL developer contributions. (For example, if 1,500 new dwellings are proposed at an average of, say, 2.4 persons per dwelling, the additional population total to enter into the Sports Facility Calculator will be 3,600). The figure per dwelling can be adjusted based on local factors and specific development details.

It is recommended that in the case of all planning applications with implications for sports facilities (both indoor and outdoor), the latest version of Sport England's Model Planning Conditions should be used as appropriate. Current model conditions cover the following:

- I. Protection/New Provision of Sport & Recreation Facilities;
- II. Compensatory Provision, Continuity of Use and Phasing of Development;
- III. Built Design and Layout;
- IV. Playing Field Provision;
- V. Operational Matters.

Eastleigh has a number of multi-sport sites which serve a wide range of sport and activity. The Playing Pitch Strategy process of consultation and analysis has highlighted a number of important improvements and potential investment needs across these sites for outdoor sport. However, the coordination of these opportunities (alongside the National Governing Bodies and resident sports clubs) with indoor and Built Leisure Facilities will remain a key priority for the Council. Whilst the specific actions and timings are dealt with in the action plan set out below given the importance of these sites to the leading sports within the overall Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy, opportunities to provide a more diverse and wider reaching range of facilities for sport and physical activity on current sites should be pursued by the Council.

It is recommended that the Council's Strategy Steering Group, comprising of membership from Sport England, Energise Me (Active Partnership) and the NGB's, should review and update the Action Plan and priority projects annually during the strategy period. In line with Sport England guidance a full review of the strategy will be required after 5 years. If no annual monitoring takes place a full review is required after 3 years.



Section 4 – Action Plan

Section 4 – Action Plan

This section of the strategy provides an outline draft delivery plan related to the potential development and delivery of the priority projects and facility needs for sport and recreation as set out in the previous sections.

The projects are grouped by Local Area Committee (Figure 4.1-4.5), with playing pitch priorities listed first in alphabetical order followed by built leisure facility projects and then sites that require protection. There is a reference to their potential to be progressed either in the short term (defined as within 2 years approximately) the medium term (defined as within 2-5 years) or longer to progress - for example projects dependent on acquisition of land, the outcome of wider area development planning or large-scale review of options, feasibility and viability. Figure 4.6 lists borough wide projects or those project where a site needs to be confirmed.

Figure 4.7 that follows highlights a number of sites which present opportunities for providing or extending community sports. These sites sit outside of the main action plan as further work is required to investigate relevant permission, access, suitability, and funding.

The omission of any playing pitch site from this Strategy is not an endorsement by the Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.

The updates to the Action Plan should in turn inform periodic updates of the Council's priorities for investment and future decision on funding either through capital grant and / or financing and budgetary planning.

The action plan is a guide to how facilities might be developed, pending funding confirmation and planning permission where necessary, where and whom they might be developed by to meet identified demand, exploit opportunities that may arise and provide sustainable management and operational models often through engaging with either voluntary or commercial partners. A number of project proposals within the strategy are subject to design and cost analysis and for some projects feasibility testing and options appraisals.

Each potential project must be evaluated considering the current situation, as the strategy and action plan set out the position at the time of writing; so, factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered within the lifespan of this strategy. The action plan should be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis by the Strategy Steering Group to ensure these factors are taken into consideration.

The immediate priority for Eastleigh, as with many local authorities at the time of this strategy, is to protect and continue to maintain the current level of facilities to ensure no loss of provision during the current challenging time for local authorities. The current pressures on public sector budgets alongside increasing operational costs and capital costs (for maintenance and new facilities) means Eastleigh Borough Council must plan prudently for future needs.

Figure 4.1 Bishopstoke, Fair Oak & Horton Heath					
Priorities and Actions for Playing Pitches					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Lapstone Playing Fields	Short	Cricket	Provide a second fine turf pitch on site and two NTPs	Fair Oak and Horton Heath PC	Club / ECB
One Horton Heath	Medium	Football	Upgrade S106 requirement from floodlit 9v9 3G to 11v11 3G	EBC	FA
Wyvern College	Short	Football Rugby	Prioritise for improvement works to pitches informed by Pitchpower assessments and available funding support from the Football Foundation’s Grass Pitch Improvement Fund Assess feasibility of improving the levels of the grass pitch and securing community use	College, EBC	FA, RFU
Priorities and Actions for Built Leisure Facilities					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Fair Oak Squash & Racketball Club	Medium	Squash / Tennis (Padel)	Investigate the feasibility to provide additional provision of outdoor squash / padel at Fair Oak Squash and Racketball club.	Club / Fair Oak & Horton Heath PC	EBC, Hampshire Squash, LTA
One Horton Heath	Medium	Activity Hall	Explore options of community use for activity hall provision at OHH primary school/ community centre	EBC	SE
Wyvern College	Short	Athletics	Work with Wyvern College to undertake a TrackMark Unit 1 Track surface inspection to plan for future refurbishment and ensure funds are set aside	EBC, College	England Athletics

Figure 4.2 Bursledon, Hamble & Hound					
Priorities and Actions for Playing Pitches					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Bursledon Rec. Ground	Medium	Cricket / Football	Upgrade pavilion	Bursledon PC	EBC
Butlocks Heath	Short	Football	Prioritise for improvement works to pitches informed by Pitchpower assessments and available funding support from the Football Foundation’s Grass Pitch Improvement Fund	Hound PC	EBC / FA
College Playing Fields	Medium	Football	Upgrade boiler in Roy Underdown pavilion to provide heating / hot water.	Hamble PC	EBC / FA
Hamble Area	Medium	Football	Assess the feasibility of a 11v11 3G at Hamble Sports Complex or Hamble Community Facility	EBC	FA
Hamble Community Facility	Medium	Football	Upgrade electricity supply on site to pavilion and floodlights	Hamble PC	EBC / FA
Hamble Sports Complex	Short	Hockey	Upgrade floodlights to the AGP	Club	Hampshire CC / EBC / EH
Mallards Moor (Hamble Utd FC)	Short	Football	Prioritise for improvement works to pitches informed by Pitchpower assessments and available funding support from the Football Foundation’s Grass Pitch Improvement Fund	Club / EBC	FA
Mount Pleasant Rec. Ground	Short Medium	Football	Prioritise for improvement works to pitches informed by Pitchpower assessments and available funding support from the Football Foundation’s Grass Pitch Improvement Fund Replace pavilion	Hamble PC	EBC / FA
Royal Victoria Country Park	Long	Cricket / Football	Refurbish pavilion to improve flooring and tiles	Hampshire CC, Sports Ass.	EBC, ECB
VT Sports Ground	Short Long	Football Cricket	Prioritise for improvement works to pitches informed by Pitchpower assessments and available funding support from the Football Foundation’s Grass Pitch Improvement Fund Pavilion extension to provide changing rooms/showers	Club, EBC	FA, ECB
Priorities and Actions for Built Leisure Facilities					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Bursledon Rec Ground	Short	Tennis	Work with LTA to refurbish the tennis courts and create a sustainable model to ensure future investment to the site.	Bursledon PC, EBC	LTA
Dynamo Gymnastics club	Short Long	Gymnastics	Support Dynamo Gymnastics club to negotiate better access to their current facilities. Explore alternative sites for Dynamo Gymnastics Club that could cater for the clubs ambition to grow and provide other forms of gymnastics	EBC	British Gym. / SE
QE2 Activity Centre	Long	Activity Hall	Provide QE2 activity centre with funding advice and support to relay the hall floor.	EBC	
River Hamble	Short Long	Watersports	Develop paddle trail information for the hamble area, identifying access points and linking to safety information. Work with British Canoeing to identify areas that need signage and access improvements for paddlesports	EBC, HCC	British Canoeing
Other Playing Pitch Sites for Protection					
Site	Sport				
King George V Playing Field (Bursledon)	Football				
Station Road Rec. Ground (Netley Rec Ground)	Football				
The Cricket Field	Football				

Figure 4.3 Chandler's Ford & Hiltingbury					
Priorities and Actions for Playing Pitches					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Hiltingbury Rec. Ground	Short	Football	Prioritise for improvement works to pitches informed by Pitchpower assessments and available funding support from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Fund	Chandlers Ford PC	EBC / FA
Thorden School	Medium	Hockey	Resurface existing AGP and secure for community use	EBC, School	EH
Toynbee School, Oakmount Road Playing Field	Medium	Football	Assess the feasibility of providing basic ancillary facilities for youth football to facilitate community use.	EBC, School	FA
Priorities and Actions for Built Leisure Facilities					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Hiltingbury Rec. Ground	Medium	Tennis	Review the feasibility of adding floodlights at this facility. Work with the LTA to review booking process and price points.	Chandler's Ford RC / EBC	LTA
Thornden School	Long Long	Sports Hall Netball	Provide Thornden School with funding advice and support to relay the hall floor Explore the feasibility of floodlighting the Netball courts.	EBC, School	England Netball
Toynbee School	Long	Netball	Explore the feasibility of floodlighting the Netball courts.	EBC, School	England Netball
Other Playing Pitch Sites for Protection					
Site			Sport		
Toynbee School			Football		
Fryern Rec. Ground			Football		

Figure 4.4 Eastleigh					
Priorities and Actions for Playing Pitches					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Crestwood Com. School (Shakespeare Campus)	Short	Football	Investigate the feasibility of reopening the Shakespear campus for community use of grass football pitches.	School / EBC / Active Partnership	FA / EH
	Long	Hockey	Resurface ATP for community hockey use		
Eastleigh FC	Medium	Football	Resurface 3G AGP	Club	EBC / FA
Hardmoor Sports Ground	Short	Football	Prioritise for improvement works to pitches informed by Pitchpower assessments and available funding support from the Football Foundation’s Grass Pitch Improvement Fund	Club / EBC	FA / RFU
	Short	Rugby	Upgrade rugby training/mini soccer area to 2 No. Age Grade pitches		
Places Leisure Eastleigh	Short	Football	Prioritise for improvement works to 11v11 pitches informed by Pitchpower assessments and available funding support from the Football Foundation’s Grass Pitch Improvement Fund	EBC	FA
The Hub	Short	Rugby	Improve maintenance to grass pitches and assess feasibility of improving drainage on site	EBC	RFU, FA
	Medium	Rugby	Renegotiate lease for Eastleigh RFC to provide security of tenure.		
	Long	Football	Resurface existing 3G AGP		
Wide Lane Playing Fields	Short	Multi Sports Cricket Football / Rugby	Amend CUA with Southampton University to secure usage of all facilities Assess the feasibility of reinstatement of former fine turf pitch with NTP Install floodlights to proposed football and rugby/ football dual use 3G pitch	Uni, EBC	FA, ECB, RFU
Priorities and Actions for Built Leisure Facilities					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Barton Peveril College	Short	Tennis / Netball	Ensure the courts are reinstated following building works and work with the LTA to open the facility to the community by implementing an online system and chargeable model.	EBC, College	LTA
Crestwood Community School	Short	Sports Hall Tennis / Netball	Work with Crestwood Community School to explore options to reopen at least one site for community use.	EBC, School	Energise Me
Fleming Park Bowls Club	Medium	Bowls	Resurface the artificial green at Fleming Park BC.	EBC	Bowls England
Places Leisure Eastleigh	Short	Squash	Explore opportunities to promote Fleming Squash club further within Places Leisure Centre.	EBC / Places Leisure	Hampshire Cricket
	Long	Sports Hall	Discuss with Hampshire Squash the option to host a Para PB open day at Places Leisure Centre		
		Health & Fitness	Seek to secure more space for the delivery of the South Hampshire indoor cricket league at Place Leisure Eastleigh Plan for the future refurbishment of the council leisure facilities and equipment.		
Railway Institute	Medium	Bowls	Support members of the Railway Institute to transfer across to other clubs once site closes and seek contributions through planning for improvements at Fleming Park as mitigation.	EBC / Sport England	Bowls England
The Hub	Short	Tennis	Work with LTA to refurbish the tennis courts and create a sustainable model to ensure future investment to the site.	EBC	LTA
	Short	Sports Hall	Investigate roof leak at the Hub.		

<i>Other Playing Pitch Sites for Protection</i>	
Site	Sport
Barton Peveril College	Football
Crestwood Community School (Cherbourg Campus)	Football
Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Football
The Crescent Primary School	Football / Hockey

Figure 4.5 Hedge End, West End & Botley					
Priorities and Actions for Playing Pitches					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Cutbush Lane Rec. Ground	Short	Football	Prioritise for improvement works to pitches informed by Pitchpower assessments and available funding support from the Football Foundation’s Grass Pitch Improvement Fund	West End PC	EBC / FA
Turnpike Way Recreation Ground	Short Medium	Cricket	Liaise with Hedge End Town Council to secure access to the changing and toilet facilities for Hedge End CC on match days New or upgraded non turf practice net systems	EBC, Hedge End PC	ECB
Priorities and Actions for Built Leisure Facilities					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Hedge Town Bowls Club	Medium	Bowls	Establish the feasibility for them to take on the maintenance of the green including identifying funding to purchase maintenance equipment.	Hedge Town PC / EBC	Bowls England
Wildern School	Short	Swimming	Work with Wildern School to review the timetable to try and secure up to 13 additional hours in the peak period for community use	EBC, School	Swim England
Woodhouse Lane Rec. Ground	Short Long	Tennis	Review the feasibility of adding floodlights to the tennis courts. Investigate the feasibility of providing a new pavilion at Woodhouse Lane Rec Ground.	Hedge Town PC / EBC	LTA
Other Playing Pitch Sites for Protection					
Site	Sport				
Barton Peveril College	Football				
Berrywood Meadows	Football				
Boorley Park Sports Pavilion	Football				
Botley Rec. Ground	Football / Cricket				
Deer Park Secondary School	Football / Cricket				
Folland Sports & Social club	Football / Cricket				
Norman Roadaway Sports Ground	Football				
Wildern School	Football / Hockey				

Figure 4.6 Borough wide / non site specific projects					
Priorities and Actions for Playing Pitches					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Trojans SC ground (Test Valley)	Medium	Multi Sports Cricket	Upgrade or replace main Trojans SC changing pavilion Upgrade non turf practice net systems Provide NTP (main ground or Hardmoor) <i>Due to the multisports nature of this site any developments should be mindful of the impact on other sports and consider whole site master planning.</i>	Club /ECB	EBC / Test Valley
Education sites	Medium	Football	Explore opportunities to increase community use for football at sites across the borough to support growth of clubs.	EBC, Active Partnership	FA
Sites to be determined	Long	Football	Assess the feasibility of site options for further 3G pitch provision	EBC / FA	
Site to be determined	Long	Rugby / Football	Carry out a site feasibility assessment for the provision of a dual use rugby/ football 3G at either the Hub or Trojans SC.	EBC	RFU/ FA / FF
Priorities and Actions for Built Leisure Facilities					
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Trojans Sports Club	Short	Tennis (Padel)	Provide support for the club in implementing padel courts.	Club, EBC	LTA
Education Sites	Medium	Sports Hall and Pitches	Negotiate CUA on education sites to secure community use where they are not already in place	EBC / AP	
Various Sites	Long	Tennis	Work with the LTA to provide support for tennis sites in the area to refurbish and enhance their facilities further. College Playing Fields, Hamble Sports Complex, Toynbee School, Wildern LC, Woodhouse Lane and Wyvern College tennis courts will all require resurfacing within the strategy timeline.	EBC, PC's and Site owners.	LTA
Site to be confirmed	Medium	Cycling	Investigate the opportunity to work with British Cycling to establish a pedal party in the borough	EBC / Leisure operator	British Cycling
Site to be confirmed	Long	Athletics	Explore the feasibility to provide an Active Track as part of future housing developments that could provide a base for Hedge End Running Club.	EBC	England Athletics
Site to be confirmed	Long	Health & Fitness	Provide advice and guidance to CrossFit Southampton to support them with their facility ambitions.	Club / EBC	
Site to be confirmed	Long	Sports Hall	Consider options to expand sports hall provision to meet future demand from housing growth – i.e. an options appraisal to include bespoke Facility Planning Model reports from Sport England based on population projections and identified scenarios.	EBC	SE
Site to be confirmed	Long	Swimming	Consider options to expand water area to meet future demand from housing growth – i.e. an options appraisal to include bespoke Facility Planning Model reports from Sport England based on population projections and identified scenarios.	EBC	Swim England, SE
Site to be confirmed	Short	Watersports	Consider the opportunity to establish an AquaPaddle in the area at either Lakeside Country Park or River Hamble Country Park.	EBC / HCC	British Canoeing

Figure 4.7 Opportunities for providing or extending community sports opportunities to be investigated further at the following sites, all pending funding and relevant permissions; all potential opportunities listed are dependent on the support of the site owners/operators

Site	Timescale	Facility Type	Potential actions	Partners
New School Sites	Medium / Long	Sports Hall / Swimming	Ensure community use of facilities is included as part of any new development through planning policy.	EBC / Hampshire CC / Education providers
New Housing Development sites	Medium / Long	Tennis	Consider park and padel community courts within new housing development to support the growth in population	EBC / LTA

Section 5 – Summary

Section 5 - Summary

5.1 Summary

Throughout the development of this strategy Eastleigh Borough Council and key partners have continued to emphasise the importance of facilities for sport and physical activity to the health and wellbeing of the local population. Alongside this is the recognition of the vital contribution these facilities make to the local economy and quality of life for all residents, communities and visitors.

Through this strategy a number of priorities have emerged including the need to protect the majority of sports facilities in the borough and continue to maintain council facilities in light of increasing costs, alongside these are a number of leading built leisure facility projects, including refurbishing tennis courts at Bursledon Recreation Ground and The Hub, as well as projects for Gymnastics, Netball and Bowls. The growing (and changing) population puts pressure on the current facility stock and longer term the council should start to look into the feasibility of providing additional water space and sports hall provision.

The primary needs are clearly to protect the overall quantity, maintain the quality and secure availability for the wider community to the existing supply of sports facilities. Within Eastleigh, like many local authorities, the majority of sports halls are located on school sites and where not currently in place community use agreements need to be developed with education sites to protect future usage and extend community access where possible. Alongside direct provision Eastleigh Borough Council and the Town and Parish Council's in the area also plays an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and empowering community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate facilities funded through partnerships with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport as well as other funding organisations.

The Playing Pitch Strategy (Part 1) also highlights a number of priority projects for the Council to consider and plan for. Football is popular team sport in Eastleigh and has grown significantly since the last strategy putting pressure on the facilities provided by the council and parishes. There is a need to improve pitch maintenance to facilitate the growth of larger clubs in the area, as well as a need for five additional 3G artificial pitches across the borough. There is a need for two new fine turf cricket pitches in the area and existing club sites in the area need enhancements including new NTP's and net provision. The key priority for hockey is for the upgrade of floodlights at Hamble Sports Complex and to resurface the pitch at Crestwood Community School and secure it for community use. The Rugby clubs in the area have high levels of demand for training and the feasibility to provide a dual use rugby / football artificial pitch is a key project.

As the country and the public sector, as a key provider of these essential services for leisure and physical activity, continues to recover from the pandemic, and now grapples with the rise in utilities and the cost-of-living crisis for many of its services, business and residents, the important role physical activity has in positively impacting on the health of the nation is even more evident. Investment into the future health and wellbeing of Eastleigh's residents will be impacted very positively by the priorities highlighted within this part of the strategy. This will be in the form of both protecting the current facility stock for both indoor and outdoor sport as well as investing in improved and new facilities where the opportunities arise.

Eastleigh Borough Council has always recognised and must continue to do so, despite the ongoing challenges, the importance of protecting and investing in accessible and sustainable community sports facilities which play a critical role in providing activities and opportunities and improving the lives and wellbeing of all of their residents.



CONTINUUM
SPORT & LEISURE LTD

Eastleigh Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
Appendix A –
Assessment of Need Report Cricket

Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for cricket facilities in Eastleigh Borough Council are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). Affiliated cricket clubs registered to Eastleigh and playing their home fixtures in the area have contributed to this assessment either by submitting an online club survey and/or through in person consultation during site visits. The number of clubs consulted with as part of this process represents 91% of teams playing cricket in the area.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2017 (an update to the PPS prepared in 2014) there has been some change in the supply of cricket pitches in the borough, with a reduction of one fine turf pitch (at College Playing Fields), but additional provision in other areas including an extension of the fine turf square at Lapstone Playing Fields and a reinstated fine turf pitch at Hardmoor for use by Trojans Sports Club's cricket teams. Further cricket facility improvements include a re-laid artificial non-turf pitch (NTP) at Royal Victoria Sports Ground, two new NTPs at Southampton University's Wide Lane Sports Ground, and one each at Bursledon Recreation Ground, Botley Recreation Ground and Deer Park School, as well as a replacement pavilion at VT Sports Ground (although this only contains social facilities and no changing rooms).

The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions had a significant impact on community cricket in the 2020 season. However, cricket demand largely recovered in 2021 and summer 2022 saw most larger clubs recover to pre-pandemic levels. Old Netley & Highfield Cricket Club is the most notable exception to this reporting the loss of two adult and three boys age grade teams since 2020.

1. Cricket Supply (Step 1)

The findings of the assessment of supply of cricket facilities in Eastleigh are summarised in this section and detailed by site, both for fine turf pitches and for non-turf artificial grass pitches. The supply side information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the ECB in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments) augmented by consultation with the Council, Hampshire Cricket and user clubs.

1.1 Cricket Pitches in Eastleigh

A total of 12 fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket in the borough in 2023, on 9 playing pitch sites, included in this total are the two sports grounds located just over the boundary in the Test Valley District at Trojans Sports Club and Hardmoor, both leased to Trojans Sports Club, a large multi-sport club serving residents of both Test Valley and Eastleigh. There are 8 non-turf pitches on 7 sites. The two NTPs at the Southampton University's Wide Lane Sports Ground, although newly laid in 2019, require minor remedial works to the playing surface. Figure 1.1 details the supply of cricket sites in the borough.

Eastleigh is also the home of Hampshire Cricket with the Ageas Bowl located in the borough, whilst a significant site for Cricket it is excluded from the data as it is not available for community use.

Figure 1.1: Cricket sites in Eastleigh

Site Name & Address	Ownership / Management	Access Security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT Nets	Pavilion / Changing Rooms	Pitch & Outfield Rating	Pavilion Rating	Fine Turf Cap (MES)	Fine Turf Use (MES)	Peak Period Cap.	RAG	Demand Summary	Maintenance & Facility Issues
BOTLEY REC. GROUND, SO30 2ES (Fair Oak CC)	PC	Secured	1 / 9 wickets	Yes (G)	No	Large Pavilion, hall and PC office on site plus CR and separate cricket pavilion.	P=Good, O=Standard	Good	45	30	67%		Fair Oak CC 3/4 teams, plus usage of NTP by Hedge End Juniors (U9 / U11)	Maintained by PC to a good standard
BURSELDON REC, SO31 4NS	PC	Secured	N/A	Yes (G)	No	Large pavilion - inside not seen PC want to replace	N/A	Standard	N/A				Usage unknown	Maintained by PC, NTP in good condition informal use witnessed on visit (half term).
DEER PARK SCHOOL	Education site	CUA in place	N/A	Yes (G)	No	Part of main sports hall building	N/A	Good	N/A				School Usage and Hedge End Juniors CC U13 team	Newly laid NTP, maintained by School
FOLLAND SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, SO31 4NS (Folland (Hamble) CC)	Sport club ownership	Unsecure, Cricket club part of ass. with no direct tenure.	1 / 10 wickets	No	No	Large Clubhouse with CR's but in need of updating.	P=Good O=Standard Club (FHCC) rate 4/5	Standard Club (FHCC) rate 3/5	50	20	40%		Folland (Hamble) CC has 2 adult male teams, looking to sustain current provision.	Club is responsible for maintenance of square and outfield. Outfield affected by football pitch wear and tear. Club highlights a need for scoreboard and outdoor nets.
LAPSTONE PLAYING FIELDS, SO50 7PS (Fair Oak CC)	PC	Club has annual contract. PC Secured.	1 / 11 wickets	Yes (S)	Yes - 2 lanes (S)	Large pavilion on site, CR, toilets	P=Good, O=Standard	Standard	55	55	100%		Fair Oak CC 5 adult teams (2 on this site, 2 at Botley Rec, 1 at Swanmore CC), W10 ladies softball and full junior section (8 teams). FT used for senior menx2, U15x2, U17 and rest of junior activity on NTP.	Outfield very wet on visit. Current pitch been extended from 8 wickets to 11. Plans approved to add a second pitch both with NTP's. Club maintains square, PC does outfield. Plans to refurbish parts of pavilion.

Site Name & Address	Ownership / Management	Access Security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT Nets	Pavilion / Changing Rooms	Pitch & Outfield Rating	Pavilion Rating	Fine Turf Cap (MES)	Fine Turf Use (MES)	Peak Period Cap.	RAG	Demand Summary	Maintenance & Facility Issues
ROYAL VICTORIA SPORTS GROUND, SO31 5HH	Hampshire BC	Secured, Sports Ass. use by informal arrangement	N/A	Yes (S)	No	Small pavilion, 2 CR's shared showers and toilets, small kitchen area, flooring cracked in places and tiles damaged on wall.	N/A	Poor	N/A				Sports clubs formed an Association to manage pitches. Used by Lock Heath 3/4 team and mid week eves 4 times a week (8 local teams)	Park covers costs of utilities and maintenance of building and cuts grass. Sport Ass covers maintenance of pitches. Cricket NTP was re-laid 2-3 years ago, to level underneath. Boundary undulating.
TROJANS SPORTS CLUB, SO50 9HT Test Valley	Sport Club ownership	Secured	1 / 16 Wickets	No	yes - 3 lanes (S)	Large clubhouse on site with changing rooms, but very dated. Plans to build new clubhouse.	P=Good, O=Good	Poor Club (TCC) rate 2/5	80	82	103%		Trojans CC have 4 Sat men's teams, 1 midweek and junior section (9 teams), membership 50% EBC / 50% TV or West end. Plan to grow by increasing female membership.	Maintained to a good condition by the Sports Club, although club state increasing costs is affecting level of maintenance that can be provided. Cricket nets becoming worn and unsafe.
HARDMOOR, SO50 9HT Test Valley	EBC	Secured, Trojans operate on long lease	1 / 8 Wickets	No	No	Newly built pavilion 3 years old, CR's, toilets, social space.	P=Good, O=Good	Good	40	40	100%		Used by 3/4 th teams plus junior use with rest of teams on main site.	Maintained to a good condition by the Sports Club

Site Name & Address	Ownership / Management	Access Security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT Nets	Pavilion / Changing Rooms	Pitch & Outfield Rating	Pavilion Rating	Fine Turf Cap (MES)	Fine Turf Use (MES)	Peak Period Cap.	RAG	Demand Summary	Maintenance & Facility Issues
TURNPIKE WAY RECREATION GROUND, SO30 4TS (Hedge End Juniors CC / Eastleigh CC)	Hedge End PC, Club hires annually	Secured	1 / 11 Wickets	Yes (S)	Yes - 2 lanes unplayable	Large pavilion on site, although club has issues with access.	P=Good, O=Standard club rate 4/5	Good Club rate 4/5	55	23	42%		Hedge End Junior CC (7 teams) main user but is actively seeking alternative venues due to issues with HEPC over usage of pavilion. Currently U15's play here, U17 (2 games, play rest away), Junior & Men's Team (JAMS) (3 games, rest at Southampton Sports Centre) U9/U11 now based at Botley Rec. U13 Deer Park School. Club growing in younger age groups U9/U11. Eastleigh CC (1 team)	PC responsible for maintenance and pitch has good drainage, outfield suffers occasional holes from dogs digging. NTP in standard condition with a few patches. Nets unusable, frame and mats removed, and subbase dug up on one side. Other side no nets and worn mats. Club not allowed keys for building and have to wait for personnel to open site for access to toilets, who are often unavailable.
VT SPORTS GROUND, SO19 9PW (Old Netley & Highfield CC)	VT Sports Board Rolling year lease	Not secure	1 / 10 wickets	No	Yes - 2 lanes (S)	Clubhouse with one unisex toilet built 2019, no changing rooms or showers.	P=Good, O=Good . Club rate 4/5	Poor - no CR / Showers. Club rate 3/5	50	45	90%		Old Netley & Highfield CC has 2 Sat adult teams, an eve. league team, Women's W10 softball team, disability provision and runs all stars and dynamos cricket. Club lost teams during Covid (2 adult team and 3 boys teams).	Club maintains facility to a good standard, only able to use middle two wickets for County level. Club has plans to add changing rooms and showers alongside clubhouse building but due to change in lease conditions unable to proceed.

Site Name & Address	Ownership / Management	Access Security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT Nets	Pavilion / Changing Rooms	Pitch & Outfield Rating	Pavilion Rating	Fine Turf Cap (MES)	Fine Turf Use (MES)	Peak Period Cap.	RAG	Demand Summary	Maintenance & Facility Issues
WELLINGTON SPORTS GROUND (King Edward School sports ground), SO50 9HT	Educational site - not aware of CUA in place	Not secure	3 / 27 wickets	No	No	Large Clubhouse on site with changing and cricket pavilion on top ground.	All P=Good, O=Good School rate 5/5	Good School rate 5/5	135	133	99%		School use 18 teams (some play at main school site) and staff team (Vikings CC) occasional use, rest at main school site. Extensive use by Hampshire Boys Pathway teams..	School maintains site to a good condition.
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	Educational site – CUA agreement in place but requires updating.	Not secure	2 / 16 wickets	yes x 2 (G)	Yes x 2 - (G)	Large pavilion, with changing and social space.	P1=Standard, O=Good P2=Good, O=Good	Good	64	64	100%		Site previously had 4 pitches, Pitch 3 last used 3 years ago, Pitch 4 was due to be reinstated this season (23) but not happened yet. Last used 1.5 years ago. University use 4 male and 2 female teams, community use Soton Community CC (2 teams). Assumed FT used to capacity and rest of play on NTP's.	University maintains site to a good standard. Issues with drainage on 1st pitch from when first installed. NTPs put in 2019 but due to Covid where not rolled, carpet now rippling, university started works to correct this by digging out edges and re stretching carpet into place.

1.2 Junior Pitches

In general, the clubs with junior sections set aside one strip on the main square for junior matches requiring shorter dimensions and/or use of the non-turf pitches where these are available on their grounds. At most sites, Kwik cricket for younger children is generally played on temporary pitches set up on a mown strip in the outfield (or several strips around the outfield in the event of Kwik cricket tournaments and festivals).

1.3 Closed Sites

There are no closed sites in the area.

1.4 Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs)

In the younger age groups (U10 to U13), some hardball match play takes place on non-turf pitches (NTPs). NTPs are also used for training and adult play including most short format friendly games between non-traditional single team clubs without a secured home ground. Currently, Trojans CC with a large junior section does not have an NTP and instead use the fine turf pitch reinstated since the last PPS update at the club's second site, Hardmoor Sports Ground (formerly a sports ground for Southampton Solent University and also located just over the borough boundary in Test Valley).

1.5 Non-Turf Practice Nets

There is a mix in provision of non-turf practice nets which are available at six of the eleven cricket pitch sites. Those clubs without non-turf net systems rely on mobile net cages for practice on the NTP on the square or on one of the fine turf strips if no NTP. The net systems at both Trojans Sports Ground in Stoneham Lane and at the Turnpike Way Recreation Ground (used by Hedge End CC Juniors and Eastleigh CC) are in poor condition and need upgrading.

Figure 1.2 – Non-turf permanent net systems: locations and quality

Location	No. of Lanes	Quality
Lapstone Playing Fields	2	Standard
Trojans Sports Ground, Stoneham Lane	3	Standard to Poor
Turnpike Way Recreation Ground	2	Unusable
VT Sports Ground	2	Standard
Wide Lane Sports Ground, Southampton Uni	2	Good (subject to remedial work to remove surface rippling)

1.6 Indoor Cricket School and Indoor Practice Nets

The borough has a dedicated high quality indoor cricket school facility on the first floor of the Rod Bransgrove Pavilion at The Ageas Bowl. It is primarily used as a six-lane cricket net facility by Hampshire men & women's senior teams, both boys & girls' pathways, Hampshire Academy, as well as Southern Vipers. It has also hosted a number of indoor competitions including the NatWest U16 Indoor League and Southampton Evening Indoor League. It is available for hire and has been used in the past for a variety of sporting activities ranging from pilates classes to football competitions and archery and has a spectator viewing balcony. The Indoor School and the nets within are priced per hour on an advance booking basis only – i.e., no pay and play.

Four pull out cricket nets are available and well used in the sports hall at Wyvern College by Fair oak Cricket Club for winter training between January and March. Other school sports halls in the borough with pull out nets available to hire, subject to availability, are located at Barton Peveril 6th Form College (6), Deer Park School (3), Thornden School (4) and Wildern School (3). Indoor sports hall space is in high demand across the area so the main constraint on cricket hires is the competing demand from sports hall team sports and badminton, these are all year-round activities whereas demand for indoor cricket nets is generally limited to peak evening or weekend slots from January to March and therefore disruptive to the core programme and income. Places Leisure Eastleigh hosts the South Hampshire

Indoor Cricket League consisting of four men's divisions, a women's division and Junior divisions for U14 and U17 age groups.

1.7 Facilities for Non-Traditional Forms of Cricket

Hampshire Cricket is working along with the ECB towards the aim to inspire a new generation to believe that 'Cricket is a game for me'. Hampshire Cricket believe that Cricket is a powerful way of connecting communities, building friendships and helping people to achieve through playing the wonderful game. In furtherance of this aim, Hampshire Cricket encourages the provision of suitable facilities in accessible locations for playing non-traditional, short format cricket which has a broad appeal across all ages and communities. Non traditional facilities range from non-turf pitches (NTPs) for organised cup and league 20 over matches and 'Last Man Stands' (games of 75 minutes approximately for teams of 8 players played in public parks) down to hard-court Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) for informal games of 'Cage Cricket' using a softball or tapeball (a tennis ball wrapped in tape). There is a 'Last Man Stands' league in Southampton easily reachable to players in Eastleigh borough. Hedge End has an LMS team, Hedge End Hawks, playing in the 2023 Southampton Last Man Stands League.

1.8 Ownership and Security of Access

Cricket pitches in the study area fall into one of three categories of site ownership where community access is considered to be 'secured':

- **Club / community organisation owned** - The most secure type of provision is those cricket grounds where the home club or a community sports association or trust owns the freehold or has a long lease. Trojan Sports Club's ground and Hardmoor are leased to the sports club by Test Valley District Council and Eastleigh Borough Council serving residents of both Test Valley and Eastleigh local authority areas. The Ageas Bowl site is owned by the Council and leased back to Hampshire Cricket.
- **Council owned** – Grounds owned by a borough, district or parish council are considered to be secured for community use and are hired out by the Council to clubs and teams either on a match-by-match pre-booked letting basis or under terms of a seasonal or longer agreement. Several of the cricket pitches in Eastleigh Borough fall within this category of secured access, e.g., Botley Recreation Ground, Lapstone Playing Fields, Turnpike Way Recreation Ground.
- **Education provider owned** – playing fields with cricket pitches on sites where the primary use is for education – i.e., school or student sport – with a legally enforceable Community Use Agreement (CUA) in place. Wide Lane Sports Ground (University) has a community use agreement in place but is due to be reviewed.

Community club access and use of privately owned or education sector playing fields is deemed 'unsecured' where a club has no legally enforceable right of access agreement in place for more than a year. Wellington School Sports Ground has unsecured access for community cricket, this ground currently hosts very little community cricket activity, being used for just a handful of limited overs friendly matches a season by a casual staff and parents team, Vikings CC. Other unsecured provision includes The VT Sports Ground where Netley & Highfield CC are based is subject to a one year rolling agreement, although there is clause included providing for a payout and need for relocation.

1.9 At Risk Sites

Folland Sports and Social club previously applied for planning for redevelopment of the site for housing, the application was rejected but access to the Sports Facilities on site was at threat. No site visits took place as part of this strategy due to a lack of response from the organisation and the Cricket club has no security on site.

1.10 Opportunity Sites for Cricket

Planning permission has recently been granted to relocate the current cricket square at Lapstone Playing fields and add a second wicket both with NTP's (squares to consist of 9 and 7 wickets). There is potential for 1 (possibly 2) additional cricket squares to be reinstated at Wide Lane Sports ground subject to interest from clubs and a revised community use agreement. There was also a cricket pitch previously in place at College Playing Fields which is now used predominately for football, but there could be an opportunity to reinstate this pitch if there is demand in the area.

1.11 Pitch Quality

The table below shows the quality of pitches within the study area based on their operation.

Figure 1.3 – Pitch square and outfield quality and operation (S = Square O = outfield)

Rating	Club owned		Council owned		Totals
	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield	
Good	3	2	8	6	11 pitches; 8 outfields = good
Standard	0	1	1	3	1 pitch; 4 outfields = standard
Poor	0	0	0	0	0 square; 0 outfields = poor

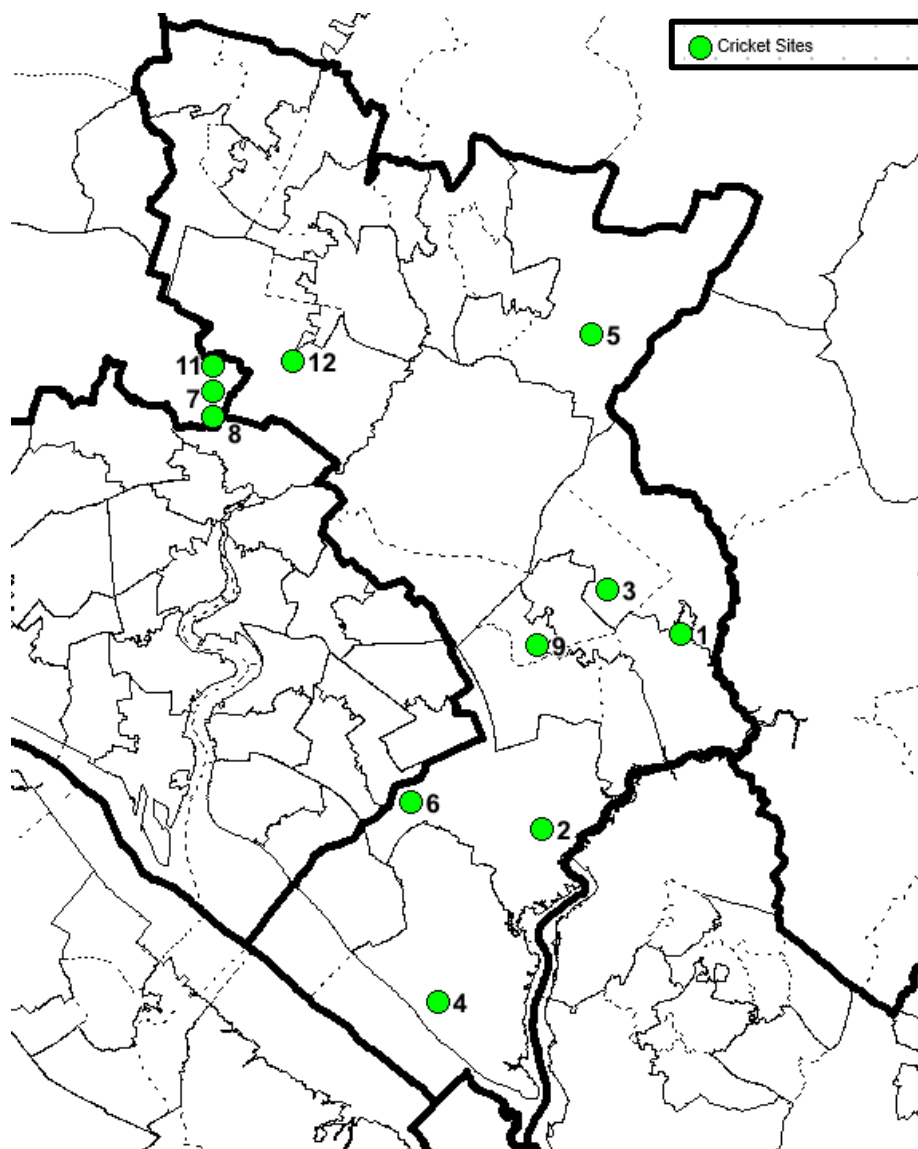
The cricket pitches (squares) and outfields in the borough are, in the main, maintained to a good quality (assessed by means of a combination of visual inspection, umpire ratings and club survey feedback). Where outfields are rated lower as 'standard quality' this is due either to shared use with football (e.g., Follands and Lapstone Playing Fields) or issues with dogs or other animals on open access recreation grounds (e.g., Turnpike Way). Generally, where clubs are responsible for maintaining a square and have access to a trained professional or experienced volunteer grounds person, the pitch quality tends to be higher than at Council owned sites without a partnership agreement with the hiring club that includes a maintenance clause. Similarly, the open access / shared use nature of recreation ground sites renders cricket pitches on these sites more vulnerable to incidences of damage and acts of vandalism than at sites where access is controlled.

Given that the pitches are already maintained to a good quality in most cases, there is only a little scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the pitches used by cricket clubs and teams based in Eastleigh.

1.12 Distribution of Cricket Sites

Figure 1.4 shows the distribution of fine turf and non turf pitch cricket sites across Eastleigh. This shows that most of the residents from the study area live within a reasonable distance of a community cricket pitch. In the northwest of the borough where there is little supply, with just Wide Lane Sports Ground, residents have access to the two Trojans Sports Club grounds just across the borough's boundary in Test Valley.

Figure 1.4 – Eastleigh Cricket Site Distribution



Key: Cricket site distribution		
No	Name	Postcode
1	BOTLEY RECREATION GROUND	SO30 2ES
2	BURSELDON REC (NTP)	SO31 4NS
3	DEER PARK SCHOOL (NTP)	SO30 2HT
4	FOLLAND SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB,	SO31 4NS
5	LAPSTONE PLAYING FIELDS,	SO50 7PS
6	ROYAL VICTORIA SPORTS GROUND (NTP)	SO31 5HH
7	TROJANS SPORTS CLUB, Test Valley	SO50 9HT
8	HARDMOOR, Test Valley	SO50 9HT
9	TURNPIKE WAY RECREATION GROUND,	SO30 4TS
10	VT SPORTS GROUND,	SO19 9PW
11	WELLINGTON SPORTS GROUND (King Edward School sports ground),	SO50 9HT
12	WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND,	SO50 5PE

1.13 Cricket Supply of Relevance in Neighbouring Local Authorities

In addition to the two Trojan Sports Club cricket grounds in Test Valley, there are a number of other cricket pitches with community access within a 20 minute drivetime (5 mile catchment area) of the Eastleigh borough boundary based on application of the Active Places Power area access analysis mapping tool and these are shown in figure 1.5 below. Some cricket demand from the west side of Eastleigh Borough (Hedge End Juniors CC) is exported to community cricket sites further afield to Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre and some from the north (Fair Oak CC) to Swanmore Cricket Ground in Winchester District.

Figure 1.5 – Cricket Supply in Neighbouring Local Authorities

Neighbouring venues	LA	Quantity	Accessibility
Colden Common Park	Winchester	1 pitch	Council Site – to the North
Knightwood Leisure Centre	Test Valley	1 pitch	Council site – close to NW boundary
Sarisbury Green Rec Gound	Fareham	1 pitch	Council site – to the South East
The Quarters	Winchester	2 pitches	Sports club – to the North
Woodlands Community College	Southampton	1 pitch	Education site – close to South West Boundary

2. Cricket Demand (step 2)

Findings relating to cricket pitch demand in Eastleigh are summarised below.

2.1 Cricket Clubs and Teams

In the 2023 cricket season, nine clubs were identified through the consultation as being active in Eastleigh. These clubs, their teams and where they play are shown in figure 2.1:

Figure 2.1- Open Age Cricket Expressed Demand in Eastleigh

Cricket clubs and teams	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
Trojans CC 4 Sat league teams 1 midweek league team 9 junior teams All Stars / Dynamos	Trojans Sports Club Ground and Hardmoor Sports Ground	Wellington Sports Ground (King Edward's School)
Fair Oak CC 5 Sat league teams W10 team 8 junior teams Own All Stars programme	Lapstone Playing Fields	Botley Rec Ground, Swanmore CG,
Hedge End Junior CC 7 junior teams JAM (Junior & Men's) team All Stars	Turnpike Way Recreation Ground Botley Rec Ground (U9/U10). Deer Park School (U13)	Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre (JAMS);
Eastleigh CC 1 Sat league team	Turnpike Way Recreation Ground	
Old Netley & Highfield CC 2 Sat league teams 1 midweek league team W10 team Disability cricket All Stars / Dynamos	VT Sports Ground	
Folland (Hamble) CC 2 Sat league teams	Folland Sports & Social Club ground	
Southampton Community CC 2 Sat league teams	Wide Lane Sports Ground	
Vikings CC 1 team (friendly matches)	Wellington Sports Ground (King Edward's School)	

Four clubs provide opportunities for juniors to play competitive cricket – Trojans CC, Fair Oak CC, Old Netley & Highfield CC and Hedge End Juniors CC. All of these clubs (except Fair Oak CC) provide junior 'All Stars' and/or 'Dynamos' sessions supported by Hampshire Cricket. Fair Oak CC run a similar programme for a reduced cost to participants.

There has been a decrease in the number of men's league teams in the area (-5 teams) but growth in other areas e.g., women's cricket (+1), and at the younger age groups (+6). In total it is estimated that, in the 2023 season, there were 20 men's teams (aged 18+), 2 women's (W10) teams, and 24 boys' teams (aged 7-18), playing cricket matches in the site area mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these teams also train on a midweek evening in season and most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.

2.2 Active People Survey

The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ showed that self reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in cricket in England by adults (aged 16+) increased from 0.5% in November 2020-2021 to 0.8% in November 2021-2022. If cricket participation in the study area was at the national average (i.e., 0.8%), this would indicate around 896 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play cricket out of a 16+ adult population of approximately 112,039.

With approximately 22 adult teams currently, the 'adult' cricket club playing membership in the area is close to 330 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). If adult cricket participation in Eastleigh is in line with the national average of 0.8%, this suggests that over half (63%) of regular adult cricket played takes place either outside the borough or takes place outside of a club environment (i.e., through informal games with family, friends and/or work colleagues in parks).

2.3 Casual Cricket Demand

Demand for less formal forms of play - using free to use net systems and non-turf facilities in public parks, as well as hard-surface areas such as MUGAs, streets, footpaths and hard standing areas on housing estates - is a growing feature of cricket demand nationally, particularly among teenagers and young adults in the Black, Black/British, Asian and Asian/British minority ethnic (BME) communities.

Whilst the population of Eastleigh is predominately White British, the provision of facilities for free to access casual play across the area could help to increase cricket activity among all types of under-represented participant groups including families and groups of friends. There is currently provision for informal forms of cricket in the area (NTPs) at Bursledon Rec Ground and Royal Victoria Sports Ground. The nets at Turnpike Way were previously used by recreational groups on a regular basis. It would be worth the council investigating the feasibility of upgrading these nets and providing more provision particularly in more diverse areas of the borough.

2.4 Unmet / Latent Demand

There was no identified unmet demand in the area, but clubs highlighted ambitions for growth to meet perceived latent demand, e.g., teams that could be created if additional pitch provision was available. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out from January to July 2023 and therefore only includes those clubs that completed the survey. Conversion of this perceived latent demand into new teams will depend on these clubs engaging sufficient volunteer team managers and coaches as well as securing suitable pitches to play and train on in the peak period.

Figure 2.2 outlines the growth aspirations of clubs, and it is apparent that there is latent demand in the borough for youth and Women's and Girls cricket.

Figure 2.2: Eastleigh Borough Cricket Clubs - Self-Reported Team Growth Plans

Club	Growth Aspirations
Fair Oak CC	Club has a development officer in post and plans in place to further grow the junior section.
Hedge End CC	Further growth aspirations in younger age groups (u10/u11).
Old Netley and Highfield CC	Hoping for All stars and Dynamos sessions to grow into boys/ girls teams.
Southampton Community CC	Likely to introduce another team with younger team members.
Trojans CC	Plan to increase opportunities for women and girls to play at the club.

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 2021/22, Sport England, (April 2023)

2.5 Displaced/Imported Demand

In the consultations carried out, it was found that two clubs based in Eastleigh Borough are reliant on using facilities outside of the borough. Fair Oak CC and Hedge End Juniors CC both hire grounds in the City of Southampton and one Fair Oak CC adult team play their home matches at Swanmore (in Winchester District). There is also imported demand with Locks Heath CC using the NTP at Royal Victoria Sports Ground for their third and fourth teams. Trojans CC travels to St Georges College and Woodlands Community College (Southampton) for indoor training.

2.6 Trends in Demand for Team Cricket

Nationally the ECB has reported a growth in teams in all areas with the greatest growth in the last few seasons in the youth age groups where the development of junior coaching and introduction of the ECB's Cricket All Stars (5-8yr olds) and Dynamos (8-11yr olds) initiatives for primary age children boosting demand. This is reflected in Eastleigh with several clubs reporting growth in their junior section as well as introducing midweek formats, and friendly only fixtures providing more flexible formats of the game to cater for people's busy lifestyles.

There has been an increased focus by the ECB for Women's and girl's cricket, and this is reflected in the increase in women's teams in the area, currently two teams have W10 softball teams (Fair Oak CC and Old Netley & Highfield CC), and Trojans CC is at an early stage of developing women and girl's cricket. National trends (2022) are that the number of clubs with a women's or girls sections have increased by 54% and the number of fixtures recorded online increased by 97%.

3. The Situation at Individual Cricket Sites (Step 4)

The fine turf cricket pitches were assessed during the 2023 season. All of the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the ECB in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Appendices (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment.

The findings of the site-specific audit assessments were reviewed with representatives of Hampshire Cricket and ratings for each agreed as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (i.e., site carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place.

Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use. It was agreed with the ECB representative to adopt the following pitch carrying capacities according to each quality rating to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments in other areas:

Figure 3.1: Cricket Pitch Carrying Capacity

Pitch Quality Rating	Carrying Capacity - Match equivalent sessions per prepared fine turf wicket (strip) per season
Good	5
Standard	3
Poor	1

The site-specific audit assessments detailed the situation at each cricket site with regard to:

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use).
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e., the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training.
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain, or
 - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls significantly below the carrying capacity)

One site (listed below) is highlighted from the audit as a **RED** rated site where the available fine turf cricket pitches are considered to be played over and above their estimated carrying capacity based on the size of the square (i.e., number of wickets/strips) and the assessed quality of the square.

- Trojans Sports Club

Four sites (listed below) from the audit are rated as **AMBER** indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Lapstone Playing Fields
- Hardmoor
- Wellington Sports Ground
- Wide Lane Sports Ground

4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Cricket (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Overall, the assessment of facility needs shows that the fine turf pitches of clubs with large junior sections in the area are largely over played, and these clubs require additional facilities to cater for demand. There is spare capacity at Botley Rec Ground, Folland Sports & Social Club, Turnpike Way Rec Ground and VT Sports Ground.

The supply of accessible indoor practice nets in the study area is insufficient with a number of clubs identifying a need for more provision and some travelling outside of the borough to train for example Trojans CC travelling to St Georges College and Woodlands Community College (Southampton). The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at Trojans Sports Ground and Turnpike Way Rec. Ground.

An investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at Trojans Sports Club, Bursledon Rec. Ground and Royal Victoria Sports Ground. The new clubhouse at VT Sports Ground requires additional facilities for changing and showers and, whilst the facilities at Turnpike Way are suitable there is issues around access on match days which affects cricket being played on the site.

4.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2036 on the need for cricket pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. To meet cricket demand from 25,498 additional residents (as currently forecast²) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC predicts an increase of 9 teams in the area, 4 adult teams and 5 youth teams, based on team generation rates for the area and to meet this demand the equivalent capacity of +1.67 additional cricket pitches will be needed in the study area.

Figure 4.1: Team generation rates.

Age Group	Current pop in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Gen. Rate	Future Pop in age group	Predicted future no of teams	No of home matches per season	No of matches per pitch per season	Natural Turf pitches
Men (18-55yrs)	30,743	20	1537	5742.08	3.74	37.36	40	0.93
Women (18-55yrs)	32,870	2	16435	6139.49	0.37	3.74	40	0.09
Boys (7-18yrs)	10,412	24	434	1944.96	4.48	35.87	56	0.64
Girls (7-18yrs)	9,968	0	0	1864.42	0.00	0.00	56	0.00
					8.59			1.67

When the clubs' aspirations for team growth and the impact of cricket development initiatives with regard to primary age children, women and girls' cricket and under-represented ethnic minority groups are added, it is estimated that there will be a need for two additional fine turf pitches in the area to cater for demand, as well as additional NTP's at clubs with large youth sections who currently have no provision to help them to alleviate some of the pressure on their fine turf pitches and accommodate growth.

² ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

5. Key Findings and Issues for Cricket (Step 6)

The main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision

Twelve fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket across Eastleigh Borough in 2023, on 9 playing pitch sites, included in this total are the two sports grounds located just over the boundary in Test Valley District at Trojans Sports Club and Hardmoor, which serves residents of Eastleigh. There are 8 non-turf pitches on 7 sites. There has been a reduction of two fine turf pitches since the last PPS but an increase in non-turf pitches with two additional pitches laid at Wide Lane Sports Ground and one each at Bursledon Rec. Ground, Botley Rec. Ground and Deer park School.

Nine clubs were identified in Eastleigh through the consultation, there are 15 adult men's sides entered to compete in affiliated Saturday cricket leagues cricket in 2023, 2 clubs offer midweek evening teams, 2 have adult teams competing in friendly fixtures and 2 also have female specific W10 softball cricket teams. Four clubs provide opportunities for juniors to play competitive cricket – Trojans CC, Fair Oak CC, Old Netley & Highfield CC and Hedge End Juniors CC.

In total it is estimated that, in the 2023 season, there were 20 men's teams (aged 18+), 2 women's (W10) teams, and 24 boys' teams (aged 7-18), playing cricket matches in the area mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these teams also train on a midweek evening in season and most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?

There is sufficient capacity at most grounds with the exception of the clubs with large youth sections namely Trojans CC and Fair Oak CC who require additional facilities to cater for demand. Fair Oak CC and Hedge End Juniors CC use facilities outside of the borough.

Overall, the cricket clubs in Eastleigh mostly benefit from good security of access on their home grounds, although Netley and Highfield CC are reliant on a one year rolling agreement and Folland (Hamble) CC has no direct tenure on their pitch.

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

Fine turf pitches across the borough are well maintained, with little opportunity to improve pitch quality and therefore increase capacity.

The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at Trojans Sports Ground and Turnpike Way Rec. Ground.

Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at Bursledon Rec. Ground and Royal Victoria Sports Ground. Trojans Sports Club needs improved facilities and has recently received planning permission to build a new clubhouse. The new clubhouse at VT Sports Ground requires additional facilities for changing and showers and, whilst the facilities at Turnpike Way are suitable there is issues around access on match days which affects cricket being played on the site.

What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

To meet cricket demand from 25,498 additional residents (as currently forecast³) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +1.67 additional cricket pitches will be needed in the study area.

In addition, five clubs have aspirations to grow their junior sections or offer sessions for women and girl's cricket which will increase future demand for cricket pitches.


Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

There is not sufficient accessible and secured community use provision in the borough to meet future demand. There is a need for two additional fine turf pitches in the area. Planning permission has recently been granted to develop the pitches (and NTP's) at Lapstone Playing Fields which will improve capacity and there is an opportunity to reinstate at least one pitch at Wide Land Playing Fields. If this is taken it will provide sufficient provision in the area to support the growth of clubs in the area.

An NTP is needed at Trojans Sports Club or Hardmoor Sports Ground will help to alleviate the pressure on their fine turf pitches and support the growth of their junior section and there is a need to improve access to the changing and toilet facilities on match days at Turnpike Way to enable the ground to be utilised to its full potential.

Investment into pavilions is required in the area including new or refurbished provision at Bursledon Rec. Ground and Royal Victoria Sports Ground. The new clubhouse at VT Sports Ground requires additional facilities for changing and showers.

³ ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

A photograph of children playing football at night on an artificial turf pitch. A child in the foreground is jumping to head a ball. Other children are visible in the background, some in light blue bibs and others in red and white kits. The scene is illuminated by stadium lights.

Eastleigh Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
Appendix B –
Assessment of Need Report
Football

Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

1. Introduction

The findings of the assessment of football facilities in Eastleigh Borough Council are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. FA affiliated football clubs registered to Eastleigh and playing home fixtures in the borough have contributed to this assessment by submitting an online club survey and/or through in person consultation during site visits. The number of clubs consulted with as part of this process represents 58% of teams playing football in the area, however a number of teams (151) travel into the borough to play in the Eastleigh and District (Central venue) Mini Soccer League, of which only two clubs responded. When these teams are discounted, the response rate equates to 77% of teams based in Eastleigh.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2017 (an update to the PPS prepared in 2014) there have been changes in both the supply of football pitches in Eastleigh and in football demand. On the supply side, there has been the provision of two supersized (120x85m) and one full sized (105x70M) 3G FTPs at Stoneham Lane Football Complex (opened in 2019), a further full sized 3G FTP was opened at Deer Park Secondary School in 2021. Toynbee School's 3G FTP was resurfaced in 2018 and Wyvern College's pitch was extended to full size and resurfaced in 2021. New natural turf pitches have been laid at Boorley Park Sports Pavilion, Berrywood Meadows and Deer Park School, and improvements have been made to the quality of grass pitches at Stoneham Lane Football Complex and Wide Lane Sports Ground.

There has been a significant increase in demand, as the number of football teams in Eastleigh has increased to 575 teams (416 based in the borough and 159 playing home games on Eastleigh sites, including 151 teams who are part of the mini soccer league). This represents an increase of 210 teams - nearly 58% - since the previous audit in 2017 when 365 affiliated teams were registered in the borough. There has been an increase in all formats of football including adult teams (+44 teams) and a large increase in youth and mini soccer teams (+179), which includes 38 specific girl's teams compared to just 12 in 2017. The previous audit included 25 teams which were not assigned to a specific format of football and were likely small sided or recreational provision.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions had a significant impact towards the end of the 2019/20 season and throughout 2020/21. However, football demand largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels during 2021/22 and is now showing signs of growth, particularly in youth football.

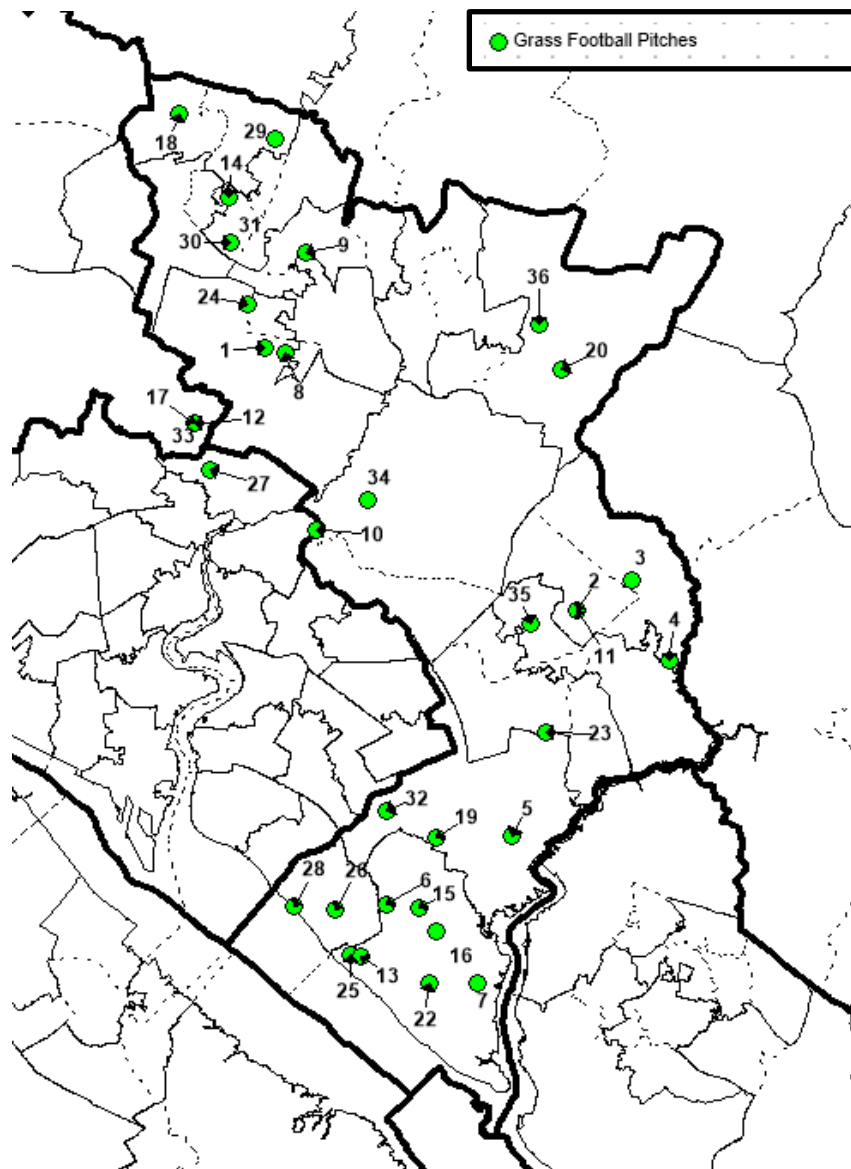
2. Football Supply (Step 2)

The findings of the assessment of supply of football facilities in Eastleigh are summarised in this section and detailed by site both for grass pitches (in the supporting additional appendices) and for artificial turf pitches. The supply information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the FA in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments), augmented by consultation with the Council, Hampshire FA and user clubs. At a number of key football sites, more detailed pitch quality assessments were undertaken using the Football Foundation's 'PitchPower' methodology. At these sites, the estimates of playing capacity are informed by the results of the PitchPower assessments and Performance Quality Standards (PQS) ratings provided by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA).

2.1 Distribution of Football Supply

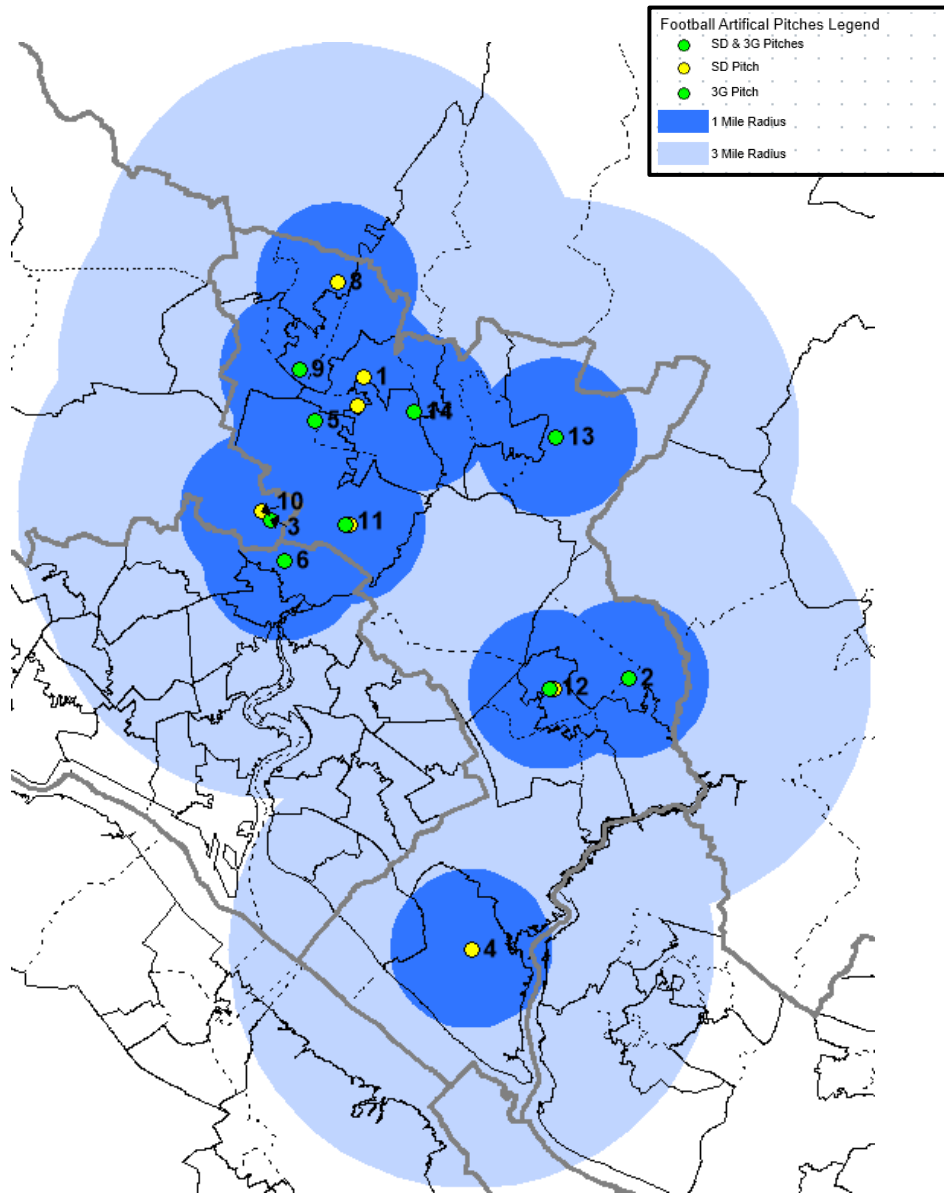
Figure 2.1 and 2.2 shows the distribution of football sites across Eastleigh.

Figure 2.1 - Distribution of grass football pitch sites in Eastleigh



Key: Grass Football Pitch Sites		
No	Site Name	Postcode
1	BARTON PEVERIL COLLEGE	SO50 5ZA
2	BERRYWOOD MEADOWS	SO30 2HT
3	BOORLEY PARK SPORTS PAVILION	SO32 2TG
4	BOTLEY RECREATION GROUND	SO30 2EA
5	BURSLEDON RECREATION GROUND	SO31 8DA
6	BUTLOCKS HEATH	SO31 5FR
7	COLLEGE PLAYING FIELDS (Roy Underdown Pavilion)	SO31 4HN
8	CRESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL (CHERBOURG CAMPUS)	SO50 5EL
9	CRESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL (SHAKESPEARE CAMPUS)	SO50 4FZ
10	CUTBUSH LANE RECREATION GROUND (West End Football Facility)	SO18 3HY
11	DEER PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL	SO30 2HT
12	EASTLEIGH FC (SILVERLAKE STADIUM)	SO50 9HT
13	FOLLAND SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB	SO31 4NS
14	FRYERN RECREATION GROUND	SO53 2LE
15	HAMBLE COMMUNITY FACILITY	SO31 4BU
16	HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX	SO31 4NE
17	HARDMOOR)	SO50 9HT
18	HILTINGBURY RECREATION GROUND	SO53 5NP
19	KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD (BURSLEDON)	SO31 8FF
20	LAPSTONE PLAYING FIELDS	SO50 7PS
21	MALLARDS MOOR (Hamble United FC)	SO31 4NE
22	MOUNT PLEASANT RECREATION GROUND	SO31 4ND
23	NORMAN RODAWAY SPORTS GROUND	SO30 0PA
24	PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH	SO50 9NL
25	ROYAL VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK	SO31 5HH
26	STATION ROAD RECREATION GROUND (Netley Rec Ground)	SO31 5EA
27	STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX	SO16 2PA
28	THE CRICKET FIELD	SO31 5FA
29	THORNDEN SCHOOL	SO53 2DW
30	TOYNBEE SCHOOL	SO53 2PL
32	VT SPORTS GROUND	SO19 9PW
33	WELLINGTON SPORTS GROUND	SO50 9HT
34	WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND	SO50 5PE
35	WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE	SO30 4EJ
36	WYVERN COLLEGE SPORT AND FITNESS	SO50 7AX

Figure 2.2- Distribution of FTP football pitch sites in Eastleigh



Key: Artificial Pitch Sites		
	Site Name	Postcode
1	CRESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL (SHAKESPEARE CAMPUS),	SO50 4FZ
2	DEER PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL,	SO30 2HT
3	EASTLEIGH FC (SILVERLAKE STADIUM),	SO50 9HT
4	HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX,	SO31 4NE
5	PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH,	SO50 9NL
6	STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX,	SO16 2PA
7	THE CRESCENT PRIMARY SCHOOL,	SO50 9DH
8	THORNDEN SCHOOL,	SO53 2DW
9	TOYNBEE SCHOOL,	SO53 2PL
10	TROJANS SPORTS CLUB (TEST VALLEY)	SO50 9HT
11	WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND,	SO50 5PE
12	WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE,	SO30 4EJ
13	WYVERN COLLEGE SPORT AND FITNESS,	SO50 7AX
14	THE HUB,	SO50 6LA

2.2 Grass Football Pitches in Eastleigh

In total there are 90 grass pitches on 36 sites used for football in Eastleigh, of these sites listed in figure 2.1 the following are excluded from the supply and demand calculations, as they are either not currently available for use by football teams or future community use of the site is unsecured.

- Crestwood Community School (Cherbourg Campus) – (1x 11v11, 1 x 9v9) The school pitches were used for community use prior to the Covid Pandemic but is no longer available as the trustees feel it is not financially viable.
- Crestwood Community School (Shakespear Campus) – (2x11v11) The school pitches were used for community use prior to the Covid Pandemic but is no longer available as the trustees feel it is not financially viable.
- Thornden School - (1x 11v11) Previously used for community use but no longer available due to poor condition of pitch.
- Toynbee School - (external site Oakmouth Road with potential for 2x 9v9 pitches) but site is not currently in use and has no ancillary facilities.
- Wellington Sports Ground - (2x 11v11) Previously used for community use but no longer available due to wear and tear on pitches.

Excluding the pitches above, the number of secured pitches available for community football in Eastleigh is reduced to 82 pitches on 32 sites. This includes pitches at Hardmoor in Test Valley DC and Cutbush Lane in the City of Southampton due to their proximity to the border of Eastleigh and their usage by teams based in the borough, as well as newly laid pitches at Boorley Park Sports Pavilion (1x 11v11 and 1x 9v9) and the pitches due to be reconfigured at Places Eastleigh from mini soccer to 2x 9v9. It should also be noted that a number of the pitches included in the area are over-marked to accommodate smaller sided games (e.g., 9v9 on 11v11 or 5v5 on 7v7).

Figure 2.3 below shows the number of secured pitches currently available compared with the number of FA affiliated teams by age group in March 2023. The vast majority of mini soccer games in the area are played on 3G artificial pitches at Stoneham Lane Football Complex as the central venue for the Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer league, which accounts for the very small supply of 7v7 and 5v5 natural turf pitches. The number of teams in these mini soccer age groups is also inflated by teams (151) from outside the area playing in the central venue league in Eastleigh.

Comparison of current team numbers with the available supply of natural turf pitches shows that the growth in youth and mini-soccer teams is transferring into 9v9 teams, with 4 teams for every available pitch. There is a lack of youth 11v11 specific pitches for the number of teams in this age group, meaning the majority will play on full sized pitches, with 3.7 teams for every 11v11 pitch.

Whilst 9v9 pitches have greater capacity for play than senior pitches (due to lower wear and tear by youth players compared to heavier adult players), the additional demand is catered for in some areas by the over-marking of pitches, which in most cases leads to the over-play of pitches at these sites. Some demand for 9v9 and 11v11 games is catered for by 3G pitches in the area. The future demand for grass pitches is outlined in Section 5 of this document.

Figure 2.3: Pitch Size / Team Comparison

Pitch Type	Available Pitch Supply*		Teams playing in Eastleigh**	
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	50	61%	116	21%
Youth 11v11 (U13 - U16)	6	7%	89	16%
Youth 9v9 (U11 – U12)	20	24%	77	14%
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9 - U10)	4	5%	156	27%
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U6 – U8)	2	2%	125	22%
Total	82		563	

*Includes new pitches at Boorley Park Sports Pavilion and reconfigured 9v9 pitches at Places Eastleigh from Sept 23.

** Source: Hampshire FA affiliation data (March 23) / Club Survey (Jan – July 23) excludes walking football, futsal, small sided disability teams

2.3 Local Authority Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches for Hire:

Local authorities, County Councils and the Borough Council make grass football pitch sites available for community clubs to book and hire. These playing fields offer a total of 34 pitches for clubs to hire and are detailed in figure 2.4.

2.4 Council Owned Grass Pitches with Leases or Management Agreements:

The Council plays an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and enabling community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate existing and new facilities. The playing field sites listed in figure 2.5 have football pitches owned by Eastleigh that are leased to individual community sports clubs/organisations to manage and maintain.

2.5 Sports Association/Charity Owned Grass Football Pitches:

There are 17 playing pitches on 4 sites under sports association or recreation charity/ trust ownership and have pitches that are used extensively by community football clubs. These are listed in figure 2.6.

2.6 Football Pitches on Education Sites:

Eastleigh Borough based community football clubs currently play on pitches at a number of education sites, as listed in figure 2.7. The clubs using pitches on education sites have little security of access as continued use from one season to the next depends on the consent of the site's management (head teacher, board of governors, management company and/or governing trust). There are community use agreements in place at Deer Park School, Hamble Sports Complex and Wide Lane Sports Ground which provide protection for general community access, however it does not usually determine use by a specific club. The other education sites do not have community use agreements in place and whilst none of these education providers has indicated any intention to stop allowing access in future, without specific agreements in place for longer than a single season, security of access for football clubs at these sites must be considered a risk. It should also be noted that the capacity of pitches on education sites are typically influenced by school use including PE activity, extra curricular use and playtimes.

Further youth and mini-soccer pitches (or space to accommodate pitches) exist in the borough on playing fields at other school sites across the borough. Whilst there may be potential to negotiate some access at weekends to some of these playing fields, the majority are primary schools able to offer little or no access to ancillary facilities. Arranging future access to these pitches at weekends at reasonable cost while safeguarding the security of the schools' buildings would be difficult to achieve in most cases.

Figure 2.4: Local Authority Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches for Hire:

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
BERRYWOOD MEADOWS, SO30 2HT	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Access to parking and changing at Deer Park School Changing rooms.	Council / HETPC	2	1	1	
BERRYWOOD MEADOWS, SO30 2HT	P2 - 9v9	Good			4	1	3	
BERRYWOOD MEADOWS, SO30 2HT	P3 - 9v9	Good			4	1	3	
BOORLEY PARK SPORTS PAVILION, 3032 2TG	P1 - 11v11	Good	Large modern sports pavilion, changing rooms and car park	Botley PC	3	0	3	
BOORLEY PARK SPORTS PAVILION, 3032 2TG	P2 - 9v9	Good			4	0.5	3.5	
BOTLEY RECREATION GROUND, SO30 2EA	P1 - 11v11 (overmarked 9v9)	Standard	Large pavilion, includes hall, PC office, CR's funded by FF.	Botley PC	2	1.5	0.5	
BOTLEY RECREATION GROUND, SO30 2EA	P2 - 11v11	Standard			2	1	1	
BOTLEY RECREATION GROUND, SO30 2EA	P3 - 7v7	Standard			4	1	3	
BURSLEDON REC. GROUND, SO31 8DA (LONG LANE)	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Large pavilion - Due to renovated - EBC managing	Bursledon PC	2	2	0	
BUTLOCKS HEATH, SO31 5FR	P1 - 11v11 (Youth)	Poor	Village Hall on site, separate changing room building.	Hound PC	1	1	0	
COLLEGE PLAYING FIELDS (Roy Underdown Pavilion), SO31 4HN	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Large modern pavilion opened in 1995, includes CR's, meeting space. Needs heating and hot water system replacing.	Hamble PC	2	2	0	
COLLEGE PLAYING FIELDS (Roy Underdown Pavilion), SO31 4HN	P2 - 9v9	Standard			2	2	0	

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
CUTBUSH LANE REC. GROUND (West End Football Facility), SO18 3HY City of Southampton	P1 - 11v11 (nearest Pavilion)	Standard	Large pavilion, access down narrow lane, small area for parking.	West End PC	2	2	0	Yellow
CUTBUSH LANE REC. GROUND (West End Football Facility), SO18 3HY City of Southampton	P2 - 11v11 (Furthest)	Poor			1	2	-1	Red
FRYERN RECREATION GROUND, SO53 2LE	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Large modern pavilion / community centre with public toilets, 2x CR's and officials room	Chandlers Ford PC	2	2	0	Yellow
FRYERN RECREATION GROUND, SO53 2LE	P2 - 9v9	Standard			2	3	1	Green
HILTINGBURY RECREATION GROUND, SO53 5NP	P1 - 11v11	Standard / Basic (PP)	Changing rooms with external access behind Sports Hall.	Chandlers Ford PC	2	2	0	Yellow
HILTINGBURY RECREATION GROUND, SO53 5NP	P2 - 11v11 (youth) (closest to pavilion)	Poor (PP)			1	2	-1	Red
KING GEORGE V P.FIELD (BURSLEDON), SO31 8FF	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Small but modern pavilion opened in 2014, small parking area.	Bursledon PC	2	0	2	Green
LAPSTONE PLAYING FIELDS, SO50 7PS	P1 - 9v9	Standard	Large pavilion on site, CR, toilets	Fair Oak & Horton Heath PC	2	3.5	-1.5	Red
LAPSTONE PLAYING FIELDS, SO50 7PS	P2 - 11v11	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow
MOUNT PLEASANT RECREATION GROUND, SO31 4ND	P1 -11v11 (closest to pavilion)	Poor	Pavilion on site is dated (built 1940's) and needs replacing. Has 4 CRs and one officials. PC looking to rebuild pavilion where current playground is, subject to funding.	Hamble PC	1	1.5	-0.5	Red

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
MOUNT PLEASANT RECREATION GROUND, SO31 4ND	P2 - 11v11	Poor			1	1.5	-0.5	
MOUNT PLEASANT RECREATION GROUND, SO31 4ND	P3 - 11v11	Poor			1	1	0	
NORMAN RODAWAY SPORTS GROUND, SO30 0PA	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Large pavilion on site. Club rate facilities 3/5 stating showers only work in one dressing room.	Hedge End Town Council	2	1	1	
NORMAN RODAWAY SPORTS GROUND, SO30 0PA	P2 - 11v11 (Youth)	Standard			2	0.5	1.5	
PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH, SO50 9NL	P1 - 11v11 (behind LC)	Standard	Changing rooms in leisure centre	Council site operated by Places leisure	2	1	1	
PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH, SO50 9NL	P2 - 11v11 (first across bridge)	Poor			1	1	0	
PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH, SO50 9NL	P3 - 11v11	Poor			1	1	0	
PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH, SO50 9NL	P4 - 9v9 (front of LC)	Good (PP)			4	0	4	
PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH, SO50 9NL	P5 - 9v9	Good (PP)			4	0	4	
ROYAL VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK, SO31 5HH	P1 - 11v11	Good	Small pavilion, 2 CR's shared showers and toilets, small kitchen area, flooring cracked in places and tiles damaged on wall.	Hampshire CC Sports Ass use by informal arrangement	3	2.5	1.5	
STATION ROAD RECREATION GROUND (NETLEY REC GROUND), SO31 5EA	P1 - 11v11 Floodlit	Standard	Pavilion and changing on site. Limited parking	Hound PC	2	1	1	
THE CRICKET FIELD, SO31 5FA	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Large modern pavilion / hall on site with public toilets. Large car park	Hound PC	2	1	1	

Figure 2.5 Council Owned Grass Pitches with Leases or Management Agreements:

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
HAMBLE COMMUNITY FACILITY, SO31 4BU	P1 - 11v11 Stadia	Poor (PP)	Club funded build of their own clubhouse 5 years ago. Only have single phase electricity on site and floodlights are powered by diesel generator.	Hamble PC - Club lease - 19 years left	1	2.5	-1.5	Red
HAMBLE COMMUNITY FACILITY, SO31 4BU	P2 - 11v11	Standard / Basic (PP)			2	3	-1	Red
HAMBLE COMMUNITY FACILITY, SO31 4BU	P3 - 9v9	Standard / Basic (PP)			2	2	0	Yellow
HAMBLE COMMUNITY FACILITY, SO31 4BU	P4 - 7v7	Good (PP)			6	5	1	Green
HAMBLE COMMUNITY FACILITY, SO31 4BU	P5 - 7v7	Good (PP)			6	4	2	Green
HARDMOOR, SO50 9HT Test Valley	P1 - 11v11 (bottom field)	Standard	Newly built pavilion 3 years old, CR's, toilets, social space. However, access is limited for football due to archery usage.	Secured, Trojans operate on long lease	2	2	0	Yellow
HARDMOOR, SO50 9HT Test Valley	P2 - 9v9 (Bottom field)	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow
HARDMOOR, SO50 9HT Test Valley	P3 - 9v9 (top field)	Poor			1	1	0	Yellow
MALLARDS MOOR (Hamble United FC), SO31 4NE	P1 - 11v11	Poor (PP)	Changing and toilets available in Hamble Sports Complex. Club have container they are fitting for use by Home team on a match day.	Club has 5 year lease.	1	1.5	0.5	Red
MALLARDS MOOR (Hamble United FC), SO31 4NE	P2 - 11v11 (Youth)	Poor (PP)			1	1	0	Yellow
MALLARDS MOOR (Hamble United FC), SO31 4NE	P3 - 9v9 (overmarked 7v7)	Poor (PP)			1	1.5	0.5	Green

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX, SO16 2PA	P1 - 5v5	Good / High (PP)	6 community CR's and 4 officials rooms, café and community space / meeting room main site. Kiosk and toilet across road.	Trust in place, 10 year operational lease to HFA	6	5	1	Green
STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX, SO16 2PA	P2 - 5v5	Good / High (PP)	Club AFCS feels there is a need for changing rooms on grass pitch site and ideally clubhouse to enable them to raise money to sustain club.		6	5	1	Green
STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX, SO16 2PA	P3 - 11v11 (Youth)	Good / Advanced (PP)			4	5	-1	Red
STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX, SO16 2PA	P4 - 9v9	Good / High (PP)			4	5	-1	Red
STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX, SO16 2PA	P5 - 9v9	Good / High (PP)			4	5	-1	Red
STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX, SO16 2PA	P6 - 11v11	Good / High (PP)			3	5	-2	Red

Figure 2.6 Sports Association/Charity Owned Grass Football Pitches:

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
EASTLEIGH FC (SILVERLAKE STADIUM), SO50 9HT	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Stadia pitch with Changing, Stands, function room.	Private ownership	2	2.5	0.5	Green
FOLLAND SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, SO31 4NS	P1 - 11v11 stadia	Standard / Basic (PP)	Large pavilion with changing		2	1	1	Green
FOLLAND SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, SO31 4NS	P1 - 11v11 (Youth)	Good (PP)			3	0	3	Green
FOLLAND SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, SO31 4NS	P1 - 11v11	Standard / basic (PP)			2	0	2	Green
VT SPORTS GROUND, THE IMPERIAL HOMES STADIUM (SHOLING FC), SO19 9PW	P1 - 11v11 stadia	Poor (PP)	Clubhouse and kitchen built in 2019, new changing rooms in 2020 (2 team and officials). Hospitality cabin due to be replaced soon.	Ground owned by VTS, Board includes rep from each club.	1	3	-2	Red
VT SPORTS GROUND, THE IMPERIAL HOMES STADIUM (SHOLING FC), SO19 9PW	P2 - 11v11	Standard			2	2	0	Yellow

Figure 2.7 Football Pitches on Education Sites:

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
BARTON PEVERIL COLLEGE, SO50 5ZA	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Specific changing rooms for outdoor provision	Education facility	2	2	0	Yellow
BARTON PEVERIL COLLEGE, SO50 5ZA	P2 - 11v11	Standard			2	3	-1	Red
DEER PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL, SO30 2HT	P1 - 11v11	Good	Changing within Sports Hall Block	Education with CUA	3	1	2	Green
DEER PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL, SO30 2HT	P2 - 9v9	Good			4	2	2	Green
HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX, SO31 4NE	P1 - 11v11	Standard	Changing rooms in Sports Centre as well as outdoor changing rooms with external access	Education site with CUA in Place	2	3	-1	Red
HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX, SO31 4NE	P2 - 11v11	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	Green
HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX, SO31 4NE	P1 - 11v11	Standard			2	3	-1	Red
TOYNBEE SCHOOL, SO53 2PL	P1 - 7v7	Standard	Changing rooms in school	Education site	4	2.5	1.5	Green
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P1 - 11v11 (main pitch)	Good	Large pavilion building with 26 changing rooms, meeting rooms with movable walls for flexibility, bar area (although not opened since Covid).	University site CUA in place	3	2	1	Green
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P2 - 9v9	Standard			2	0	2	Green
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P3 - 9v9	Standard			2	0	2	Green
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P4 - 11v11	Good			3	3	0	Yellow
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P5 - 11v11	Good			3	3	0	Yellow
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P6 - 11v11	Good			3	3	0	Yellow

Site	Pitches by size	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated Use	Surplus	RAG
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P7 - 11v11	Good			3	3	0	
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P8 - 11v11	Good			3	3	0	
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P9 - 11v11	Good			3	3	0	
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P10 - 11v11 (Island Site)	Good	Has shelter, toilets and storage area on Island site		3	3	0	
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P11 - 11v11 (Island Site)	Good			3	3	0	
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P12 - 11v11 (Island Site)	Good			3	3	0	
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P13 - 11v11 (Island Site)	Good			3	3	0	
WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE, SO30 4EJ	P1 - 9v9	Standard	Changing in leisure centre	Education site not aware of CUA	2	1	1	
WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE, SO30 4EJ	P2 - 11v11	Standard			2	1.5	0.5	
WYVERN COLLEGE SPORT AND FITNESS, SO50 7AX	P1 - 9v9 (near field entrance)	Poor (PP)	Changing rooms in school	Education site not aware of CUA	1	0	1	
WYVERN COLLEGE SPORT AND FITNESS, SO50 7AX	P2 - 9v9	Poor (PP)			1	0	1	

2.7 Grass Football Pitch Sites at Risk

Folland Sports and Social Club previously applied for planning for redevelopment of the site for housing, the application was rejected but access to the Sports Facilities on site was at threat. No site visits took place due to a lack of response and there appears to be limited usage by football clubs on site.

2.8 Facilities for Informal Football

Most of the parks and larger public open spaces in the borough provide flat grass areas suitable for casual recreational games of football and kick-about. Many open spaces across Eastleigh also offer a fenced but open access multi use games area (MUGA) and/or a smaller ball court (for football/basketball/skate), some of which are floodlit. Examples identified include:

- Boorley Park – Macadam MUGA
- Botley Rec Green – 2 x Floodlit Sand based MUGA
- Bursledon Court – Concrete MUGA
- College Playing Fields – 2 x Floodlit Concrete MUGA
- Fryern Rec. Ground – 2 x Concrete MUGA
- Grantham Green – Concrete MUGA
- Hiltingbury Rec. Ground - Concrete MUGA
- Moorgreen Rec. Ground - Concrete MUGA
- Station Road Rec. Ground - Concrete MUGA
- The Hub – Floodlit Concrete MUGA

2.9 Commercial Football Centres

There are currently no commercial football centres located in the area. However, a number of 5-A-side providers are running leagues in the area including Leisure Leagues at Toynbee School on a Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evening. JD fives operate at Toynbee School on a Monday evening and at Wide Lane Sports Ground on a Monday and Wednesday evening. Southampton fives takes place at Stoneham Lane Football Complex on a Monday evening and Trojans Sports Club on a Wednesday evening. Powerplay runs leagues at Stoneham Lane Football Complex on a Monday and Wednesday evening, Thursday lunchtime and Sunday afternoon.

2.10 Quality

The table below summaries the standard of the pitches assessed. The ratings attributed to each pitch are detailed in the audit spreadsheet. These were informed by a combination of visual assessment on site visits and PitchPower assessments as well as feedback from consultation with user clubs and the Council. The audit was also subject to a check and challenge process with the Hampshire FA.

Figure 2.8 – Eastleigh football pitch quality

	Total	Percentage
Good	29	35%
Standard	37	45%
Poor	16	20%
Total	82*	

* This final number will vary due to overmarking, and pitches closed / being improved at time of audit

20% of pitches in the area that have been assessed are of poor quality, and just under half the stock (45%) of grass football pitches accessible for community use in Eastleigh are rated as ‘standard’ (i.e., providing a playing capacity for up to two match equivalent sessions a week on average for adults), 35% of the football pitches are rated as good.

Poor natural drainage and compaction of the ground are issues at some of the football pitch sites, due to the largely clayey soils of much of the area. Few local authorities or their contractors have the resources of trained staff and specialist equipment necessary to carry out drilling at the frequencies required to aerate the ground and de-compact the playing surface.

24 pitches on 8 sites in Eastleigh have been assessed using the Football Foundation's PitchPower assessment and reporting tool. The PitchPower report findings for these sites identify the maintenance needs required together with budget costs. These sites are identified in Figures 2.4-2.7 with 'PP' in brackets next to their pitch rating.

2.11 Un-Booked Use of Formal Pitches by Teams

Informal recreational use and unauthorised use of the maintained pitches in Eastleigh parks is a challenge for the Council. Clubs tend to take advantage of these sites especially for early and late season training when there is sufficient daylight on weekday evenings.

This leads to reduced pitch quality for those that do book and pay for the pitch. The Council strives to address this whether it is by FA affiliated football teams, private soccer schools or independent coaches by aiming to monitor the situation and contacting teams when armed with evidence. The Council also directs people to use other open spaces and not the formal pitch spaces.

2.12 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) in Eastleigh

In total, there are 18 pitches of various sizes across Eastleigh with artificial grass surfaces suitable for football play at some level (i.e., either 3G preferred football surface or a sand-dressed multi use playing surface), as outlined in figure 2.5 and 2.6. There is 7 FA compliant 3G pitches in the area, 3 of these are on education sites with high levels of community usage both for training and matches.

Over half (57%) of all the football clubs consulted (13 clubs, 238 teams) stated that the current number of hours available to them for training did not meet their demand and had the following comments.

- *We are struggling all the time to find sufficient training venues for evenings, teams do not have enough time / space.*
- *3G availability is restricted so we have to go out of the area with some of our teams.*
- *We struggle with winter training venues and 3G pitches, so teams train at varied facilities based on availability.*
- *We are always struggling to find sufficient space for all teams to be able to train or play and very often have to prioritise which teams are where.*
- *We are rapidly outgrowing the available slots allowed by the operator at our ground. Currently we are not allowed anymore space which undoubtedly leads to tensions in the relationship and negativity.*
- *There isn't enough accessible 3G pitches in the area.*
- *As a club we are very much dictated to at what times our teams can train at evening venues due to the lack of 3G facilities and the cost implications.*

The Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer League have also had to limit clubs to 4 teams per age group due to demand and space limitations. The nearest alternative full size floodlit 3G FTPs in neighbouring boroughs within a 20 minute drive (5 mile catchment area) based on application of the Active Places Power area access analysis mapping tool is the newly opened Oasis Academy Mayfield in Southampton. The future demand for 3G artificial pitches is outlined in Section 5 of this document.

Figure 2.9: 3G FTPs - Situation at Individual Sites

Site	AGP Size and Type	Date Built (or last Refurb)	Rating	On FA 3G Reg.	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Est. Use in Peak Hours	RAG
DEER PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL, SO30 2HT	3G 105 x 70m Floodlit	2021	Good	Yes	Changing rooms in Sports Hall Block, Kiosk for refreshments	Education site with CUA	34	34 Hours (100%)	
EASTLEIGH FC (SILVERLAKE STADIUM), SO50 9HT	3G 63x40m Floodlit	2007	Poor	No	Changing rooms within club	Club ownership	34	34 Hours (100%)	
PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH, SO50 9NL	3G 97 x 62m Floodlit	2016	Good	Yes	Changing rooms in leisure centre	Council site operate by Places leisure	34	34 Hours (100%)	
PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH, SO50 9NL	3 x 3G 30x20m Floodlit	2016	Good	N/A			34	34 Hours (100%)	
STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX, SO16 2PA	3G 120x85m (Supersized) Floodlit	2019	Good	Yes	6 community changing rooms 4 official's rooms, classrooms	Trust in place, HFA has 10 year agreement	34	34 Hours (100%)	
STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX, SO16 2PA	3G 120x85m (Supersized) Floodlit	2019	Good	Yes			34	34 Hours (100%)	
STONEHAM LANE FOOTBALL COMPLEX, SO16 2PA	3G 105 x70m Floodlit Stadia Pitch	2019	Good	Yes	2 dedicated changing rooms and medical room, 200 seats. Club cites issues with access to changing rooms.	Partner club 7 years left (of 10 year lease)	34	34 Hours (100%)	
TOYNBEE SCHOOL, SO53 2PL	3G 101 x 64m Floodlit	2003, resurfaced 2018	Good	Yes	Changing provision in school	Education site unknown if CUA in place	34	34 Hours (100%)	
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	3G 100 x63m Floodlit	2005, resurfaced 2017	Good	No	Large pavilion building with 26 changing rooms	University site with CUA in place	34	34 Hours (100%)	
WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE, SO30 4EJ	3G 53 x 33m Floodlit	2016	Standard	No	Changing in leisure centre	Education site unknown if CUA in place	34	30 Hours (100%)	

Site	AGP Size and Type	Date Built (or last Refurb)	Rating	On FA 3G Reg.	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Est. Use in Peak Hours	RAG
WYVERN COLLEGE SPORT AND FITNESS, SO50 7AX	3G 97x61m Floodlit	2021	Good	Yes	Changing rooms in college	Education site CUA in place	34	34 Hours (100%)	
THE HUB, SO50 6LA	3G 61 x 43m Floodlit	2007	Poor	No	12 changing rooms available, issue with water temp, ongoing with Council	Council site, managed by Youth Options	20	20 Hours (100%)	

There are also several artificial grass pitches in the borough with sand-based playing surfaces designed for hockey as the main sport, but which also accommodate a large amount of demand for small sided football and club training.

Figure 2.10: Hockey sand based AGPs only available for football training - Situation at Individual Sites

Site	AGP Size and Type	Date Built (or last Refurb)	Rating	Ancillary Facilities	Security Of Access	Peak Hours Available	Est. use in Peak Hrs	RAG
HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX, SO31 4NE	Sand filled 98 x 62m Floodlit	2002, resurfaced 2016	Standard	Changing rooms in Sports Centre and sports pavilion close to pitch providing social area, toilets, and storage for club use.	Hockey Club ownership on education site, managed by Everyone Active, CUA in place.	34	34 Hours (100%) Football use appx 13 hrs.	
THE CRESCENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, SO50 9DH	Sand filled 71x42m – NOT FLOODLIT	2015	Standard	Changing and toilet access available in the school	Education site unknown if CUA in place	16	16 Hours (13%) Football use appx 16 hrs.	
THORNDEN SCHOOL, SO53 2DW	Sand filled 90x56m	1997, resurfaced 2015	Standard	Changing provision in school	Education site unknown if CUA in place	29	29 Hours (100%) Football use appx 17 hrs.	
TROJANS SPORTS CLUB SO50 9HT (TEST VALLEY)	Sand dressed 100x60m Floodlit	2017	Standard	Large clubhouse on site with changing rooms, but very dated and unsuitable for women and girls provision. Plans approved to build new clubhouse.	Club has long lease	34	34 Hours (100%) Football use appx 2 hrs.	

2.13 FTPs at risk

There are no FTPs at risk due to housing development, however the 3G pitches at Eastleigh FC and The Hub are in a poor condition and need resurfacing.

2.14 Proposed New FTPs

There is a new 3G facility that has recently opened at Oasis Academy Mayfield, (Southampton) close to the borough border which will accommodate teams from Eastleigh including Sholing FC and Eastleigh FC. There are plans for a 9v9 3G FTP to be provided as part of the One Horton Heath housing development which, subject to planning, is due to be available Sept 2026. Southampton University have also recently submitted planning permission for two additional 3G artificial pitches, one to be football specific and one to be World Rugby Compliant, for rugby and football usage, however these pitches will not be floodlight initially and will therefore have limited availability for community use.

2.15 Ancillary Facilities

The ancillary facilities across the borough vary in quality but most sites have adequate provision. Figures 2.4-2.7 detail the situation at each site. Natural turf pitches at Berrywood Meadows, Mallards Moor, Stoneham Lane and Wide Lane (Island Site) do not have changing rooms or toilets on site but there is provision nearby. The pavilion at Mount Pleasant Rec. Ground needs replacing and the provisions at Bursledon Rec. Ground, College Playing Fields, Hamble Community Facility and Royal Victoria Country Park need refurbishing. Should there be an opportunity for securing community use at Toynbee School's external site (Oakmouth Road) ancillary provision will need to be provided here.

3. Football Demand (Step 3)

The findings relating to football pitch demand in Eastleigh are summarised in this section of the report.

3.1 Clubs and Teams

In March 2023, Eastleigh had a total of 99 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to Hampshire FA with 575 teams all playing home fixtures on pitches in the borough. This includes 31 clubs (159 teams) based outside of the area that use the borough facilities for home league games, of these 23 clubs (151 teams) play in the Eastleigh and District Mini Soccer (central venue) League. The total of 575 teams is an increase of 210 teams - nearly 58% - since the previous audit in 2017 when 365 affiliated teams were registered to Eastleigh.

Of the 575 Hampshire FA affiliated teams in Eastleigh, 87 are adult men's teams (U19 + including veterans and walking football teams), 11 women's teams (U19+ including veterans), 1 mixed adult team, 187 youth teams (comprising of 6 boys' teams, 30 girls' teams and 151 mixed teams) and 281 mini-soccer teams (of which 11 are female specific teams). There are also 8 teams categorised as disability/futsal/rec teams likely to be playing small sided football in the area.

Fourteen of the clubs have youth sections with 10 or more age group teams (includes five clubs based outside of Eastleigh playing games in the mini soccer league). Of these clubs 5 have over 20 teams, AFC Hiltisbury with 30 teams, AFC Stoneham with 86 teams, Hamble Club Youth FC with 35 teams, Hedge End Rangers Youth with 36 teams and Wyvern Youth FC with 24 teams. Hedge End Rangers, AFC Stoneham and Wyvern Youth are partner clubs on 3G facilities which cater for training and some match day provision. All 3 clubs also have access to natural turf pitches for match days however the rapid growth of AFC Stoneham means they use several other sites in the borough. Hamble Club Youth FC have their own facility with natural turf provision that caters for some matches, but they struggle for training venues, with teams playing at 4 different venues, including using a sand based pitch and two 3G pitches outside of the borough. AFC Hiltisbury predominantly uses natural turf pitches on two sites in the borough but state a need for better quality pitches and facilities.

17% of teams in the borough are adult teams (down from 20% in 2017), 33% are youth teams (up from 24%) 49% are mini-soccer teams (same as previous 49%), 1% are teams playing small sided or indoor football in the borough.

3.2 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ (November 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in football within England by adults (aged 16+) increased by 1.2% from 3.2% between November 2020 - November 2021 to 4.4% between November 2021 - November 2022.

If football participation in the borough were at the national average in November 2020-2021 (i.e., 3.2%), this would indicate around 3,585 adults (aged 18+) living in the borough of Eastleigh play football out of an 18+ adult population of approximately 112,039. At the 2021/22 national 16+ football penetration rate of 4.4%, this would suggest circa 4,930 over 18-year-olds in Eastleigh play football.

With approximately 99 adult teams currently, the 'adult' football club playing membership in the borough is close to 1,485 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Assuming adult football participation in Eastleigh is in line with the current national average of 4.4%, this suggests that

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey November 2021-22, Sport England, (April 2023)

70% of all regular adult football played in the borough is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games, or park kick-about.

3.3 Expressed Demand

Expressed demand in the borough for all levels and types of football is summarised in this section. Sources of demand information include FA databases, club and league websites, club survey returns, and information gathered from site visits and meetings.

Open Age Men's Football – There are two clubs based in Eastleigh who play within the Football League set up. Eastleigh FC are the most notable, playing in the National League whilst Sholing F.C. play in the Southern League Premier Division South (step 3). Both clubs must comply with the FA's minimum Ground Grading Guidelines to maintain their league status. Progression from the Southern League Premier South requires the club's home ground to meet the requirements of the corresponding ground grading at each 'Step'.

Figure 3.1: Senior Adult Football League Clubs

Senior Football Clubs	League	Home Ground	Training Ground
National League			
Eastleigh FC	National League	Silverlake Stadium	Silverlake Stadium
Southern League Premier South (Step 3)			
Sholing F.C.	Southern League Premier South	VT Sportsground	Oasis Academy Mayfield

Other adult clubs based in the borough and playing within the FA affiliated leagues that have been identified are:

Figure 3.2: Men's Adult League Clubs

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
AFC Eastleigh	City of Southampton FL	Places Leisure	Unknown
AFC Hiltingbury	Winchester & District Sunday League	Hiltingbury Rec Ground	Fryern Recreational Ground
AFC Hutwood	City of Southampton FL	Places Leisure	Unknown
AFC Netley	Hampshire Premier League	Station Road Rec	Mount Pleasant Playing Fields
AFC Shirley	City of Southampton FL	Wide Lane Sports Ground	Unknown
AFC Station	Southampton Saturday FL	Wide Lane Sports Ground	Unknown
AFC Stoneham	Velocity Wessex FL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Toynbee School, Thornden School, <i>Knightwood Leisure Centre</i> , Hardmoor Sports ground
B P United F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Royal Victoria Country Park	Unknown
Barleycorn F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Mount Pleasant Rec Ground	Wildern Leisure Centre
Boorley Green F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Places Leisure	Unknown
Botley Village FC	Southampton Saturday FL	Botley Rec Ground	Botley Recreation Ground
Bursledon FC	Southampton Saturday FL	Hamble Sports Complex	Unknown
Bursledon United F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	King George V Recreation Ground	Unknown
Butlocks Heath F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	College Playing Fields Oasis Mayfield	Unknown
Chamberlayne Athletic F.C.	Southampton Saturday FL	Royal Victoria Country Park	Oasis Mayfield Academy
Chandlers Ford Veterans F.C.	Southampton Saturday FL	Places Leisure	Unknown

Other Adult Men's League Clubs	League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Comrades F.C.	Southampton Saturday FL	Wide Lane Sports Ground	Unknown
Cottage FC	City of Southampton Sunday FL	College Playing Fields	Unknown
Cranbourne F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Places Leisure	Unknown
Fleming Athletic F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Places Leisure	Places Leisure Stoneham Lane Complex <i>Cantell School</i>
Halfway Inn F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Places Leisure Green Park	Unknown
Hamble Club F.C.	Velocity Wessex FL	Hamble Community Facility	Stoneham Lane Complex Hamble Sports Complex <i>Cantell School</i> <i>Woodlands school</i>
Hamble United F.C.	Southampton Saturday FL	Hamble Sports Complex	Hamble Sports Complex
Hampshire Constabulary F.C.	Emergency Services FL	Mount Pleasant Rec Ground	Unknown
Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service F.C.	Emergency Services FL	Places Leisure	Unknown
Hedge End Rangers F.C.	Southampton Saturday FL	Deer Park School	Deer Park School
Hedge End Town F.C.	Southampton Saturday FL	Norman Rodaway Sports Ground	No training
Hope Church Winchester F.C.	Solent Churches FL	Fryern Rec Ground	Unknown
Horse & Jockey F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Wildern Leisure Centre	Unknown
Horton Hawks F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Bishops Waltham Priory Park	Unknown
Monks Brook F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Places Leisure	<i>Fleming Park</i>
Solent Sports F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Roy Underwood Pavillion	<i>Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre</i>
South Stoneham City F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Royal Victoria Country Park	Unknown
Southampton Medics F.C.	BUCS Western	Wyvern Sports and Fitness	Wide Lane Sports Ground
Southampton University (Mens) F.C.	BUCS Western	Wide Lane Sports Ground	Wide Lane Sports Ground
Southampton University Ladies (BUCS) F.C.	BUCS Western	Wide Lane Sports Ground	Wide Lane Sports Ground
TGK Athletic F.C.	City of Southampton Saturday	Wide Lane Sports Ground	<i>Lords Hill Way Rec</i>
Waypoint Church F.C.	Solent Churches FL	Mount Pleasant Rec Ground	<i>Waypoint church, PO14 4PG</i>
Wildern Wanderers F.C.	City of Southampton Sunday FL	Wildern Leisure Centre	Unknown

Youth Football - There are 50 youth football clubs in Eastleigh, fourteen of these have 10 or more teams playing in affiliated leagues. The two largest youth clubs, Hedge End Rangers and AFC Stoneham regularly put out 36 teams and 86 youth teams respectively.

Figure 3.3: Youth and Mini Soccer Clubs

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
AFC Hiltingbury Youth	Southampton & District Tyro FL	Fryern Rec Ground Hiltingbury Recreation Ground	Fryern Recreational Ground
AFC Lakeside Youth	Southampton & District Tyro FL EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Wildern Leisure Centre	Unknown
AFC Stoneham Youth	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex <i>Sherfield English Sports Field</i>	Toynbee School, Thornden School <i>Knightwood Leisure Centre</i> Hardmoor Sports ground

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
	Hampshire Combination & Development FL		
AFC Totton Youth	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex <i>Snows Stadium</i>	<i>Snows Stadium</i>
Athletico Romsey Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex <i>Mountbatten School</i>	Unknown
Baddesley Park Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex <i>Mountbatten School</i> <i>North Baddesley Rec</i>	<i>Mountbatten School & Oasis</i> <i>Lordshill</i> <i>North Baddesley Rec</i>
Botley Village Youth F.C.	City of Southampton YFL Southampton & District Tyro FL Mid Solent YFL	Botley Rec Ground	Unknown
BTC (Southampton) Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Unknown
Bursledon Youth F.C.	Mid Solent YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Hamble Sports Complex	Hamble Sports Complex
Bursledon Sharks Youth F.C.	Mid Solent YFL	Bursledon Rec Ground Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Unknown
Chamberlayne Athletic Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL	Places Leisure Stoneham Lane Football Complex Royal Victoria Country Park	Unknown
City Central Youth	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Wide Lane Sports Complex	Unknown
Colden Common Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Colden Common Park</i> Places Leisure Stoneham Lane Football Complex <i>Mountbatten School</i>
Eastleigh in the Community FC	Southampton & District Tyro FL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Oasis Academy Mayfield</i>
Eastleigh Tornados Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Unknown
Fawley Falcons Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Queen Elizabeth II Rec</i>
Fleming Athletic F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Fleming Park Stoneham Lane Complex <i>Cantell School</i>
Hamble Club Youth F.C.	City of Southampton YFL Hampshire County YL Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Hamble Community Facility Weston Secondary School	Stoneham Lane Complex Hamble school <i>Cantell school</i> <i>Woodlands school</i>
Hamble United Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Hamble Sports Complex	Hamble Sports Complex
Hedge End Rangers Youth	City of Southampton YFL Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL Hampshire Combination & Development FL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Places Leisure Deer Park Secondary School	Deer Park

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
Hedge End United Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Wildern Leisure Centre	<i>Woodlands Community College</i>
Hursley Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Places Leisure Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Unknown
Hythe & Dibden Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL New Forest & District YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Shore Road Recreation Applemore School</i>
JAM Youth FC	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Redbridge Community School</i>
Kings Copse Youth AFC	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Wildern Leisure Centre	Wildern Leisure Centre
Littleton Juniors Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL Testway YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Littleton Recreation Ground</i>
Marchwood Rangers Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Unknown
Millbrook F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Places Leisure	<i>Test Park Sports Ground</i>
Monksbrook Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Stoneham Lane Football Complex
Netley Royals Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex <i>Castle Recreation Ground</i> Butlocks Heath Station Road Rec Ground	Butlocks Heath Rec. Ground Netley Abbey Junior School Victoria Road Cricket Field Station Road Rec College Playing Fields
Pace Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Testwood School</i>
Proco Youth F.C.	High Performance League	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Stoneham Football Complex Toynbee School <i>Testwood School</i>
Romsey Town Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL Testway YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex <i>Hunts Farm Sports Ground</i> <i>Romsey Sports Centre</i>	<i>Mountbatten School</i> <i>Romsey School</i>
Sarisbury Sparks Youth F.C.	Mid Solent YFL Southampton & District Tyro FL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex <i>Coal Park Lane Rec</i>	<i>Coal Park Lane Rec</i>
Sholing Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL Hampshire Combination & Development FL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex VT Sportsground	<i>Oasis Academy Mayfield</i>
Soton Eagles Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL High Performance League	Stoneham Lane Football Complex <i>Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre</i>	<i>Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre</i>
Southampton RTC Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Unknown
Southbrook F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex, Places Leisure	Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre

Youth and Mini Soccer Teams	League(S)	Home Ground(S)	Training Ground(S)
	High Performance League	Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre	
Southside AFC Youth	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL High Performance League	Stoneham Lane Football Complex, Places Leisure	Unknown
St Francis F.C.	Mid Sussex YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Knightwood Leisure Centre</i> Stoneham Lane Complex, Toynbee School, Wyvern School
Testlands Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL Testway YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex <i>Green Lane</i>	<i>Green Lane</i>
Totton & Eling Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL Testway YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Places Leisure	Unknown
Warsash Wasps Sports & FCY	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL Mid Solent YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Hunts Pod Road</i> <i>New Road 3G</i>
Wellow Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Hatches Farm Sports Ground</i>
Whiteley Wanderers Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Whitely Primary School</i> <i>Meadowside leisure centre</i>
Winchester City FC	Hampshire County Youth League	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Wide Lane Sports Complex	<i>Henry Beaufort School</i> Thornden School <i>Chilcomb playing fields</i>
Winsor United Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL City of Southampton YFL Testway YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex Places Leisure	<i>Abbotswood Junior School</i> <i>Hounslowdown Secondary School</i> <i>Redbridge Community School</i> <i>Calmore Junior School</i>
Wyvern Youth F.C.	Southampton & District Tyro FL, EDMSL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Wyvern College

Women's and Girl's football – 18 Women's and Girl's football in Eastleigh has developed greatly since the last PPS with 53 teams across 16 clubs compared to just 18 teams in 2017. These are listed below.

Figure 3.4: Clubs with Women and Girl's Teams

Women And Girls' Teams	Leagues	Home Ground	Training Grounds
AFC Hiltingbury Youth	Hampshire Girls YFL	Hiltingbury Rec Ground Fryern Rec Ground	Fryern Recreational Ground
AFC Stoneham	Southern Region WFL Hampshire County WFL Hampshire Girls YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Toynbee School, Thornden School, <i>Knightwood Leisure Centre</i> , Hamdmoor Sports ground
Bursledon FC	Hampshire County WFL	Toynbee School	Hamble Sports Complex
Bursledon Youth F.C.	Hampshire Girls YFL	Hamble Sports Complex	Hamble Sports Complex
Eastleigh in the Community FC	Southern Region WFL Hampshire County WFL Hampshire Girls YFL	Silverlake Stadium	<i>Oasis Academy Mayfield</i>
Hamble Club Youth F.C.	Hampshire Girls YFL	Hamble Community Facility	Hamble Community Facility,
Hampshire Constabulary F.C.	Police Sport UK Football	Mount Pleasant Rec Ground	Unknown
Hampshire FA SCL Academy F.C.	Hampshire Play On League	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Stoneham Lane Football Complex

Women And Girls' Teams	Leagues	Home Ground	Training Grounds
Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service F.C.	Emergency Services FL	Places Leisure	Unknown
Hedge End Rangers Youth	Hampshire Girls YFL Winchester and District GFL	Deer Park Secondary School	Deer Park
Netley Royals Youth F.C.	Hampshire Girls YFL	Station Road Rec Ground Butlocks Heath Rec Ground	Butlocks Heath Rec Ground Netley Abbey Junior School Victoria Road Cricket Field Station Road Rec College Playing Fields
Southampton Aztecs F.C.	National Futsal Series	Wyvern Sports and Fitness	<i>Green Lane</i> <i>Charlton House</i>
Southampton University Ladies (BUCS) F.C.	Hampshire County Women's FL	Wide Lane Sports Complex	Wide Lane Sports Complex
Southampton Women's F.C.	Hampshire Girls YFL Winchester and District GFL Southern Region WFL The FA Women's NL	Lapstone Playing Fields	Unknown
Southbrook F.C.	Hampshire Girls YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	Southampton Sports Centre
Whiteley Wanderers Youth F.C.	Winchester and District GFL Hampshire Girls YFL	Stoneham Lane Football Complex	<i>Whitely Primary School</i> <i>Meadowside leisure centre</i>
Wyvern Youth F.C.	Hampshire Girls YFL	Lapstone Playing Fields	Wyvern College

Disability Football – Eastleigh in the Community FC organize and manage a Pan Disability League which draws pan disability clubs from within Eastleigh and imported teams from areas such as Andover, Portsmouth and Bournemouth. The EFCCT Pan Disability League has 3 adult divisions and 2 youth divisions, each with 7 – 9 teams. Eastleigh in the Community FC, Hamble Club, Fawley Falcons FC and AFC Totton all provide pan disability teams from within Eastleigh.

3.4 Soccer Schools

There is also significant demand for playing space for children's football coaching in Eastleigh, whether from commercial soccer schools or coaching schools organised by local community football clubs. Several youth football clubs based in the borough run development sessions for u5s and u6s and/or soccer schools in the school holidays to generate income for their clubs and as a pathway to feed new teams. Organisations such as 1st Touch Football and Proco Football are more commercially run focusing on football specific fundamentals and coaching sessions, with Proco also running teams, others offer multisport provision mainly based at schools (afterschool / holiday programmes) which includes football such as ICON sports coaching and Active for All.

3.5 Casual Demand

Casual football play among groups of children and adults, using free to use open access grass and non-turf facilities in public parks continues to be a major feature of football demand. Indeed, the Active Lives Survey data suggests that 70% of all regular adult football played in the area is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games or park kick-about. There is a number of 5-A-side providers are running leagues in the area that caters for this demand which was detailed in the previous section 2.9.

As identified in the supply section of the report, Eastleigh also provides for informal football demand by maintaining open areas of grass in parks and open spaces, open access MUGAs or single sets of small size goalposts. Where these informal play facilities are provided in parks alongside formal pitches designated for match play, they help to reduce wear of the formal pitches. However, formal pitches

can still be subject to unauthorised use by organised teams and soccer schools for training and coaching.

3.6 Unmet / Latent Demand

No clubs have reported unmet demand but clubs highlighted ambitions for growth to meet perceived latent demand, e.g., teams that could be created if additional pitch provision was available. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out from January 2023 to July 2023 and therefore only includes those clubs that completed the survey. Conversion of this perceived latent demand into new teams will depend on these clubs engaging sufficient volunteer team managers and coaches as well as securing suitable pitches to play and train on in the peak period. Figure 3.5 outlines the growth aspirations of clubs, and it is apparent that there is latent demand in the borough for all formats of football from youth to adult football including girls and disability provision.

Figure 3.5: Eastleigh Borough Football Clubs - Self-Reported Team Growth Plans

Club	Growth Aspirations
AFC Hilingbury	The club has growth ambitions, (no specifics given).
Fleming Athletic	Looking to have a team at every age group from U7 to mens, plus starting to introduce girls teams and vets.
Wyvern FC	The club has growth ambitions, (no specifics given).
AFC Stoneham	We do have plans to grow to 140-150 teams within 5 years in line with current growth over the last 5 years.
Solent Sports	We currently have 3000 active members and are aiming to double this within the next 3 years.
Hamble Club FC	We are looking to start a disability tots section and our aim is to take the club to over 60 teams within 3 years.
Hedge End Rangers FC	To grow the club to a further 6 teams in girls football. To grow community based projects to a total of 60 players

3.7 Displaced and Imported Demand

The research and consultation show that as far as match play is concerned, there is some displaced demand of football - i.e., teams of clubs based in Eastleigh having to travel outside the area to find pitches to play home fixtures, with some Hamble Club FC teams using Weston Secondary School (Southampton) for matches and AFC Stoneham teams using Sherfield English Sports Field (Basingstoke and Deane).

A number of clubs travel to train on artificial grass pitches out of the borough - e.g., AFC Stoneham at Knightwood Leisure Centre, Fleming Athletic FC at Cantell School, Hamble Club FC at Woodlands School and Cantell School and Hedge End United Youth at Woodlands Community College. Venues outside the borough of Eastleigh are designated in *Italics* in figures 3.1 to 3.4. Seven clubs in the area have teams training on sand dressed artificial pitches (AFC Hilingbury, AFC Stoneham, Bursledon FC, Netley Royals FC, Chamberlain Athletic, Hamble Club Youth, Winchester Youth) and it is likely some youth training takes place on grass pitches particularly in the lighter evenings and at weekends. Imported demand takes place at Wyvern College with Pavilion Panthers FC, Spitfire United using the FTPs for training.

4. The Situation at Individual Football Sites (Step 4)

4.1 Grass Pitch Sites

The grass football pitches were assessed in February/March of the 2022/23 season. Most of the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the FA in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Appendices (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment. Eight of the grass pitch football sites had a more in-depth assessment using the Football Foundation's PitchPower methodology and reporting. Hampshire FA have reviewed the findings of these site-specific assessments and agreed the quality ratings as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (i.e., 'carrying capacity') against the amount of play that takes place. Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per week for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

The following pitch carrying capacities have been used and are consistent with the PPS Guidance methodology, informed (where applicable) by the Performance Quality Standard ratings (from Poor to High) in the PitchPower Assessment Reports.

Figure 4.1: Grass Football Pitch Carrying Capacity

PPS Guide ratings/ Pitch Power PQS ratings	Adult Football	Youth Football (9v9, 11v11)	Mini Soccer (5v5, 7v7)
	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		
Good / High or Advanced	3	4	6
Standard / Basic or Good	2	2	4
Poor / Poor	1	1	2

The full pitch audit details the situation at each individual football site with regard to:

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use);
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e., the expressed demand where known) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training;
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

There are 4 sites highlighted from the site audit spreadsheet as **RED** rated sites where the majority of the available natural turf football pitches are overplayed.

- Eastleigh FC (1 pitch)
- Mallards Moor (3 pitches)
- Mount Pleasant Rec. ground (3 pitches)
- Stoneham Lane Football Complex (6 pitches)

Twelve sites from the full site audit are **AMBER** rated indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Barton Peveril (2 pitches)
- Bursledon Rec. Ground (1 pitch)
- Butlocks Heath (1 pitch)

- College Playing Fields (2 pitches)
- Cutbush Lane (2 pitches)
- Fryvern Rec Ground (2 pitches)
- Hamble Community Facility (5 pitches)
- Hardmoor (3 pitches)
- Hiltingbury Rec. Ground (2 pitches)
- Lapstone Playing Fields (3 pitches)
- VT Sports Ground (2 pitches)
- Wide Lane Sports Ground (13 pitches)

The table below compares estimates of the total football play on natural grass pitches in the peak period (weekends and evenings) against available capacity across all the football playing field sites in the areas.

Figure 4.2: Grass pitches Supply / Demand Balance –community football sites

Pitch Type	Secured Capacity* (MES / Week)	Estimated Use (MES/ Week)	Supply / Demand Balance
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	106	98	+8
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	12	9.5	+2.5
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12)	52	30.5	+21.5
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	20	12.5	+7.5
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	12	10	+2
Total	202	160.5	+41.5

*Includes new pitches at Places Eastleigh and Boorley Park Sports Pavilion being provided in Sept 24.

The table shows that there is a positive supply balance (i.e., unused capacity) of natural turf pitches for football in the area as a whole. However, not all of this accounts for actual spare capacity in peak periods (Saturday PM and Sunday AM/PM for adult football, Saturday PM and Sunday AM/ PM for youth football), some sites may be managed to below capacity to account for recreational / friendly matches, others do not have secured community use e.g., education sites and pitches rated as poor quality should also be discounted. Figure 4.3 lists the natural turf playing pitch sites with capacity to determine if this capacity is available in the relevant peak period and secured.

Figure 4.3 - Does the Potential to Accommodate Additional Play Equate to Spare Capacity?

Pitch sites with spare capacity	Is there any reason why additional play could not take place (Y/N)?	Are all the pitches for the particular pitch type used during the relevant peak period (Y/N)?	Pitch Type	Total pitch surplus	Spare capacity in peak (MES)?	Capacity discounted	Comments/ Rationale
Berrywood Meadows	N	N	11v11 9v9 (x2)	1 6	1 6	0 0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football and adult football due to flexible kick off times.
Boorley Park Sports Pavilion	N	N	11v11 9v9	3 3.5	3 3.5	0 0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football and adult football due to flexible kick off times. Pitches newly laid
Botley Rec. Ground	N	N	11v11 (x2) 7v7	1.5 3	1.5 3	0 0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football and adult football due to flexible kick off times.
Deer Park Secondary School	N	N	11v11 9v9	2 2	2 2	0 0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football and adult football due to flexible kick off times.
Folland Sports & Social Club	N	N	11v11 (x2) 11v11 (yth)	3 3	0 0	3 3	Pitches available but unsecured, site owners previously applied for planning for redevelopment of the site for housing, the application was rejected but access to the Sports Facilities on site was at threat.
Hamble Community facility	N	N	7v7 (x2)	3	3	0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football due to flexible kick off times.
Hamble Sports Complex	N	N	11v11	0.5	0	0.5	Pitch discounted as other pitch on site overused by 1 MES and used as overflow.
King George V P. Field	N	N	11v11 (yth)	2	2	0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football due to flexible kick off times.
Lapstone P. Fields	N	N	11v11	0.5	0.5	0	Pitches available during peak times for adult football due to flexible kick off times.
Norman Rodaway Sports Ground	N	N	11v11 11v11 (yth)	1 1.5	1 1.5	0 0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football and adult football due to flexible kick off times.
Places Leisure Eastleigh	N	N	11v11 9v9 (x2)	1 8	1 8	0 0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football and adult football due to flexible kick off times. 9v9 pitches to be available for 23/24 season.
Royal Victoria Country Park	N	N	11v11	0.5	0.5	0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football and adult football due to flexible kick off times.
Station Road Rec. Ground	N	N	11v11	1	1	0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football and adult football due to flexible kick off times.
Stoneham Lane Football Complex	N	N	5v5 (x2)	2	2	0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football (Sat AM / Sun AM) due to flexible kick off times.
The Cricket Field	N	N	11v11	1	1	0	Pitches available during peak times for adult football due to flexible kick off times.

Pitch sites with spare capacity	Is there any reason why additional play could not take place (Y/N)?	Are all the pitches for the particular pitch type used during the relevant peak period (Y/N)?	Pitch Type	Total pitch surplus	Spare capacity in peak (MES)?	Capacity discounted	Comments/ Rationale
Toynbee School	N	N	7v7	1.5	0	1.5	Pitches available but unsecured as no known CUA in place.
Wide Lane Sports Ground	N	N	9v9 (x2)	4	4	0	Pitch space available during peak times for youth football due to flexible kick off times but unmarked currently.
Wildern Leisure Centre	N	N	9v9 (x2)	2	0	2	Pitches currently in poor condition so discounted.

Figure 4.4 below summarises the final capacity in the peak period across each type of natural turf pitch after discounting capacity due to unavailability in peak period or pitches being unsecured or of poor quality.

Figure 4.4: Grass Pitches Supply / Demand Balance –community football sites*

Pitch Type	Secured Capacity (MES / Week)	Estimated Use (MES/ Week)	Supply / Demand Balance	Capacity discounted	Capacity in Peak period
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	106	98	+8	-3.5	+4.5
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	12	9.5	+2.5	-3	-0.5
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12)	52	30.5	+21.5	-2	+19.5
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	20	12.5	+7.5	-1.5	+6
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	12	10	+2	0	+2
Total	202	160.5	+41.5	-10	+31.5

*Includes new pitches at Places Leisure Eastleigh and Boorley Park Sports Pavilion from Sept 23

It should be noted that whilst the overall supply and demand balance shows a positive this includes two sites not currently available but due to be available from the start of 23/24 to support the growth in youth football and the transition from mini soccer to 9v9 pitches. The capacity also does not account usage that cannot be quantified for example Informal recreational use and occasional use of the pitches by clubs for training especially in the early and late season when there is sufficient daylight on weekday evenings.

4.3 The FA National Football Facilities Strategy

In 2018, in partnership with the Football Foundation and Sport England, the Football Association developed a ten-year investment plan in facilities for grass roots football - *The National Football Facilities Strategy 2018-2028*. The facilities strategy aims to ensure that by 2028:

- Every FA-affiliated club has access to a 3G artificial pitch for training and potentially matches.
- Accelerated improvements are made to the key grass pitch sites across England to reduce fixture cancellations.

To support delivery of the National Game Strategy aims, Hampshire FA - in partnership with the Football Foundation and the county local authorities - is focused on:

- Supporting the development of *Football Hubs*² in strategic locations
- Supporting an agreed portfolio of priority projects for new and improved facilities in each local authority area that will have a significant impact on participation and provide capacity for growth, activated through new *Local Football Facility Plans* (LFFPs), a ten-year vision for football facilities.

4.4 Eastleigh Local Football Facilities Plan

A Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for Eastleigh was published separately by the Football Foundation in November 2020 informed by consultation with the Council, Hampshire FA and the large community football clubs based in the borough.

² Football Hubs serve major towns and cities with multiple pitches and modern pavilion facilities based around a minimum of 2 full size artificial turf football pitches (FTPs).

The priorities for Eastleigh were the delivery of two full size floodlit 3G FTPs, of the 3 projects listed only one has yet to be delivered is part of the One Horton Heath housing development. It was also identified that the 3G at Eastleigh FC was in need of resurfacing, which is still the case. Six prioritised projects remain for improvement of grass pitches, at Hamble Sports Complex, Hamble Community Facility, Places Leisure Eastleigh, Lapstone Park, Hiltingbury Rec. Ground, and Fryern Rec. Ground. Three key changing rooms projects are listed at Hamble Sports Complex, Mount Pleasant Rec. Ground and Lapstone Park.

The Playing Pitch Strategy methodology is more detailed than that used to inform the LFFP investment priorities. Accordingly, whilst in most instances there is a good deal of commonality between the PPS and LFFP in terms of the conclusions reached, this is not always the case. The LFFP does not provide an evidence base to inform the development planning process, so the PPS should be referred to as the evidence base.

4.5 FA Training Scenario for 3G FTP Assessments of Need

The FA has designed a model scenario to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size³ equivalent floodlit 3G FTPs if increased amounts of play were to take place on them. The scenario question tested is: *How many full size floodlit 3G FTPs may be required to meet demand within the borough if all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G FTP to train on once a week?*

The answer to this scenario question for Eastleigh is set out below based on the current 7 full size (or near full size) floodlit 3G FTPs on the FA Register which have full community use for football during peak periods⁴ (Deer Park School, Places Leisure Eastleigh, Stoneham Lane (x3), Toynbee School, Wyvern College). As a guide the FA suggest that one full size floodlit 3G FTP could potentially accommodate the training demand from 38 teams. The information from the assessment indicates that there are 575 teams playing competitive football in Eastleigh, however if we discount the teams travelling into the borough for matches this reduces to 416. The 1:38 ratio suggests that 11 full size equivalent floodlit 3G FTPs would be required to meet 100% of team football training on 3G within the borough.

As such, with only 7 accessible full size 3G FTPs, there is a need for at least an additional **4** full size 3G FTP across Eastleigh to meet the demand for training. It should be noted that the 2 supersized pitches at Stoneham Lane provide some additional capacity for training, but in terms of match play, it's at capacity as a Central venue for the Eastleigh and District Mini Soccer League, which includes teams from outside of the borough.

It should be noted this calculation does not take into account other demands during the peak period for small-sided leagues, recreational play and targeted community football development programmes outside the affiliated league structure. There are, however, several smaller / 5-A-Side pitches in Eastleigh that help to cater for this large and growing demand.

The club training scenario calculation also takes no account of the accessibility of the available AGPs to the clubs nor cost / affordability issues.

³ A full size 3G FTP measures 106m x 70m including run off/safety margins.

⁴ Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

5. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Football (Step 5)

5.1 Grass pitches

A number of playing field sites in Eastleigh have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, in the main, they are sites that are the home ground for clubs with a number of teams and a limited number of pitches, such as Fryern Rec. Ground (AFC Hiltisbury), Hamble Community Facility (Hamble Club FC), Mallards Moor (Hamble United FC).

There is no spare capacity for youth 11v11 pitches in the peak period once poor pitches and those unsecured are discounted, which then impacts on the use of adult 11v11 pitches but provides sufficient capacity at present. There is some spare pitch capacity for youth football (9v9), which will be needed for future growth as teams progress from mini soccer due to the success of the Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer League. The majority of mini soccer matches are accommodated on 3G pitches, however due to lack of space the league has limited the number of teams allowed per age group, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand.

The PitchPower report findings for the sites in Eastleigh identifies the potential for enhanced quality and playing capacity at a number of sites if the ongoing pitch maintenance can be improved.

FTPs

Demand has recovered from the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions in season 2021/22 and clubs are experiencing further growth. The trends in football point to the continuing growth in the recreational game including walking football and women's recreation provision and, among the affiliated clubs, for more small-sided football teams for the younger age groups, especially girls' football, as such the provision of more full size 3G football FTPs linked to large youth clubs (such as Hamble club FC) will help to meet the needs of these clubs for training and matches.

To contribute to the FA's strategic priorities, there is a need to further improve the supply of FA registered 3G FTPs in Eastleigh due to the vast growth of teams which will reduce the need for any training on grass pitches and to accommodate more match play by youth teams reducing the number of over-marked or overused natural turf pitches.

5.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2036 on the need for football pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. Figure 5.1 shows that team generation rates for the area predict there will be an increase of 105 teams in the area, 22 adult teams and 83 youth teams.

To meet football demand from 25,498 additional residents (as currently forecast⁵) and assuming current levels of football demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +10.84 adult football pitches, +15.51 youth football pitches and +26.15 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totaling +52 natural turf pitches) as well as +2.76 additional 3G pitches. Figure 5.2 outlines the effects of future demand on pitch capacity based on population growth.

⁵ ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

Figure 5.1: Team generation rates.

Age Group	Current Pop. in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Gen. Rate	Future Pop. in age group	Predicted future no. of teams	No of home matches per week	Natural Grass pitches per type
Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	23,458	97	242	4382.21	18.12	9.06	10.84
Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	25,092	19	1321	4687.46	3.55	1.77	
Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	3,515	54	65	656.64	10.08	5.04	8.32
Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	3,490	35	100	651.97	6.55	3.27	
Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	1,868	49	38	348.96	9.15	4.57	7.19
Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	1,717	28	61	320.75	5.24	2.62	
Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	3,407	156	22	636.46	29.14	14.57	14.57
Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	3,278	124	26	612.37	23.16	11.58	11.58
					104.99		52.50

Figure 5.2 Changes in capacity after accounting for future demand.

Pitch Type	Capacity in Peak period	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Future demand	Total
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	4.5	11	-6.5
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	-0.5	8.5	-9
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12)	+19.5	7	12.5
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	+6	14.5	-8.2
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	+2	11.5	-9.5
	+31.5	-52.5	-20.7

Potential effect of demand trends (how pitch sports are played) – Among adults, national trends show a reduction in interest in taking part in sports that demand a commitment to regular attendance, in favour of more casual involvement. This national picture is not reflected in Eastleigh where Hampshire FA adult team affiliations have increased (from 72 in 2017 to 116 in 2022/23). Youth football continues to show a growth trend, but this growth slows through the older youth age groups from age 15yrs when exams and other interests tend to impact. The biggest growth in Eastleigh has been in mini soccer teams with an additional 101 teams (from 180 in 2017 to 281 in 2022). Clubs through their survey returns have indicated further growth aspirations for adult and youth teams. A total of seven clubs outlined growth aspirations and whilst clubs are reliant on volunteers to deliver this growth it is reasonable to suggest that with sufficient facilities each club could grow by 1-2 teams a year, resulting in a possible additional 7-14 teams a year. There is also likely to be a further increase in demand for girls’ football in particular following the success of the England Women’s team and the FA’s investment in development programmes such as the girls football school’s partnership and Wildcats and Squad Girls at club level.

The previous strategy in 2017 predicted a growth of 142 teams based on population rates to 2036, this number has already been exceeded in 2022 by an extra 68 teams in Eastleigh, if this level of growth continues there will be a need for significantly more provision in the area than detailed in Figure 5.2.

6. Key findings and Issues for Football (Step 6)

Figure 6.1: Football Key Findings and Issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
<p>There have been significant changes to the facilities for football in Eastleigh since the last facility review in 2017. Three new, full sized 3G artificial turf pitches have been provided at Stoneham Lane Football Complex (two of which are supersized) alongside one new full sized 3G FTP at Deer Park. One pitch at Toynbee School has been resurfaced and a pitch at Wyvern College has been extended to full size. New natural turf pitches have been laid at Boorley Park Sports Pavilion, Berrywood Meadows and Deer Park School, with improvements made to the quality of grass pitches at Stoneham Lane Football Complex and Wide Lane Sports Ground.</p> <p>82 grass pitches are identified as available for community football across the borough, on 32 operational playing pitch sites. This includes pitches at Hardmoor in Test Valley DC and Cutbush Lane in the City of Southampton due to their proximity to the border of Eastleigh and their usage by teams based in the borough, as well as newly laid pitches at Boorley Park Sports Pavilion (1x 11v11 and 1x 9v9) and the pitches due to be reconfigured at Places Eastleigh from mini soccer to 2x 9v9. It should also be noted a number of the pitches included in the area are over-marked to accommodate smaller sided games (e.g., 9v9 on 11v11 or 5v5 on 7v7).</p> <p>There are further pitches on school playing fields in the borough, that previously had community use which has been stopped due to either the condition of the pitches or financial viability.</p> <p>Key trends in football demand identified in 2017 have continued to impact and Eastleigh has seen growth in all areas of football including adult football (in comparison to a decline in other areas), recreational provision (including veteran and walking football) and especially in youth football and mini soccer with increasing numbers of girls playing. The Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions also had a significant impact towards the end of the 2019/20 season and throughout 2020/21. However, football demand recovered to pre-pandemic levels in 2021/22 and is now growing.</p> <p>In March 2023, Eastleigh had a total of 99 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to Hampshire FA with 575 teams playing home fixtures in the borough. This is an increase of 210 teams - nearly 58% - since the previous audit in 2017 when 365 affiliated teams were registered to Eastleigh.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
<p>A number of playing field sites in Eastleigh have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, in the main, they are sites that are the home ground for Clubs with a number of teams and a limited number of pitches, such as Fryern Rec. Ground (AFC Hiltingbury), Hamble Community Facility (Hamble Club FC), Mallards Moor (Hamble United FC).</p> <p>There is no spare capacity for youth 11v11 pitches in the peak period once poor pitches and those that are unsecured are discounted, which then impacts on the use of adult 11v11 pitches, but provides sufficient capacity at present. There is some spare pitch capacity for youth football (9v9), which will be needed for future growth as teams progress from mini soccer due to the success of the Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer League. The majority of mini soccer matches are accommodated on 3G pitches, however due to lack of space the league has limited the number of teams allowed per age group, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand.</p>

For youth/mini soccer football and training, shortfalls remain. Despite flexible match days and kick off times 3G FTP are at capacity and the Eastleigh and District League has limited the number of teams per age group. There are also several clubs who travel outside of the borough for training or use sand based or grass areas for training. This constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand, particularly for girl's football. To meet the shortfall in current supply investment is needed in the provision of 4 more full size 3G football FTP across the borough linked to large youth clubs to help to meet the needs of these clubs for training and matches.

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

The football AGPs in the area are good quality, many with newly laid playing surfaces. A number of grass pitches (20%) are of a poor-quality suffering from poor natural drainage, compaction of the ground and overuse, thereby limiting the playing capacity of these pitches. To address this issue on a large scale it would require significant additional investment in maintenance works at the frequencies required to effectively aerate and de-compact the playing surfaces of the poor-quality natural turf pitches.

The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at the sites assessed. In most cases, this will necessitate increased revenue investment in enhanced pitch maintenance regimes supported by grant funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Fund.

The ancillary facilities across the borough vary in quality but most sites have adequate provision. The pavilion at Mount Pleasant Rec. Ground needs replacing and the provision at Bursledon Rec. Ground, College Playing Fields, Hamble Community Facility and Royal Victoria Country Park need refurbishing. Should there be an opportunity for securing community use at Toynbee School's external site (Oakmouth Road) ancillary provision will need to be provided here.

What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

Future demand for football facilities is likely to grow substantially increasing pressure on the existing supply. By 2036, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the forecast population growth, application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool indicates there will be a requirement to provide an additional 52 more natural turf pitches plus around 105 additional weekly training slots on a 3G artificial pitch. 26 of the pitches identified are for 7v7 or 5v5 pitches as the majority of current provision for mini soccer is based on 3G FTP this would equate to an additional 6.5 hours of use on a 3G pitch (based on four games per pitch per hour), a total of 111.5 hours highlighting a need for 3 additional full sized pitches.

The growth plans of the borough-based football clubs will also place further pressure on pitch supply. 7 clubs responded to the survey indicating they have aspirations to increase the number of teams they run over the coming seasons, provided they have sufficient volunteers and pitches for matches and training can be secured.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

Over the period of the strategy to 2036, to address forecast population growth, unmet demand identified by clubs (particularly for women and girls' football), and to continue to deliver on the FA's strategy to transfer more affiliated competitive football to 3G surfaces, further secured provision of 3G FTP pitches is needed.

Investment in at least 7 additional full sized FA registered 3G FTP's is needed. This includes four 3G pitches to meet the FA's calculation of one pitch for every 38 teams and three additional 3G to meet forecasted population growth requirements. This total can be reduced to 5 accounting for the new pitch at Oasis Academy Mayfield accommodating teams in Eastleigh and the planned 3G pitch as part of the One Horton Heath Housing development (provided the 9v9 pitch proposed can be upgraded to a full-size pitch). The priority over the life of the plan should be the delivery of these five 3G FTP's in key areas to facilitate training and match play demands of large youth clubs with the priority to support those not currently linked as partners clubs on existing pitches in the borough.

Additional natural turf pitches are needed for adult 11v11 and youth 11v11 for match play by 2036 in light of the scale of forecast population growth. Securing additional community use on education sites and improvements to pitch quality should also be explored to increase capacity on key grass football sites.



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Eastleigh Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
Appendix C -
Assessment of Need Report
Hockey

Appendix C: Hockey - Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for hockey facilities in Eastleigh are summarised in this appendix of the main Playing Pitch Strategy.

There are four Hockey clubs based in the borough— Eastleigh HC, Eastleigh Ladies HC, Hamble HC, and University of Southampton HC. Trojans HC are based in Test Valley DC but due to the proximity of their ground to the border of Eastleigh and that the club membership includes a significant number of Eastleigh residents, they are included in this assessment of needs report, bringing the total number of clubs to 5. All clubs with the exception of the University of Southampton have contributed information and their views on hockey facility needs via online survey returns and direct consultation.

Since the last assessment in 2017 (an update to the PPS prepared in 2014). There has been a change in supply with the loss of one pitch for community use, with the pitch at Crestwood College (Shakespeare Campus) being unavailable for community use since the Covid pandemic. There has been improvements to the pitch at Wide Lane Sports Ground which was resurfaced in 2020.

1. Hockey Supply (Step 2)

1.1 Hockey Pitches in Eastleigh

There is currently six full sized (or near full sized) floodlit sand based artificial grass pitches (AGP) in Eastleigh, however one of these at Crestwood Community College (Shakespeare Campus) is no longer available for community use, meaning only 5 pitches are currently available and used for community hockey.

The pitches were quality-assessed during the 2022/23 season on the basis of site visits and informed by consultation surveys with the user clubs and insight from England Hockey. Figure 1.1 details the situation at each site.

The availability of the pitches for community hockey use are usually dependant on bookings by other sports (e.g., football, touch rugby, lacrosse, tennis). For each site, this is noted in column headed estimated use in peak hours.

The Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating refers to whether, in the peak period in a typical week in the main hockey season, there is considered to be:

- Unused capacity for hockey - **Green**
- The available peak slots for hockey are used close to capacity - **Amber**, or
- The available peak slots for hockey are at capacity - **Red**.

Indoor Hockey

There are no sports hall in the area suitable for competition indoor hockey.

Figure 1.1: Situation at Individual Sites

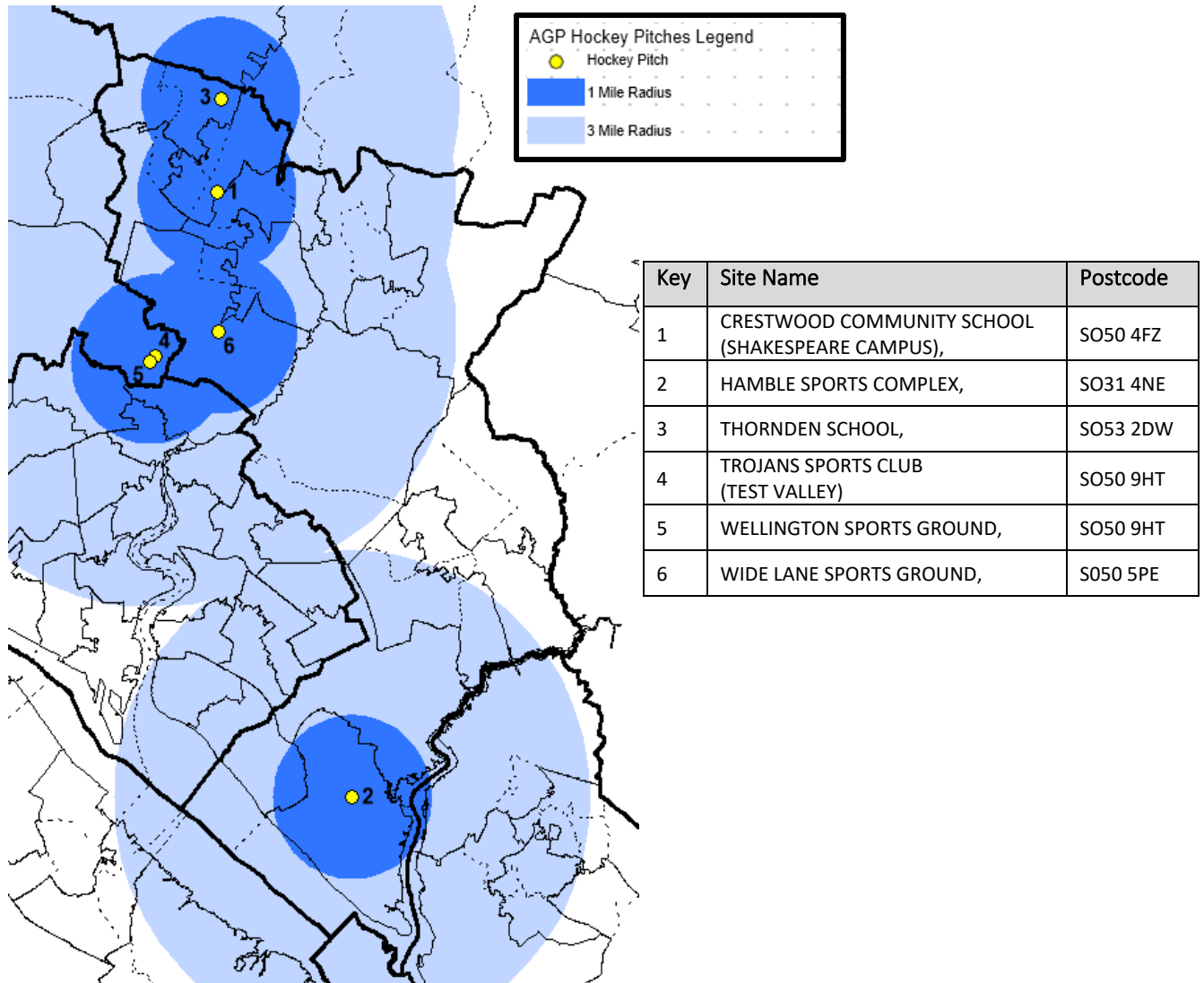
Site	AGP Size and Type	Date built (last refurb)	Ancillary facilities	Security of access & ownership	Management of site	Rating	Peak hours available	Est'd use in peak hours	RAG	Comments/ Assumptions
CRESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL (SHAKESPEARE CAMPUS), SO50 4FZ	Sand filled 100 x 60m Floodlit	2004	Changing rooms in Sports Hall Block	Education site no CUA in place	Education site no CUA in place	Poor	No current community use.			Maintained by Smiths, Rejuvenation done in April 23 to extend life for further 3 years. Survey due to check sub layer, which was good so only replacement surface needed. School state little demand for SD surface, clubs want 3G. No current community use
HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX, SO31 4NE	Sand filled 98 x 62m Floodlit	2002, resurfaced 2016. Club Rate 4/5	Changing rooms in Sports Centre and outdoor changing rooms with external access. Club rate 2/5.	Hockey Club ownership on education site CUA in place.	Everyone Active	Standard	34	34 Hours (100%) Football use appx 13 hrs.		Owned and maintained by Hamble HC (5 Ad teams 3M and 2F and 3 mixed youth teams) who use it wed eve 6-10pm, Fri eve 2 hrs and all day Sat/ Sun. School use daytime 8-4pm. EA pays the club an annual fee and books pitch out for usage outside of these times mainly football. Club state floodlights are becoming unreliable and are in need of an upgrade.
THORNDEN SCHOOL, SO53 2DW	Sand filled 90x56m Floodlit	1997, resurfaced 2015	Changing provision in school	Education site unknown if CUA in place	In house by School	Standard	29	29 Hours (100%) Football use appx 17 hrs		Only slot available Mon Eve 9-10pm half pitch. Last resurfaced 8 years ago. Used for Hockey training and matches (Eastleigh & Trojans), EH player pathway provision as well as football clubs.
TROJANS SPORTS CLUB SO50 9HT (TEST VALLEY)	Sand dressed 100x60m Floodlit (LED lighting)	2017	Large clubhouse on site with changing rooms, but very dated and unsuitable for women and girls provision. Plans to build new clubhouse. Club Rate 1/5	Club has long lease, part of overall sports association	Club managed	Good. Club rate 5/5	34	34 Hours (100%) Football use appx 2 hrs.		Club has 6 men's / ladies teams and strong youth membership (x20), use facility every night except Wed 7-10pm when it is used for commercial 5-A-side football league (income generation). Club use Wellington Sports ground and Thornden School. School use during the day including King Edwards, Gregs School, Toynebee, Barton Peveril. Estimate 40% of membership come from Eastleigh. Club state need for second pitch to accommodate club use and EH Talent Centre.

Site	AGP Size and Type	Date built (last refurb)	Ancillary facilities	Security of access & ownership	Management of site	Rating	Peak hours available	Est'd use in peak hours	RAG	Comments/ Assumptions
WELLINGTON SPORTS GROUND, SO50 9HT	Water based 100 x 60m floodlit	1990, resurfaced in 2009	Large pavilion with 17 changing rooms and classroom space.	Private education site no known CUA	In house by School	Standard	34	100%		Pitch on top field. 20 school hockey teams, plus usage by Trojans HC one night a week. At capacity every evening. No football use.
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	Sand dressed 100 x63m Floodlit	2005, resurfaced in approx. 2020	Large pavilion building with 26 changing rooms, meeting rooms with movable walls , bar area (although not opened since Covid).	Education site CUA in place.	In house by university	Good	34	100%		Student hockey use. Ladies - 4 BUCS teams, 3 in Hampshire League (Inc. one indoor). Men's- 5 teams (BUCS / Local leagues), unaware of external community hockey use or football use.

1.2 Distribution of Hockey AGP Sites

Figure 1.2 shows the distribution of full-sized (or near full sized) hockey AGP sites across Eastleigh. This shows that the distribution of sand based AGP sites is relatively even across the borough and most residents are within a 20 minute drive time of a pitch.

Figure 1.2- Distribution of Hockey AGPs



1.3 Hockey AGP's in Neighbouring Boroughs

The nearest alternative full size floodlit hockey pitch in neighbouring boroughs within a 20 minute drive (5 mile catchment area) based on application of the Active Places Power area access analysis mapping tool is at Woodlands Community College (Southampton) to the West of Eastleigh. The nearest Hockey clubs are between 20-30 minutes' drive away at Fareham Hockey Club (Fareham) to the South East and Waterside Hockey Club (Southampton) to the West.

Generally, hockey players (and parents of junior players) are prepared to travel some distance to access good quality facilities, coaching and standards of match play.

1.4 Ownership, Operation, Quality and Access

There is a mix of security for Hockey clubs in the area. Trojans HC has long term security via a lease on their site, Hamble HC own the pitch at Hamble Sports Complex (an Education Site), Southampton University site is owned by the university offering secure provision for students. Eastleigh Ladies HC and Eastleigh HC have no long term security with an annual hire and weekly hire agreement respectively.

The pitches at Trojans Sports Club and Wide Lane Sports Ground are in good condition with the rest standard. Hamble Hockey Club have reported that their floodlights are nearing the end of their lifespan and are becoming unreliable, which would require investment. The pitch at Crestwood Community School is in poor condition and would need resurfacing if the school decides to reopen for community use. The pitch at Thornden School is currently standard but will require resurfacing within the next 2-3 years.

Trojans Sports Club have submitted planning to rebuild their clubhouse and changing rooms, the current provision is dated, with communal showers and needs replacing. Hamble Hockey Club state the changing rooms at Hamble Sports Complex are in need of refurbishment and Eastleigh report issues with access to changing room showers at Thornden School.

1.5 At Risk Sites

There are no current community sites known to be at risk of development.

1.6 Proposed New Supply

A new full sized pitch has recently been installed at The Kings School, the school originally planned to have floodlights and make the pitch available for hire, but planning conditions caused a two year delay due to drainage issues, as well as permission for lighting not being granted. There could be an opportunity to challenge this decision in the future.

2. Hockey Demand (Step 3 and 4)

Findings relating to hockey pitch demand in Eastleigh are summarised below.

2.1 Clubs and Teams

There are currently five hockey clubs based in the area

- **Eastleigh Hockey Club** has one men's team. They estimate 50% of their membership comes from Eastleigh, with the rest from Southampton, Romsey and Winchester. The club has had a relatively stable membership over the last few years and are looking to grow and provide increased playing and training opportunities at Thornden School.
- **Eastleigh Ladies Hockey Club** has two mixed adult teams. They estimate 40% of their membership comes from Eastleigh. The club has fewer members but managed to maintain the same number of teams. They are looking to grow by increasing their social media presence.
- **Hamble Hockey Club** serves both adult and junior players across the area. They estimate 100% of their membership comes from Eastleigh. The club has 5 adult teams (3 Male and 2 Female) playing every Saturday and a junior section with mixed teams at U8, U10, U14. The club has fewer teams than previous seasons and have lost one female team and one male team. The club is looking to grow and would like to re-establish the ladies 3rd team.
- **Southampton University** support student hockey provision. There are 7 ladies teams (4 BUCS teams, 3 in Hampshire League (Inc. one indoor)) and 5 men's teams (BUCS / Local leagues).
- **Trojans Hockey Club** has both adult and youth teams of which they estimate 40% comes from Eastleigh. They have 11 adult teams (6 Male and 5 Female) playing every week and a large junior section with boys teams at U8x2, U10x2, U12x3, U14x2, U16x2, U18x1 and girls teams at U8x1, U10x1, U12x2, U14x1, U16x1. They also run back2hockey and walking hockey sessions. The clubs membership has reduced over the last few years with them having 1 less female team and 1 less male veterans team. The club is looking to grow but are at capacity with their facilities having to hire external pitches to manage their current provision. England Hockey have targeted Trojans to be a regional hub for camps for elite athletes, but there is limited pitch time to provide for the growing numbers of players this attracts.

2.2 Club Players - Demand Trend

Player affiliation data in Figure 2.1 provided by England Hockey for this season shows demand for hockey participation totaling 842 affiliated players. All clubs have reported having less members in the last few years, with the exception of Eastleigh HC who reports similar numbers.

Figure 2.1 Club affiliation data

Club	Under 18	Over 18
Hamble HC	43	95
Eastleigh HC	1	24
Eastleigh Ladies HC	0	30
Southampton University	30	130
Trojans HC	328	161
Totals	402	440

2.3 Displaced Demand

Due to the location of clubs within the borough it is likely some players from the East of the area may travel outside of the area to play hockey.

2.4 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ (November 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in hockey in England by adults (aged 16+) had increased to 0.3% from 0.2% between November 2020 and November 2021.

If hockey participation in the area were at the national average (i.e., 0.3%), this would indicate around 336 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play hockey out of an 18+ adult population of approximately 112,039.

With 31 adult teams currently, the 'adult' hockey club playing membership in the borough is close to 465 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Accounting for the percentage of imported demand as evidenced by the club's survey responses, with membership of Eastleigh, Eastleigh Ladies and Trojans being around 50% and assuming Southampton university is similar the playing membership from within Eastleigh would account for approximately 270 adult players. If we then assume adult hockey participation in Eastleigh is in line with the national average of 0.3%, this suggests that 20% of all regular adult hockey played by residents in Eastleigh is either 'displaced' to venues outside of the area (e.g., at other clubs) or takes place in informal, social game formats such as Back2Hockey or Walking Hockey which Trojans provide.

2.5 Club Aspirations - Hockey Development Priorities and Facility Needs

The clubs in Eastleigh all have ambitions to grow and reported the following facility needs,

- **Eastleigh Hockey Club** are looking to grow and provide increased playing and training opportunities at Thornden School.
- **Eastleigh Ladies Hockey Club** are looking to grow by increasing their social media presence.
- **Hamble Hockey Club** is looking to grow and would like to reestablish the ladies 3rd team. They have identified the need to replace their floodlights which are at the end of their lifespan.
- **Trojans Hockey Club** is looking to grow but are at capacity with their facilities having to hire external pitches to manage their current provision. They have identified a need to replace the clubhouse and changing rooms and the main Sports Club has recently received planning permission to rebuild a new, modern clubhouse. They also feel they need another hockey astroturf pitch on site.

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey November 2021-22, Sport England, (April 2023)

3. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Hockey (Step 5)

3.1 Current

Since the last assessment of hockey facility needs in 2017, the main changes of relevance are:

- The loss of two sand dressed pitches in the area with Places Leisure Eastleigh sand dressed AGP being replaced by a football specific surface (3G AGP) and community use being stopped at Crestwood Community College (Shakespeare Campus).
- The refurbishment of Wide Lane Sports Ground AGP in 2020.

Current priority facility issue facing the sport of hockey in Eastleigh is that all sites are at capacity preventing further growth of the sport. The floodlights at Hamble Hockey Club need replacing and changing provision needs improving at Trojans, Hamble Sports Complex and Thornden School.

3.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2036 on the need for hockey pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams and junior training squads likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. Figure 3.1 shows that team generation rates for the area predicts there will be an increase of 2.5 adult teams in the area and Figure 3.2 shows the predicted future number of junior training squads.

Figure 3.1 Team generation rates.

Age Group	Current population in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future Population of age group	Predicted future number of teams
Men (17-55yrs)	31,562	15	2104	5896.12	2.80
Women (17-55yrs)	33,594	16	2100	6275.72	2.99
					5.79

Figure 3.2 Junior Member Generation Rates.

Age Group	Current population in Age group	Current no of Junior Members	Junior Member Generation Rate	Future Population of age group	Predicted future number of junior training squads
Boys (14-16yrs)	2,587	52	49.75	483.28	0.24
Girls (14-16yrs)	2,535	52	48.75	473.57	0.24
Boys (11-13yrs)	2,793	65	42.97	521.76	0.30
Girls (11-13yrs)	2,620	66	39.70	489.44	0.31
Mixed (5-10yrs)	9,976	117	85.26	1863.63	0.36
					1.45

To meet hockey demand from 25,498 additional residents (as currently forecast²) and assuming current levels of hockey demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +0.72 additional sand based artificial grass pitches suitable for hockey

² ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

will be needed in the area based on the need for 2.90 additional match equivalent sessions and a total of 10.39 training hours per week (8.69 adult, 1.70 junior).

There is no capacity in the area for club's aspirations to grow or to meet future demand. Based on this there is a need to protect the existing quantity of pitch supply in the area and to provide an additional pitch in the area.

3.3 Conclusion

To better meet current and likely future needs for the sport of hockey in Eastleigh, the strategy should seek to:

- Protect the current supply of sand based artificial pitches in the area.
- Replace the floodlights on the pitch at Hamble Sports Complex.
- Provide an additional pitch in the area.
- Improve the changing provision at Trojans Sports Club, Hamble Sports Complex and Thornden School.

4. Key Findings and Issues for Hockey (Step 6)

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
<p>There is currently five full sized (or near full sized) floodlit sand based artificial grass pitches in the borough currently available and used for community hockey. Since the last assessment in 2017 there has been a change in supply with the pitch at Crestwood College (Shakespear Campus) being no longer available for community use. Improvements have been made to the pitch at Wide Lane Sports Ground which was refurbished in 2020.</p> <p>Player affiliation data provided by England Hockey and club consultation suggests participation numbers are down compared to the last few years. There are five hockey clubs in the area providing the following teams, Eastleigh Hockey Club (1 adult male), Eastleigh Ladies Hockey Club (2 adult mixed), Hamble Hockey Club (3 adult male, 2 adult female, 3 mixed junior teams), Southampton University (7 adult female, 5 adult male) and Trojans Hockey Club (6 adult male, 5 adult female, 11 boys juniors teams and 8 girls junior teams)</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
<p>There is not sufficient provision in the area to meet current demand, with all sites at capacity with both hockey and football use.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
<p>The pitches at Trojans Sports Club and Wide Lane Sports Ground are in good condition with the rest standard. Hamble Hockey Club have reported that their floodlights are nearing the end of their lifespan and are becoming unreliable, which would require investment. The pitch at Crestwood Community School is in poor condition and would need resurfacing if the school decides to reopen for community use. The pitch at Thorndon School is currently standard but will require resurfacing with in next 2-3 years.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?
<p>All clubs, with the exception of Southampton University have ambitions to grow over the next 3 years, however, there is a lack capacity at the current sites to accommodate this.</p> <p>The forecast population growth to 2036 of over 25,498 additional residents based on 2018 ONS housing-led projections, is estimated to generate demand for an additional pitch in the area.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?
<p>There is no capacity in the area for club's aspirations to grow or to meet future demand. Based on this there is a need to protect the existing quantity of pitch supply and to provide an additional pitch in the area. The additional need could be provided if the pitch at Crestwood Community College (Shakespear Site) was refurbished and available for community use. This could serve both Trojans Hockey Club (as a satellite site) and the Eastleigh clubs (if needed). An additional hockey pitch at Trojans Sports Club would be difficult to deliver due to the impact on other sports on site. The pitch at Hamble Sports Complex is currently used by football for 13 of the peak hours, this usage if prioritised for Hockey would support the growth of the Hamble Hockey Club.</p> <p>There is a need to replace the floodlights at Hamble Sports Complex and improve changing provision at Trojans Hockey Club, Hamble Sports Complex and Thornden School. The pitch at Thorndon School will require resurfacing with in next 2-3 years in order to maintain the current level of hockey usage.</p>



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Eastleigh Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
Appendix D –
Assessment of Need Report
Rugby

Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of Needs (Stages B and C)

The findings of the assessment for needs for rugby facilities in Eastleigh are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. Site visits to the home grounds used by clubs in Eastleigh have been made and club officials/site managers have been consulted regarding floodlit training provision and use. Consultation with Rugby League suggests there is no current activity in the Eastleigh, with the nearest affiliated Rugby League club being US Portsmouth Seahawks, approximately 20-30 minutes away. There is also unaffiliated provision in Southampton (Solent Spitfires), at a similar distance. This assessment includes pitches and the club based at Trojans in Test Valley DC due to their proximity to the border of Eastleigh and their usage by residents of the borough

Since the last assessment of Rugby Union in 2017 (an update to the PPS prepared in 2014), there has been a change in the total supply of rugby pitches available for community use. There has been a loss of one pitch at the Hub, but floodlights have been added to two grass pitches on site.

A facility audit compiled from the research, consultation and site visits was reviewed by the RFU Facility Development Team and is included in this report (Figure 3.1).

1. Rugby Pitch Supply (Step 2)

There is one rugby club in Eastleigh based on playing field sites with rugby pitches – Eastleigh RFC. There is also another rugby club based close to the border of Eastleigh in Test Valley DC – Trojans FC which also serves the residents of Eastleigh.

Distribution of Rugby Sites

Figure 1.1 shows the distribution of grass and artificial rugby pitches in Eastleigh. All the rugby sites are located in the north of the borough with Trojans Sports club being located slightly outside the Western border, however within close enough proximity to service clubs within Eastleigh. Despite all rugby facilities being in the north of the borough, they are accessible to the majority of residents within a 10-minute drive time. There may be some residents in the south of the borough who travel outside of Eastleigh to play at clubs based in Southampton to the West, or in Lockheath/ Fareham to the East.

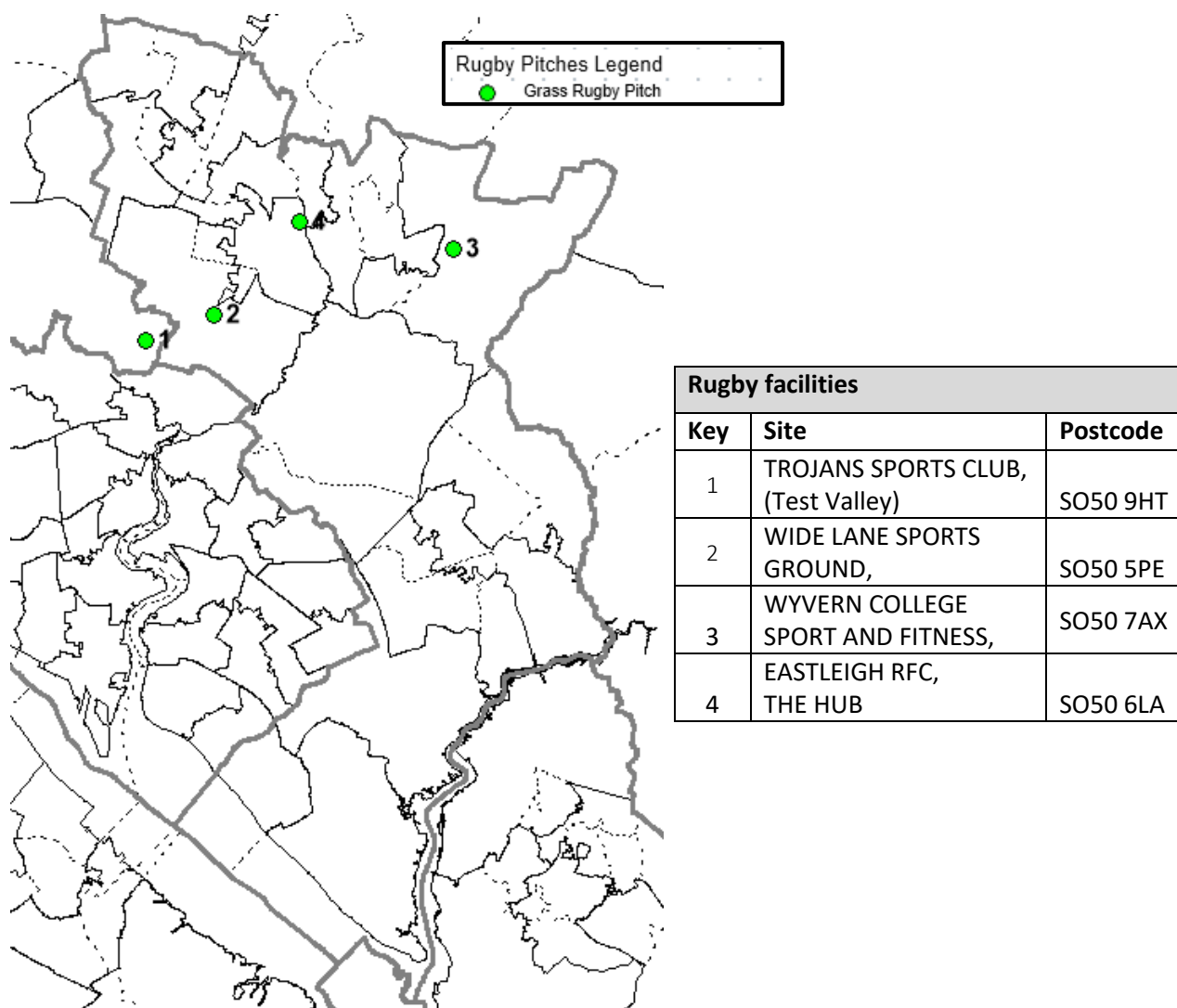
1.1 Rugby Pitches in Eastleigh

In the 2022/23 season, Eastleigh had a total of 11 adult size grass rugby pitches marked out with posts in situ available for community use. It should be noted that whilst available for community use the pitch at Wyvern College is on a slope, so they have very little use. There are additional pitches at Thornden School (x1) and Wellington Sports Ground (x6), but these are not available for regular community use. The borough has no AGP pitches in the area which are rugby compliant and 4 of the natural turf pitches are floodlit. There is also floodlit grassed training area at Trojans and a rugby grids area with portable floodlights at Wide Lane Sports Ground. Details on individual sites can be found in figure 1.3.

1.2 Ownership and Security of Access

Trojans FC is the constituted rugby sections of Trojans Sports Club, who have the freehold of their main site, that they use for homes matches and training and a long lease on the facilities at Hardmoor used for mini's training. Lock Heath Pumas RFC have no permanent home venue and due to a lack of facilities in Fareham their 1st and 2nd XV have used Wide Lane Sports Ground for a number of years, along with occasional use by Trojans FC however, the Wide Lane site's main use is for university students. Eastleigh RFC's lease at The Hub is due to expire in 2030 and they have started discussions with the Council about the renewal of the lease.

Figure 1.1 – Eastleigh Rugby facilities



1.3 Pitch Quality – Maintenance and Drainage

The responsibility of pitch maintenance is mixed across sites in Eastleigh with the council maintaining the council owned sites such as The Hub and private companies maintaining the owned facilities such as Wide Lane Sports Ground. As shown in figure 1.2 the maintenance of grass pitches is mostly adequate, with one site good (Trojans) and 1 pitch (Wyvern College) having poor maintenance.

Figure 1.2– Pitch Maintenance and Drainage Ratings from Site Visits and Club Consultation

Number of pitches		Maintenance			
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)	Total
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)				
	Natural Adequate (D1)	1	6	4	11
	Pipe Drained (D2)				
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)		1		1
	Total	1	7	4	12*

*Includes Trojans floodlit grassed area.

1.4 Park Pitches

Whilst not designated park pitches the rugby pitches at the Hub are open access and the site is used by dog walkers and recreation football use was evidenced on the site visit.

1.5 At Risk Sites

A newly proposed bus lane would extend 8m onto the pitches at The Hub, requiring the pitches and flood lights to be repositioned. It is essential that these pitches are retained, and that floodlighting remains available as there is a deficit of floodlit pitches in the borough.

1.6 Proposed New Supply

Southampton University are in the process of submitting planning application for 2 additional 3G pitches, one of which will be rugby specific. The rugby specific pitch will replace pitch 1 at Wide Lane Sports Ground but initially will not have floodlights. The pitch would increase the potential for additional daytime use but will have no impact on the training needs of clubs in the area unless floodlit.

1.7 Ancillary Facilities

The current clubhouse at Trojans Sports Club is dated and suffers from leaks, the changing rooms are unsuitable for women's and girl's / youth provision with communal showers. The club has recently received planning permission to rebuild a new, modern clubhouse. Eastleigh RFC have recently renovated their social facilities including updating and increasing the number of female toilets available. The changing rooms still need some improvements for women and girls and the club are looking to add cubicles and shower screens, they also have ongoing issues with the water temperature.

1.8 Rugby Supply in Neighbouring Boroughs

The following rugby clubs have home grounds within reach of residents in Eastleigh:

- Millbrook RFC – To the Southwest, Southampton
 - Romsey RFC – To the West, Romsey
 - Southampton RFC – To the Southwest, Southampton
 - Locksheath RFC* – To the Southeast, Fareham
- *Locksheath play games in Eastleigh due to lack of available facilities in Fareham

It is expected that some of these clubs have members from Eastleigh. Romsey is likely to attract some players from the Northern and Western sides of the borough and both Millbrook RFC and Southampton RFC are to the south of the borough where there is limited rugby provisions within Eastleigh. Locksheath Pumas RFC play games in Eastleigh at Wide Land Sports Ground but train in Locksheath and are also likely to attract some players.

Figure 1.3: The Situation at Individual Site

Site	Pitch	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Pitch capacity	Use 22/23	Capacity (Def) / Surplus	RAG	Comments/assumptions
TROJANS SPORTS CLUB SO50 9HT (TEST VALLEY)	P1 - Main pitch	M2/D1	Large clubhouse on site with changing rooms, but very dated and unsuitable for women and girls provision. Plans recently approved to build new clubhouse.	Sports Club has freehold of site.	3	Matches = 2.5 (men's 1, women 1) occasional other team use.	0.5	Green	Club has 2 men's teams, vets teams, 2 ladies teams and will have a full mini (7 teams) and junior section (10 - 6 boys, 4 girls teams) Next season (23/24) additional 3 junior teams 2 girls teams and 1 boys. Main pitch has small stand, P2 has floodlights. The club have had a GMA Pitch Advisory Service inspection to look at possible pitch improvements to support growth in club. It is estimated 50% of members come from Eastleigh Borough. The club has a grassed floodlit area behind the ATP which is used extensively for rugby training and is over used. Usage also by Barton Peveril Coll, 2 teams. Mini training U6/U7 use Hardmoor middle field. Exploring options to establish two junior rugby pitches on Hardmoor to accommodate growth. Walking rugby takes place on space in between pitches.
	P2 - (next to main pitch - floodlit)	M2/D1			3	Matches = 2 (men's 2, vets, women 2, BP) Train = 5 (every night of week) Total = 7	-4	Red	
	P3 - Junior pitch (alongside ATP)	M2/D1			3	Matches = 6 (jnr teams x10 / mini x 5). Train = 0 Total = 6	-3	Red	
	Grassed Floodlit training area	M2/D1			3	Used every night and sat / sun for training. Total = 7	-4	Red	
WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE	P1 Right middle (nearest ATP's)	M1/ D3	Large pavilion building with 26 changing rooms, meeting rooms with movable walls for flexibility, bar area (not opened since Covid).	University site with CUA in place	3	3	0	Yellow	Usage mainly by university students, (3 men's teams, 2 women's), twice a week during term time as well as Locksheath Pumas RFC 1st & 2nd teams, occasionally Trojans. Maintained well with end of season renovations (scarifying, seeding and top dressing if needed) regular cutting and marking each week. Aeration throughout the year where\when possible. Weed killing when needed and a feed once in the winter and once in the summer. University is in the process of submitting planning for two additional 3G pitches without floodlights, one of which to be rugby specific to replace Pitch 1.
	P2 bottom right (near sports perf centre)	M1/D1			2	2	0	Yellow	
	P3 far bottom right	M1/D1			2	2	0	Yellow	
	P4 above P2	M1/D1			2	2	0	Yellow	
	Grass Floodlit (portable) rugby grids area	N/A			N/A	Lots of usage for training and uni rec use e.g. touch rugby sessions	N/A	Red	

Site	Pitch	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Pitch capacity	Use 22/23	Capacity (Def) / Surplus	RAG	Comments/assumptions
WYVERN COLLEGE SPORT AND FITNESS, SO50 7AX	P1 Full size	MO / D1	changing rooms in school	Education site not aware of CUA	1.5	1	0.5		School use only currently - pitch is available for hire but it is on a slope so they have had little interest.
EASTLEIGH RFC, THE HUB, SO50 6LA	P1 Full Size (behind building)	M1/D1	Building Council owned, managed jointly by Youth options & Eastleigh RFC. The rugby club has own designated changing rooms, bar, social area and kitchen with balcony overlooking pitches. Facilities tired and Changing rooms need refurb to improve suitability for W&G. Issues with water temp, ongoing with Council	Eastleigh RFC's lease at The Hub is due to expire in 2027 and they have started discussions with the Council about the renewal of the lease.	2	Matches 2 (men's x3, ladies x1)	0		Club have 3 adult Male teams, 1 female (started last year), Junior section U6-U18 (no U17) 2 girls teams (to increase to 3 next season) total 330 members. Council maintain pitches, they drain well unless water table high. Site previously had other pitches (Inc. 1 rugby) but flooded often so now just wet land. P1 - Grass patchy in middle and right hand bottom corner (near building), length ok, posts ok, likely affected by recreational football use - seen on day of visit. Match pitch used for 2 games a week. P2 - Worn and grass patchy in middle, length ok, posts ok, firm under foot. P3 as P2 but undulating in areas. Pitches used for games and training up to 5 times a week. Club hire external pitches when ground floods 3-4 times a season usually ATP (Havant, Southampton, wide lane). Bus lane proposed by Hampshire CC which would extend 8m into field and require pitches and floodlights to be moved.
	P2 - Floodlit (middle pitch)	M1/D1			2	matches = 2.5 (Junior teams x5) Training = 4 Total = 5.5	-3.5		
	P3 - Floodlit (furthest away)	M1/D1			2	matches = 2.5 (Girls x2, Minis x 6) Training = 4 Total = 5.5	-3.5		

2. Rugby Pitch Demand (Step 3)

Findings relating to rugby pitch demand in Eastleigh are summarised below.

2.1 Clubs and Teams

Trojans FC have two regular men's Saturday league teams, one Vets team and 2 ladies' teams (see figure 2.1) and a full junior section offering both youth boys age grade rugby and mixed mini rugby. In the 23/24 season. Eastleigh RFC have 3 men's teams who play regularly in the Hampshire Counties Saturday league, and one women's team, as well as a Junior section from U6-U18 including two girls specific teams.

Locksheath Pumas RFC are a Fareham based side who train in Fareham but play home matches at Wide Lane Sports Ground within Eastleigh. The club encompasses a men's first and second team who play regular league matches, a veteran team, junior and mini teams up to U12. Despite their first and second team playing home matches at Wide Lane Sports Ground in Eastleigh, Locksheath Pumas RFC are predominately based in Fareham so their use is classed as imported demand.

Figure 2.1: Table of senior rugby club information

Ruby Clubs	2022/23 League(S)	Home Ground	Training Ground
Trojans 1 st XV Men	Counties 1 Hampshire of London & SE	Trojans Sports Club	Trojans Sports Club
Trojans 2 nd XV Men	Counties 5 Hampshire SE of Hampshire	Trojans Sports Club	Trojans Sports Club
Trojans Veterans Men	Veterans Cup	Trojans Sports Club	Trojans Sports Club
Trojans Ladies 1 st XV	Women's championship southwest 2	Trojans Sports Club	Trojans Sports Club
Trojan Ladies 2 nd XV	Women's NC 2 south east (south)	Trojans Sports Club	Trojans Sports Club
Eastleigh RFC 1 st XV	Counties 1 Hampshire	The Hub	The Hub
Eastleigh RFC 2 nd XV	Counties 2 Hampshire	The Hub	The Hub
Eastleigh RFC 3 rd XV	Counties 5 Hampshire	The Hub	The Hub
Eastleigh RFC Womens	Allianz IWS southwest	The Hub	The Hub
Locksheath Pumas RFC 1 st XV Men*	Counties 2 Hampshire	Wide Lane Sports Ground	Warsash School (Southampton)
Locksheath Pumas RFC 2 nd XV Men*	Counties 4B	Wide Lane Sports Ground	Warsash School (Southampton)

* Imported demand

2.2 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in rugby in England by adults (aged 16+) increased from at 0.3% between November 2020 – 2021 to 0.4% in November 2021-2022.

If rugby participation in the Borough were at the national average (i.e., 0.4%), this would indicate around 448 adults (aged 18+) living in the area play rugby out of an 18+ adult population of approximately 112,039

With approximately 9 teams of players aged 16+ based in Eastleigh (excluding Locksheath Pumas), the adult rugby club playing memberships in the borough is roughly 315 players (assuming an average squad size of 35 players per team). Assuming that adult rugby participation in Eastleigh is in line with the national average of 0.4%, this suggests that nearly a third of adults (30%) play rugby at clubs outside of the area (displaced demand) or participate in informal, social game formats such as Touch Rugby at clubs and parks within Eastleigh and outside the borough.

2.3 Imported and Displaced Demand

There is imported demand for match appropriate pitches by Locksheath Pumas RFC who's first XV and second XV teams both play their home matches at Wide Lane Sports Ground. Eastleigh RFC uses artificial pitches outside of the borough (Havant & Southampton) for training and matches when their pitches flood due to the high water table (3-4 times a season).

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 2021/22, Sport England, (April 2023)

3. The Situation at Individual Sites for Rugby (Step 4)

The pitches were assessed during February and March in the 2022/23 season. These assessments were reviewed in discussion with the RFU and ratings for each agreed as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site could accommodate (its carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place.

Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

It was agreed with the RFU representative to adopt the following pitch carrying capacities according to each quality rating to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments across the country:

Figure 3.1: Rugby Pitch Carrying Capacity

Match Equivalent Sessions a week		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use):
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e., the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training:
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - o **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - o **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - o **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

There are 2 sites, Trojans Sports Club and Eastleigh RFC, highlighted from the site audit spreadsheet as **RED** rated sites where the majority of the available natural turf rugby pitches are overplayed.

Wide Lane Sports Ground is rated as **AMBER** indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity.

Wyvern College is rated as **GREEN** indicating that their natural turf pitch has spare carrying capacity. However, this pitch receives little community interest due to a significant slope to the pitch.

4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Rugby (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Overall, the rugby pitches in Eastleigh are currently overused or at capacity for the amount of demand for training and matches, with 4/11 community pitches being used more than double their carrying capacity. The location of facilities is mostly in the north of the borough. Although facilities are no more than a 10-minute drive from residents in the south, some players may travel outside of the borough to clubs such as Millbrook RFC and Romsey RFC. There may also be some residents who play for Locksheath RFC who play home matches in Eastleigh but have training facilities and a clubhouse in Fareham.

4.2 Future

Planned/expected growth – Eastleigh RFC have noted a sharp increase in demand for women’s rugby which is expected to increase exponentially with the Women’s Rugby World Cup being hosted in England during 2025. As such, Eastleigh RFC have applied for extra funding from the RFU to help manage this increase in demand. Trojans FC also noted an expected increase in women’s participation and rise in junior players who progress to senior teams. They have also indicated they will have an additional 3 junior teams next season (2 girls and 1 boys).

Potential effect of population change – To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2036 on the need for rugby pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) has been used to determine the likely increase in teams due to population growth. Figure 4.1 shows that team generation rates for the area predicts.

Figure 4.1: Team generation rates.

Age Group	Current Pop in Age group	Current no of teams	Team Gen. Rate	Future Pop in age group	Predicted future no of teams	No of home matches per wk*
Men (19-45yrs)	3921.16	6	3498	2690.67	1.12	0.56
Women (19-45yrs)	4264.89	3	7610	2751.29	0.56	0.28
Boys (13-18yrs)	946.01	11	460	613.57	2.06	1.03
Girls (13-18yrs)	909.02	6	811	588.08	1.12	0.56
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1952.17	10	1045	1263.11	1.87	0.23
					6.73	2.66

* Number of teams multiplied by 0.5 to calculate home matches for each age group except mixed where once halved is it quartered to reflect amount of play on an adult pitch.

To meet rugby demand from 25,498 additional residents (as currently forecasted) and assuming current levels of rugby demand by age group for matches and training in peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +2.66 additional full size turf pitches is needed to accommodate the forecasted addition of +6.73 generated teams (including juniors and mixed minis). Pitches will require sufficient floodlighting to accommodate an additional 3 match equivalent training sessions a week by generated teams. There is also likely to be an increased demand for women and girls’ rugby as England will host the 2025 Women’s Rugby World Cup.

5. Key Findings and Issues for Rugby (Step 6)

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision
<p>Since the last assessment of needs for rugby union in 2017, there has been a change in the total supply of rugby pitches available for community use. There has been a loss of one pitch at the Hub, but floodlights have been added to two grass pitches on site.</p> <p>There are two clubs based in Eastleigh, Trojans FC and Eastleigh RFC, with 2 men’s teams and 3 men’s teams respectively. Eastleigh RFC also have a women’s team and Trojans have 2 women’s teams. Both clubs have full junior and mini’s sections offering age grade rugby. Locksheath Pumas RFC have 2 men’s teams who also play matches in East Hampshire but are based in Fareham.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?
<p>Overall, the rugby pitches in Eastleigh are overused and cannot maintain the current demand for training or matches.</p> <p>Eastleigh RFC’s lease at The Hub is due to expire in 2027 and they have started discussions with the Council about the renewal of the lease. It will be important to ensure the club has long term security on the site. Trojans Sports Club have freehold of their site.</p> <p>The new WRC artificial pitch at Wide Lane Sports Ground will include a community use agreement however without floodlights it will have no impact on training demand in the area.</p>
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
<p>The drainage of rugby pitches across Eastleigh is mostly good, with the maintenance of pitches generally adequate. The pitch maintenance at Trojans is good and capacity could only be improved by installing drainage which would only increase each pitches match equivalent capacity by 0.5, which would be significant investment for little outcome. Improvements to the maintenance at Eastleigh RFC would increase the playing capacity of the pitch but this is likely to be difficult due to the pressures on council budgets and the high water table in the area would still affect the pitches in the winter. The pitch at Wyvern College has minimal maintenance carried out. Improving the maintenance and levelling the grass pitch at Wyvern college would increase its match equivalent capacity by +1.5 and could make it more attractive for community use.</p> <p>There is a need for improvements to the auxiliary changing facilities in the area, both clubs, Trojans FC and Eastleigh RFC, state that improvement is needed to better accommodate women and girls rugby. Trojans Sports Club has recently received planning permission to rebuild a new, modern clubhouse.</p>
What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?
<p>To meet rugby demand from the projected population growth of 25,498 additional residents (as currently forecasted) and assuming levels of rugby demand for matches and training remain at current levels, the equivalent capacity of +2.66 additional natural turf pitches will be required in the borough. There will also have to be sufficient floodlit provisions to account for an additional 3 match equivalent training sessions per week.</p> <p>Both clubs anticipate a significant increase of girls/women’s rugby participation over the coming years as England are set to host the Women’s Rugby World Cup, which is likely to create additional demand for matches and training provision.</p>

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

There is currently not sufficient provision for rugby to meet future demand. Improvement to the maintenance at Eastleigh RFC would increase the number of match equivalent sessions on site to 3 (one extra per pitch) but this is likely to be difficult due to the pressures on council budgets and would still not bring the pitches within their carrying capacity due to amount of training demand. Additional capacity could also be accommodated by exploring regular community access to the pitches at Wellington Sports Ground, although this is likely to be difficult due to the level of school demand. Improving upon the maintenance and levelling the grass pitch at Wyvern college would increase its match equivalent capacity by +1.5 and could make it more attractive for community use.

The current capacity deficit in Eastleigh is 17.5 MES with the majority of the demand for training, to accommodate this on natural turf pitches (assuming good natural drainage and adequate maintenance) would require 8.75 natural turf pitches, if it is assumed the pitches at Eastleigh RFC and Wyvern can be improved, the deficit is reduced to 13 MES, requiring 6.5 pitches plus 3 for future demand.

Due to the level of training demand, there is a need for a 3G rugby complaint pitch in the area. The ideal location would be on one of the two clubs sites, with the high water table at Eastleigh RFC it may be better located at Trojans FC in a joint venture with Test Valley (their 2020 PPS includes action for an Rugby AGP feasibility study).

Southampton University have proposed replacing one of their current grass pitches with a rugby specific 3G pitch, planning has been granted and initially the pitches so not include floodlights. If floodlights are provided at a later date and community use can be secured and earmarked for rugby in the peak period, this could help support the training needs in the area.



Eastleigh Borough Council

**Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy
2023 – 2036**

Appendix E – Sport England FPM reports: Swimming Pools
- provided under separate cover.



**Eastleigh Borough Council
Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy
2023 – 2036
Appendix F – Sports Clubs' Aspirations**

Appendix F- Sports Clubs' Aspirations

To understand the current landscape of clubs in the Eastleigh area, data was collected from a survey distributed to the sports clubs in the area. 72 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey, these clubs provide opportunities for both indoor and outdoor sports. A summary of the results of the club survey is provided in the strategy introduction. The clubs surveyed cited a range of aspirations and facility needs to assist in growing and developing their respective clubs. A number of these have been considered during the formation of the strategy action plan in discussion with the steering group, however not all of these needs were considered as priorities at the time of the strategy being developed. The table below outlines the full extent of the clubs aspirations and facility demands gathered as part of the survey process for reference and information.

Playing Pitch Sports

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
AFC Hiltingbury Youth & Seniors	Better quality pitches and better facilities
AFC Stoneham	We need to keep our current facility and grow elsewhere to sustain our growth forecast as there is no more space for our club at Stoneham Lane. Currently we cannot satisfy this demand. At our current facility we need a clubhouse of our own , changing rooms next to the grass pitches and the opportunity to obtain some secondary spend to allow our club to sustain and grow. We require a room for our club inside the main stadia facility which we can call our own and run accordingly. We need toilets within the main stadia pitch , further terracing and most importantly an enclosed arena which does not allow people to spectate outside of the ground.
Baddesley Park FC	More pitches.
Barton Peveril College (various)	Need a long term partnership with a local provider to be a home for our teams With student numbers growing we need a bigger main site, would love a 4G pitch here.
Bursledon Youth and Ladies FC	Ideally would like a home venue for matches in or close to Bursledon. Improve pitch quality at Hamble School, better access to 3G facilities.
Colden Common Youth FC	Colden common and surrounding areas have no access to all weather facilities which affects ability to attract players against larger teams with better facilities Wyvern/Hedge end with Deer Park school and Stoneham.
Eastleigh and District Mini Soccer League	Need additional playing surfaces that if grass are well drained and sustainable.
Fair Oak Cricket Club	The 2 Pitch Facility Project needs to be approved in June otherwise it will cause severe disruption to the club.
Fleming Athletic FC	Better grass pitches and more 3G availability, somewhere we can train all of our teams on various evenings in the week.
Folland (Hamble) CC	Need for updated changing facilities, score box and outdoor net facilities
Hamble Club FC	We are looking at the potential of new club house as ours is too small and additional changing rooms due to only have 1 set. Also, a 3G is needed to grow and potentially host a disability league. We have continued to grow and as a club have a waiting list at most age groups.
Hamble Hockey Club	Our floodlights are nearing the end of their lifespan and are extremely unreliable.
Hedge End Junior Cricket Club	Very limited net facilities in the area, as other local nets (e.g., Fair Oak) are used by other clubs.
Hedge End Rangers FC	To meet ground status for Wessex League (step 6)
King Edward VI School (Cricket)	More covers and nets would be a good addition to our main playing pitches to allow more hardball games to be going on at one time
Old Netley and Highfield CC	Need changing rooms.
Solent Sports (Football)	Would like to secure a leasehold on the site, we can't do a ground share and grow the club.
Southampton Aztecs Futsal Club	The area needs more futsal goals and lines on the courts. As a club, our women's first team will need a home venue that is up to league standard requirements.
Trojans Club (Various)	Clubhouse is old and inefficient; the astro is old and needs relaying; grass is overused; cricket nets are worn and becoming unsafe.
Warsash Wasps SFC	All weather pitches and a modern changing environment for accessibility

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
Winchester City FC	New club house, new pitch.
Wyvern Football Club	We will require additional playing and training space with the increased demand for football in the local area.

Built Facilities

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
Bassett JSF Swimming Club	Gradually moving training to Oaklands as funds allow, always looking for better facilities
CrossFit Southampton / Southampton Weightlifting Club	We need a purpose built site, we're crammed into a large unit, but we have so many people from the local community coming to us weekly, we cannot sustain demand.
Eastleigh Swim Club	We need another facility; we have been told that there is no further pool hire available to us.
Fair Oak Squash & Racketball	A future joint project for development could include an outside squash court on the playing fields and maybe paddle courts.
Fleming Park Bowls Club	The all-weather green needs to be replaced owing fire damage, it is also holding water. With the lack of storage and no office on site, we struggle with storing tables and chairs.
Fleming Park Squash Club	Club advertising needs to be permitted in the main squash court playing/viewing area to encourage more players to consider club participation and allow for publication of teams/leagues in non-digital format.
Folland Bowls Club	Our pavilion is very old and in constant need of maintenance by our members.
Hedge End Bowling Club	The current lease is coming to an end which may require the club rather than the local council to take a greater role in maintenance of the green. This would require the purchase of green cutting and other equipment by the club. Changing facilities need improvement but no firm plans have been drawn up due to approaching end of current lease.
Hedge End Running Club	If HERC were to have a local facility/base within the immediate area of its membership, it would immediately attract and then retain more members and enable better training to be undertaken.
Jem Tennis	We would need a new pavilion to be able to sustain or grow our business at our main site.
Multi Sports Club	Need more venues in and around Eastleigh for ease of transport that are suitable for our members - disabled access etc
Ravens Netball Club	We could do with our old venue back this will enable us to offer further community provision.
Thornden Community Badminton Club	It would be nice to get more badminton courts, but I don't think that is possible.
Upper Hamble Canoe Club	Our biggest challenge is getting access to a swimming pool for winter skills training
Valley Park Badminton Club	In order for our club to grow, we need more facilities (more courts). There are many junior and adult players who are looking for clubs and places to play.
Weston Park Blades Netball Club	To grow, we need more courts, especially Mon/Thu evenings
Youth Options at The Hub (Various)	All areas could do with some 'TLC', and any improvements/upgrades in facilities may mean we attract more user groups and an increase in income.



**Eastleigh Borough Council
Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy
2023 – 2036
Appendix G – Existing Planning Policies**

Appendix G – National, Regional and Local Planning Policy: Sport and Recreation Facilities

National Planning Policy

The relevant policy protecting existing sports facilities and land in the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023 is at paragraphs 102 and 103:

Para 102 -

'Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.'

Para 103 -

'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.'*

Regional Planning Policy

The Government abolished Regional Strategies in July 2010.

The last Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East of England - The South East Plan (published in May 2009) – had previously set out a vision and strategic framework for growth to 2026.

The overall spatial vision set out in The South East Plan 2009-2026 had a focus on health and climate change:

A socially and economically strong, healthy and just South East that respects the limits of the global environment. Achieving this will require the active involvement of all individuals to deliver a society where everyone, including the most deprived, benefits from and contributes to a better quality of life. At the same time the impact of current high levels of resource use will be reduced and the quality of the environment will be maintained and enhanced.

The Partnership for South Hampshire (PFSH) brings together the local authorities in the South Hampshire sub region (including Eastleigh) to support sustainable development, economic growth and coordinate strategic planning activities. The most recent PFSH Spatial Position Statement was published December 2023. It has no status as a development plan document but does help to inform the preparation and strategic co-ordination of local plans. It has no direct reference to sports facilities but aims to deliver principles for sustainable growth which includes the delivery of new and enhanced multifunctional green infrastructure. This could therefore potentially include the delivery of new and enhanced sports pitches as part of a wider mix of green infrastructure provision. It also recognises that infrastructure investment remains a strategic priority for PFSH, recognising the requirement to balance growth with the infrastructure required to support it which can include health and community facilities (amongst other types of infrastructure which are referenced).

County Planning Policy

At the county level, Hampshire County Council has no planning responsibilities of direct relevance to sports facilities aside from provision for physical education and sport in its schools.

The Hampshire Active Partnership – the charity ‘Energise Me’ - is the lead organisation working to create the conditions for an active population in the county of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and to use the power of sport and physical activity to transform lives. The Energise Me team works alongside numerous public, private and voluntary partners, bringing together expertise, resources and ideas from all parts of the sports, health and physical activity arena in Hampshire.

The Energise Me Strategy 2022-2027 ‘*We Can Be Active*’ contains policies aimed at meeting needs and aspirations of the sector in the county. It prioritises those most in need and facing the greatest barriers to participation working in partnership across local government, sport, business and the voluntary sector to increase activity levels reduce inequality and transform lives through sport and physical activity.

The strategy sets out five broad goals that summarise what people need to be active:

1. **Positive early experiences** for our children and young people
2. **Opportunities** that meet our needs and interests, and are accessible and easy to find.
3. **Places and travel routes** where we *all* feel safe and are encouraged to be active.
4. **Support** to help us get started or keep moving when we feel that we can’t do it alone.
5. **Bold leaders** working together to create happier and healthier communities.

Local Planning Policy

The Eastleigh Local Plan and the Minerals and Waste Local Plans (produced by Hampshire County Council) together comprise the statutory Development Plan for the Borough. Eastleigh Council’s Local Plan (adopted in April 2022) covers the period 2016 to 2036. The Local Plan sets out how Eastleigh will grow and develop to become a more desirable place to live, work, and visit, and for inward investment. It is a development strategy to 2036 for homes, jobs, shops, leisure, transport, and infrastructure all set alongside the long-term protection and enhancement of the borough’s defined countryside and settlement gaps and parks and open spaces. The Plan sets out a vision:

‘To ensure development in Eastleigh Borough and its communities delivers a strong and sustainable economy with an adequate supply of housing and infrastructure that supports improved standards of living for residents while protecting the distinct identity of towns and villages and preventing urban sprawl; promoting thriving and healthy communities; and maintaining an attractive and sustainable environment that residents value.’

Good access to leisure facilities and open spaces alongside a cleaner and safer environment are critical elements of the Council’s long-term vision and, in particular, achievement of its strategic objective to enable healthier lifestyles and mental wellbeing. The Local Plan supports these existing priorities and expresses them spatially.

Objective viii - Enabling healthier lifestyles/wellbeing - Facilitate better physical and mental health and wellbeing by improving the places people live, work, learn and play, meeting the challenge of the ageing population, and promoting cultural and physical activity.

Towards achieving this health and wellbeing objective, the Local Plan includes five key planning policies relating to proposals for new sport and recreation facilities and to proposals involving the loss of facilities. The key Local Plan policies of relevance to this objective of a healthy community are as follows:

Policy DM32 Protection of recreation and open space facilities

1. *The loss of existing or allocated recreation and open space facilities, including those identified on the policies map, are only likely to be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where:*
 - a) *the Council's Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy Update and/or Open Space Needs Assessment clearly identifies the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
 - b) *any loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
 - c) *the development is for alternative recreation or open space facilities, the need for which clearly outweighs the loss.*

Any replacement provision should be made available for use prior to commencement of development.
2. *Development ancillary to the recreational use may be permitted on recreation sites provided that it does not adversely affect land forming part of, or capable of forming part of, a playing pitch/court/green.*

Policy DM33 Provision of recreation and open space facilities with new development

1. *All new residential development shall contribute to the achievement of the quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards for recreation and open space facilities in the Open Space Needs Assessment 2017. The level of provision and contribution will vary depending on the existing areas of open space located within the distance set by the accessibility standard and the size of the proposed development.*
2. *Contributions may take the form of the provision of land laid out for recreation and/or open space; and/or funding for improvements to the quality and capacity of existing recreation; and/or open space facilities, including indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Sports and open space requirements for strategic development is set out in strategic policy S9.*
3. *Development proposals should include provision for the long-term management and maintenance of any recreation or open space facilities provided. Private open space that is not available for public use will not be accepted in lieu of requirements for public open space provision or contributions.*
4. *Proposals should help to create and enhance multifunctional green infrastructure in accordance with strategic policy S9.*

Policy DM34 New and enhanced recreation and open space facilities

1. *The provision, extension or enhancement of public and private recreation and open space facilities or uses including those identified in policy DM32 above will be permitted provided that:*
 - a) *they accord with the general development criteria and the biodiversity, and heritage policies of this Local Plan;*
 - b) *in the countryside:*
 - i. *new buildings will be limited to those ancillary to and essential for the use of the land for outdoor sport and recreation; and*
 - ii. *development should not involve structures, floodlighting or activities that cause urbanisation or detract from rural character;*
 - c) *they contribute to the management of, and where possible enhance the countryside and urban open spaces. The Council may require a legal agreement to ensure that land is managed to maintain or enhance its agricultural and/or landscape value and/or biodiversity interest; and;*
 - d) *they are readily accessible to those they are intended to serve by means of transport other than the private car, and accord with the transport and parking policies of this Local Plan.*

Policy DM35 Recreational activity on the River Hamble

1. On the River Hamble:

- a) *new moorings and replacement or relocation of existing moorings will only be permitted outside the Mooring Restriction Areas shown on the policies map, and subject to the advice of the River Hamble Harbour Authority and in accordance with policy DM11;*
- b) *new jetties, slipways, pontoons, landing stages, steps, walkways, bridges or catwalks, or extensions to such structures, will only be permitted in existing boatyards or within frontages of the river in the urban edge as defined on the policies map;*
- c) *within the Mooring Restriction Areas the replacement or relocation of existing moorings will be permitted where there are no alternative locations outside these areas and the proposal will improve navigation and the overall appearance of the area provided that they do not:*
 - i. *impede the movement of craft or otherwise compromise navigational safety on the river; or*
 - ii. *disrupt existing recreational uses or areas where there is existing or proposed public access; or*
 - iii. *adversely affect the nature conservation, landscape or heritage value of the River Hamble.*

Policy DM36 Community leisure and cultural facilities

1. *The development of new community, cultural and leisure facilities and extensions to existing facilities will be permitted within Eastleigh town centre, district and local centres, neighbourhood parades and in the new local centres to be provided as part of the strategic housing sites. Proposals must be of a scale appropriate to the centre.*
2. *Proposals for such facilities within the urban edge but outside these centres will need to demonstrate that:*
 - a) *they are readily accessible to the communities they are intended to serve by a variety of modes of transport;*
 - b) *there is no adverse impact on existing and proposed centres; and*
 - c) *there are no suitable, viable and available sites within an existing centre or edge of centre location.*
3. *In the provision of facilities for general community use such as community halls, the Council will seek to ensure that their form and design provides for a range of uses to be accommodated.*
4. *In the countryside the development of new community, leisure or cultural facilities (other than cemeteries addressed at DM37) will not be permitted other than by re-use of existing buildings in accordance with DM19. Extensions to existing facilities may be permitted subject to DM18.*
5. *The loss of existing community, leisure or cultural facilities to other forms of development will not be permitted unless:*
 - a) *alternative provision is made which is more appropriate to the needs of the community, or is more accessible; or*
 - b) *the existing facility can be shown to be surplus to local needs.*
Any facilities surplus to requirements should where possible be re-developed/re- used in a way that maximises benefits to the local community.
6. *The developers of new housing that is likely to increase use of local community, leisure or cultural facilities will be required to contribute to or provide any enhancement of existing facilities or new facilities necessitated by their schemes in accordance with policy DM38.*

Policy DM38, Funding infrastructure

1. Development will be permitted provided that the developer has made arrangements for the provision of, or for contributions to the improvement of, any infrastructure, services, facilities or amenities necessitated by the development proposed, by means of either:

- a) a planning obligations agreement under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and/or
- b) should it be introduced in the Borough in the future, the Community Infrastructure Levy under the Planning Act 2008.

Policy DM32 above sets into local planning policy the principles of Paragraph 103 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Access to suitable open space, community facilities and good transport infrastructure is critical to community health and wellbeing. Furthermore, the provision of traffic free links between open spaces provides a valuable resource for a range of free to access sports and recreation activities including walking and cycling. The Local Plan recognises this through the strategic policies S7- The coast, S9 – Green Infrastructure, S10- Community facilities, S11- Transport Infrastructure and S12 – Strategic Footpaths, cycleways and bridleway links.

With regard to planned residential development, the Local Plan makes provision for a total of 14,580 homes in the period 2016-2036. Figure G1 below, taken from the Local Plan, sets out in a simple graphic form the key housing development sites (the red house icon bounded grey areas identified in the key as 'New Housing Allocations').

The assessment of needs and opportunities for indoor and outdoor sports facilities which inform this Playing Pitch and Built Sports Facilities Strategy is a key part of the evidence base that underpin the above policies of relevance to the provision of land and facilities for sports and recreation facilities in Eastleigh Borough that support the delivery of the Council's Sport & Active Lifestyles Strategy 2022-26.

The Council has been required to start work on a review of the Local Plan within a year of its adoption in April 2022. Work on the Local Plan Review has subsequently commenced with the publication of a Local Development Scheme (LDS), Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Call for Sites consultation. This will review the Borough's development needs and include a development strategy which will look beyond 2036 and will need to be supported by evidence that will be likely to include a future update to the Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facilities Strategy.

Figure G1 Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan (2016-2036) Key Diagram

